

WLRS Presentation to the Outdoor Recreation Council

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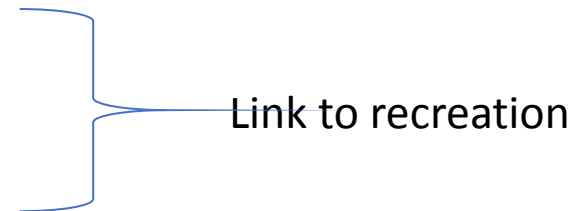
Topics



- **Organizational restructuring**
- **Key commitments and announcements**
 - Tripartite Framework Agreement
 - Conservation Finance Mechanism
 - 30% by 2030
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework
- **Planning and Cumulative Effects Division**
 - Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework
 - Cumulative Effects
 - Land Use Planning
 - Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA)
 - 30x30: Protected Areas and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM)

• **Land Use Planning**

• **IPCAs**



New Structure Overview

WHY

- Since the restructuring in 2022, the province has experienced increased severity of natural hazards due to climate change, with overlapping wildfire and drought seasons. The forest sector is facing significant transition. At the same time, the management for forests, wildlife and water for all values has become increasingly more complex.
- Responsibility for several authorities for the administration of water, lands, fish and wildlife transferred from the Ministry of Forests to WLRS

Deputy Minister
Lori Halls

ADM: David Muter

A/ADM: Jen Psyllakis

ADM: James Mack

ADM: Colin Ward

ADM: Jen Anthony

ADM
Land Use
Planning and
Cumulative
Effects

ADM Resource
Stewardship

ADM
Water, Fisheries
and Coast

ADM
Reconciliation,
Lands and NR
Policy

ADM Permitting
Transformation

Responsibilities:

- First Nations Strategic Relations
- Land and Watershed Planning
- Land Use Policy
- Strategic Land Stewardship Initiatives (30x30, OECM, IPCAs)
- Cumulative Effects
- Northeast Hub*
- Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework
- Regional Management Committee Coordination
- Together for Wildlife Implementation
- Ecosystem Planning, Objective Setting and Operations

Responsibilities:

- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health
- Together for Wildlife Strategy
- Wildlife Policy and Allocation
- Ecosystem and Habitat Policy
- Terrestrial Species Recovery
- Fish and Wildlife Management, Data and Licensing
- Terrestrial Conservation and Wildlife Science
- Invasive Terrestrial Fauna
- Wildlife Health
- Nature Agreement

Responsibilities:

- Watershed Stewardship and Security
- Water Comptroller
- Water Allocations
- Flood Policy/Strategy
- Drought Policy/Strategy
- River Forecast Centre
- Dams/Dikes
- Provincial Fish Policy and Allocations
- Fisheries, Aquaculture and Wild Salmon
- Coastal Marine Stewardship
- Aquatic Ecosystems

Responsibilities:

- Lands Policy and Administration
- Crown Land Opportunities and Restoration
- First Nation Land Transfers
- NRS Reconciliation Policy and Strategies
- NRS Strategic Partnerships Policy and Legislation
- NRS Governance Secretariat
- NRS Research, Economic Analysis and Insights
- FNLC, ABCMTN and DAS Liaison
- Strategic Consultation Initiatives
- Regional Management Committee Coordination

Responsibilities:

- Permitting Solutions
- FrontCounter BC Policy and Standards
- FrontCounter BC operations
- Authorizations
- First Nations Consultations

Key Commitments and Announcements



Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation (formally Nature Agreement)

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/government-of-canada-british-columbia-and-the-first-nations-leadership-council-sign-a-historic-tripa>

Conservation Finance Mechanism

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023FOR0061-001662>

30% by 2030 (linked to Tripartite Agreement, 2022 CBD Conference – Montreal)

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023WLRS0061-001784>

Tripartite Nature Agreement

The Framework Agreement commits up to \$500M in federal funding to 2030. Funding is matched by the province, and will be leveraged, creating an investment of over \$1 Billion toward nature in BC.

