



**Overview and Updates:  
Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation  
June 2024**

- The Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation (the Framework Agreement) is an agreement between the government of Canada, the British Columbia government and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to establish a framework to achieve a more integrated and collaborative landscape-based approach to ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation.
- The Framework Agreement was announced on November 3, 2023. The FNLC was mandated by First Nations in B.C. to co-develop and sign the Framework Agreement through resolutions passed by the Chiefs of the B.C. Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs. The FNLC is accountable to Rights and Title holders for the implementation of this agreement. Canada and British Columbia will also work directly with Treaty partners.
- The Framework Agreement is an unprecedented commitment to conservation and stewardship that will: advance a vision for co-management and reconciliation; improve outcomes for biodiversity, ecosystems, and species at risk; restore habitat; implement nature-based climate solutions (such as tree planting to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions); and ensure our economies and communities are resilient and thriving for generations to come.
- The Framework Agreement will improve outcomes for nature through an alignment of priorities, with funding across and within multiple levels of government, as well as increased capacity to undertake conservation measures on the ground. These investments support initiatives to advance B.C.'s and Canada's commitment to protect and conserve at least 30% of terrestrial areas by 2030.
- Since the signing of the Framework Agreement, initial work has begun on implementation, including: establishing the interim Tripartite Nature Committee (which includes representatives from all three parties, to implement the agreement and associated processes); setting up various sub-committees (e.g., Performance Measures and Indicators Sub-Committee); and establishing a shared information set and profiles of relevant programs, initiatives, and investments.
- A progress joint report on the implementation of the Framework Agreement will be published in late 2024, with annual reports thereafter.



- This work is based on recognition and respect for the inherent right of First Nations to self-determination and self-government within their territories. The FNLC will work alongside the governments of Canada and B.C. to ensure the implementation of the Framework Agreement upholds this recognition and respect. Importantly, since the FNLC is not a title or rights or treaty rights holder and cannot engage in processes to establish and provide free, prior, and informed consent on behalf of individual First Nations, implementation of the Framework Agreement will involve consultation and cooperation directly with First Nations and Treaty partners to establish agreements, understandings, or other constructive arrangements to advance implementation of the Framework Agreement’s goals and objectives.
- The Framework Agreement represents a combined investment of up to \$1.1 billion (for 2023-2026 with the potential for additional future investments).
  - Canada will contribute significant funds from the Enhanced Nature Legacy initiative, Old Growth Nature Fund, Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, and 2 Billion Trees program.
  - B.C. will match Canada’s funding through existing programs such as Land Use Planning, Old Growth Strategic Review, Species at Risk Recovery, Together for Wildlife Strategy, Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework, and Indigenous Guardian Programs, among others. B.C. is also investing in conservation through unprecedented partnerships like the B.C. Conservation Fund with the B.C. Parks Foundation.
  - The understanding is that existing programs and projects will continue, but that Canada and B.C., working with FNLC, will seek ways to modify and improve how those programs are implemented to better support the objectives of the Framework Agreement. This includes reconciliation and collaboration and designing future investments to align with the Framework Agreement’s objectives in an equitable and accessible manner.

#### Key Links

- [News Release](#)
- [Backgrounder](#)
- Published [Tripartite Framework Agreement](#)

#### Frequently Asked Questions

##### 1. What are the goals and objectives of this Framework Agreement?

The Framework Agreement includes goals and objectives in four key areas that aim to: increase the percentage of B.C.’s land base that is protected, conserved and restored to at least 30% by 2030; enhance and restore habitat; improve species at risk protection and recovery; and enhance data and information sharing. Collectively, these priorities are intended to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, improve ecosystem health, and ensure community resilience and economic benefits for generations to come. The goals and



objectives will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with Canada's and B.C.'s commitments to implement the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

## 2. How will First Nations be engaged in the implementation of the Framework Agreement?

Canada and B.C., in partnership with FNLC, have committed to implement the agreement in consultation and cooperation with First Nations through a distinctions-based approach that acknowledges, affirms, and implements the unique rights, interests, and circumstances of First Nations peoples in B.C. This includes a commitment to work with First Nations as the Indigenous peoples who are title and rights holders in B.C. (including all Treaty partners) and as integral partners in advancing nature conservation and decision-making about caretaking their communities, lands, and territories.

