

IPCA Creation Guide

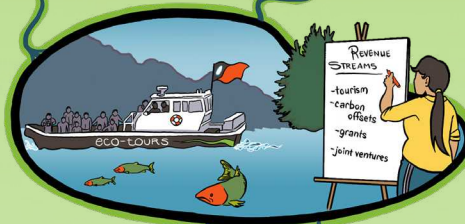
VISION



LAWS/
LEGAL



FINANCING



GOVERNANCE



PARTNERSHIPS



OPERATIONS
AND
STEWARDSHIP



COMMUNICATIONS
AND RELATIONSHIPS

DESIGNING
FOR
SUCCESS



“If Indigenous Peoples were to have a role in achieving greater conservation and protection moving forward, what might that role be? What would it look like?”

Indigenous Circle of Experts, 2018



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What is this guide and who is it for?

The [Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership](#) (CRP) developed this guide to support Indigenous Nations (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs). We included questions and examples to assist your visioning and planning, but not tell you what to do. We included some examples that are not specific to IPCAs but that might be helpful.

There is no “right” way to establish IPCAs. Each IPCA journey is unique. Indigenous Nations and communities know their contexts and goals. So, they are best suited to design and lead IPCAs. The CRP does not endorse some IPCA pathways over others, so long as they’re rooted in Indigenous self-determination. We include a variety of strategies Indigenous Nations are using throughout the country.

The CRP included input from our [Leadership Circle](#) and partners in the guide. This included insights from the lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples. The lead author was Justine Townsend. We are grateful to the contributors who made this guide possible. This guide is evergreen and will be refreshed and revisited annually.

What are IPCAs?

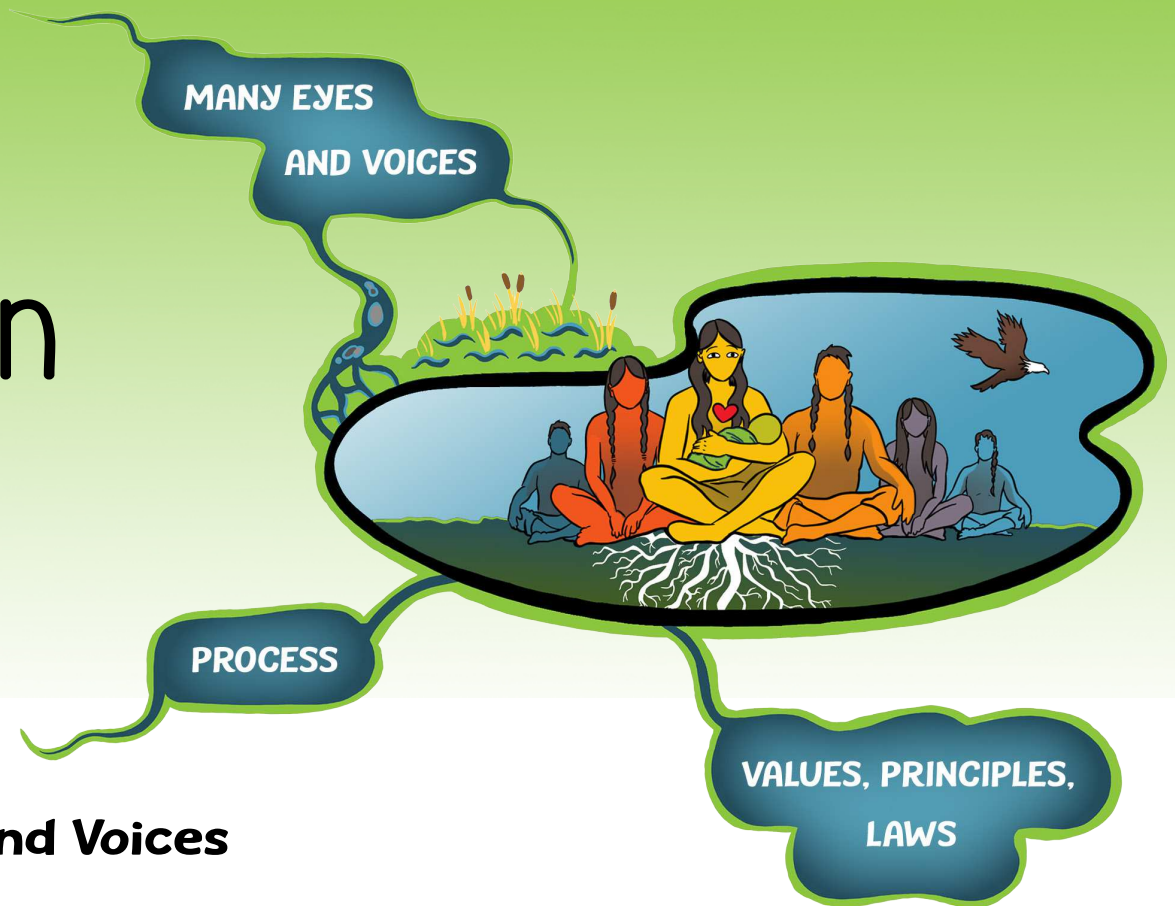
Indigenous Nations and communities lead the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas or “[IPCAs](#),” This is what makes IPCAs so unique. IPCAs vary from territory to territory and nation to nation. Yet, they share features like ecological conservation and elevating Indigenous rights and responsibilities.

