

Weaving the Basket:

How the RAD Network Emerged at the Intersection of Indigenous Leadership, Climate Action, and Relational Governance

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RAD NETWORK

Opening



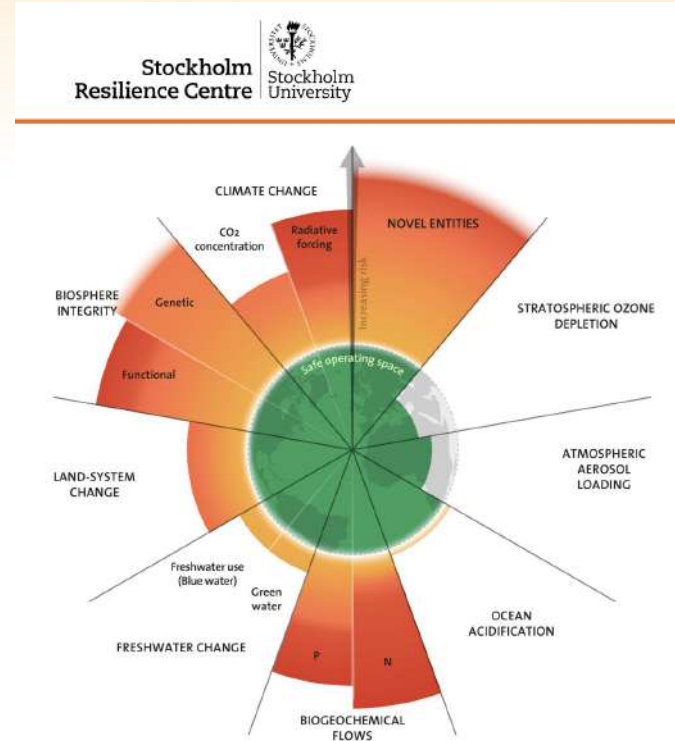
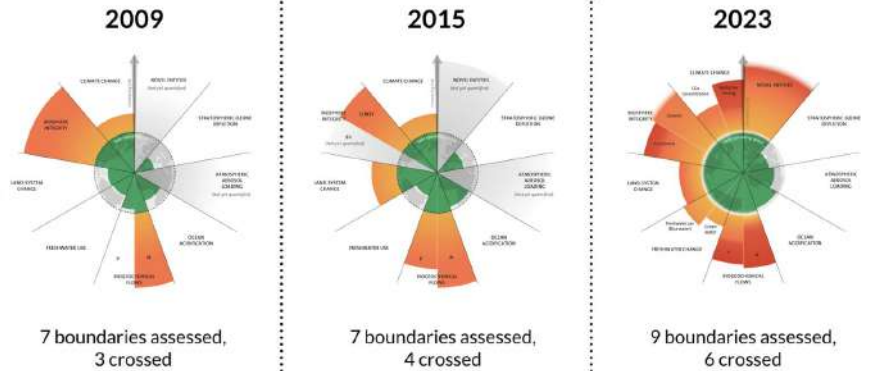


