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Funding the Future: Conservation Finance for Private Landowners



**Action for
Adaptation**

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March 2025

Executive Summary

The Action for Adaptation Project held a workshop on the 27 February 2025 titled *Funding our Future: Conservation Finance for Private Lands*. This brought together local and provincial governments and First Nations elected officials and staff, non-profit organisations, funding and financial advisors. The purpose was to talk about how sustainable funding for biodiversity and stewardship could be achieved in the capital region, specifically acknowledging that 57% of the land is in private ownership.

The objectives for the workshop were to:

- To reflect on what we value about the natural environment.
- To share information on new ways to finance biodiversity and stewardship.
- To meet others who are involved in stewardship.
- Look for collaborative opportunities to increase finance for stewardship.

Information was shared with participants of the workshop through presentations from five knowledge holders, printed resources in the room and during small breakout groups (<10 people).

One of the first speakers of the day was STHENEP (Adam Olsen) who reminded the workshop attendees that colonisation has disrupted Indigenous Peoples connection to the land and that this has had a lasting impact on indigenous communities and ecosystems. We now need to explore how balance can be restored through Indigenous-led stewardship and governance leading to a just and sustainable future. The other speakers included:

- Cassandra Cummings – Diamond Head Consulting – who spoke about the work that the District of Saanich has completed to establish a baseline of biodiversity; to develop a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy; and subsequently consider how to finance conservation action on private lands.
- Juliet Craig – Kootenay Conservation Program – shared information about Local Conservation Funds, first established in the Kootenay region in 2008, including how they formed; how they are managed; their benefits to the wider community; and the projects they have successfully supported in their service areas.
- Brodie Guy – Island Coastal Economic Trust – explained how sustainable financing can be formed when you take into consideration social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions. The best return is seen when funds are pooled by all parties and all types of funding streams are considered.
- Josh O’Neill – Mustel Group – presented the results of a survey undertaken in the Capital Regional District, which included sample of residents (1056) that enabled statistical comparison between four core areas. The survey explored what people value, what threats they are concerned about, if people would be willing to pay a tax to protect the natural environment and how much they would be willing to pay.

A key part of the workshop was for attendees to participate in breakout groups to work through the steps relating to how to establish sustainable funding in the Capital Region for land stewardship.

The steps followed align with those within the [Local Conservation Fund Guide for Local Governments](#).

1. Build a leadership team and support network
2. Determine community priorities
 - Public polls and focus groups
3. Make the case for a Conservation Fund
 - Outreach, frequently asked questions.
4. Design the Conservation Fund
 - Priorities, type and scope of funding, Terms of Reference.
5. Determine financing options
6. Understand how to establish the fund
 - Governance, technical support and administration.
7. Gain approval to establish a fund, if tax based
 - Alternative approvals, referendum etc.

The information collected during the discussions was used to determine next steps. A draft vision was proposed:

'Development of a Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Fund that is co-governed by First Nations and local governments'.

In addition, the following recommendations were put forward:

Build the Supporting Network and Leadership Team

1. The Action for Adaptation team (CDFCP / UBC Botanical Gardens) will review completed workshop feedback forms to identify individuals and organisations that indicated that they would be interested in supporting the next steps of forming a fund (support network and leadership team).
2. The Action for Adaptation team will look to pull together interested parties to identify what support they would be willing to provide.

Communication and Outreach Strategy

3. Identify a person / organisation in the support network (built from workshop attendees) that can help draft an initial Communications Strategy. This can then be developed with time but helps provide a framework in the short term.
4. The workshop attendees have indicated that there should be co-governance of the Fund by First Nations and local governments and for all parties to have equal representation. Therefore, sharing information collected during the workshop and the community survey will be a short-term priority for the Action for Adaptation team (CDFCP / UBC Botanical Gardens) to these audiences. The approach may include:
 - Presentations to the Capital Regional District Environmental Services Sub-Committee or Board.
 - Presentations to Municipal and First Nations Councils.
 - One on one conversations with First Nations and local government staff.

Regional Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Strategy

5. The Action for Adaptation team will consult with the CRD's team leading on the development of the Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Services and the Parks Department to understand their aspirations for the service and what they consider to be the most relevant plans and strategies for guiding a fund.
6. The Action for Adaptation team will work with the support network and leadership team to develop a regional strategy that would guide the implementation of a fund and would help support funding. This is likely to need capacity funding.

Business Strategy

7. The support network and leadership team (formed from workshop attendees and beyond) will identify funding that would provide capacity to produce the Business Strategy.

1 Contents

2	Introduction.....	1
2.1	Background.....	1
2.2	Territorial Acknowledgement.....	1
2.3	Capital Region in Relation to the World.....	2
2.4	What is the Action for Adaptation Project?.....	2
2.5	List of Attendees.....	3
3	Speaker Presentations	4
3.1	Belonging: Looking back to build a new relationship with our home – STHENEP (Adam Olsen)	4
3.2	State of Biodiversity – Cassandra Cummings, Diamond Head Consulting.....	6
3.3	Local Conservation Funds – Juliet Craig, Kootenay Conservation Program	7
3.4	Building Sustainable Funding – Brodie Guy, Island Coastal Economic Trust.....	8
3.5	Financing Conservation on Private Lands, Josh O’Neill.....	9
4	Existing Routes of Sustainable Funding.....	12
5	Building a Regional Fund	20
5.1	Introduction	20
5.2	Discussion 1 – Priorities for Conservation	21
5.2.1	Q1 What do you value about the natural environment in the capital region?	21
5.2.2	Q2 What biodiversity and stewardship initiatives in the region are working?.....	22
5.2.3	Q3 What should be the biodiversity and stewardship priorities in the region?	23
5.3	Discussion 2 – Building a Stewardship Fund.....	25
5.3.1	Q1 Where will the funding be coming from?	25
5.3.2	Q2 Who decides what the funding is spent on (e.g. governance and technical advisors)?.....	27
5.3.3	Q3 What criteria do you use to decide what projects to fund (e.g. ecological, cultural etc.)?	28
5.4	Discussion Group 3 - Next Steps and Challenges	29
5.4.1	Q1 How would you see this funding benefiting the wider community?.....	29
5.4.2	Q2 Based on what you have heard today, what do you think the next steps should be?	29
5.4.3	Q3 What activities in the region could influence the establishment of a fund?	30
6	Conclusion and Recommendations.....	31
6.1.1	Draft Vision.....	31

6.1.2	Building the Support Network and Leadership Team.....	32
6.1.3	Communication and Outreach Strategy.....	33
6.1.4	Regional Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Strategy	33
6.1.5	Business Strategy	34
7	Summary.....	38

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the support that has been provided by:

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
 Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



Ministry of
Water, Land and
Resource Stewardship



Would also like to thank all of the people and organisations that took the time to take part in the workshop held on the 27th February 2025.

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

The Action for Adaptation Project held a workshop on the 27 February 2025 titled *Funding our Future: Conservation Finance for Private Lands*. This brought together local governments and First Nations elected officials and staff, not for profit organisations, funding and financial advisors active within the capital region. The purpose was to talk about how sustainable funding for biodiversity and stewardship could be achieved.

The natural environment within the Capital Region has supported people for millennia by providing shade, water, food, medicine, and protection from extreme weather events, and it remains one of the main reasons that people continue to move to the area. However, colonisation, climate change, and increasing urban density has affected the health of these systems, which subsequently affects the health of communities within the region.

In the region, First Nations, environmental non-profit organisations, and local governments are taking measurable action to improve the health of these ecosystems. However, these programs are not receiving enough funding to be able to prevent biodiversity loss, improve ecosystem resilience and adapt as landscapes continue to rapidly change. To help develop solutions collaboratively, the Funding the Future workshop had the following objectives:

- To reflect on what we value about the natural environment.
- To share information on new ways to finance biodiversity and stewardship.
- To meet others who are involved in stewardship.
- Look for collaborative opportunities to increase finance for stewardship.

2.2 Territorial Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that this work is focused on an area that is now known as the Capital Regional District which is in the ancestral and unceded territories of the SENĆOŦEN, Malchosen, Lekwungen, Semiahmoo, T'Sou-ke, Hul'qumi'num and Pentl'ach speaking people.

These lands have been managed by Indigenous Peoples for medicine and food for thousands of years, leading to ecosystems with high species diversity and of cultural significance. However, colonisation has resulted in the loss of natural and managed ecosystems through urban development and western agriculture, leaving only remnants of old growth forest and coastal oak and prairie ecosystems (Garry oak).

For the health of these ecosystems to be restored, we need to listen to the Indigenous Peoples who hold the knowledge on how to manage these systems. We are fortunate to have examples of this knowledge being applied, including the Stqeeye' Learning Society in the P'hwulhp (Garry Oak) Restoration Project – Our Grandmothers' Garden with? Maiya Modeste (click [here](#) to learn more); and the T'sou-ke Guardians Program who are working to remove invasive species such as green crab and knotweed that are impacting on salmon habitat (click [here](#) to learn more).

2.3 Capital Region in Relation to the World

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has determined that over half of global GDP is dependent on nature and the services it provides, e.g. water, timber etc. (\$44 trillion). However, the United Nations has indicated that 1 million species are at risk of extinction. Therefore, we are not living sustainably within our natural environment, and we need to consider how we can rebalance this impact.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was signed by Canada in 2022. This led to the development of Canada’s 2030 Nature Strategy which aligns with the targets included in the Framework, and includes the following target:

Target 19: increase financial resources to implement national biodiversity strategies, by 2030 mobilizing at least US\$200 billion/ year.

- Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments.
- Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards.

This acknowledges that we need to be approaching financing for the maintenance and restoration of our ecosystems differently. In the Capital Region, 57% of the land is in private ownership, which means that if land stewardship is to occur in a meaningful way, regulation and incentives are required to change landowner behaviour (**Table 1**). These can take the form of developing capacity to educate the community in how to manage the land and/or it can be direct financial incentives that support private landowners to implement management practices or that allow a third party to undertake activities on their behalf.