It sets goals and objectives in four key areas:

- habitat and ecosystem conservation and protection
- habitat enhancement and restoration
- species at risk protection and recovery
- foundational knowledge and information sharing

Federal examples:

- Nature Smart Climate Solutions
- BC Old Growth Nature Fund
- 2 billion trees

Provincial examples

- Conservation Financing Mechanism
- Modernized Land Use Planning
- Together For Wildlife

Conservation Finance Mechanism



Eligible Activities Supported by the Fund:

- Government to Government relationship capacity for area-based conservation initiatives
- Restoration work to heal the lands and waters to support biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Data collection and analysis to understand baseline status of new conservation or protected areas and monitor outcomes
- Removal of encumbrances on the land-base to support new designations
- Long-term stewardship of the new areas through Guardians or other programs as identified in an implementation plan
- Low-carbon economic opportunities (e.g., carbon economy, eco-tourism)

Funding Oversight

CFM

- ▶ BC Parks Foundation (BCPF) will play a custodial role in the management of the Fund
 - ▶ BCPF's Board – with fiduciary role in management of the Fund
- ▶ A Strategic Oversight Committee for the fund will be established
 - ▶ An interim committee will be in place to carry out initial engagement and advise on Fund set up and launch while longer-term committee is established
- ▶ Strategic Oversight Committee will:
 - Include experts in field on conservation and stewardship with a minimum 50% First Nation representation and leadership + ex-officio gov
 - Enable the cooperation and coordination of funding for First Nations-led conservation initiatives
- ▶ BCPF will secure staff support – e.g. project director, comms function, analyst(s)

TNA

- ▶ BC, Canada and FNLC will create an interim Tripartite Nature Committee
- ▶ Committee will coordinate activities and manage funding allocations
- ▶ Canada and BC will explore mechanisms complementary to the Committee that enable the involvement of local governments, stakeholders, and citizens.
- ▶ Within 12 months of signing this Agreement, the Parties will develop a Terms of Reference for the Committee that will set out its purpose, membership, roles and responsibilities, and details regarding operations and decision-making processes.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework

- The draft Framework was developed through collaborative engagement throughout 2023 with First Nations and other parties.
- Stems from the Old Growth Strategic Review (Rec 2)
- Purpose of the Framework is to:
 - Provide a vision and actions to align ongoing initiatives to enable the conditions for a stepwise change in how BC manages land and water, to support ecosystems, communities and economic resiliency.
 - Guide and inform the co-development of legislation and policies.
 - Provide an approach that is adaptable to diverse ecosystems and cultures.

Feedback open until January 15, 2024:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/biodiversity/bc-s-draft-biodiversity-and-ecosystem-health-framework>

Goal: Healthy and biodiverse ecosystems are thriving, productive and resilient

and sustain community, social, economic and environmental well-being in all ways for generations to come



Transformation of Land and Water Stewardship Systems in British Columbia

Transforming BC and beyond



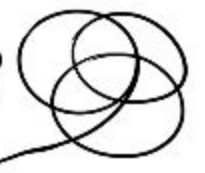
- Components of CHANGE:
- | A whole of government and society approach
 - | Transformation of land and water stewardship systems
 - | Transforming governance relationships and supporting inclusive participation

Moving away from silos: priorities need to be adjusted and systems strengthened

From silos...

