



# Annual Report <sup>2022</sup>/<sub>2023</sub>

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 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER

# Executive Reflection

It's been an exciting year for Nature, and we're delighted to share some highlights with you in this year's Conservation Impact Report. Over the past year, Canada's been at centre stage in the global conversation about the role of conservation in reconciliation and decolonization, protecting lands and waters, and preserving and rebuilding biodiversity. As one of Canada's foremost charities dedicated to the protection of public lands and waters, CPAWS has a profound responsibility to shape and lead these conversations.

In December 2022, Canada hosted COP15, the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Our staff were on hand to learn from Indigenous leaders from around the world, celebrate conservation gains here in BC and across the country, and hold governments accountable for their commitments to protect Nature. Then in February of this year, CPAWS co-hosted IMPAC5, the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress here in Vancouver. Thousands of delegates representing 128 countries, and 250 global leaders active in the ocean space, attended the congress. This was the largest-ever gathering of professionals committed to global ocean protection. Our team spent the week connecting with Indigenous leaders and ocean conservationists, facilitating discussions on decolonizing conservation, and presenting research and analyses related to the protection of Canada's oceans and coasts.

These two events highlighted the importance of our shared work to protect Nature. Canada and British Columbia have both committed to protect 30% of lands, inland waters and oceans by 2030. It's clear that we now have an unparalleled opportunity to co-create the path to 30% by uplifting Indigenous-led conservation efforts and supporting protected areas in places that will safeguard the incredible diversity of life found in this beautiful province.

We saw some great progress last year, from the declaration of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) right across BC to the endorsement of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network action plan in the Great Bear Sea. We're so grateful to you — our community of donors, volunteers, funders, letter writers, advocates, and supporters — because without you, none of this would have been possible.

We hope that you are inspired and invigorated reading through this year's report, and all that we've accomplished together. We've laid a strong foundation for the work to come to safeguard 30% of lands, inland waters and ocean by 2030, and we look forward to seeing what this year brings for Nature.

Yours in conservation,

Catarina Moreno  
Board President, CPAWS-BC

Meaghen McCord  
Executive Director, CPAWS-BC

# Conservation Snapshot



**+1300**  
individuals made gifts for Nature this year



**+1200**  
actions in support of lands and waters



**+50**  
media stories put Nature in the spotlight

PHOTO: MARKUS THOMPSON/THALASSIA ENVIRONMENTAL

## Advancing Indigenous-led Conservation



**Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala  
(Lull/Hoeya)  
marine refuge**



**Gitdisdzu Lugyek  
(Kitasu Bay) MPA**



**New partnership  
approach for Suunéch'ii  
Kéch'iige (The Place  
Where Happiness  
Dwells)**

Photo (from left): Tavish Campbell/Moonfish Media (CNW Group/Kitasoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority); Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Joel Lutz

To read more conservation highlights and stories from this year, visit:  
[cpawsbc.org/media-centre](https://cpawsbc.org/media-centre)



# Your Voice for Nature

Nature commitments on a global and local scale signal a positive vision for the collaborative conservation of lands, waters and coastal communities.

Together, we can ensure BC follows through on its commitments with action to advance Indigenous-led conservation, prioritize ecosystem health across the province, and safeguard biodiversity for generations to come. Here's a sample of what we achieved last year together.

## You called for...

A global plan to **halt and reverse biodiversity loss** now and for current and future generations

**BC's commitment to 30% lands and water protection by 2030** in partnership with First Nations

**Protection for the Great Bear Sea** Northern Shelf Bioregion

## Conservation win:

→ **Canada announced a domestic strategy and action plan to halt and reverse Nature loss** in Canada that should include new legislation for accountability to biodiversity commitments. [Read more.](#)

- Over \$800 million in support of Indigenous-led conservation
- Over \$600 million in new commitments for international biodiversity finance

→ In December 2022, **the Government of BC committed to protecting 30% of land by 2030 and advancing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.** This crucial direction was set through the mandate letter from the Premier David Eby to the new Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Nathan Cullen, making BC the second province in Canada to make this commitment. [Read more.](#)