**It is about getting
back to all my
relations.**

**Land and waters.
Our collective
responsibilities to love
and care for her.**

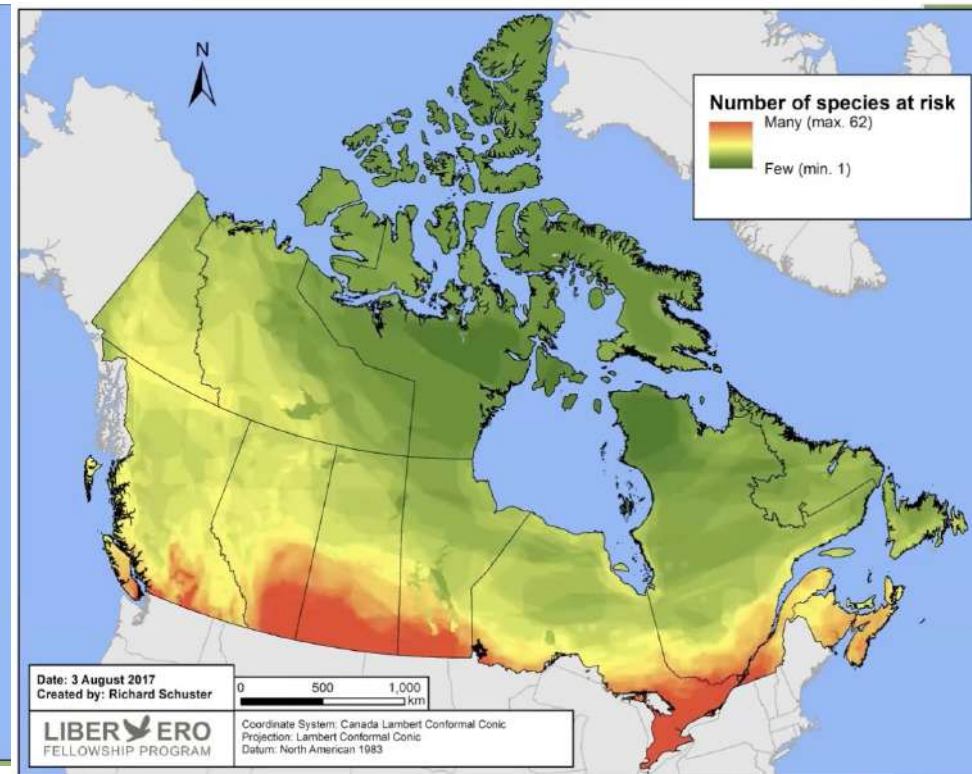
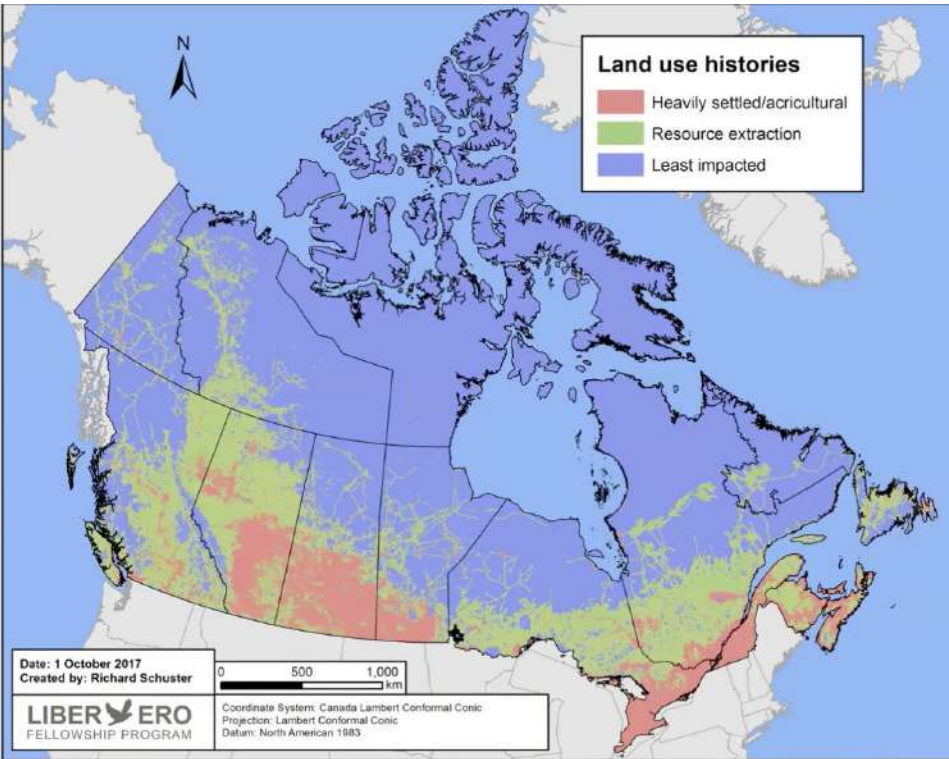
We are in a polycrisis...