... To connection

Moving to connection: united in priorities and values are in balance



30% by 2030

2010: Aichi Biodiversity Targets

- Conserve 17% of the land base by 2020
- B.C. surpassed this target

2022: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- Conserve 30% of the land base by 2030
- B.C. has committed to this target



Achieving 30% by 2030

Protected Area

- Geographically defined area that is designated and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature. *The intent of the area is for protection.*



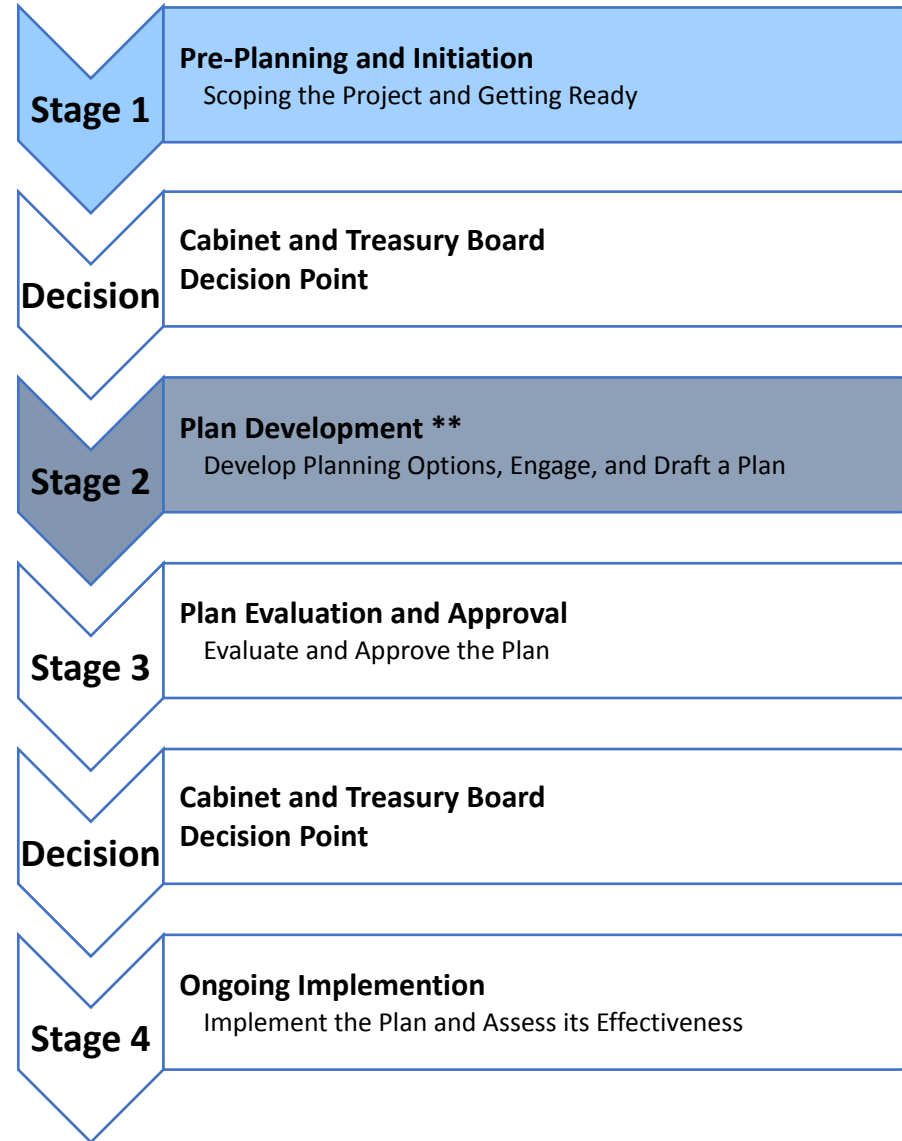
Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM)

- Geographically defined area that is not a protected area but is managed in manner that achieves the long-term conservation of nature. *Effective conservation is a result but may not be the primary purpose.*