→ First Nations, federal and provincial partners **endorsed the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network Action Plan for the Great Bear Sea** (Northern Shelf Bioregion) at the 5th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC5). This endorsement charts a path forward in protecting this unique and biodiverse region and signifies a huge step towards the implementation of a majority of network sites by 2030. [Read more.](#)

# Biodiversity Hotspots

First Nations continue to lead the push to safeguard lands and waters in BC. Enabling and supporting Indigenous-led conservation proposals, declarations, and guardianship will be critical to meet the 30% target that science says is required to maintain a healthy and livable planet. It's time for the provincial government to take real action to back up its commitment to safeguard 30% of lands, inland waters and ocean by 2030.

Here's a sample of what we achieved last year together.

## You called for... Conservation win:

### A comprehensive strategy to support a healthy BC coast

→ BC released the **Coastal Marine Strategy Policy Intentions Paper** outlining the vision and proposed outcomes that will guide the creation of a completed strategy moving forward. Public consultation was also completed. [Read more.](#)

### Protection for the deep-sea

→ A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the Haida Nation, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, Pacheedaht First Nation, Quatsino First Nation, and the Canadian government for the **Tang. gwan – ɥačxwiqak – Tsigis Marine Protected Area (MPA)**. The anticipated MPA will protect unique, deep-sea ecosystems from bottom-trawling, dumping, oil and gas activities, and deep-sea mining. [Read more.](#)

### A budget boost for BC Parks

→ In February 2023, we welcomed a crucial budget increase for BC Parks alongside continued investment in land use planning. This budget outlines a **continued commitment to safeguard vital ecosystems** and prioritise meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples, but it falls short of the sizable increase that many conservation groups were hoping for to accelerate climate and biodiversity action. [Read more.](#)

### New measures to protect old growth

→ New **forest policy changes** announced by Premier David Eby and Minister of Forests Bruce Ralston signal hope that forest management in BC will prioritize Indigenous values, ecosystem health, and biodiversity. [Read more.](#)

