

**Too often, First Nations have been left watching while others worked in our territories. New funds will help us create our own economic opportunities.**

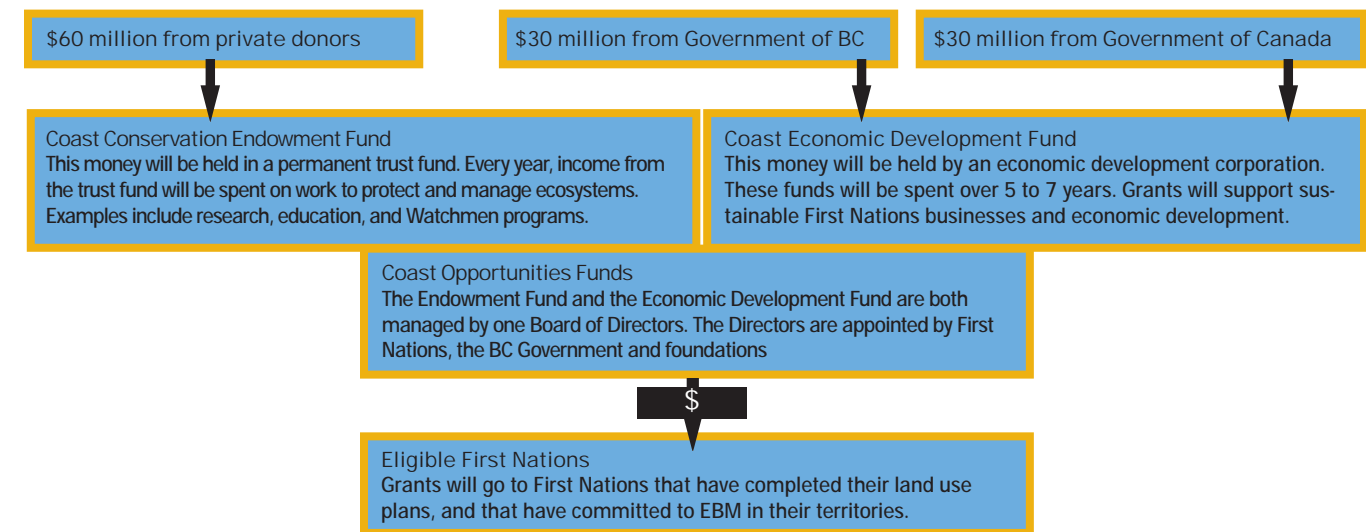
Coastal First Nations want strong local and regional economies. We want to create jobs and new opportunities. At the same time, we want to maintain our traditional lifestyle and protect our environment. The new Coast Opportunities Funds, or COF, will help us move towards this goal.

COF funds will flow to First Nations that commit to conservancies and EBM in their territories, and that bring these commitments into their land use plans. The funds will support many different kinds of economic opportunities, as long as they respect ecological and cultural values.



These funds will help us to negotiate and develop new economic opportunities. They are part of our work to improve the well-being of our communities. They will help us to breathe new life into our traditional responsibilities for our lands and our people.

### COF structure and funding flow



## Counting Down to 2009

Coastal First Nations are very proud of what we have achieved. By working collaboratively with governments and many other groups, we have created one of the best conservation and economic development models that the world has ever seen.

**The work does not stop here. Over the next two years, we will strive to make sure that progress to a conservation-based economy is real. We will hold the BC Government, and other groups, including industry and environmental organizations, to their promises. We will make sure that EBM works for us, now and into the future.**



First Nations, governments, foundations, logging companies and environmental organizations have agreed to a deadline of March 31, 2009. All the plans, laws, policies, and practices for EBM must be ready by this date. When this work is done, First Nations – and others in our territories – will have the stability and certainty that we all need.



### Get Involved

People in your community are involved in this work. Find out who they are. You can talk to them about the areas or issues that are most important to you. They will answer your questions, and listen to your ideas.

Coastal First Nations - Turning Point Initiative is an alliance of First Nations on British Columbia's North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii working together to create a healthy coastal economy for our communities.