Land Use Planning

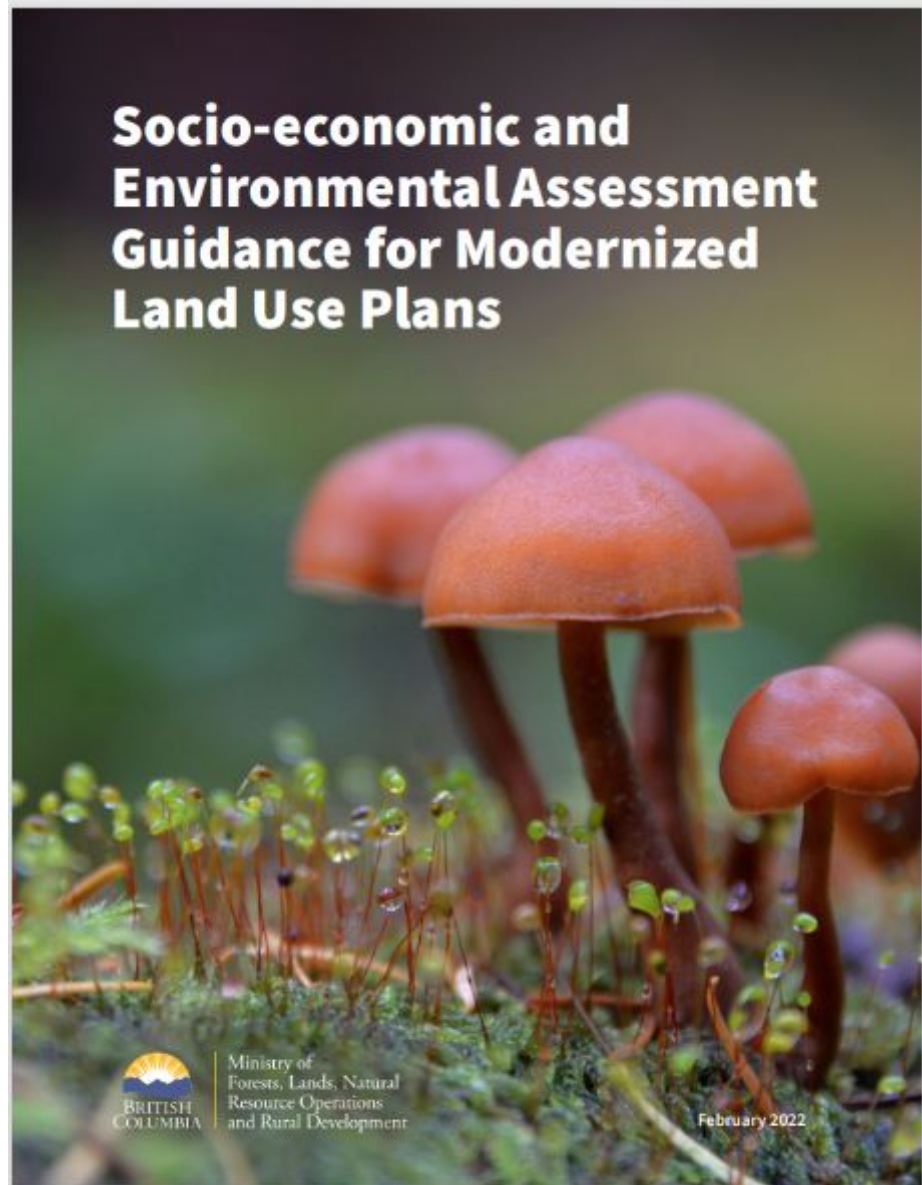
- Mandated since 2017
- Pressures are rising (lack of unencumbered lands; FN declarations on IPCAs; significantly changing economic activities)
- Complex planning system (LUP, FLP, SAR, Watershed, Salmon, marine etc.) – move to integrated planning approach.
- Slow to start – relationship building takes time
- New resources needed to deliver on components like 30x30.

LUP Stages



LUP and Recreation

- Human health, well-being, enjoyment and use of public lands key value within the “conservation” pillar.
- Base case socio-economic and environmental assessments need to outline current activities and use of land base.
- New land use scenario(s) require public engagement and input.
- Final LUPs to include socio-economic analysis (including future opportunities) and accompanying governance and financial plans.
- Bring together, and driven provincially, through related strategies and policies.
- Key policy work underway: Interim measures



IPCAs

“Lands and waters where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance, and knowledge systems.” ~ICE 2018



Indigenous-led

Indigenous governments have the primary role in determining the objectives, boundaries, management plans and governance structures for IPCAs as part of their exercise of self-determination.