Table 1 Land ownership within the Capital Region District as defined on the Provincial Forest Ownership Layer (2024)

Type of Landownership	Percentage
Private	57
Provincial	26
Local government	13
Federal	3
First Nations Reserve	>1
Unknown	>1

2.4 What is the Action for Adaptation Project?

The Action for Adaptation project is a collaboration between the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership (CDFCP), UBC Botanical Gardens and UBC Okanagan Earth Observation and Spatial Ecology lab, that aims to provide local governments and First Nations planners and decision-makers with mapping and planning tools to support actions for climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation. Healthy ecosystems are essential for human well-being as they provide ecosystem

services and buffer communities against the risks of climate change and biodiversity loss. The design of the Action for Adaptation project and online tools has been guided by conversations with First Nations and local government planners, mappers, community groups, consultants and researchers and aims to fill gaps in information / tools that they have identified, and help people take action.

2.5 List of Attendees

First Nations, local government staff and ENGOs are continually applying for grant and philanthropic funding from a broad range of sources. However, this funding is usually project based, with few funders being interested in supporting long term capacity building. In addition, many organisations are chasing the same funding leading to competition. If these organisations were to work collaboratively, the costs of fund-raising and administration could be reduced. Therefore, this workshop brought together representatives from a broad range of organisations to discuss how we could approach this better (**Table 2**).

Table 2 List of organisations that attended the workshop.

Quw'utsun (Cowichan) Tribes	BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship	The Land Conservancy of BC
WJOLÉLP (Tsarlip) First Nation	Citizens' Environment Network in Colwood	The Nature Trust of British Columbia
S7ÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation	District of Esquimalt	UBC Botanical Garden
T'Sou-ke First Nation	Friends of Bowker Creek Society	CDFCP
WŚÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society	Friends of Maltby Lake Watershed Society	Coast Funds
IISAAK OLAM Foundation	Galiano Conservancy	Pacific Salmon Foundation
Capital Regional District	Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society	Haley Agro-Forestry
District of Central Saanich	Gorge Waterway Action Society	Island Coastal Economic Trust
Quw'utsun (Cowichan) Tribes	Habitat Acquisition Trust	Mosaic Forest Management
District of Esquimalt	Islands Trust Conservancy	Private Forest Landowners Association
District of Highlands	Kootenay Conservation Program	Diamond Head Consulting
District of Metchosin	NatuR&D	Mustel Research Group
District of North Saanich	Nature For Justice	Upland Agricultural Consulting
District of Saanich	Peninsula Streams Society	University of British Columbia
District of Esquimalt	Quw'utsun Cultural Connections Society	University of Victoria
Town of Sidney	Raincoast Conservation Foundation	Victoria Foundation
City of Langford	SPEC Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition	Nature Trust of British Columbia



Photo 1 Attendees at the Funding the Futures Workshop, 27 February 2025

3 Speaker Presentations

3.1 Belonging: Looking back to build a new relationship with our home – S̄HENEᑭ (Adam Olsen)

The Funding the Future Workshop was held in the territory of the Lekwungen speaking people, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. The territory of the Lekwungen speaking people extends over the area now known as Southern Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Island and the San Juan Islands. We were reminded that all these people are interconnected by family, but this community was divided by the federal government into Indian bands and by the colonial administrative system. This is contrary to what Indigenous People are taught. *'We don't own this place, we belong to it'*, Indigenous Peoples families are woven together by culture, language, resource development and reciprocity.



Colonisation disrupted Indigenous Peoples connection to the land. The presentation spoke to the lasting impact on Indigenous communities and ecosystems and explored how balance could be restored with Indigenous-led stewardship and governance leading to a just and sustainable future. We were reminded that the BC NDP government recently amended housing policy to facilitate an increase in density with a view of providing affordable housing, but this will not happen because of the way the housing market is currently structured. The housing market that is not serving so many people in this region right now is built on the commodification of land that rewards profitability, not affordability. In fact, this legislation will continue the governments long history of land fragmentation and wealth generation.

In 1846, following the signing of the Oregon Treaty, the British Crown granted Vancouver Island to James Douglas and the surveyors started dividing the land, disrupting Indigenous stewardship. To cool tensions, the Douglas Treaties was signed but never honoured by subsequent governments. The agreement between the parties was to share the space, allowing Indigenous ancestors and descendants to continue with their way of life, protecting their hunting and fishing rights and the ability to continue to benefit from their lands. But instead, the Douglas Treaties were used as a tool to take land. Today, First Nations are left on tiny reserves disconnected from the land and suffocated by urban development and industrial activity that have decimated the ecosystems Indigenous Peoples once relied on for sustenance, governance and commerce. The overexploitation of the local ecosystems has meant that once thriving families of herring and salmon in the straits are now virtually extirpated, and long gone are the skies darkened by flocks of gulls, geese and ducks. We place more value on lands market value than on healthy lands and waters.

Before colonization the economy was built on reciprocity and interconnectedness. If colonization, fractured ecosystems and communities, then restoration comes from reconnecting people to the land and to all the other species. Today, people are less likely to live in a community of their own choosing and therefore do not form a sense of belonging, which weakens society. We instead need to take the Indigenous worldview of *live here like you belong here*, reconnecting people to the land and water. Once we have this relationship, we can then develop true co-governance models. But this also requires the federal and provincial governments to stop hoarding jurisdiction, authority and wealth and to share it with Indigenous Peoples to help recover from the damage that has been done.

We have come together at this workshop to find long term sustainable funding structures delivered with better cooperation. This will be needed to build a restorative economy. However, the provincial government is again focusing on resource extraction in the face of a weak economy, rather than looking to the future and there is the danger that it steps back from commitments it has made e.g. 30% of land and water protected by 2030. The provincial government should be focused on working with First Nations to protect critical ecosystems that will contribute to long term economic growth.

The lack of Crown land in the region poses a problem for Crown and First Nations relations and conservation, which means we need to explore innovative solutions. Let's reconnect with the space we inhabit, grow roots there and belong there and form the unbreakable threads that hold the fabric of society together. People can get uncomfortable when we talk about rights and title, but they

shouldn't because there is no real threat. We all have to live here together; you just can't exclude First Nations people from the picture any longer.

Belonging isn't about ownership it is about responsibility, so challenge yourself to consider how your actions contribute to the future. How can you support an Indigenous Land Trust? How can you advocate for co-governance and recognise Indigenous jurisdiction?

3.2 State of Biodiversity – Cassandra Cummings, Diamond Head Consulting

To enable the District of Saanich to develop their Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Diamond Head Consulting first completed a State of Biodiversity Report. The report provided a high-level snapshot of the condition and threats to biodiversity in Saanich to establish a baseline condition. This was mainly a GIS mapping project, incorporating detailed LiDAR canopy analysis, a flow accumulation model and recent orthophotos, with field work in 8% of polygons to confirm the high-level GIS analysis and gather additional information on understory conditions. The State of the Environment Report concluded that only 2% of the land cover comprised old growth forest (**Figure 1**). It was also identified that most of the remaining natural ecosystems would be considered red listed ecosystems at risk, due to the impact of agriculture, forestry and urban development. The project did also highlight areas of backyard diversity. In addition to the terrestrial environment, there's over 350 hectares of lakes, ponds and reservoirs within the district and over 300 kilometres of watercourses.

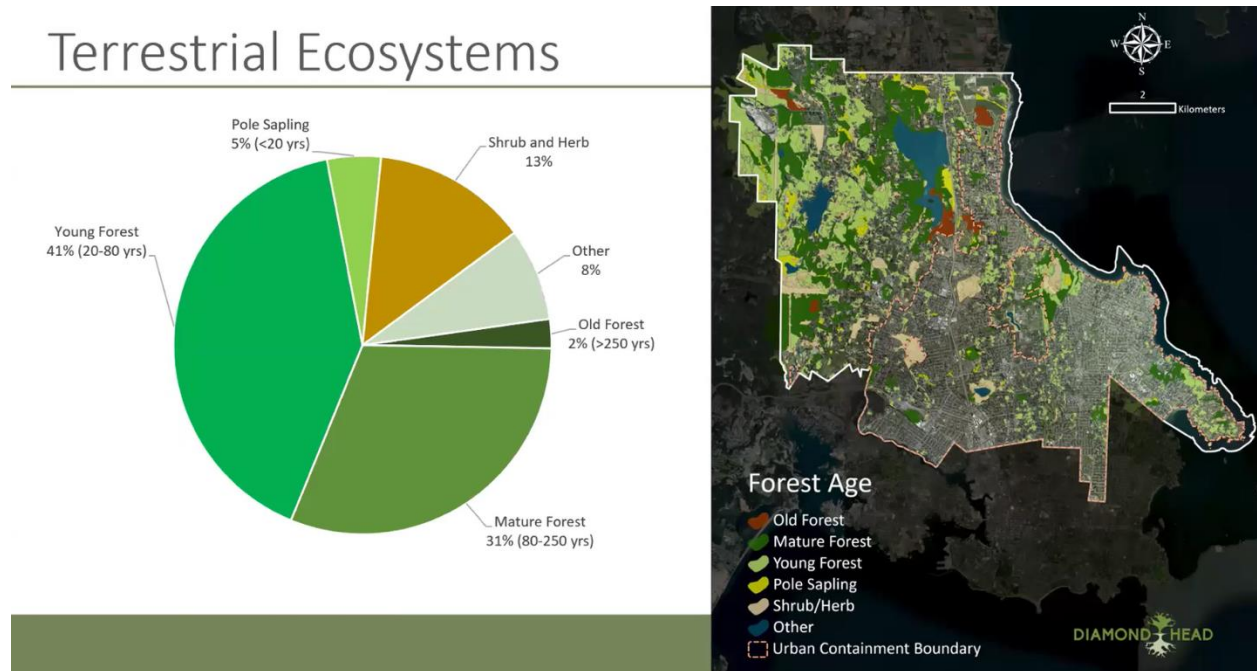


Figure 1 Land cover in the District of Saanich. State of the Environment Report, Diamond Head.

The information collected was used to rank biodiversity to identify biodiversity hotspots, which were typically the mature stands of Coastal Douglas-fir Forest and riparian areas. Coastal oak and prairie (Garry oak) ecosystems were identified but these are small and fragmented in the district. The report also highlighted features that provide ecosystem connectivity to significant hubs

(biodiversity hotspots) across the district. These inputs were used to develop a Biodiversity Habitat Network across the District, and to identify opportunities for restoration.