In 2025: 7 out of 9 Planetary
Boundaries crossed

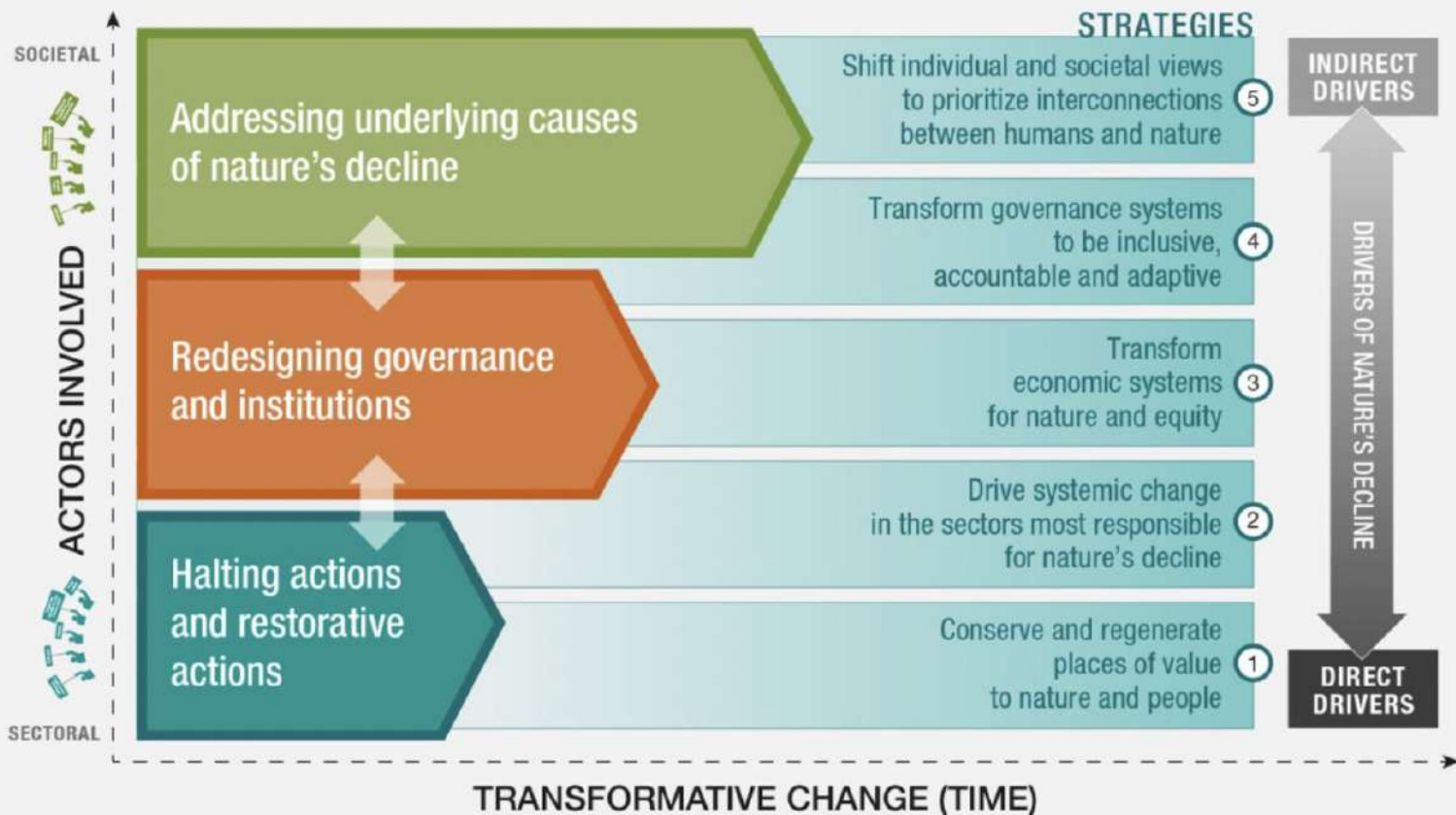
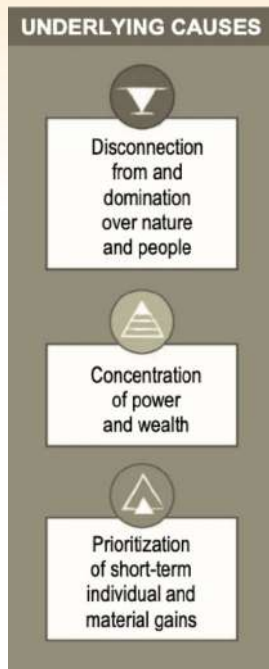


The 2025 update to the Planetary boundaries. Licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 3.0. Credit: "Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, based on analysis in Sakschewski and Caesar et al. 2025".

How we are using land leads to the loss of spaces for thriving of all our relations

