



**COAST
FUNDS**

**2020-2022
STRATEGIC PLAN**

Coast Funds is two separate organizations established to manage \$118 million provided by six private foundations, the Province of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada.



COAST FUNDS

COAST CONSERVATION
ENDOWMENT FUND
FOUNDATION

Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation is a registered Canadian charity established to manage a \$2 million regional conservation planning fund and a permanent endowment fund of approximately \$56 million. The income generated from this fund provides ongoing funding to First Nations to support conservation science, resource planning, capacity development, and related conservation management activities. Specific dollar amounts are allocated annually to each participating First Nation for eligible projects on the basis of each First Nation's original funding allocation and the investment performance of the fund.



COAST FUNDS

COAST ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
SOCIETY

Coast Economic Development Society is a not-for-profit society established to manage a \$60 million economic development fund in support of First Nations communities and businesses. The capital in this fund is invested in business development initiatives throughout the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii, targeting sectors with good potential to support sustainable development in the region and strengthen community well-being.

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COVER

A sacred fire burns in the restored Guxtse (Big House) in the Kwikwasut'inuxw People's home village of Gwa-yas-dums on Gilford Island, in the Broughton Archipelago.

PHOTO BY
Brodie Guy

About Coast Funds

Coast Funds was created in 2007 out of mutual recognition by First Nations, conservationists, industry, and government that a sustainable economy is vital to conservation efforts in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii areas of British Columbia.

First Nations communities have cared for and depended on their traditional territories in this region for their cultural, social, and economic well-being since time immemorial. The region also has compelling conservation value. The Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii are magnificent old-growth forest ecosystems representing one of the world's largest remaining coastal temperate rainforests and supporting wild Pacific salmon, genetically unique wolves, grizzly bears, and the white “spirit” bear among many other species.

A healthy environment in the Great Bear Rainforest requires maintaining the link between the environment, local First Nations, a sustainable economy, and healthy communities. First Nations' stewardship of the environment and the economy of the region determines not only their own future, but the future of the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii as a whole.

Coast Funds was created to make the vital connection between sustainable development projects that embrace conservation values; the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the First Nations communities; and the long-term conservation of the region. Designed as a global model of what conservation must become—an inherent part of healthy economies, environments, and cultures—our funds are dedicated to empowering First Nations on the central and north coast of B.C. and on Haida Gwaii to achieve healthy and vibrant economies and communities in tandem with the conservation of their homelands for the benefit of future generations.



PHOTO

Over 2,000 people gathered in Haítzaqv territory in October 2019 to celebrate the historic opening of Gvúkva'úas Haítzaqv, the first *łiáci* (Big House) in the Nation's territory in 120 years.

PHOTO BY

Brodie Guy

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

VISION

First Nations exercise their inherent rights to self-determination, ensuring healthy and thriving communities and ecosystems.

MISSION

To partner with First Nations in achieving their goals for conservation, stewardship, and economic development in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii.

CORE VALUES

The Board has adopted the following core values to guide the operations of Coast Funds:

- Respect and good relations;
- Integrity;
- Collaboration and reliability;
- Adaptability and responsiveness; and
- Transparency and accountability.



ABOVE
Coast Funds board of directors and staff with Haítzaqv
Hemas (hereditary chiefs) and Elders in June 2019.

Organizational Principles



1. GOOD RELATIONS

We endeavour to provide the highest level of support to First Nations through a mutually respectful relationship.



2. RESPECTING INDIGENOUS SELF-DETERMINATION

We acknowledge and respect Indigenous histories, laws, and governance. We work with the spirit and intent of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



3. COLLABORATIVE DUE DILIGENCE

Coast Funds works in close partnership with First Nations to make responsible and objective decisions to develop successful applications, to facilitate peer mentoring and knowledge sharing between communities, and to fund sound, high-quality projects.

PHOTO

Moonrise over Gil Island in the territories of the Gitga'at First Nation.

PHOTO BY

Brodie Guy



4. REVITALIZING CAPACITY

Coast Funds supports First Nations as they strengthen their capacity and develop relationships between each other and with other agencies, financial institutions, and potential partners to leverage additional resources, increase the opportunities for success, and maximize the impact of Coast Funds' project investments through relationship building, facilitation, and knowledge sharing.