By creating IPCAs, Indigenous Peoples’ strengthen their relationships to their lands and waters. Indigenous Nations and communities establish IPCAs for many reasons. Some of these reasons include to:

- share their vision for their lands, waters, and communities
- attract resources and build capacity to bring that vision to life
- gain support from partners and Crown governments
- support decision-making about lands, waters, and communities
- protect important species and places
- strengthen Indigenous cultures, knowledge systems, languages, laws, and traditions
- promote intergenerational learning
- support local economies, and community health and well-being
- uphold responsibilities to lands and waters for future generations.

In 2018, the Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE) published an important report on IPCAs. The report is called “[We Rise Together](#).” ICE included insights shared by the Indigenous Peoples they spoke to across the country. In their report, ICE made 28 recommendations to support Indigenous-led conservation and reconciliation. The recommendations are mainly for Crown (federal, provincial, and territorial) governments.

VISION



Many Eyes and Voices

» How can the visioning process for the IPCA include many voices?

- » Who needs to be involved so that the vision represents the voices and direction of the community(ies)?
(E.g. leaders, Elders, families, youth, community members, etc.)
- » Which additional groups, communities, Nations could it be beneficial to include?
(E.g. Elders, youth, and women's groups; on and off reserve; LGBTQ+2S; neighbouring communities; important partners; etc.)

» What is the process for determining which areas, places, and/or species need protection or restoration?

(E.g. land use planning, community visioning, community engagement, input from Indigenous Guardians, Indigenous knowledge, etc.)

Process

» How will the vision be created?

- » What has worked well in the past when engaging community members and leaders?
- » Are there specific community protocols or processes that should be followed?