The information collected in the State of the Environment Report, including threats to biodiversity, were combined with best management practices, literature reviews, municipal staff and community engagement, and enabled the development of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. This document includes around 130 actions which were associated with timelines, financial commitments and anticipated outcome. One of the priority actions is promoting and expanding biodiversity stewardship and education programs and developing incentive programs.

Diamond Head Consulting on behalf of the District of Saanich are currently working with the district looking at conservation funding and incentives for private land stewardship programs. The report from this work will be available in spring 2025.

3.3 Local Conservation Funds – Juliet Craig, Kootenay Conservation Program

A Local Conservation Fund is a local government service supported by parcel tax or property value tax that creates a dedicated fund for conservation projects.

Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) formed in 2002 when the area was seeing rapid development, and it was understood that there was a need to support land conservation and stewardship on private lands. The partnership brings together local, provincial and federal governments, non-profit societies, land trusts, First Nations, agricultural producers and educational institutions to work towards the collective purpose to conserve biological diversity in the region. Inspired by this partnership, in 2008 the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) held a referendum to ask constituents if they would be willing to pay tax to contribute to conservation projects, including stewardship and land acquisition. This service, called the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund, was originally approved with a 10-year sunset clause. It was supposed to expire in 2018, but RDEK Directors voted to remove the sunset clause altogether and continue the fund indefinitely.

Due to the success in the East Kootenay, a Local Conservation Fund service was then established via referendum in 2014 by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) called the RDCK Local Conservation Fund. This fund was originally established in three electoral areas, and has since been expanded to two others, also using referendum and the Alternative Approval Process. Two additional Local Conservation Funds have been established in the Okanagan.

Non-profit organisations, local governments, and First Nations can apply to the Local Conservation Fund. Applications are reviewed by a Technical Review Committee made up of local experts who make recommendations to the regional districts elected officials to decide which projects to fund. Kootenay Conservation Program holds an agreement with each Regional District to deliver the Local Conservation Fund Services for 9% of the tax requisition and takes on most administrative tasks related to the service.

The service is not First Nations led, but First Nations have applied and obtained funding which they have used to leverage other funds. To see the depth of the projects that have been funded, you can

visit [Kootenay Conservation Program's](#) website. The focus is on delivering what the community considers to be priority conservation actions. The service has demonstrated its economic value in that for every \$20 given by a homeowner, an additional \$180 has been leveraged in match and in-kind funding (**Figure 2**). The local contribution attracts large funders who appreciate the community contributing to conserve their natural environment. The benefits of the additional funding are felt locally through the purchase of materials and supplies, local contractors and local jobs.

A guide to establishing a Local Conservation Fund can be accessed [here](#).

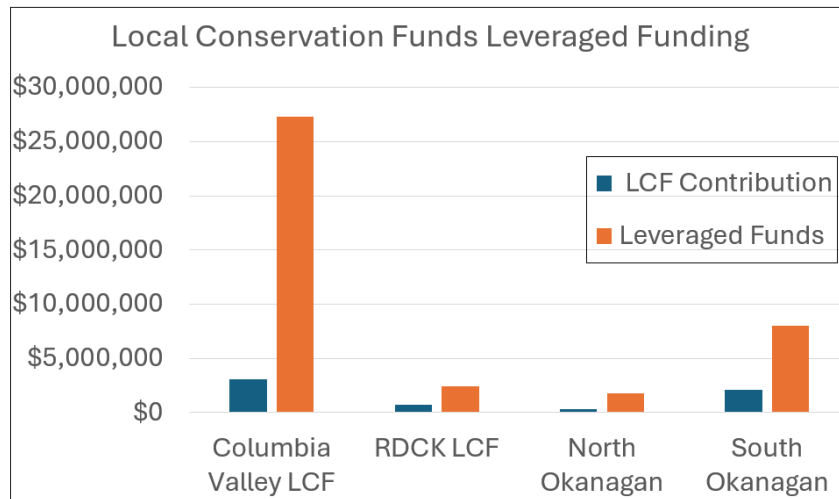


Figure 2 Funding leverage from the four Local Conservation Funds that are operating.

3.4 Building Sustainable Funding – Brodie Guy, Island Coastal Economic Trust

The Island Coastal Economic Trust has a vision to establish the first co-governed regional development organisation in Canada. The trust is governed by locally elected leaders independently from, yet accountable to, the provincial government.

So how do you approach developing sustainable funding? You need to consider the combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural and often political conditions and benefits to a project. These need to feed into the business case for the protection of nature and stewardship. The natural environment can be hard to quantify, but this is essential if you are working with investors.

In the business case consider there to be a quadruple bottom line (wellbeing framework **Figure 3**):



Figure 3: Wellbeing Framework

1. Economic Prosperity – consider how you can attract diverse new investment, with sustainable revenue generation. Are there opportunities to develop businesses in connection with the project.
2. Social Empowerment – What jobs will be created? What income provided? What training? How much engagement with the community through volunteering.
3. Environment, Biodiversity and Climate – what areas will be stewarded? What are the biological and cultural values that will be protected? What ecosystem services will be secured/enhanced?
4. Cultural Vitality – consider how the projects will support revitalisation of Indigenous language; support the transfer of knowledge between elders and youth; provide access to traditional foods; protect cultural assets.

A wellbeing impact framework has been instrumental in raising millions in funds from high-net-worth individuals, domestic and international foundations, and governments.

Conservation professionals typically focus on the stewardship of protected lands and place less value on financial management. However, they should view their role as running a business, with the objective of making a protected area financially, ecologically and socially sustainable.

A protected areas business plan will focus on resourcing a sites management plan:

- the financial needs to conduct proposed management plan activities, and
- potential revenue sources to meet those needs.

Therefore, we need to move away from just thinking about the costs to buy land, we also need to consider ongoing operational costs - salaries, training, field operations, professional services, equipment materials etc. Once you understand your costs you can consider the types of funding options you need e.g. employment will require stable funding while projects could be grant based.

If you have been through the business planning process described above, then you are able to explain to investors from different audience what the initiative will achieve.

The intent would be to have a pooled fund approach to reduce management costs, e.g. several First Nations rather than a single nation, and also to deliver a higher return on investments. This requires clear terms in relation to how funds will be managed, shared and spent.

Often governments and funders do not like the idea of endowments as it is seen as locking up money that should be spent on the ground. However, there is clear evidence that the return on investment far exceeds the initial capital (Coast Funds – 120% return on initial investment within 10 years of initial investment).

3.5 Financing Conservation on Private Lands, Josh O'Neill

The Mustel Group were commissioned by the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership (CDFCP) to conduct a survey among residents of the Capital Regional District. The primary purpose of the survey was to identify if people would be willing to pay for a publicly funded conservation fund that supports stewardship on private lands. Initially the survey targeted 500 people across the

four main areas of the Capital Region District: Core, Saanich Peninsula, Gulf Islands, and the West Shore, but due to good engagement the final number of people surveyed was 1052.

The survey was designed to measure:

- what residents value most about living in the region,
- what environmental impacts they were most concerned about,
- what level of support they felt landowners should receive for conservation activities,
- who should bear the responsibility of protecting the natural environment of private lands, and
- the public's awareness of organizations that are currently involved in conservation actions.

The Mustel group used a hybrid survey methodology that included online and telephone sampling. A disproportionate sampling method was used as well to ensure that survey heard back from enough people from each of those four core areas so that statistical comparisons between the areas in terms of attitudes could be made. Up to six calls were made to each phone number in an effort to reduce nonresponse bias.

Minimal weighting was applied to the sample to match the 2021 Canada census statistics based on age, gender, and region, ensuring the total sample accurately reflects the relative populations.

- The first question we asked was what do residents value most about living in the region. The **weather, wilderness, natural beauty** are among the top aspects that people surveyed identified about living in the capital region. Other common replies include geographical location, clean environment, including clean air and water, community lakes, rivers and fresh water.
- Residents were then asked to rate their level of concern for several environmental issues using a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is not concerned at all and five is very concerned. **Wildfire** was the issue of greatest concern overall.
- We then asked about the level of support that landowners should get for various restoration / conservation actions. **Restoration of streams to provide habitat for salmon and other species** was the action identified to deserve the greatest support.
- Residents were asked to rate the level of responsibility various groups should bear in relation to protecting the natural environment. Most residents believed that all groups should share some responsibility for protecting the natural environment, about **two-thirds feel that private landowners, local government and provincial government** should bear a higher degree of responsibility.
- Residents were asked if they would be willing to support a publicly funded conservation fund. Overall, **71% were in support**, which included 28% who would definitely support and 43% that would probably support. No statistically significant differences in the level of support were found between the four core CRD areas.
- We explored the reasons why people may not support a Conservation Fund. Of the 15% who said they would not support it;
 - 16% felt that private property was the responsibility of the owner.
 - 15% indicated they would need more information before supporting it.
 - 13% couldn't afford it.

- 10% felt public funds should be spent on public lands.
- We then asked what method of contribution they would be happy with and how much. **Property value tax was the most widely supported** at 53%, followed by a property transfer tax 43%. In terms of the amount that people are willing to contribute on an annual basis through tax, more than one-half indicated \$15 or more (59%), including one-in-five willing to contribute between \$25- \$49 per year, with the average amount was \$24.59 (**Figure 4**).