Long-term commitment to conservation

Indigenous Peoples take a multi-generational view of stewarding their territories. An IPCA represents a long-term commitment to conserve lands and waters for future generations.

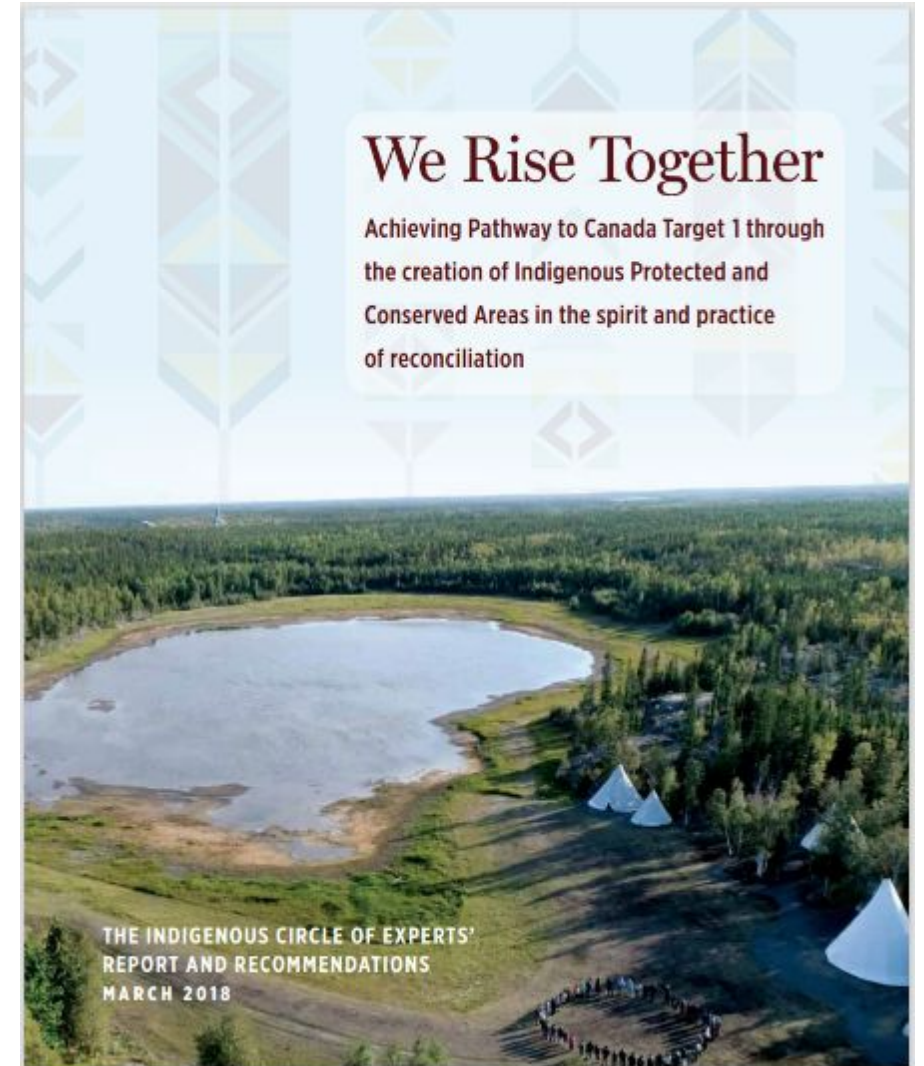


Elevate Indigenous rights and responsibilities

Acknowledgement of Indigenous governments' authority to work with their people on how to use the land and water while achieving conservation and cultural objectives.