Canada and B.C.'s commitment is to work with all First Nations, noting that engagement with FNLC under the Framework Agreement does not in any way fulfill, replace, or displace Canada or B.C.'s obligations to consult and cooperate with First Nations title and rights holders.

## 3. How can First Nations access available funding?

Canada's funding comes from various Environment and Climate Change Canada programs as well as Natural Resources Canada's 2 Billion Trees initiative, all of which are in alignment with the shared objectives under the Framework Agreement. To access funding, eligible First Nation groups and organizations can apply under specific funding programs. To receive funds, a contribution agreement will be required and, where possible, these agreements will be streamlined to better coordinate activities that are aligned with the shared interests and priorities identified in the Framework Agreement.

Currently, access to B.C.'s funds is facilitated through both provincial and regional-level partnerships through government-to-government agreements, or other constructive arrangements. Programs such as Land Use Planning, Species at Risk Recovery, Together for Wildlife, Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework, and Indigenous Guardian Program are some examples. Further exploration of proposal-driven or partnership-based invitations are being explored, through ongoing development of the approach to the Watershed Security Fund (managed by First Nations Fisheries Council and Real Estate Foundation of B.C.) and the B.C. Conservation Fund (managed by B.C. Parks Foundation).

## 4. How will local governments, stakeholders, industry, and citizens be involved in the Framework Agreement?

Some local governments, stakeholders, industry, and civil society organizations are already engaged through past calls for proposals. Canada and B.C. are exploring mechanisms complementary to and consistent with the direction of the interim Tripartite Nature



Committee that enhance the involvement of local governments, stakeholders, industry, and citizens.

**5. How will new terrestrial areas be identified for conservation and protection?**

New terrestrial areas for conservation and protection under the Framework Agreement will be identified through existing B.C. and First Nations land use planning processes and will take into account federal, provincial and First Nations priorities for area-based conservation.

Priority areas identified for permanent protection will include areas that are important for biodiversity conservation, provide critical habitat for species at risk, contain highly productive old growth forests, and achieve co-benefits for climate change mitigation.

**6. How will Canada and B.C. address potential socio-economic implications that may result from the implementation of this Framework Agreement?**

Canada and B.C. understand the need to address real and perceived socio-economic impacts of the Framework Agreement to maximize the opportunities and positive benefits, minimize negative impacts, and support positive transitions for communities and workers. Engagement with communities and stakeholders, through planning tables and policy discussions, include considerations on how Canada and B.C. could support proposed measures when issues arise from changes in land use that support habitat conservation and protection.

**7. How much of B.C.'s old growth forests will be protected through the Old Growth Nature Fund?**

Canada has provided \$50 million, to be matched by the Province, to permanently protect and conserve, in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, 4,000 to 13,000 square kilometres of high-priority, at-risk old growth forests. The areas are within the coastal western hemlock, coastal douglas-fir, or interior cedar-hemlock biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification zones.

These three zones overlap with biologically diverse and productive habitats for species at risk or migratory birds, and contribute to Canada's commitment to protect 30% of terrestrial areas by 2030 and Canada's climate target (i.e. reduce national greenhouse gas emissions by 40% to 45% relative to 2005 levels by 2030). These zones also cover large areas of the British Columbia coast, Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, and the southeastern part of the province.

To date, the Province has allocated \$25 million from the Old Growth Nature Fund to help protect old growth areas from harvesting or development by: increasing First Nations'



planning capacity; determining forest and mining tenure values; collecting key data that's key to establishing Wildlife Habitat Areas; and purchasing private land to conserve old growth forests and old forests that are on the pathway to become old growth (which may also encompass important habitat for species at risk). Future focus will be on the implementation of B.C.'s Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.