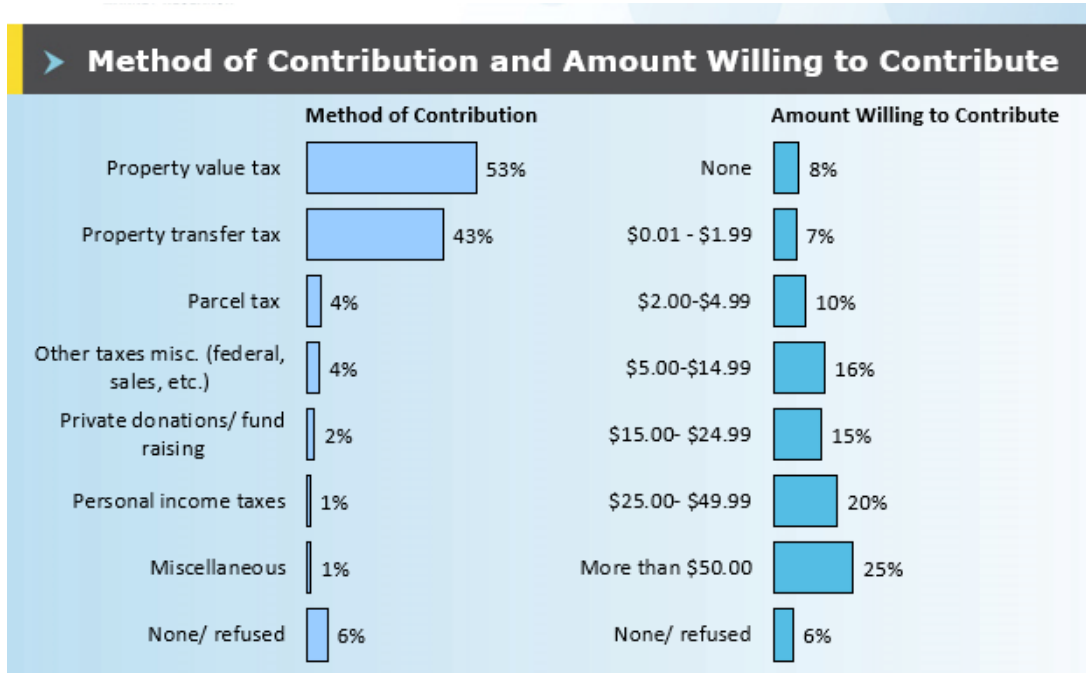


Figure 4 How much people are willing to pay in a conservation fund for private landowners.

4 Existing Routes of Sustainable Funding

The following funding examples were prepared by the CDFCP for the workshop, to enable people to visualise the diversity of funding options that are currently being used within BC and internationally (**Table 3**).

Table 3 Examples of Sustainable Funding in BC and Internationally.

Tla-o-qui-at Tribal Parks Allies Ecosystem Fee

- In 2019 the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation asked businesses if they would charge customers and ecosystem services fee of 1-2% on purchases to fund the Guardians program and the stewardship activities they complete.
- In 2019 four business participated contributing \$15,000/yr. The number of Allies/businesses has increased to 127 and they provided \$444,318 of funding in 2024.
- Funding from the Allies ‘provides long term financial stability, which is needed to establish a resilient and sustainable Tribal Parks Stewardship Program, unlike grants which are usually conditional and only provide short term boosts to funding’.
- Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks Allies have collectively contributed \$1,155,493 towards ensuring the ongoing health of the lands and water for generations to come.

<https://www.tribalpark.com/tribal-park-allies#allydetails>



Photo Credit - Tla-o-qui-at First Nation

West Vancouver Environmental Levy

- In 2022 the District of West Vancouver established an annual Environmental Levy of 1.5% (\$800,000/yr) on property tax, through - Environmental Reserve Fund bylaw.
- The need for additional funding to protect the natural environment was identified following the atmospheric river in 2021/2022 which damage coastal structures and the completion of a natural asset inventory which highlighted the services the natural environment provides.
- Funding can be spent by the district or partners on:
 - Programs that support the protection of the natural environment;
 - Climate change response, mitigation, and adaptation;
 - Sustainability and protection of the District’s natural capital assets; and
 - Reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions.

<https://westvancouver.ca/government-administration/financial-information>



Photo Credit – West Vancouver

CRD Water User Rates

- The Capital Regional District (CRD) charges water users a fee per cubic metre of water. This funding is used to ensure a clean supply of drinking water to the region.
- One of the ways the CRD does this is by purchasing land within the watersheds of the water supply reservoirs. By managing activities in the watershed, it reduces the risk of pollutants entering the system and the need for expensive treatments.
- In 2025 the CRD are looking to purchase approx. 2 ha, for \$33.3 million, initially using debt, which is repaid by water users over a long period of time (\$14/yr/household).
- The protection of the watershed has other benefits including carbon storage / sequestration, protection of wildlife and culturally significant sites, enables rainfall infiltration reducing flood flows etc.

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/drinking-water/watershed-protection>



Photo Credit – Capital Regional District

Coast Funds - Project Finance for Permanence

- In 2007 an Indigenous-led Conservation Finance organisation was established called Coast Funds. This included the development of Great Bear Forest Agreement which reduced logging to 85% of approximately 3 million hectares of temperate forest.
- Initial funding of \$120 million was also raised. Half by First Nations and philanthropic partners which was then matched by the provincial and federal government.
- The objective is to make investments that would ensure the long-term sustainability of funding and to manage the landscape in a different way.
- Funding is spent on environmental stewardship and economic development projects in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii, generating \$296 million of additional investment (2023).

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Photo Credit – Coast Funds

Farmland Advantage – Government Grants / Local Conservation Fund

- The Farmland Advantage program works with farmers to enhance natural values on their land through a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) model.
- Farmland Advantage helps farmers identify the natural values on a farm that can be protected, restored, and enhanced.
- Once a site is selected and assessed funded actions may include establishing stream setbacks, building strategic fencing, undertaking reforestation, thinning and pruning tree stands, or removing debris to reduce wildfire fuels.
- IAF provides an annual compensation to farmers based on successful implementation and ongoing upkeep of the Farmland Advantage project.
- The program is funded by federal and provincial grants.

<https://farmlandadvantage.ca/>



Photo Credit – Farmland Advantage

Langley Ecological Service Initiative – Payment for Ecosystem Services

- Example of Municipal Government Grants
- From 2016-2018 the Township of Langley funded a pilot called the Ecological Service Initiative.
- The objective was to provide financial incentives for practices that led to a healthy stream ecosystem.
- Langley did this in recognition that the management of these areas can be costly for landowners, but they provide services to the wider community.
- The Township of Langley partnered with the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (LSAF) for delivery.
- This involved the delivery of activities to enhance the stream environment e.g. fencing and planting but also a payment for the protection of ecosystems services.

<https://www.tol.ca/en/the-township/ecological-services-initiative.aspx>



Photo Credit – Langley Ecological Service Initiative

Ecological Gifts Program – Income Tax Incentive

- The Ecological Gifts Program is provided by the federal government and is available to landowners who either donate their land to a Land Trust or who donate a legal interest in their land.
- The land transferred through this scheme can not be mortgaged or resold by the Land Trust so is protected in perpetuity.
- The Donors receive a tax receipt for the full value of the gift. The tax receipt can be applied against 100% of their net annual income.
- There are costs associated with these gifts e.g. surveying boundaries, ecological assessment etc. The Land Trust who receives the gift may be able to help raise fund to cover these costs.

[Click here for further information.](#)



Photo Credit by Tom Whitfield

Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP)

- NAPTEP is a program where landowners receive an annual property tax exemption of 65% on the portion of land that has been registered as a conservation covenant.
- The program is tax neutral for the Islands Trust as the saving made by the individual with the covenant is spread over the remaining landowners.
- Therefore, wider society is paying for the stewardship of the natural environment which supports biodiversity, cultural heritage and provides resilience to climate change.
- The cost to establish the covenant and monitor its condition still need to be found by the Islands Trust Conservancy who typically hold the covenant.

Note: This program only applies to the Islands Trust area, to apply to the remainder of BC would require amendments to statues.



Photo Credit by Tom Whitfield
To learn more click [here](#)

Forest Resilience Bond – Private Investment

- A financial model to engage with all the groups that benefit from a resilient forest to share the cost of a restoration project. Using capital from private and philanthropic investors to provide up front costs.
- In 2018 the Blue Forest - Forest Resilience Bond was launched raising initially \$4 million.

Example:

- Forest services identifies the need for works to reduce wildfire risk (thinning, controlled burn) but do not have the money in the short term.
- There would be other beneficiaries of the works such as the water authority; state government and a beverage company. Blue Forest forms an agreement with all beneficiaries to cover the costs in the long term, ensuring their resilience now.
- This forms the basis of the Forest Resilience Bond which is sold to financial institutions. This provides the funding immediately for contractors to complete the works (forest thinning).
- The beneficiaries (e.g. forest service) then repay the loan over time providing a return to the investors.
- This enables fire protection works to be completed now leading to savings in the future as the risk of wildfire is reduced.



<https://www.blueforest.org/finance/forest-resilience-bond/>

Program Open Space Maryland – Property Transfer tax

- Program Open Space was established by the State of Maryland to provide open space for recreational use and to preserve natural areas that support rare species before unaffordable land prices or development make it impossible.
- This program was established in 1969 and is funded through the collection of property transfer tax (0.5%).
- The funding is administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and they are close to their target of protecting 30% of the state by 2030.
- The budget for FY2025 is \$45 million
- Note: In BC property transfer tax could provide significant funding for the natural environment but it would require changes to statute to occur.



Photo Credit – Maryland
[Click here for more information](#)

Town of Gibsons - Permissive Riparian Tax Exemption

- There are some circumstances where a local government can provide property owners with a permission tax exemption, which includes the protection of riparian areas.
- To bring in a Permissive Tax Exemption the municipality needs to establish a bylaw.
- To be eligible for a riparian tax exemption the land must be subject to a riparian covenant under the Land Title Act, and the municipality must be listed as the covenantee.
- The purpose would be to encourage private landowners to maintain healthy streams.
- Town of Gibson tried to use the tax exemption as an incentive for restoration of Charman Creek but there was low uptake due to the need for a covenant.



Photo Credit – Town of Gibsons

[Click here for more information.](#)

Local Conservation Fund – Property Tax

- A Local Conservation Fund is a local government service funded through a dedicated tax.

Example – RDCK Local Conservation Fund

- Established as subregional fund in 2014 and managed by the Regional District of Central Kootenay.
- Established by assent vote (more recent funds have been established by alternative approvals).
- Property owners pay an annual parcel tax of \$15.
- Funding themes: conservation of water and aquatic systems, wildlife and habitat.
- Between 2016-2024, funded 58 grants totalling \$740,000.
- Leveraged over \$20 million in matching cash and in-kind contributions.