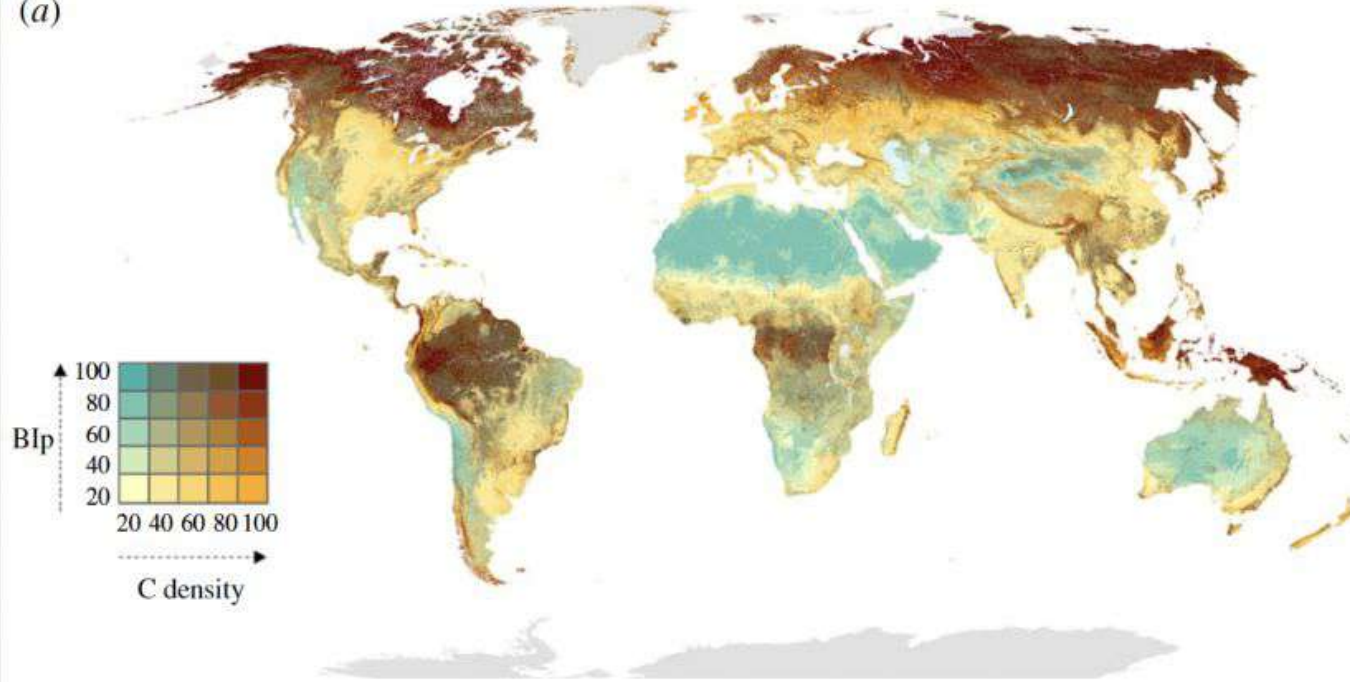


What is being called for is transformation and it is clear that reimagining our relationship with nature is at core of the need



Canada: A Biodiversity and Carbon Hotspot

(a)



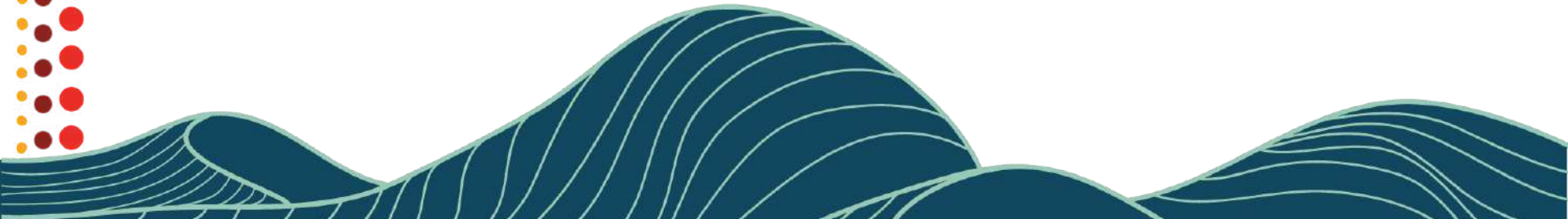
- 24 % of the world's wetlands
- 25% of temperate rainforest
- 28% of remaining boreal forests.
(Gov of Canada, 2024)

Global Distribution of Carbon Density & Biodiversity (Soto-Navarro et al., 2020).

Global distribution of the spatial congruence between carbon density (carbon in biomass and soil organic carbon to 1 m depth) and a Blp. Colour scales are based on quantile intervals (in 20% increments) with each class containing an equal number of values.

Colonialism is threatening our survival
There is a global commitment to biodiversity
and climate change

So what has Canada committed to?



We have the solution...



Climate Change Action

Paris Agreement: GHG 45%
below 2005 levels by 2030

Biodiversity

Protecting 30% by 2030

Reconciliation

TRC, UNDRIP



Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)

- So far we have protected about **16%** of Canada's land mass
- There are over **150 IPCAs** declared across Canada.. yet **only three are recognized by a public government**
- *How do we get to 30% without burdening the tax base?*
- *How do we collectively fulfill our end of the responsibility in Canada?*



Native-land.ca



Canada is Indigenous land

Indigenous People are the best caretakers and managers

Barriers to Indigenous-led NbS

Rights and
Governance

Colonial systems
that constrain
Indigenous
authority

Lack of pathways
for Indigenous-led
decision making
over their lands.