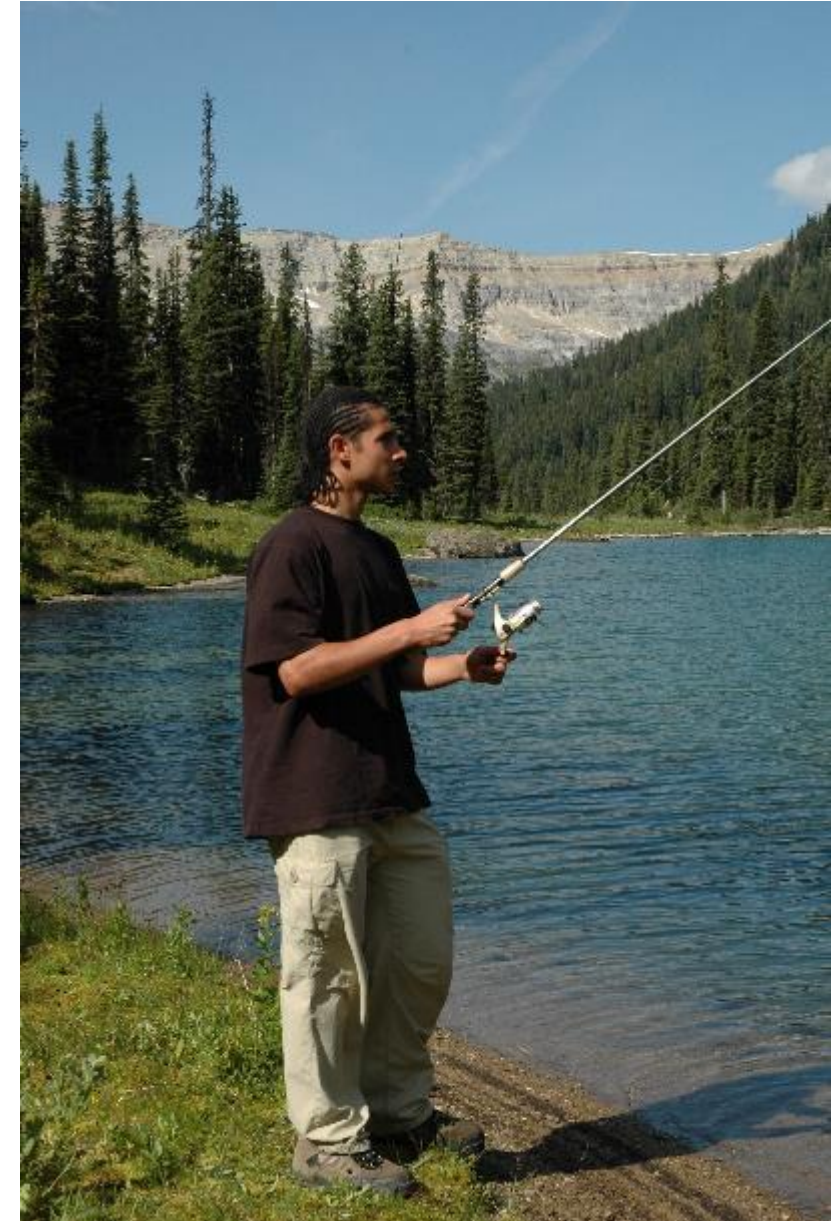
IPCAs and Land Use

- No two IPCAs are the same.
- Conservation may be a priority, but traditional economic activities may still occur in some forms.
- Many First Nations share the importance of lands for reconciliation, economy, environmental outcomes.
- IPCAs are essentially the First Nation's land use plan and are important in communicating First Nation values and long-term objectives.
- Responding to an IPCA takes a variety of approaches.



IPCAs and Land Designations

- We do not have an “IPCA designation”.
- If an area is identified as needing a designation, information needs to guide:
 - What activities are allowed or not allowed?
 - Where are activities appropriate or not appropriate?
 - What are the management responsibilities between the governments?
 - How will co-management or shared decision making be advanced?
- The “tool” selected needs to match the policy intent.



Questions