<https://kootenayconservation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Conservation-Fund-Guide-3rd-Edition-2022-Web.pdf>



Image Credit – Kootenay Conservation Program

Verra Nature Framework – Biodiversity / Nature Credits

- New scheme launched in 2024.
- Stewardship project quantify the biodiversity outcomes achieved by their actions generating Nature Credits that can be sold to pay for the stewardship works e.g. restoration of a wetland.
- The intent is to incentivise investment in measurable conservation and restoration activities.
- Who buys the credits? – companies who rely on a healthy environment for their activities e.g. water companies.
- The Nature Credits can not be used to compensate for specific negative biodiversity impacts e.g. mitigation.
- The Nature Framework requires free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous Peoples and mutually agreed benefits-sharing mechanisms.

Note: this tool has only just established and the market for credits has not been confirmed.



Photo Credit – Verra

<https://verra.org/verra-launches-nature-framework/>

Development Cost Charges

- Municipalities and regional districts levy development cost charges (DCC) on new developments to pay for infrastructure and facilities to service the demands of the new development.

Example – Metro Vancouver

- In 2025 Metro Vancouver will bring in a DCC to obtain funds for parkland acquisition until 2052.
- The municipalities will collect these funds at the point of subdivision approval or the building permit stage.
- Therefore, the developer aids Metro Vancouver achieve their objectives in their Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy.



Photo Credit – Tom Whitfield
[For further information click here](#)

Density Transfer

- Density transfer, refers to the shifting of development intensity from one site to another with the aim of providing high density housing in areas with good services and removing density from areas of high natural value.

This tool can be applied in several ways:

- A financial transaction between a private landowner and a developer, where an OCP identifies donor and receiver sites. (Oak Bay)
- Landowner with multiple parcels moves density between them, reducing cost of development and increasing return on investment. (Denman Island)
- On Gabriola Island private landowners voluntarily gave up allocated density to enable affordable housing to be built in an area with limited water.

Note: to implement this tool the Official Community Plan needs to indicate that it can occur.



Photo Credit – Tom Whitfield
[Click here to learn more](#)

5 Building a Regional Fund

5.1 Introduction

There are existing examples of how to establish sustainable funding programs that can support economic development and conservation management while supporting healthy communities and ecosystems. These include Coast Funds, Local Conservation Funds, Environmental Levy's and others that were highlighted by workshop speakers or within the workshop resources represented in **Section 4**

The focus of the workshop was to collaboratively work through key steps that others have followed to establish a new funding stream in BC. The aspiration being to illustrate that it is possible in the Capital Region, if we work together. The [Local Conservation Fund Guide](#) details what they consider to be the key steps and these were used to frame the discussions during the three group conversations (**Table 4**).

Table 4 Key steps to follow when forming a Local Conservation Fund or similar.

Steps	Activities	Workshop
1	Build a leadership team and support network	Discussion 2 - Q2
2	Determine community priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public polls and focus groups 	Mustel Group Presentation Discussion 1 – Q1-3
3	Make the case for a Conservation Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach, frequently asked questions. 	Discussion 3 – Q1
4	Design the Conservation Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities, type and scope of funding, Terms of Reference. 	Discussion 2 – Q2 & 3
5	Determining Financing Options	Discussion 2 – Q1
6	Understanding how to establish the fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance, technical support and administration. 	Discussion 2 - Q2
7	Gaining approval to establish a fund, if tax based <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative approvals, referendum etc. 	Discussion 3 – Q2 & 3

It should be noted that:

- Local Conservation Funds have been established using funds from parcel tax or property value tax. This is a quick and equitable way of establishing sustainable funding as everyone pays a small amount each year to maintain the environment they live in. However, this workshop highlighted that there are other avenues to raise funding (refer to **Section 4 and Presentation 3 & 4**).
- Existing Local Conservation Funds are working with First Nations, but they were not established with First Nations leadership. First Nations in the capital region are already looking for sustainable financing options for IPCAs / Tribal Parks, land back and programs

such as the Guardians. Therefore, several of the local First Nations may have capacity to provide leadership.

- Local Conservation Funds still follow a traditional funding model whereby an ENGO/First Nation applies for funding to deliver a project over a specific time period. This fund should consider other approaches such as;
 - providing financing direct to landowners rather than through a third party;
 - consider generating revenue from activities e.g. timber for thinning works;
 - consider upskilling people as part of the funding stream to enable them to undertake new conservation-based jobs e.g. traditional harvesting and hunting; education on the land; selective forest thinning etc.
 - long term funding for Guardian’s Programs or similar to provide job security;
 - funding based on outcomes rather than time limited to enable meaningful engagement and project delivery e.g. end of March.

The information below has been taken directly from the discussion groups during the workshop held on the 27 February 2025. If multiple comments were received in relation to an issue e.g. invasive species then one statement is presented to represent this comment.

5.2 Discussion 1 – Priorities for Conservation

5.2.1 Q1 What do you value about the natural environment in the capital region?

- We value being surrounded by the **forest and the sea**.
- The natural environment provides **food, medicine, materials** and is important for **spiritual and cultural** practices.
- We need to care for the **shoreline and the marine environment**. The interaction/interface of terrestrial-marine environments.
- Getting outside and away from the world, **ecological health benefits** for people and wildlife.
- Fallow deer are an **introduced species** that impact on all ecosystems, and you need to manage them if you want to protect native ecosystems.
- It is important to remember that we still have **apex predators** despite urbanization. We need to maintain **ecosystem connectivity** across the region.
- The largest chunk of **protected land** is in the CRD watershed and largest **protected coastline** of Vancouver Island is in the Saanich inlet.
- With increasing density, we are at risk for losing **connectedness to nature**.
- The topography of Victoria naturally creates **backyard biodiversity** e.g. rocky outcrops.
- **Protection of streams; wetlands; clean water; salmon; herring and marine mammals**.
- Protection of **CDF ecosystems** from urban development.
- **Protecting drinking water / groundwater** and **removing invasives** (decolonizing) are priorities.
- **Relationship and stewardship** of the land.
- **Ecosystem services** – clean cool water and carbon sequestration.
- Understanding the **relationship between people and beauty of the ecosystem** (cultivated ancient gardens), camas specifically.

- **Wildlife habitat, native plants, unique ecosystems** e.g. Coastal oak and prairie (Garry oak).
- It is important to consider **wildfire resilience and the water systems** of our forests.
- **I feel safe** when nature can function and ‘do it’s thing’, when the network of forests and wetlands working together.
- I value **access** to nature.
- Protecting the **genetics** of species adapted to the region. We have some of the most endangered ecosystems in BC.
- The natural world provides us with a way to **learn** differently.
- I value the **collaboration and motivation** of the local people to protect the natural environment.



5.2.2 Q2 What biodiversity and stewardship initiatives in the region are working?

- Land trusts / conservancies are establishing covenants and acquiring land.
- Municipalities are looking to expand their park land.
- The HAT Restoration Team which is a collaborative program supporting multiple agencies and private landowners undertake improved land stewardship.
- Bioblitz, walk and talks and citizen science (iNaturalist initiatives).
- Smaller volunteer groups doing beach cleaning like Surfrider community organizations and Friends of watersheds. Governmental organisations struggle to provide consistent support to on the ground volunteer groups.
- Metchosin Foundation and BC Parks Foundation protecting land in wildlife corridors.
- The federal governments Ecogifts and the Islands Trust NAPTEP program helping to protect land.
- Peninsula Streams Society / Friends of Bowker Creek / other stream care groups undertaking a broad range of stream restoration works.
- Restoration for salmon streams connects the marine and terrestrial environment.
- Clam garden restoration and reef net projects.
- Invasive species removal programs and groups – Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative / Saanich Pull Together / Friends of Haven Park.
- Carbon Credit program with T’Sou-ke Program creating IPCAs.
- Gorge Waterway Initiative is a collaborative restoration project co-ordinated by the CRD that includes all municipalities, ENGOs, kayakers and fishermen.
- Stormwater management including rain gardens.
- CRD parks acquisition fund
- W̱SÁNEĆ Land Trust - TIKEL (Maber Flats) wetland restoration.
- PEPAKEN HÁUTW Foundation provides land-based learning and ecosystem restoration.
- SC'IANEW Tribal Park – First Nation led with support from ENGO (Habitat Acquisition Trust)

- Stqeeye' Learning Society – supporting self determination and reconciliation through traditional ecological restoration.
- The CRD Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt.
- Cowichan Estuary is a collaborative project to remove dykes and return the natural water systems to an area of coastal wetland.

5.2.3 Q3 What should be the biodiversity and stewardship priorities in the region?

- Maintaining **biodiversity and ecological health** are a priority. Including but not limited to:
 - Eel grass restoration.
 - Food security.
 - Clean water source
 - Salmon streams restoration / blue-green corridor.
 - Native species planting.
 - Forest resilience and health.
 - Sea level rise planning and coastal adaptation.
 - Preserving the regions unique culture and natural heritage.
 - Invasive plant control.
 - Stormwater management / rain gardens.
 - 30% land and water protected by 2030.
 - The control of deer by land trusts on the gulf islands to protect native biodiversity.

Private Landowners

- Working with forest landowners to increase **wildfire resilience**, by changing current practices e.g. retaining water on the land, thinning in overstock secondary forest.
- Get more people in the room that own private land for **knowledge sharing** and understanding opportunities.

Education / Outreach / ENGOS

- The value of **natural assets** needs to be highlighted to the wider community, including an explanation as to their role in climate change resilience.
- We need to inspire individual responsibility for land stewardship through **engagement / education**. Foster a sense of belonging to the land.
- We need to **work collaboratively** – landowners (farmers), local government, First Nations and ENGOS
- Fund ENGOS / First Nations to run volunteer events to enable the community to **build relationships with the land** and be consistent in invasive control and restoration of habitat.
- Write covenants to allow **active land stewardship** by Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

Indigenous Leadership

- We need to weave together **traditional and western science** to understand priorities for land stewardship.

- Make space for **Indigenous leadership** and land stewardship. Co-management / co-governance.
- Recruiting and bringing in **new people to land stewardship** – young people and retirees.
- Develop **cultural corridors**.
- **Land back** including private land.
- **UNDRIP/DRIPA** – needs to be acted on.