Capacity

Unequal access to resources, information
and institutions

Nature Finance

Current markets often fail to align with
Indigenous visions

Craig, 2026

RAD Network evolved to help solve these barriers

Nature Based Solutions: Create markets for nature protection

- Actions that **protect, sustainably manage and restore** ecosystems
- Working with nature rather than against it.
- Indigenous Peoples leading, guiding and benefitting from stewardship
- We need to create an environment where we are all pushing and pulling in the same direction

Indigenous Circle of Experts We Rise Together

2018

2019



Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership

2021

30x30, UNDRIP

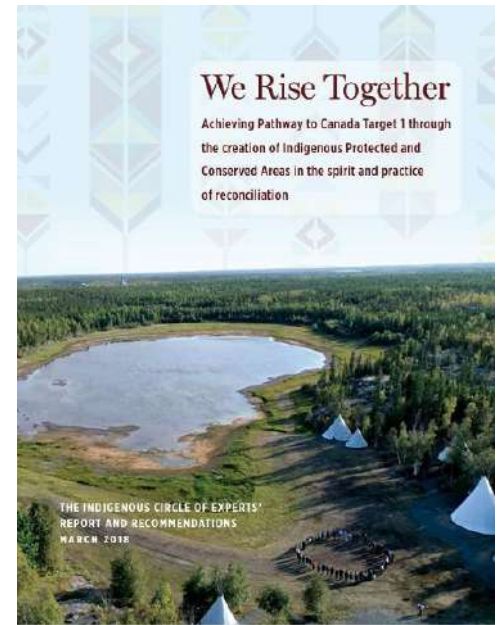
Canada commits to
30x30 targets; UNDRIP
ratified and came into
force

2022

RAD Network forms

"Out of the Seventh Stream of the
CRP:
Restore, Assert, Defend Network
The vision emerges

How do we
push and pull
in the same
direction
together?



About RAD Network

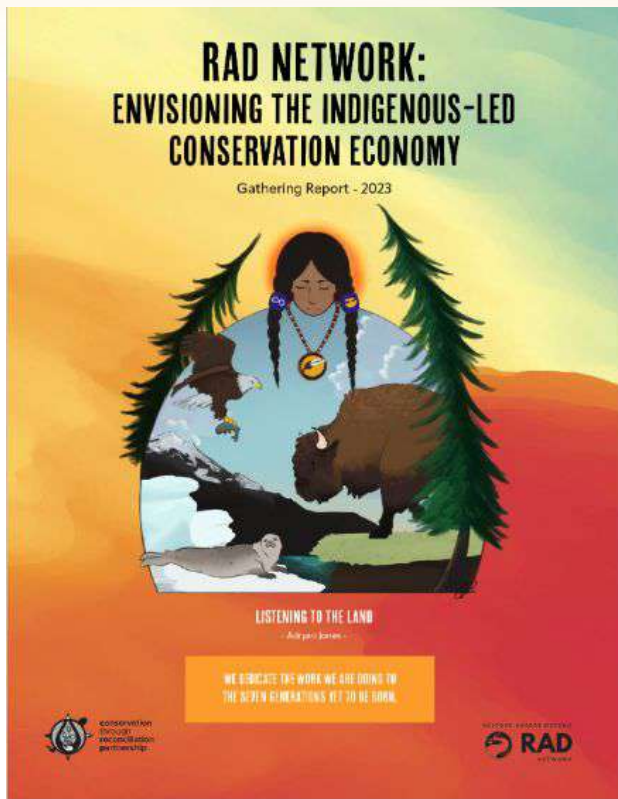
RAD Network emerged to decolonize economic pathways, grow capacity and advance Indigenous rights and responsibilities to care for lands, waters and all our relations through nature-based solutions and nature finance.



2023 RAD Network Vision Gathering.
Image Credit: River Voices.

Envisioning the Indigenous-led Conservation Economy

April 2023, Wolastoqiyik at St. Mary's First Nation, Sitansisk



Wolastoqiyik
Knowledge Carrier
Terry Young
weaving an ash
basket at RAD
Vision Gathering.
Image Credit: Mag
Hood.







Leadership Circle



DAVID FLOOD

Co-Chair

Matachewan First Nation

Wahkohtowin
Development



GWEN BRIDGE

Co-Chair

Saddle Lake Cree Nation

Gwen Bridge
Consulting



TERRY DORWARD

TLA-O-QUI-AHT First Nations

IISAAK OLAM Foundation



SAM WHITEYE

Eelūnapéewi Lahkéewiit

Carolinian Canada
- Indigenous
Leadership Pillar



STEVEN NITAH

Łutsël K'édé Dene First Nation

Nature for Justice



DANI WARREN

Montreal Lake Cree Nation

Great Bear Carbon

Network Priorities

1.



Relationships & Collaboration

Growing relationships in a good way through Spirit and Ceremony, Elder engagement, Reciprocity Dialogues, Ethical Space in partnerships and funding relations, grounding in wise practices, weaving relations and removing silos.

2.



Learning & Knowledge Sharing

Regular webinars and learning events, decolonized action research rooted in community priorities & values, accelerator circles, matchmaking, spaces for convening, healing circles, podcasts and other storytelling, tools and templates.

3.