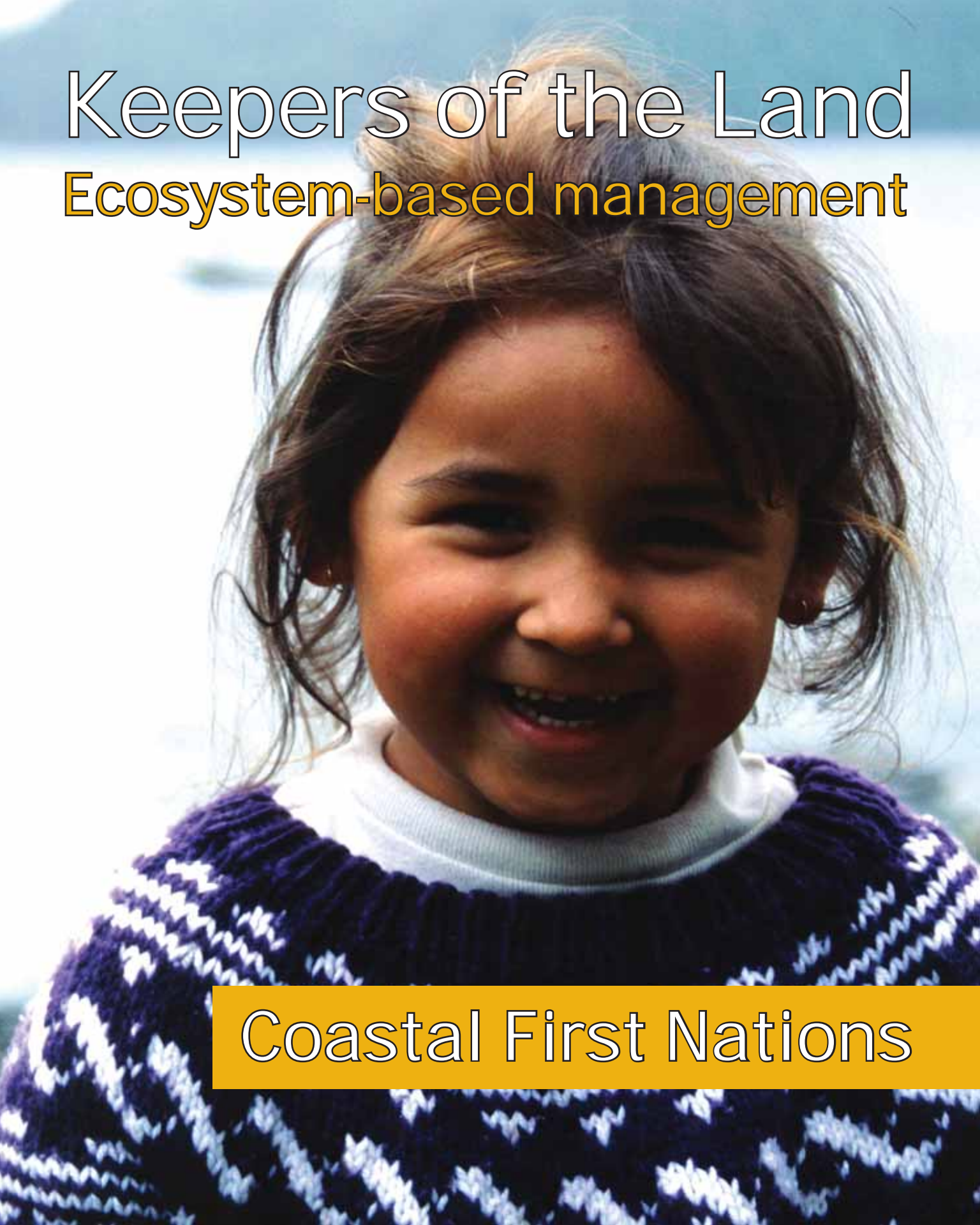
Turning Point's objective is to protect the land and marine resources in our Traditional Territories and to promote sustainable economic development in our communities.

The Coastal First Nations include Old Massett, Skidegate, Council of the Haida Nation, Metlakatla, Gitga'at, Haisla, Kitasoo/Xaixais, Heiltsuk, Wuikinuxv and Homalco.

Turning Point Initiative - 401-409 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2  
Telephone: 604.696.9889 | Fax: 604.696.9887 | [www.coastalfirstnations.ca](http://www.coastalfirstnations.ca)

Printed on 100% PC Recycled Paper. Photos By: Ben Fox, Al Harvey, Bess Brown, Douglas Neaslos, Jeremiah Armstrong, Tom Green, Dina Goldstein, Mami Grossman, Mike Wigle, Stephanie Goodwin, Scott Rehms, Hana Hermaek

# Keepers of the Land Ecosystem-based management



## Coastal First Nations

**Coastal First Nations have always known that the well-being of our people is connected to the well-being of our Traditional Territories. We know that we must respect and care for our lands and waters – so they can support our economies, cultures, communities, and families.**

First Nations on BC's Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii are working hard to sustain the lands, waters and resources in our Traditional Territories to meet the needs of present and future generations.



As part of this work, we are:

- Negotiating government-to-government agreements with the Government of BC. These agreements recognize that First Nations play a lead role in managing our lands and resources.
- Making land use plans. These plans set out where logging and other resource development can happen in our territories. They are based on our traditional responsibilities as keepers of the land.
- Designing a new kind of forestry. In our territories, logging and other resource development will create jobs, protect our environment, and strengthen our communities. We will do this through ecosystem-based management.
- Building a conservation economy. Our commitment to ecosystem-based management and conservancies is bringing new funds and investment to our region. This will help us create jobs and businesses in our communities.