Local Government Leadership

- Building out the scope of works undertaken by the newly formed **CRD Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination Service**.
- Continue to support the **Regional Parks Acquisition Fund** based on tax.
- We need municipalities to work together to deliver **ecosystem connectivity** as the landscape is fragmented which makes protection challenging.
- Municipalities need to work in their **urban containment boundary**, concentrating, taming urban sprawl.
- We need to **limit backsliding** e.g. areas that have been restored then get removed by development.
- We need to **move beyond policy to action** within parks and private land.
- Getting rid of **layers of jurisdiction** that prevent action on things like endangered species. If species are seen as only federal jurisdiction, no action will take place.



5.3 Discussion 2 – Building a Stewardship Fund

5.3.1 Q1 Where will the funding be coming from?

1. Develop a regional strategy that indicates how funding would be spent which draws from existing plans and strategies e.g. Parks Acquisition Strategy; CRD Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan; WSÁNEĆ Marine and Land Use Plan etc.
2. Develop a business case for the maintenance and restoration of the natural environment in the capital region to attract investment. Link it to the ecosystem services they provide.

Potential sources of financing:

- Tla-o-qui-aht Ecosystem Fee / Tourist Tax
 - I would be interested to learn what the administrative burden on businesses is when collecting and distributing 1% on goods and services.
 - If people using First Nations territory, people should pay a small fee that goes to a fund that creates and maintains the space, i.e. you pay for the space you use to maintain it long term; similar to tribal park model and broader (residents, industry, particularly forestry).
- Outdoor recreation fees – e.g. parking / trail passes / permits
- Private / individual / philanthropic donors – these could be used to develop endowments that provided sustained funding over a longer period of time.
- Industry donors – organisations that benefit from a healthy natural environment e.g. Forestry companies, local businesses, CRD, Transmountain pipeline, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) etc.
- Granting foundations – e.g. Victoria Foundation; Real Estate Foundation of BC; lottery ticket profits / Community gaming grants; Metchosin Foundation; BC Parks Foundation etc.
- Conservation Impact Bonds – tapping into investors.
- Local government
 - Incorporate funding and incentives schemes into Official Community Plans. This will enable municipalities and regional districts to allocate funds.
 - Development Cost Charges / Amenity Cost Charges
 - Tax on subdivision of land. Subdivision of land has an impact on biodiversity e.g. Metro Vancouver DCC.
 - Tax new residents to care for the natural environment
 - Amenity Cost Charges vs Conservation Fund – can't do both as too much cost to tax payer.
 - Tax Shifting (NAPTEP)
 - Tax breaks e.g. City of Victoria impervious surfaces
 - Provide tax breaks to those with natural features that need protecting e.g. old growth trees.
 - Carbon or biodiversity credits - Using public land to generate revenue e.g. Municipal of North Cowichan explored the potential for carbon credits to generate revenue.
 - Parcel tax or property value tax

- The CRD could apply a parcel tax or property value tax. This can be controversial as people want taxes to remain low but can be leveraged to access additional external funding.
 - CRD Land Acquisition Levy for Parkland Conservation was started in 2000 with an initial rate of \$10 per household and it increased over time to \$25 per household. In 2022 the approach to acquisition moved to leveraging borrowing capacity to buy land with a view of being able to buy more sooner and not impact on taxes. However, this approach may make it harder for future councils to continue the process. It is easier if there is a pool of money available for purchase that can be used.
 - Parcel tax is not always popular – farmers get tax cuts, people don't want to pay more tax to farmland when they get a break
- Provincial government
 - Shake the big trees – Province – municipalities should lobby the Province for a fund.
 - Look to taxes that are associated with activities that fragment / impact ecosystems – i.e. speculation tax, capital gains tax, property transfer tax – part of which could be dedicated to mitigating impacts.
 - Fee with buying and selling of properties – less controversial in more populated communities, less land transfer and selling in smaller communities e.g. San Juan Islands 1% real estate excise tax (REET) is levied on property purchasers to fund the San Juan County Conservation Land Bank which acquires and preserves land.
 - The provincial government should establish a dedicated Natural Areas Protection Fund.
- Federal Government
 - Federal tax breaks – Ecogifts / transfer tax breaks
- Polluter pays – looking at class action lawsuit funding to get fossil fuel funding for climate mitigation.
- User pays – e.g. impervious surfaces; water user fees; stormwater utility fees
- Treasury likes to keep their options open instead of creating dedicated funds so that they can move funds around over time.
- A tax associated with conservation may have a negative connotation. Other ideas that are less top-down are voluntary donations, use of covenants, tax breaks, donations of land (which may become more common as generations age).
- Leverage funds – need all the sources of funding listed and then use it to leverage additional funding
- Private landowners – the wider community should pay legal fees to put covenants on land as we all gain benefit from the land being protected.
- Voluntary Stewardship Fee to support First Nation land stewardship activity may be an alternative approach to enforcing a tax. This would acknowledge revenue generation off First Nations land, avoid the need for First Nations to apply and be part of the decision making.
- Land donors – consider redirecting donated land to First Nations as an opportunity for reconciliation.

- Coast fund model for Vancouver Island but pull in industry, government, First Nations, ENGOs into a partnership.
- Incentives for private landowners should be matched funded by the landowner themselves.
- Insurance sector funding.
- Indigenous legal claims may generate funds that the Nations want to invest in the natural environment.
- Rebate programs for implementing initiatives e.g. California has rebate to convert [lawn to garden](#).



5.3.2 Q2 Who decides what the funding is spent on (e.g. governance and technical advisors)?

- If a new fund were to be created, then it would need a collaborative co-governance board:
 - Indigenous led First Nations (elders and youth)
 - Independent ecological advisors / scientists / biologists / cultural leaders
 - Community members / small businesses / industry
 - Local government elected officials and staff
 - Land Trusts / Conservancies
 - Environmental Not for Profit Organisations.
 - Donors
 - The wellness wheel in Brodie's Guys presentation would be a good way to decide who is at the table.
- Things to consider
 - Community Financial Models e.g. Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund).

- Develop the Island Coastal Economic **Conservation** Trust – extending on the Island Coastal Economic Trusts current role as it has an existing governance structure.
- Conservation Trust with co-governance.
- There should be a regional scale committee as it doesn't make sense to deliver this at a municipal level.
- Governance would be delivered by the fund holder.
- Funding needs to be stable, long term and cover administration costs.
- Who is governing the fund is not the same as who is making the decisions e.g. CRD Board supported by a co-managed technical committee.
- In Kootenays, the Local Conservation Fund technical advisory committee are all volunteers from the community.
- Kootenay Conservation Program has a good structure – technical committee and local government board approval, but insufficient First Nations representation.
- Governments aren't banks and don't want to make investment decisions.
- When establishing a governing/technical committee consider – are there biases? Does this elicit trust? How will the committee be selected? How long are people on the committee?
- It can be expensive to bring people together to make decisions.
- The size of fund determines how many people are needed to make decisions.
- If funding comes through property taxes, the committee would need to be the CRD board (though they could have an advisory committee). If not through property taxes, the committee could be more diverse with more stakeholders than just the CRD board.

5.3.3 Q3 What criteria do you use to decide what projects to fund (e.g. ecological, cultural etc.)?

- Develop clear terms and conditions for how revenue is generated.
- Develop criteria which state how funding is spent. This removes politics from the decision and leads to action faster.
- Develop outcomes-based criteria, which could include equitability criteria.
- Consider the different scales of projects to be funded – landscape vs local; delivered through an ENGO / third party vs direct to the landowner.
- Constant and consistent monitoring of the health of the landscape will help the committee recognize what needs investment.
- The guardians' programs and stewardship groups are a good way to keep up with monitoring.
- Try to avoid as much red tape as possible in decision making.
- Funding should be based on outcomes rather than timelines for spending money. The March 31st deadline places a lot of pressure on all parts of the process.
- Provide long term funding to projects that are known to make a difference rather than looking for new projects e.g. Guardians program; Good Neighbour Program; stream restoration etc.
- Reform is needed with the logistics of funds. To have meaningful relationships with Indigenous nations you can't be rushed into timelines/boxes; funding timelines don't capture the nature of relationship development.

- It would need to be decided if the fund would support land acquisition and how this links to land back and long-term management.
- The criteria would need to consider the difference between urban and rural ecosystems.

5.4 Discussion Group 3 - Next Steps and Challenges

5.4.1 Q1 How would you see this funding benefiting the wider community?

- **Supports ecosystem services** that benefit the wider community including water quality, flood resilience, wildfire resilience and pollination.
- Provides stable funding for **local projects**.
- Provides **equity** by providing small municipalities with funding to maintain natural areas used by municipalities with high tax base whose residents recreate in these areas.
- Provide **support to landowners** to enable them to steward their land, avoiding having to buy the land.
- Provides community **health protection and resilience** against natural disasters that harm people e.g. drought, flood, heat etc.
- People want to steward and **connect to the land**.
- Covenants / natural ecosystems can **increase the value** of land for neighbouring properties.
- A property tax system would be relatively **low cost per person** with a relatively high benefit.
- **Capacity building** for First Nations Guardians program and 'Friends of' groups.
- Increase the **number of people working on the land**, which builds advocacy for the environment.
- **Reduce costs** to the city's infrastructure (e.g. hold back flood waters)
- Help municipalities **meet their Official Community Plan objectives** in relation to the natural environment.
- **Economic benefits** to the community, including increased tourism, improved food production.
- Funding for the **maintenance of natural assets** of the region is not part of the budget.
- **Quality of life** would be maintained or go up.
- Increase **food security** but maintaining pollinators and ecosystem health.
- Would support the region with **climate adaptation**.
- Inspire the **next generation** to care for the land – invest in youth; incorporate shifting world views and indigenous culture.
- The fund could **reduce barriers** between smaller stewardship groups that spend a lot of time looking for funding.
- A regional fund could **increase the pace** at which land stewardship is delivered.
- A regional fund could enable **funds to be leveraged** and spent in the region.
- Facilitate **reconciliation** and decolonisation in the region.

5.4.2 Q2 Based on what you have heard today, what do you think the next steps should be?

'Set up the fund! This is needed NOW, we have been talking about this for a LONG time'.