Action Research: Grassroots to Systems Change

Work Baskets & Activities

Community priorities & capacity

Advancing community projects, priorities and needs

E.g., research framework rooted in ethical space and community priorities, curriculum, convening, Learning Circles, “National” Accelerator for INCS, mentoring, cultural exchange, place-based and ecosystem specific work

Rights, policy & governance

Removing policy barriers, pathways to acknowledging Indigenous jurisdiction, and right to manage carbon and nature based assets

E.g., Research for policy prioritization, pathway development, legal analysis, tools & protocol development

Ethical Space in marketplace

Advancing Ethical Space in carbon markets & nature finance

E.g., mapping the nature finance ecosystem, market engagement, guidelines for upholding jurisdiction, reports, agreement templates, supporting place-based projects with technical/market advice and connections

Timeline



2021

RAD Launch

Vision Gathering in Wolastoq territory; virtual Full Moon Gatherings; Governance gathering at Six Nations

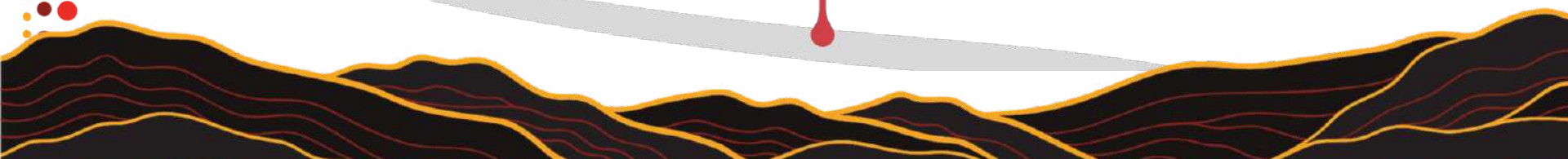
2022

Funding & Governance

RAD secured 5 years of ECCC funding for the hub; continued weaving and strengthening RAD foundation

2025

RAD Network Hub Launch



Extraction and Dominant System

Nature-Based Solutions Spectrum

Regenerative Future

Prioritization of short term individual and material gains

Systems of domination over nature "false solutions"



Concentration of power and wealth

Profit to incumbents, inequitable benefits



Disconnection from and domination over nature and people

Reducing relation, narrow measurement and continued disconnection/disembodiment of life systems



Land/Life Systems

Long-term, intrinsic and holistic valuations. Honouring Natural Law, Circularity



Equity and power realignments, benefits flow to ground, people



Reconnecting to land and Resurgence of protection, land based cultures



Responsibility held in Relationship

Longterm stewardship, holistic valuations, investments serve nature and culture

Wealth, power, governance redistributed to land-based communities

Reconnection to nature, Honouring Mother Earth, kinship with life

We are Stronger Together

- We have always gathered. Networks are about bringing people together and connecting across.
- We need to have a space for the conversations that need to be had. This creates movement.





Indigenous Accelerators: Learning and Community Field Builders



Hubs and Networks Working Together

Separate Boats Travelling in the Same River

Ecosystem Hubs and Research Projects

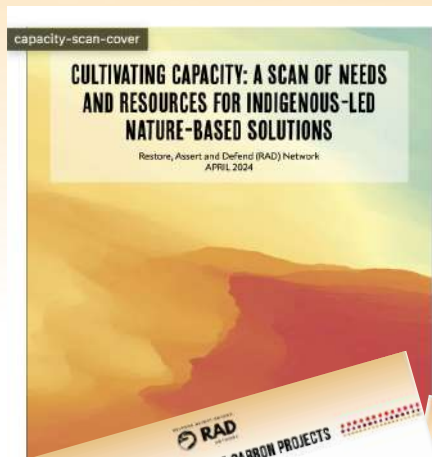
Learning & Knowledge





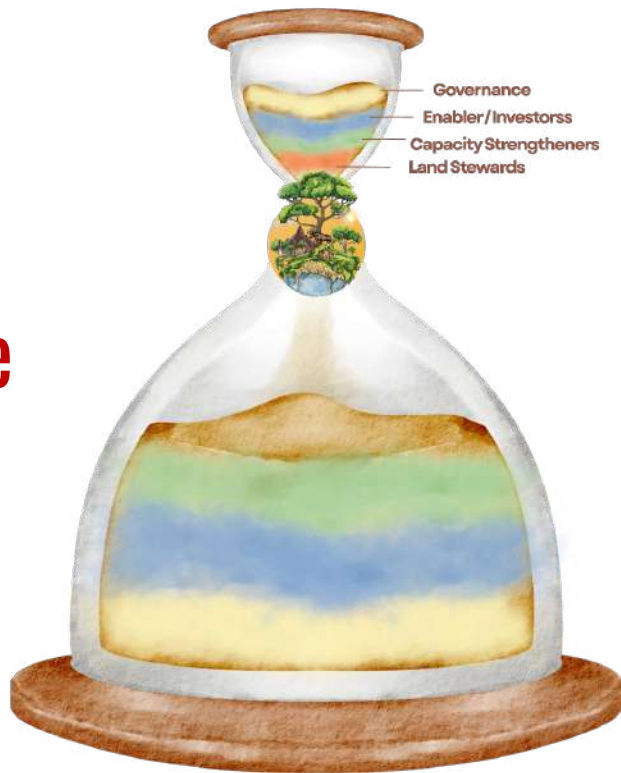
RAD Story Lodge Podcast
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2168271>