Ecosystem-based management, or EBM, is a new way to manage resource development, such as logging. But it is also an old way.

EBM respects the connection between people and the land. It also respects traditional and local knowledge. In some ways, "ecosystem-based management" is just a modern term that describes what First Nations have always done: we use our knowledge and wisdom to look after our lands and our communities.



## First Nations know that land use plans are about more than just land.

Careful land use planning is an important part of looking after our territories and our communities. The government-to-government process we use in the Central Coast, North Coast, and Haida Gwaii is different from anywhere else in BC.



Logging, tourism, gathering traditional foods, and spiritual ceremonies are all part of our future. But they cannot all happen in the same place. Land use plans set out where different activities are allowed. They also set aside some areas to protect ecological and cultural values.

- Our planning process blends our First Nations traditional wisdom with the best scientific research and local knowledge.
- Our planning process recognizes our Aboriginal Rights and Title.
- Our planning process provides a voice for others who live and work in our territories.
- The protocol agreements and land use agreements were developed by and belong to each of our communities
- Coastal First Nations have also worked with governments, foundations, and environmental organizations to raise \$120 million in new funding. This money will help create jobs and new opportunities in our communities.

Bad logging practices have impacts on watersheds, rivers, plants, and animals – and on our communities. We can do better than this.

In 2001, First Nations, the Province, environmental organizations, and forest companies committed in principle to EBM. They set up a group called the Coast Information Team, or CIT.

The CIT brought together people with scientific, technical, traditional, and local knowledge. They worked together to produce an EBM Planning Handbook. The Handbook explains how EBM works. It is a guide to help us decide how logging and other activity will be done in our territories.

### EBM has two basic goals:

- maintain healthy ecosystems. People, animals, plants, soils, rivers, lakes, and oceans are all connected. EBM respects and sustains this web of life.
- improve human well-being. All people have the right to a happy, healthy life. EBM brings income and new economic opportunities to individuals and communities. EBM also supports and strengthens cultural traditions.

EBM uses careful plans to help us make the most of the resources we have. Some plans cover large areas of our region. Other plans focus on smaller sites and local areas.



Regional maps will show important values such as wildlife migration routes, sensitive soils, and cultural areas. Little or no logging will happen in these areas.

In local areas, we will identify individual trees, or groups of trees, that will not be cut. This will protect values such as medicinal plants, culturally modified trees, bear dens, or eagle nests.

Once we have set aside the areas or values we want to protect, we will prepare logging plans for other sites.

## EBM brings together the strength of First Nations' traditional knowledge, and the best of ecosystem science. It is a powerful tool for our communities.

In EBM, careful planning takes place before any trees are cut. It starts with several questions:

- What plants, animals, and other resources are in this area? Do they have special ecological or cultural values?
- What are the economic values in this area? Which forest products will bring the most benefit to our communities?
- Is this an area where we want logging or other resource development to take place? If we pursue economic activity here, what steps will we take to look after other important values in this area? What logging practices should we use?

Answers to these questions will form part of the land use plans developed by each First Nation. These plans will be backed up by laws and policies put in place by First Nations and by the Government of BC.

### Managing for low risk

In nature, ecosystems are always changing. Fires, insects, and landslides all cause changes. Logging and other human activity causes changes too. When these activities are done well, ecosystems stay healthy over time.

In EBM, "risk" is the chance that logging or other resource development will have impacts that go beyond natural changes, to the point that ecosystems are no longer healthy. Our goal is to make sure our resource development is "low risk." This means that our environment will stay healthy over the long term.



Our territories include forests, ecosystems, plants and animals that are important to us, and to the entire world. We can protect these areas without hurting our communities.

Coastal First Nations have already decided on many areas that will be permanently set aside for future generations. These areas provide protection for cultural and ecological values. They will help us to take care of bears, salmon, and many other important plants and animals.

The new protected areas are an important step in our land use plans. They are also another example of how Coastal First Nations are leading the way for other First Nations in BC.

Coastal First Nations wanted to make sure that our protected areas met the goal of saving important ecosystems. We also needed to know that these areas would always be open to our people for food, ceremonial, and economic uses. We worked with the Government of BC, and with other groups, to create a new kind of protected area. These areas are called conservancies.

The top priority of conservancies is to protect special ecological and cultural values. However, the management plans can also allow for some economic uses.

### Collaborative Management

First Nations and the BC Government will jointly manage the conservancies. Our communities will always be part of planning and decision-making for these areas.

On the ground, our communities are the guardians. We will use Watchmen, research and education programs, and training to make sure the conservancies are looked after properly.