- Build a network of interested partners and look to initiate a fund independent of the political system.
 - Engage with organization like Victoria Foundation that have extensive experience of working in the region, providing funding and working with elected officials.
 - Identify partnerships or organization that could hold or manage the regional fund.
 - Work with the CRD Biodiversity Service Team and Parks Team.
- Develop a clear business case / strategy presenting how money will be collected and spent in the region.
 - Reflect on existing models e.g. Local Conservation Funds.
 - Use existing mapping of ecosystem services to identify what need to be protected, maintained and restored.
 - Look at developing a payment for ecosystem services approach for landowners.
 - Establish consensus on ecosystem connectivity across the region.
 - Develop an economic map of where money could come from.
 - Encourage municipalities to produce conservation strategies and to identify priority areas, ideally in collaboration.
 - Consider if land acquisition will be part of the fund.
 - Develop clear criteria for funding, that responds to current problems – deadline based (end of March) rather than outcome focused; support projects in the long term e.g. Guardians rather than the next new thing; individuals and ENGOs/First Nations.
 - Incorporate monitoring into the program to aid communication with the community.
- Establish a leadership committee that's respected and diverse and includes equal representation from all First Nations.
- Bring the idea of a regional fund to the CRD as they can act quickest and have the furthest reach.
- Develop a communication strategy and start outreach / education to inform the public about what the fund would be. Consider what people in the region care about and have a simple clear message e.g. public health.
 - Engage planning and engineering departments in local government.
 - Ask decision makers in the Kootenays to connect with the decision makers in the region, to share the approach they took, and the benefits.
 - Share case studies with landowners and businesses to demonstrate that it is not a new idea.
 - Provide more information about land back to First Nations – not about exclusion it is about supporting community; not about First Nations ownership but conservation goals.
- Build out the fund in stages. There are many potential funding streams, and the focus should be on securing one and then building out to achieve sustainable long-term funding.

5.4.3 Q3 What activities in the region could influence the establishment of a fund?

- Canadian and US politics beyond our control.
- Treaty negotiations/rights and title.

- Lack of knowledge and understand in relation to the natural environment. ‘Live as though you belong here’.
- Fear around wildfire, drought and extreme weather events caused by climate change.
- Housing crisis – how to communicate that this isn’t anti-housing.
- Cost of living – how to communicate a little now saves a lot for future generations.
- Local governments are not banks or used to making investments therefore need to consider other organisations that can support a regional fund.
- In the CRD, if each municipalities developed a regional biodiversity or natural asset plan it would make the establishment of a regional fund more real.
- The interaction of jurisdiction between the Islands Trust and the CRD may impact on the establishment of a regional fund.
- CRD just formed a Biodiversity Stewardship Service which means they have funding to support invasive plant species management and stream stewardship activities. This could be an opportunity to build out on the Services scope of works.
- Buy in from municipalities is needed to establish a regional fund.
- Taxes are a big thing, and a regional conservation fund would be seen by a certain cohort as one more thing and will be really heavily scrutinized.
- Need to win over the community through clear communication e.g. pop ups at fairs, recreation centres, farmers markets etc.
- Need to be able to communicate how funds are still needed even though economic times are hard. We can’t hold back on conservation efforts now.

6 Conclusion and Recommendations

The workshop pulled together knowledge holders from a broad range of backgrounds to discuss:

- what people values about living in the capital region.
- what actions they feel are required to maintain the health and integrity of the natural environment.
- how sustainable funding could be achieved for the region.
- how the funding could be governed and administered.
- how to communicate with the community about the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of the fund.

The following recommendations are based on the discussion during the workshop and conversations that have been undertaken by the CDFCP over the last two years when investigating how to accelerate climate adaptation in an area where 57% of the region is in private ownership.

6.1.1 Draft Vision

‘Development of a Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Fund that is co-governed by First Nations and local government’.

The workshop was opened by S7HENEP (Adam Olsen) who reflected that colonisation has disrupted Indigenous Peoples connection to the land leading to a lasting impact on indigenous

communities and ecosystems and we need to explore how balance could be restored with Indigenous led stewardship and governance leading to a just and sustainable future. This linked to conversations throughout the day of the workshop that touched on how current funding structures often do not lead to the intended outcomes as the focus of funders is often on new projects with ridged timeframes for delivery, rather than long term investment in projects with demonstrated success. Therefore, we need to consider new approaches to governance and a clear Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Strategy and Business Strategy (refer to **Section 6.1.4 and 6.1.5**)

6.1.2 Building the Support Network and Leadership Team

The workshop pulled together organisations that would be important members of the support network for a Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Fund and potentially the leadership team. This was also a focus area during Discussion Group 2 which concluded that:

- All First Nations should have equal representation.

That all the following groups should be either part of the support network or leadership team.

- Local government elected officials and staff
- Independent ecological advisors / scientists / biologists / cultural leaders
- Community members
- Small businesses / industry
- Land Trusts / Conservancies
- Environmental Non-Profit Organisations.
- Donors

An important consideration will be the administration of the fund and costs associated with it. Important issues raised during discussions included:

- Governments aren't banks and don't want to make investment decisions. Therefore, independent financial support would be beneficial e.g. Coast Funds or Island Coastal Economic Trust.
- Capacity building for First Nations and other organisations in the leadership team maybe required.
- If funding comes through property taxes, the committee will need to be the CRD board (though they could have an advisory committee). If not through property taxes, the committee could be more diverse with more stakeholders than just the CRD board.

Recommendation

1. The Action for Adaptation team (CDFCP / UBC Botanical Gardens) will review completed workshop feedback forms to identify individuals and organisations that indicated that they would be interested in supporting the next steps of forming a fund (support network and leadership team).
2. The Action for Adaptation team will look to pull together interested parties to identify what support they would be willing to provide.

6.1.3 Communication and Outreach Strategy

The development of a Communications and Outreach Strategy will be needed to inform and educate the public and decision makers about the purpose of the Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Fund. The [Local Conservation Fund Guide](#) provides an outline on how to develop the strategy, highlighting the following things to consider:

- Key messages, so people do not receive mixed messages.
- Tailoring information to the target audience.
- Roles and responsibilities for deliver of communication.
- Budget for communications.
- Monitoring positive and negative feedback.

Recommendations

3. Identify a person / organisation in the support network (built from workshop attendees) that can help draft an initial Communications Strategy. This can then be developed with time but helps provide a framework in the short term.
4. The workshop attendees have indicated that there should be co-governance of the Fund by First Nations and local governments and for all parties to have equal representation. Therefore, sharing information collected during the workshop and the community survey will be a short-term priority for the Action for Adaptation team (CDFCP / UBC Botanical Gardens) to these audiences. The approach may include:
 - Presentations to the Capital Regional District Environmental Services Sub-Committee or Board.
 - Presentations to Municipal and First Nations Councils.
 - One on one conversations with First Nations and local government staff.

6.1.4 Regional Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Strategy

The workshop and the community survey completed by the CDFCP asked:

- what do people value about the capital region,
- what are the threats they are most concerned about, and
- what would the priorities be for funding maintenance and restoration activities.

The information collected would help shape a Regional Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Strategy. However, it is important to remember that this information is already available in several existing documents and that this Strategy, which is designed to guide obtaining investment and delivery of the Fund, should draw from existing plans, strategies and community knowledge:

- [Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan](#)
- [District of Saanich Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy](#)
- Natural Assets Inventories – [Colwood](#); [Saanich](#); Town of Royal View and Central Saanich
- [Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan](#) and the Integrated Watershed Management Program
- Official Community Plans / Urban Forest Strategies / Biodiversity Conservation Strategies
- W̱SÁNEĆ Marine and Land Use Plan

A key part of the Strategy will be to determine:

- the outcomes that Strategy aims to achieve e.g. >30% old growth within the CDFmm,
- the location and scale of those actions e.g. length of coastline to be naturalised,
- who could deliver the maintenance and restoration and
- consequently, the potential costs and sources of revenue generation (this links to the Business Strategy, refer to **Section 5.1.5**).

A list of actions that could lead to healthy ecosystems is presented in **Appendix A1**, which could be built on by calculating areas that would need restoration and the subsequent cost of those actions. The information relating to costs can be obtained from not-for-profit organisations, First Nations and local government parks departments in the region that are delivering these actions on the ground.

Recommendation

5. The Action for Adaptation team (CDFCP and UBC Botanical Gardens), will consult with the CRD's team leading on the development of the Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Services and the Parks Department to understand their aspirations for the service and what they consider to be the most relevant plans and strategies for guiding a fund.
6. The Action for Adaptation team will work with the support network and leadership team to develop a regional strategy that would guide the implementation of a fund and would help support funding. This is likely to need capacity funding.

6.1.5 Business Strategy

The presentation delivered by Brodie Guy (Island Coastal Economic Trust) highlighted that people working in land stewardship do not typically prioritise or have the skills and knowledge for financial management and tend to focus on the biological or cultural outcomes of a site. This means that we are good at securing funds to buy land, but less thought is put into how to manage those lands in the future. Therefore, when establishing a regional fund, advice and support from organisations that have financial management experience should be sought.

The workshop highlighted the advantages of pooling funds (e.g. all Nations / local governments etc.) and to take a blended financial approach (refer to **Section 2.4**). **Table 5** draws on the existing examples of financing presented in **Section 4** to illustrate how funding from multiple sources could be woven together. This is presented as an example and is not intended to be used as the business strategy.

Recommendations

7. The support network and leadership team (formed from workshop attendees and beyond) will identify funding that would provide capacity to produce the Business Strategy.

Table 5 Examples of how existing funding sources could be used to fund specific activities when woven together, developed by the CDFCP.