To connect or share a story:
<https://radnetwork.ca/connect-with-us/>



Storytelling, Case Studies and Resources

Mapping and Convening to Understand the Network



NATURE FINANCE ECOSYSTEM

Investing in Nature

Actor groups and systems that aim to steward, conserve and restore nature and biodiversity

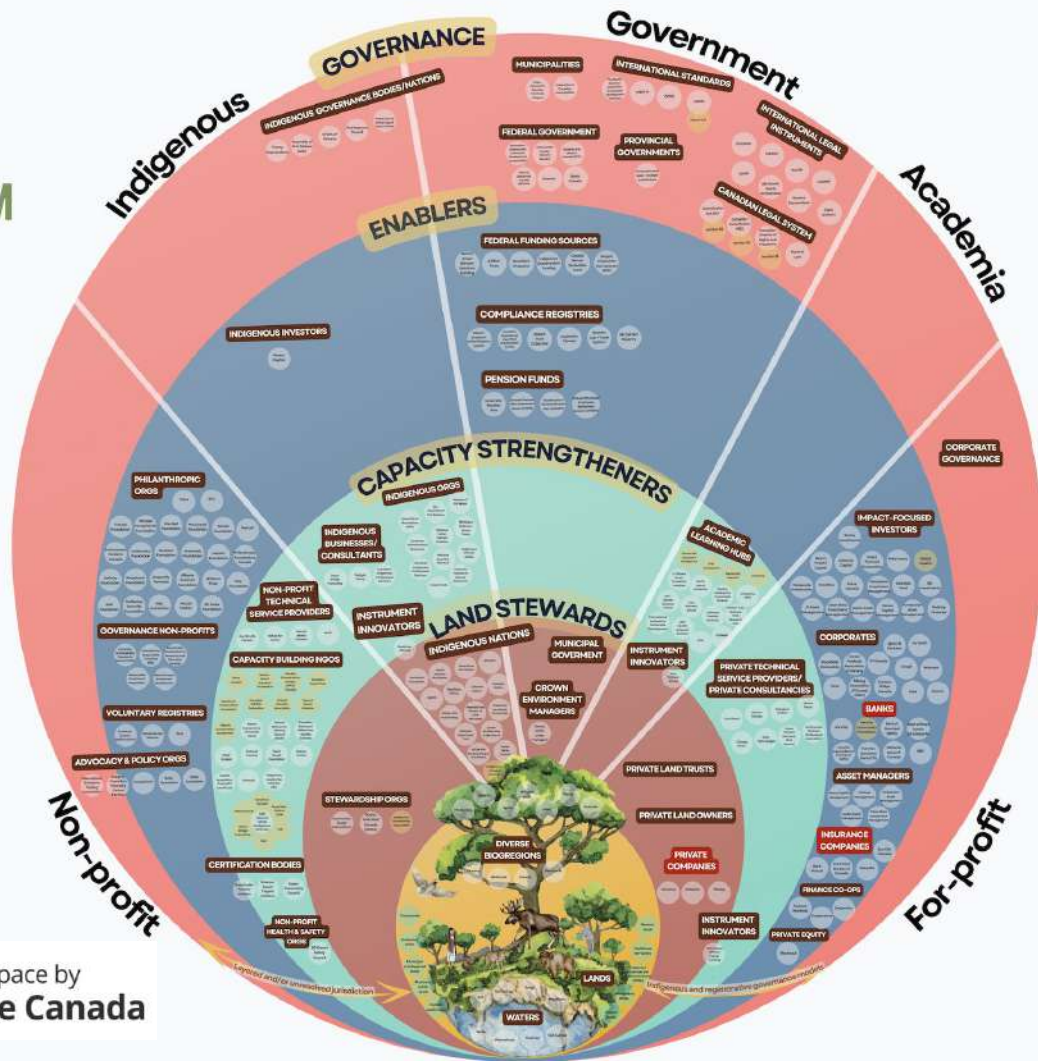
For every US\$1 the world invests in protecting nature, it spends US\$30 on destroying it.

FINANCING NATURE LOSS

Actor groups and systems responsible for ongoing nature losses, through policies, practices, investments and ongoing public subsidies.