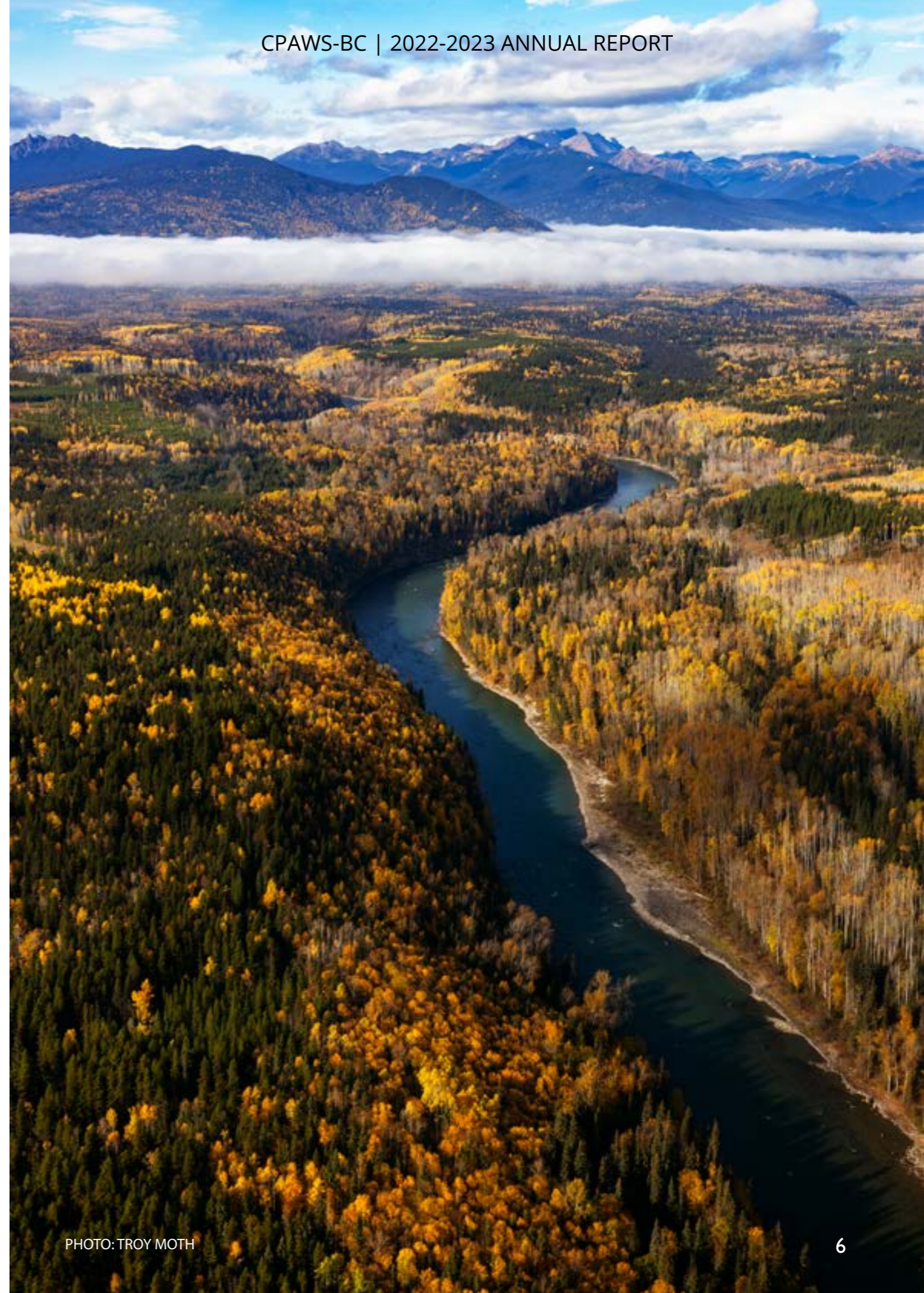


PHOTO: TROY MOTH



PHOTO: MAVREEN DAVID

# Weaving Story and Science

This year, we brought our lands and waters to the public realm. Through art, gathering and global-conferences we've helped keep a spotlight on conservation leadership in BC.

We're honoured to partner with Indigenous artists to showcase how the ocean connects us all and advocate for a healthy coast. You celebrated with us as BC became the second province in Canada to commit to 30% lands and water protection by 2030.

Thanks to leadership of Indigenous Nation and Guardians, and continued support from folks like you across BC we're making positive strides for Nature in BC.

## Highlights from the past year include:

CPAWS-BC partnered with three Indigenous artists and Vancouver Mural Festival (VMF) and to create **two ocean-inspired murals:** 'The winds and waters will always call us home' by Ocean Hyland/ shkwēh/ ts;simtelot, and 'Gud Gad iis & Nucama:t | Coming Together & Working as One' by Shoshannah Greene/ SGidGang.Xaal and Jessie Recalma/ Xwulqsheynum. The murals celebrate our shared responsibility to protect the ocean for future generation. [Read the blog post.](#)



Photo: Mavreen David

Twenty **Young Leaders in Conservation Program** (YLICP) participants across the province gathered with us on the steps of parliament to demand action on climate change and its threat to Nature. We met with government officials—from the Honourable Josie Osborne, former Minister of Land, Water, and Resource Stewardship, to BC's Green Party leader, Sonia Furstenu—to voice their concerns about Nature and demand swift action to slow climate change and biodiversity loss.



Photo: Adam Combs

**IMPAC5** is a global forum that brings together ocean conservation professionals and high-level officials to inform, inspire and act on marine protected areas. Announcements and commitments shared at IM-PAC5 will lead to stronger protection and set a pathway for Canada to reach the shared global goal of protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030. [Read the blog.](#)



# Financial Picture

## Statement of Financial Position

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 706,021	\$ 768,112
Accounts receivable	65,054	102,037
Marketable securities	384,840	434,403
Prepaid expense	20,029	8,647
Due from National Office	554,246	600,000
	1,730,190	1,913,199
<b>Investments</b>	96,625	96,000
<b>Capital assets</b>	7,444	7,636
	\$ 1,834,259	\$ 2,016,835

