

RESTORE ASSERT DEFEND



RAD
NETWORK



Listening to the Land - Artwork by Adryan Jones

Centering Indigenous Rights & Responsibilities in Nature Finance and Nature-based Solutions



RAD NETWORK

DECOLONIZING FINANCE STRUCTURES &
WORKING WITH NATURE TO:

RESTORE relationships and Indigenous knowledge systems

ASSERT Indigenous rights and responsibilities

DEFEND lands and waters



RAD Leadership Circle



DAVID FLOOD

Wahkohtowin
Development



TRISH NASH

Unama'ki Institute
of Natural
Resources (UINR)



STEVEN NITAH

Nature for Justice



TERRY

DORWARD
IISAAK OLAM
Foundation

...and growing

Funding Gaps & Opportunities

- **Investment Readiness Funds** to support Nations' territorial planning and inventories, business development, early stage investment and verification processes
 - **IPCA feasibility planning** - Need to include carbon and ecosystem valuations, data and analysis to demonstrate these are economically valuable options - revenues and impact on communities are positive
- **Supports for Learning and Capacity development**, connecting Nations to emerging marketplace
- **Legal & Policy Analysis for Shared Advocacy pathways** - collective voices of Nations & others
- **Re-envision Future of Funding:** work with Nations, networks, ENGOs to re-envision how resources are deployed over the long term to directly support Indigenous-led organizations, capacity and authority
- **New Canadian Funders and International Funders** at the scale of the global opportunity in Canada

The Opportunity

80% of the world's remaining biodiversity is on land managed by Indigenous Peoples, who have been sustainably managing their territories since time immemorial. Canada and Indigenous Nations have huge potential to contribute to land justice, conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change by advancing nature-based solutions.

We see an opportunity for nature-based solutions that:

- Are based in Indigenous rights, responsibilities & knowledge systems
- Enable financing to support 30x30 and climate change goals
- Advance social-ecological benefits in line with Community priorities
- Support reconciliation & transform the ways we work together

RAD Network Goals

1. **Advance Indigenous rights and responsibilities** to care for lands, waters, biodiversity and climate, through the establishment of IPCAs and Indigenous-led nature-based solutions;
1. **Share knowledge, tools and expertise** among Indigenous Nations on how to implement nature-based solutions in their territories and build regenerative economies;
1. **Influence policy and legislation changes** to centre Indigenous jurisdiction, and inherent rights and responsibilities in nature-based solutions (including carbon and other natural assets);
1. **Create new financial pathways and equitable funding** by connecting Nations and Indigenous organisations to financial resources through ethical, reciprocal relationships with funders and investors (including creation of standards and protocols that centre Indigenous rights);
1. **Connect youth (students) to active programs in Indigenous-led nature-based solutions** to provide an opportunity to contribute and grow skills.

Our Vision: RAD Work Baskets

RAD VALUES

Centre Indigenous leadership, language, ceremony and traditional knowledge.
Ground all partnerships in ethical space and reciprocity.

YOUTH

Create a RAD Network youth group and provide mentorship and support for youth-led activities, events, exchanges, network-building etc. according to their priorities.

VOICE & COMMUNICATION

Amplify Youth Voices, Centre Indigenous Languages, Foster Ethical Space, And Collaboratively Re-conceptualize Colonial-Capitalist Framings.

MARKETS

Create space to convene NbS project developers. Apply technology solution as a clearing house to attract investment, partnership and share knowledge.

TOOLS & TEMPLATES

Educational content:

- Case studies
- Investment Guide
- Glossary/NbS Taxonomy

Technology solutions:

- Equitable NbS Data Platform

JURISDICTION

Develop resources to support Indigenous Nations & Communities seeking to legally assert jurisdiction over their territories, in particular while advancing nature-based solutions.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Identify Policy Barriers To Indigenous-Led Conservation Visions (Ipcas, Nbs, Etc.).