**Note: Many actors are the same as above*

NATURE FINANCE ECOSYSTEM



Nature
Investment Hub

A Solution Space by
Generate Canada

RESTORE ASSESS DEFEND
RAD
NETWORK

ENGO report cover

ALIGNING ENGO FINANCIAL PRACTICES WITH COMMITMENTS TO INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION

Qualitative Research and Recommendations on
Emerging Practices Among Canadian ENGOs.

EcoAnalytics

ADVISED ASSISTED DESIGN
RAD
NETWORK

ENVIRONICS
RESEARCH

Providing tools and spaces
to convene, 'match make',
share and collaborate...



TRANSFORMATIVE & HEALING SOLUTIONS

**Ecological & Social
Breakdown**



**Extractive
Economy**

Redistribute
Power and
Resources

Transform
Governance &
Institutions



**Relational & Holistic
Values**

**Regenerative &
Relational Renewal**



**Holistic, Regenerative
Economy**

Wise Practices and Ethical Space

Why do we need Ethical Space?

RESTORE ASSERT DEFEND
RAD
NETWORK



Please take our short needs assessment to guide the learning journey ahead. We appreciate your guidance.

Learning Playbook and Pathway

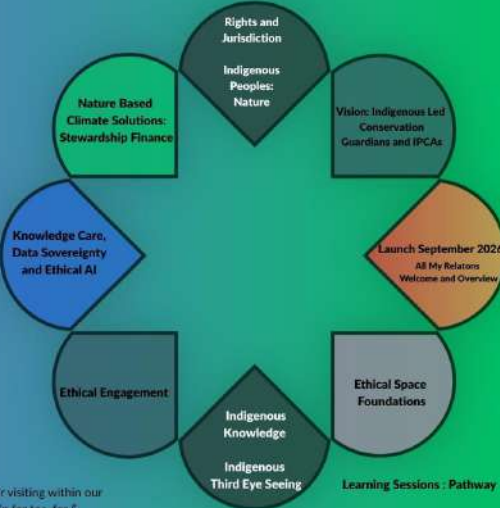
All My Relations

RAD is co-creating a Playbook, a wise practice curated learning pathway and guide to support with the resources that are needed for wholistic development and action. Inspired by the IPCA Knowledge Basket and diverse community voices, stories, tools/frameworks and reports. We are aware that active participants across the hubs - network have various learning and engagement needs and desires, this will provide a foundation for independent learning and source to support the online and engaged opportunities. Together we will nurture planetary health futures, transformative change and collective leadership in *powerbuilding* (power within, power with, power for).

Online Learning Pathway Series - Monthly - September 2026 - April 2027
Stay connected for the launch date in September where we will open to centre relational leadership, *All My Relations*, to introduce the elements in the learning series. The 8-pointed star carries deep, place based teachings for many different Nations and personal visions, reflecting foundational creation stories, natural law and a way to understand relationships, cycles, development, and the multiverse. The 8-pointed star supports RAD's Learning Pathway and Playbook to connect to our original instructions and pathways of knowledge into the flourishing of contemporary wise practices in action today. The 8 pointed star as symbol supports our capacity to expand and see wholistically the bigger picture in interdependent relationship and that knowledge has spirit, is alive and is in constant movement and relationship.

Drop In For
Medicine Tea
Questions in Conversation

It's always time for tea! We created a third space for visiting within our learning series to create a place for people to drop in for tea, for 5 minutes or the full hour. Bring your questions, listening and reflections into conversation and community. Beginning Fall 2026.



Launch September 2026
All My Relations
Welcome and Overview

What do we mean by Wise Practices?

Lessons from the Basket

- Relationships are infrastructure
- Natural Law
- Walking with Vision
- Creating ethical space is how we work together in a good way
- Networks are powerful ways to achieve change
- Deep listening, respect for the mystery in “not-knowing” long enough for something new to be revealed.





REGENERATION IS RAD
SOVEREIGNTY IS RAD
NATURE IS RAD
HEALING IS RAD
INNOVATION IS RAD

RESTORE ASSERT DEFEND NETWORK

ADVANCING INDIGENOUS-LED NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS & REGENERATIVE FINANCE PATHWAYS

Help us Grow the Network



Join the Network Circle! Come to a Full Moon!

Sign up for our mailing list, visit radnetwork.ca and follow us on socials!

mailing list



website:



podcast:



@radnetwork_



Restore, Assert and
Defend (RAD) Network



RAD Network

@radnetwork conservationeconomy



RADpartnership@gmail.com



Thank you,

***anushiik, ekosani, miigwetch, masih, niá:wen,
nitsiniyi'taki, woliwon, wela'lin, hai hai, λeeeko, marsi,
ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ, giaxsixa, merci.***



LEARN MORE: radnetwork.ca || CONTACT US: info@radnetwork.ca



Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



INDIGENOUS
LEADERSHIP
INITIATIVE



Nature
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