Activity	Funding Sources	Discussion	Considerations
Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tla-o-qui-at Ecosystem Fees Local Conservation Funds 	<p>The Guardians programs and ‘Friends of’ stream care groups require consistent funding to ensure staff capacity to coordinate and deliver projects. Low wages and short contracts mean that staff turnover can be high leading to loss of knowledge and the need to continually train staff. The Tla-o-qui-at First Nation provide a model raises reliable funding to support staff but taking a small fee from the sale of goods and services by businesses.</p> <p>Alternatively, funding from property value tax or parcel tax, like Local Conservation Fund, could be used in the same way.</p>	<p>Ecosystem or Tourist Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick to implement as no legislation change required. Learn from Tla-o-qui-at First Nation. Undertake collectively rather than each First Nation or Friends of group. There will be long term costs to maintain and build relationships with businesses. <p>Local Conservation Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick to implement through alternative approvals process. Cost of living could be a concern for a portion of the community. Requires political will.
Forest Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Resilience Bond Water Use Fees Small Businesses 	<p>Forest harvesting and replanting means that the region includes overstocked secondary forest that is a risk of fire and disease. The CRD as water providers and parks managers; private managed forest and tourism operators are reliant on the presence of healthy forests and have a commercial interest in protecting them but may not have all the resources they need to take action now. Forest Resilience Bonds presents an approach that uses international investors to pay for forest thinning works which are then paid back through water use fees and other sources of revenue in the longer term. To be able to deliver these works would require the work force to be upskilled and to identify an economic route of disposal for timber removed. Leadership from Mosaic Forest Management; Private</p>	<p>Forest Resilience Bond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This approach is being implemented in the US but would be new to Canada. Requires all effected parties to understand their financial role and to sign an agreement to reimburse funds provided by investors in the long term. Reduces risk of total loss. <p>Small Businesses - revenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to upskill the workforce to undertake tree thinning works. Need to provide equipment that is suitable for the job. Need to identify routes to sell timber generated by works to make the process

Activity	Funding Sources	Discussion	Considerations
		<p>Forest Landowners Association and Ministry of Forests would lead to the best outcome, as they have the deepest knowledge about what would be required and how to approach it.</p>	<p>financially self sustaining, which MoF have been working on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify how to take material off island.
<p>Stream and Wetland Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Food Grants • Water Use Fees • Local Conservation Funds • Farmland Advantage • Permissive Riparian Tax Exemption • Natural Asset Inventories • Insurance Companies • Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund 	<p>Stream restoration works were considered a priority by residents in the CRD during the CDFCP survey, and there are several routes of funding. If municipalities acknowledge the role that streams play in managing water by listing them on their asset management register this could provide funding from municipalities operating budget for stream restoration. The Town of Gibsons trialled Permissive Riparian Tax Exemption as an incentive for landowners to leave this area unimpacted but found that they were not comfortable with the establishment of a covenant on their properties leading to low uptake, but it remains an option. Farmland Advantage has been funded by Local Conservation Funds in the Okanagan and Kootenays and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. This program has focused on supporting private landowners with protecting and restoring streams, in areas with limited regulation. However, they remain dependent on securing grant funding to continue to operate. Funding from insurance companies should also be considered an option for stream and wetlands restoration works as they are incurring significant costs following extreme weather events linked to flooding which can be reduced with healthy forest and wetlands.</p>	<p>Natural Asset Inventories / Water Use Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural assets are currently excluded from public sector financial statements which means they are undervalued. However, the CRD does use Water Use Fees to buy land and to manage those lands in acknowledgement of the role that the natural environment plays. The new Service might fill the gap on private land. <p>Farmland Advantage - MoA / Local Conservation Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established program with proven success that is continually looking for funding. • A tax-based fund could provide reliable funding to maintain this program and other stream care groups in the CRD. <p>Permissive Riparian Tax Exemption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covenants can be expensive to establish. • Conservation covenants have historically restricted active management and cultural practices. • Covenants can be seen to reduce the value of a property, but positive impact on neighbouring ones. <p>Insurance Companies / Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance companies are increasingly investing in projects that will provide

Activity	Funding Sources	Discussion	Considerations
Coastal oak and prairie ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Environmental Levy Development Cost Charges 	<p>Coastal oak and prairie ecosystems are significant cultural ecosystems that have been managed by First Nations since the last ice age. Only 5% remains within a highly urbanised area which is impacting on language, food, biodiversity and cultural practices. Local governments have several tools they can use to protect and restore these ecosystems and consider reconciliation. Municipalities can develop Environmental Levy's, like West Vancouver, to protect high value natural features. They can also bring in Development Cost Charges, like Metro Vancouver, to be used to purchase land of high ecological and cultural value. This links the impact of development with the protection of the land.</p>	<p>climate adaptation and reduce the cost to them following extreme events.</p> <p>Municipal Environmental Levy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy to establish through a Council vote. Needs political will. Open to being removed with a change of council. <p>Development Cost Charges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to provide services to new tenants, including parks and natural areas. The Local Government Act provides local government with the ability to bring in DCC.
Invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endowment with Investment Harvesting 	<p>The removal of invasive species has been linked by First Nations peoples to decolonising the land. The cost to undertake this work is high as it is labour intensive and eradication of species can be difficult, but their impact is substantial. The development of an endowment that would provide a consistence source of funding to projects such as HAT Restoration Team / Friends of Groups etc. would enable a more consistent approach. Harvesting of species such as fallow deer are also valuable opportunities. It provides First Nations elders https://soconservationfund.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Conservation-Fund-Guide-3rd-Edition-2022-Web.pdf to pass knowledge to youth, it provides food and materials which can be sold and removes herbivory from high value ecosystems.</p>	<p>Endowment with Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many examples of how this has been achieved (Coast Funds; Land Trusts etc.) Funders need to see a clear return, and many do not like endowments. Investment relies on people who have the knowledge to do this. <p>Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access needs to be provided. Communities often resist this approach to land management. Easy to implement as low resources needed and there is a potential source of revenue.

7 Summary

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- To reflect on what we value about the natural environment.
- To share information on new ways to finance biodiversity and stewardship.
- To meet others who are involved in stewardship.
- Look for collaborative opportunities to increase finance for stewardship

The workshop was designed to walk participants through the stages that are typically followed when considering establishing a new funding stream and to reflect on how we should approach this differently (refer to [Local Conservation Fund guide](#)). This led to a draft vision:

‘Development of a Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Fund that is co-governed by First Nations and local government’.

To move towards establishing a fund the following recommendations have been proposed:

Build the Supporting Network and Leadership Team

1. The Action for Adaptation team (CDFCP / UBC Botanical Gardens) will review completed workshop feedback forms to identify individuals and organisations that indicated that they would be interested in supporting the next steps of forming a fund (support network and leadership team).
2. The Action for Adaptation team will look to pull together interested parties to identify what support they would be willing to provide.

Communication and Outreach Strategy

3. Identify a person / organisation in the support network (built from workshop attendees) that can help draft an initial Communications Strategy. This can then be developed with time but helps provide a framework in the short term.
4. The workshop attendees have indicated that there should be co-governance of the Fund by First Nations and local governments and for all parties to have equal representation. Therefore, sharing information collected during the workshop and the community survey will be a short-term priority for the Action for Adaptation team (CDFCP / UBC Botanical Gardens) to these audiences. The approach may include:
 - Presentations to the Capital Regional District Environmental Services Sub-Committee or Board.
 - Presentations to Municipal and First Nations Councils.
 - One on one conversations with First Nations and local government staff.

Regional Biodiversity and Land Stewardship Strategy

5. The Action for Adaptation team will consult with the CRD’s team leading on the development of the Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Services and the Parks Department to understand their aspirations for the service and what they consider to be the most relevant plans and strategies for guiding a fund.

6. The Action for Adaptation team will work with the support network and leadership team to develop a regional strategy that would guide the implementation of a fund and would help support funding. This is likely to need capacity funding.

Business Strategy

7. The support network and leadership team (formed from workshop attendees and beyond) will identify funding that would provide capacity to produce the Business Strategy.

Appendix A

Table A1 List of activities to deliver health ecosystems on private land developed by the CDFCP.

Ecosystem	Protection / Restoration	Incentive
Forest	All forested lands (Old Growth and Second Growth)	
	Protection	Incentive payment to landowners to retain the forest for the ecosystem services and ecosystem connectivity they provide.
		Incentive to cover the cost of covenanting and monitoring.
		Land acquisition (if part of the fund).
	Restoration	Tree loss due to disease and drought stress / blow down, incentives to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake supplemental planting; • remove or process fallen timber; • limbing near access areas; • invasive plant control; • trial tree species based on the provincial climate predictions.
		Post fire - sterilised soils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance a cover crop to help soils recover
		Impact of herbivory on understorey species- fencing or see alternative approach below.
		Returning cultural practices to the forest - hunting, food and medicinal collection, firewood etc.
		Incentive to replant areas that would naturally be forest (marginal agricultural land; brownfield sites; schools)
		Education and cost share for the removal of invasive plant species (including labour to removal and disposal of material).
		Second Growth Forest
	Restoration	Forest thinning to increase carbon stores and biodiversity and reduce the risk of fire. Forest treatment should be linked to a time commitment e.g.15-20 years to see results.
		Cost share for the extension of the municipal community fire assessment to private lands, to support their land management decisions.
Rewetting of forest areas with extensive drainage to return natural process through incentives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cover the cost of removing or blocking drains • compensate for the reduction in biomass 		

Ecosystem	Protection / Restoration	Incentive
		Removing and reforesting old logging roads through incentives for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipment to rip up the road • replanting • open culverts that are blocked.
	Urban Forests	
	Restoration	Native tree and shrub give away schemes for private landowners
Coastal oak and associated ecosystems	Protection	Incentive to cover the cost of covenanting and monitoring
		Land Acquisition (excluded as focus is on incentives for private landowners)
	Restoration	Invasive weed control including forest cover infill (Doug-fir) and subsequent re-seeding or planting.
		Impact of herbivory on understorey species- fencing or see alternative approach below
		Return of cultural practices such as camas harvesting, hunting of deer and cultural burning to support food security.
Trampling caused by recreational users		
Stream / Wetland	Protection	Incentive to establish a setback excluding harvesting, agriculture and development that goes above and beyond provincial legislation and local government policy.
	Restoration	Restoring stream/wetland health post impact through incentives for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planting • fencing to exclude stock • invasive weed control • improve the structure of streams - reprofile banks, instream woody material, reinstatement of meanders etc. • Agricultural incentives relating to nutrient and chemical management
		Access for Indigenous Peoples - fishing etc.
Coastal Ecosystems	Protection	Incentive to not building within the coastal margin to enable natural inundation with sea level rise.
	Restoration	Restore the shoreline using the greenshores approach, through an incentive to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove existing hard structures • reprofile the foreshore bank • replant the foreshore
		Incentive to replant eelgrass and kelp beds.
		Funding to enable restoration of clam gardens.
		Access for Indigenous Peoples - fishing etc.
		Restore coastal wetlands - removing logs from coastline.
		Consider options for coastal retreat .