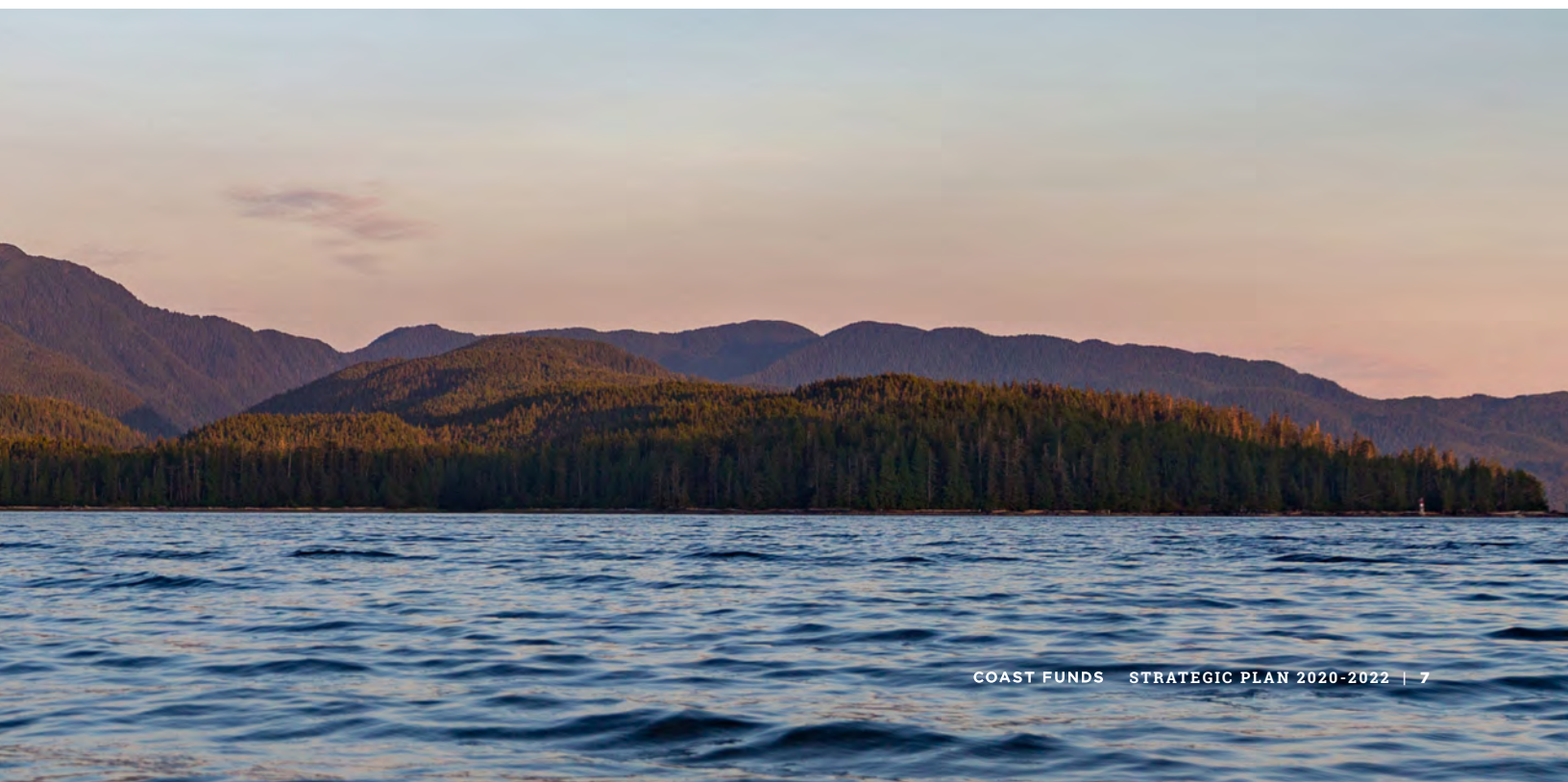
5. RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF FUNDS

Integral to all Coast Funds' work is the responsible administration and investment of the funds entrusted to it for current and future generations.



6. DEMONSTRATING BEST PRACTICES

Coast Funds strives to be highly trusted and respected for its leadership in strong governance and management, continuous learning and proactive knowledge sharing, project outcomes reporting, and value-added service to First Nations.



Planning Context

In 2018 and 2019, Coast Funds engaged with First Nations communities and business leaders throughout the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii, Members, and funders regarding key decisions ahead for 2020-22. From these discussions, the board received unanimous encouragement to explore new opportunities to recapitalize Coast Funds: both to seek the replenishment of the waning economic development fund and to make efforts that will strengthen the conservation endowment to support continuity of intergenerational stewardship initiatives throughout the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii.