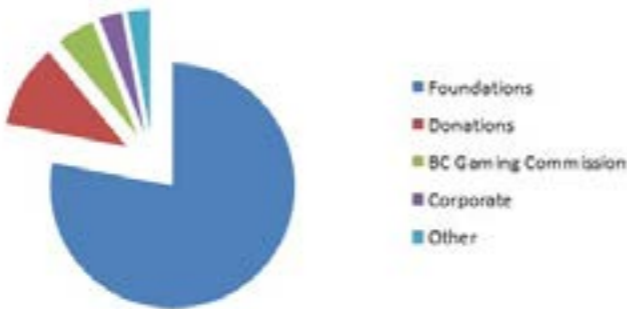
## LIABILITIES

<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 54,965	\$ 69,017
Deferred revenue	1,084,671	1,224,317
	1,139,636	1,293,334
<b>Deferred capital contributions</b>	7,444	7,636
	1,147,080	1,300,970

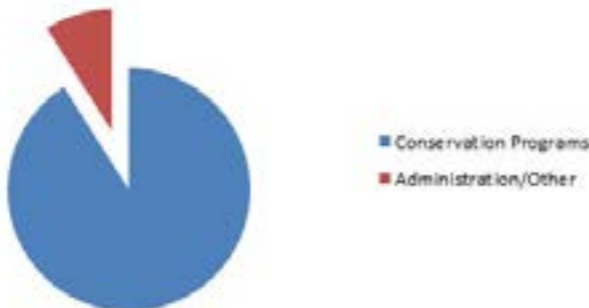
## NET ASSETS

<b>Unrestricted</b>	300,747	277,646
<b>Internally restricted</b>	386,432	438,219
	687,179	715,865
	\$ 1,834,259	\$ 2,016,835

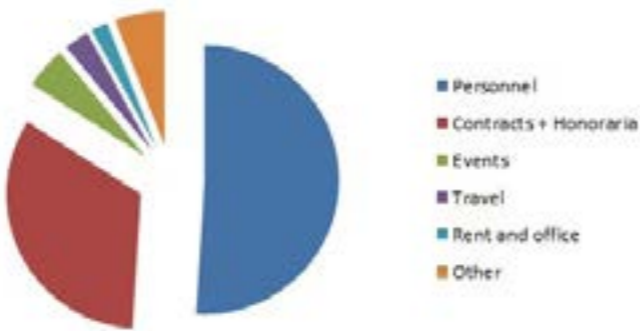
## How CPAWS-BC is funded



## Your gifts at work



## Conservation program



To learn more and view CPAWS-BC Audited Financial Statements, visit: [cpawsb.org/financial-picture](https://cpawsb.org/financial-picture)



PHOTO: ADAM COMBS



# Thank You

Thank you to our community of members, partners and staff, volunteers and more.

## Funding Partners

Alan & Gill Gray Foundation  
BC Gaming Commission  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
JB Doherty Family Foundation  
Makeway Foundation  
Sitka Foundation

T/GEAR Foundation  
The Conservation Alliance  
The Pew Charitable Trust  
Vancouver Foundation  
Westcoast Wills & Estates  
Wilburforce Foundation



### Protecting 30% by 2030

When given adequate protection to thrive, nature supports healthy wildlife and resilient communities. From threatened grizzly bear populations and dwindling caribou numbers to critically endangered northern spotted owls, biodiversity is declining quicker than ever before.

[Learn more.](#)

Photo: Adam Combs



### Deepsea Oasis

80 kilometers off Vancouver Island's west coast, **Tang. gwan – ɥačwɪqak – Tsigis** marine protected area (MPA) could become the largest marine protected area in Canada. [Learn more.](#)

Photo: Ocean Networks Canada (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)



### Marine Protected Area Network

Indigenous Peoples are leading plans to create Canada's first Marine Protected Area Network along the north and central coast. Voice your support for a healthy Great Bear Sea. [Learn more.](#)

Photo: Markus Thompson | Thalassia Environmental

Learn more about the lands and water we're defending together:

[cpawsbc.org/campaigns](https://cpawsbc.org/campaigns)



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