



THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

In 2015, all United Nations member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — a global framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were created to address interconnected global challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, inequality, and community well-being.

The SDGs are designed to be:

- **Universal** (relevant at local, regional, and global levels)
- **Interconnected** (progress in one area supports others)
- **Action-oriented** (focused on practical, measurable change)

This mentorship program focuses on **SDGs 13, 14, and 15**, which align closely with Indigenous relational teachings about land, water, and responsibility to all beings.

How the SDGs Fit Within the LPR Mentorship Program

This program weaves **Indigenous relational teachings** with **global sustainability frameworks**:

- The LPR Model (Respect, Care, Share; No Voice; relational governance) **guides how we act**.
- The SDGs **help describe and measure impact** in ways that are widely understood.

Participants will:

- Design a project aligned with **at least one SDG (13, 14, or 15)**
- Ground their work in **relational values and Indigenous protocols**
- Integrate both **relational indicators** (connection, care, reciprocity) and **practical outcomes** (ecological or community impact)



SDG 13 – Climate Action

Goal: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SDG 13 recognizes that climate change affects ecosystems, communities, cultures, and future generations. Within this program, climate action is understood through **relationship** — how human decisions impact land, water, non-human kin, and community health.

Examples of SDG 13-aligned projects:

- Climate-resilient land or watershed stewardship
- Ecosystem restoration that supports carbon sequestration
- Community education on climate change rooted in Indigenous perspectives
- Forest, wetland, or land-care initiatives

Climate action is deeply connected to water (SDG 14) and land (SDG 15): healthy ecosystems strengthen climate resilience.

SDG 14 – Life Below Water

Goal: Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, and freshwater systems.

Water bodies — oceans, rivers, lakes, wetlands — are living systems that regulate climate, support biodiversity, and sustain all life. Indigenous teachings that recognize **water as a relative** are central to this goal.

Examples of SDG 14-aligned projects:

- Freshwater or marine ecosystem protection
- Water stewardship or conservation initiatives
- Advocacy for clean water or sustainable fishing practices
- Education and awareness grounded in relational water teachings

Protecting water supports climate action and land health, linking SDGs 13, 14, and 15.



SDG 15 – Life on Land

Goal: Protect, restore, and sustainably manage terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity.

Healthy land ecosystems — forests, grasslands, wetlands, mountains — support biodiversity, water systems, climate regulation, and cultural well-being. The LPR Model's teachings on stewardship and responsibility to more-than-human kin strongly align with SDG 15.

Examples of SDG 15-aligned projects:

- Habitat protection or restoration
- Reforestation or regenerative land-use practices
- Biodiversity and species-care initiatives
- Community land stewardship or land-based education

Land health is inseparable from water health and climate resilience.

Accountability, Respect & Acknowledgement

This mentorship program is supported by the **Government of Canada's SDG Funding Program**, which supports community-led action toward the SDGs. With this support comes shared responsibility:

- Projects should aim for meaningful, ethical, and respectful impact
- Indigenous knowledge must be engaged with consent and according to protocol

What Success Looks Like

Success in this program is **holistic**, not just technical:

- Strong relationships with land, water, community, and Knowledge Holders
- Thoughtful integration of LPR teachings and SDG goals
- Projects that are realistic, respectful, and sustainable beyond the course



Sources & Further Reading

- United Nations. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015).
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Official SDG framework and goal descriptions (SDGs 13, 14, 15).
- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). *Goal 13: Climate Action* – background, targets, and indicators.
- United Nations. *Goal 14: Life Below Water* – oceans, freshwater systems, and sustainable use.
- United Nations. *Goal 15: Life on Land* – terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity, and land stewardship.
- UN Global Compact. *Blueprint for Business Leadership on the SDGs* – interconnections among climate, water, and land goals.
- Government of Canada. *Canada and the Sustainable Development Goals* – SDG Funding Program and community-led implementation.
- RespectCareShare.ca – Land & Peoples Relationship (LPR) Model teachings and program context.