IN UNDERTAKING THIS YEAR'S PLANNING PROCESS FOR 2020 – 2022, THE BOARD ASKED ITSELF THESE KEY QUESTIONS:

- How will the imminent completion of the economic development fund and emerging funding opportunities affect First Nations' access to flexible, self-determined finance to continue efforts to build resilient coastal economies?
- How will First Nations continue to build resilient Indigenous-led stewardship of their lands, waters, and cultures with diversified, self-determined, and sustainable sources of revenue?
- How might the operating and governance model of Coast Funds be sustained and evolved in anticipation of the dissolution of the Society (the economic fund), and how might the Society's dissolution affect the Foundation (conservation endowment) and First Nations' access to sustainable, self-determined stewardship finance?
- How can Coast Funds leverage the significant institutional knowledge that has been gained from our years of experience, including 300 economic development and conservation projects, to respond to First Nations', Members', and funders' requests to work in partnership towards potentially recapitalizing the Society and building the value of the endowment that secures the future of the Foundation?

With this context in mind, Coast Funds has established our foundational goal as well as three key goals and objectives that the organization seeks to achieve by December 2022. These goals and objectives respond to the questions raised and reflect ongoing core work to fulfill Coast Funds' long-term vision and mission. Coast Funds will develop detailed annual implementation plans setting our specific actions and targets to achieve each strategic goal.

Our Foundational Goal

INTERGENERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY OF COAST FUNDS

Goal: As requested by First Nations, sustain and evolve Coast Funds to a new operating model that allows the organization to continue to offer valued services to First Nations beyond the dissolution date of the Society (the economic fund).

1. In partnership with First Nations, develop a plan for recapitalization of the Society (the economic fund) or its dissolution. Also see Healthy and Resilient Coastal Economies objective 3.
2. In partnership with First Nations and funders, grow the Foundation's endowment to increase First Nations' access to self-determined stewardship finance while also sustaining valued services provided to First Nations by Coast Funds. Also see Healthy and Resilient Lands and Waters objective 3.

“First Nations investments in stewardship and sustainable development are having major impacts in communities across the coast. They are creating a new conservation economy that protects this globally significant ecosystem for generations to come—a benefit that stretches far beyond the region.”

Coast Funds' board chair Huux *Percy Crosby*

PHOTO

The beautiful Viner River estuary, Gilford Island, located in the territories of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw.

PHOTO BY

Brodie Guy

Key Goals and Objectives

HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COASTAL ECONOMIES

Goal: To support First Nations' efforts to build healthy and resilient economies.

- Strengthen First Nations to grow and diversify resilient local and regional coastal economies by making strategic acquisitions, creating and expanding community-owned enterprises, supporting entrepreneurs, and enhancing economic infrastructure.
- Support the transition from fossil fuel-dependent electrical grids to renewable energy sources by collaborating with coastal First Nations and the Province of B.C. through the Renewable Energy for Remote Communities program.
- Partner with First Nations and funders to find new opportunities to fund economic development.

HEALTHY AND RESILIENT LANDS AND WATERS

Goal: To support the revitalization of First Nations' stewardship of ecology, culture, and protected areas.

- Strengthen First Nations' development of Indigenous-led stewardship, Guardian Watchman efforts, and regional stewardship initiatives.
- In collaboration with First Nations and funders, develop a long-term plan for the intergenerational sustainability of the endowment fund.
- Explore new opportunities in support of First Nations' efforts to secure diversified, self-determined, and sustainable sources of revenue to build resilient Indigenous-led stewardship which may include increasing endowed funds in the Foundation.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Goal: To partner with First Nations to proactively facilitate the sharing of knowledge, lessons learned, strategies, and outcomes.

- Collaborate with First Nations to document how stewardship and economic development projects were planned and implemented, how resilient First Nations are becoming increasingly self-determining, and advice for other Indigenous Peoples based on lessons learned.
- Demonstrate how Coast Funds' project investments are strengthening well-being on local and regional scales by analysing and publishing environmental, social, economic, and cultural outcomes.
- Proactively share project stories and well-being outcomes to facilitate peer mentoring and knowledge sharing, and to empower First Nations.



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FIND OUT MORE AT:

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