Act On Current Policy Windows While Working Towards Larger Scale Systems Change.

COMMUNITY KINSHIP

Advance Alliance Building, Collaboration, And Decolonized Funding Models.

Incorporate Ceremony, Culture, Storytelling, And Language In Our Work.

Ash Basket Model

Supporters:



Collaborators:



Spring 2024

Ecosystem Scan & Needs Assessment

New Report: “Cultivating Capacity: A Quick Scan of Needs and Resources for Indigenous-led Nature-based Solutions”

Guiding Questions:

- *What capacity needs are Nations facing and how can we best respond?*
- *What capacity-building tools and resources already exist for Indigenous-led NbS?*
- *How can we reduce duplication and foster collaboration?*

Capacity Gaps & Opportunities

Findings: Intersecting capacity gaps for Indigenous-led NbS relating to:

- Knowledge & awareness
- Collaboration & alliances
- Data & measurement
- Funding & resources
- People & skillbuilding
- *Holistic objectives & vision alignment



What's Needed - Funders & Collaborators



- **Holistic Objectives & Vision Alignment:** Develop integrative capacity-building efforts grounded in holistic Indigenous ways of knowing and Nations' self-identified visions
- ★ **Rights and Responsibilities at the Centre:** Prioritize and respect Indigenous rights, responsibilities and self-determination, and pair capacity-building with enabling policy & advocacy
- **Knowledge & Awareness:** Co-create accessible, unbiased and relevant knowledge tools tailored to different audiences (e.g., beyond 'carbon 101', tools for engaging leadership, decision-making, etc.)
- **People & Skill-building:**
 - Think long-term, big-picture: youth engagement, training-the-trainer approaches, credential programs, specialized skill-building for NbS project development
 - Decolonize siloed efforts, internal structures and organizational approaches in non-Indigenous orgs
 - Avoid duplicating efforts and overburdening Nations with engagement requests

What's Needed - Funders & Collaborators



- **Data & Measurement:**
 - Ensure accessibility, avoid gate-keeping and siloed efforts, and go beyond measurement to build capacity for processing, assessing and utilizing carbon and ecosystem data.
 - Prioritize and advocate for Indigenous data sovereignty
- **Collaboration & Alliances:**
 - Support networks of allies and regional alliance-building among Nations where there is interest
 - Invest in knowledge sharing/co-creation, network-weaving, and decolonized relationship building
 - Connectivity is also needed to ensure transparency and equity in the flow of resources
- **Funding & Resources:**
 - Provide long-term, flexible funding that responds to Nations' self-determined holistic objectives
 - Avoid pan-Indigenous approaches and unnecessary conditions of competition
 - Ensure rights-centered conservation finance supportive of Indigenous-led solutions - place-based and at the level of "network infrastructure" and institutional capacity

What's Next

- **Indigenous Learning and Knowledge Hub**
 - awaiting...ECCC funding opportunity to provide core research, operational and project support for the next 5 years.
 - Co-applicants on Grasslands, Wetlands, Peatlands and Forest Learning and Knowledge Hubs.
- **Regional Support and Network Weaving:**
 - Deepen and widen community connections, grow network to increase access for Nations
 - Regional Hubs planned and/or self-organizing: BC, ON, Atlantic, North, Prairies - Respond to regional differences
- **National Accelerator**
 - Long-term funds will allow us to connect regional work into a “national accelerator”. Starting with acceleration circles where we bring peer and expert supports around projects
 - N4J is advancing via “First 30x30” initiative, connect more regional and ENGO-led efforts together
 - Many related initiatives to feed into this and build from
- **Indigenous-led Climate + Nature Readiness Fund** - Scope and develop partnerships

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Thank You

Miigwetch, masih, niá:wen, woliwon, wela'lin, hai hai, λeeeko, marsi, ᵇᵇᵇᵇᵇᵇᵇᵇ, giaxsixa, anushiik, merci, thank you.

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