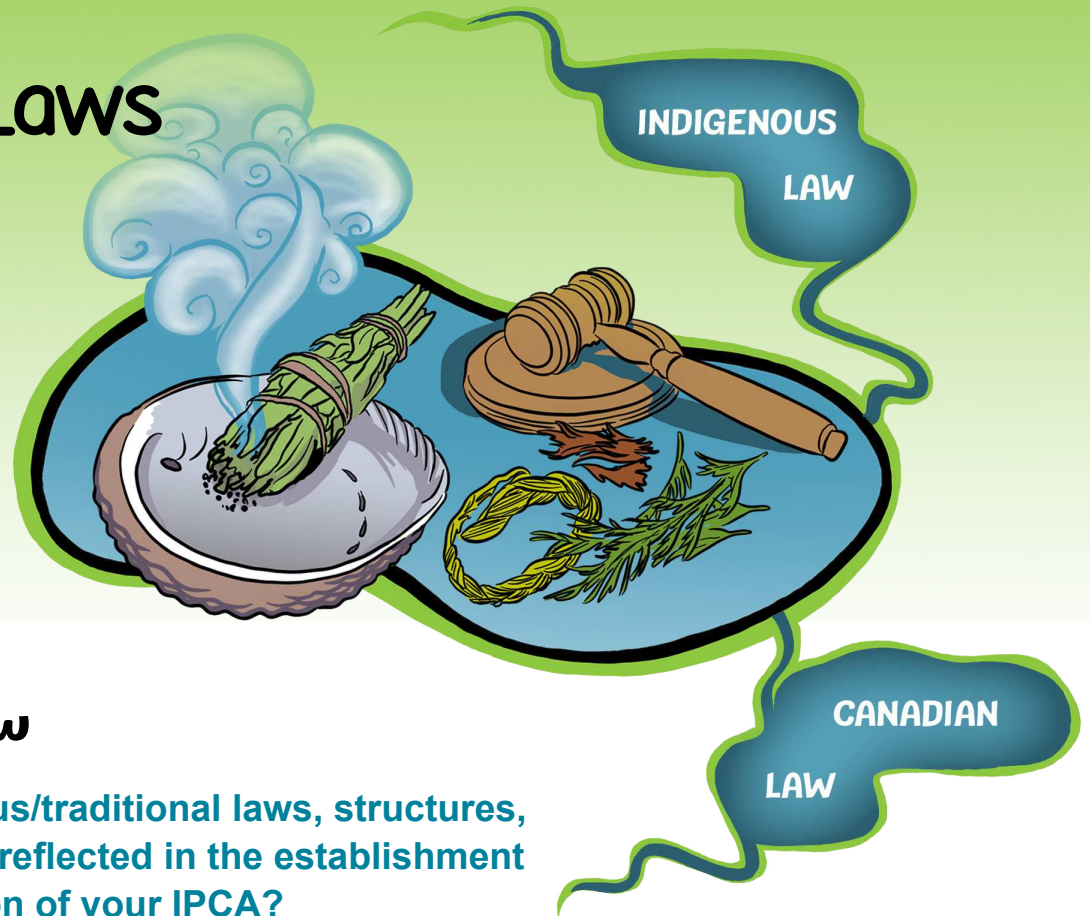
- » How can community participation be maximized? (E.g. language/translation, written vs. oral communications, accessibility of meetings/locations, honoraria and reciprocity for participation, aligning with other gatherings, etc.)
- » How can the community process and facilitation be trauma-informed? (E.g. design the process to avoid (re)traumatizing participants)

Values, Principles, Laws

- » **What values, principles, or laws will be expressed through the IPCA?**
- » **What are the short- and long-term goals?**
- » **Are there other initiatives that can support this vision and that the IPCA can support in return?**
(E.g. planning processes, nearby protected areas and conservation initiatives, Indigenous Guardians, negotiations with Crown or industry, other environmental or cultural initiatives, etc.)?
- » **Are there culturally important or sensitive areas, places, habitats and/or species that need protection or restoration?**
(E.g. sacred or historical sites, harvesting areas, etc.)
- » **Which relationships need to be nurtured to achieve the protection, conservation, and restoration goals?**
(E.g. human relationships, ecological relationships, cultural relationships, intergovernmental relationships)
- » **What is important to the community(ies) and how can this be enhanced?**
(E.g. health, economic development, language, ceremony, country foods, intergenerational sharing, governance, etc.)
- » **Does access to important places need to be enhanced, restored, protected, or closed?** (E.g. trails, roads, waterways, closures, etc.)
- » **Which areas are important for upholding or demonstrating jurisdiction?**
(E.g. for the negotiation of treaties, rights recognition agreements, Aboriginal and treaty rights cases)

→ Please see the web version for linked examples and resources

Legal/Laws



Indigenous Law

- » How will Indigenous/traditional laws, structures, and processes be reflected in the establishment and implementation of your IPCA?
- » What work do you need to do to revitalize your laws? What resources can you draw upon to understand your laws (e.g. stories, language, land, Elders, songs, ceremonies etc.)?
- » If you ground your IPCA in Indigenous laws, do you want to communicate this to external parties? If so, how? What do you feel comfortable sharing?

Canadian Law

- » Will you pursue additional legal protection using federal/provincial/territorial legislation or other laws or agreements?
(E.g. international, national, provincial/territorial, municipal)

→ Please see the web version for linked examples and resources

Financing

PLANNING



Planning

» What budget do you need to establish and manage your IPCA?

(i.e. for establishment and operating costs)?

REVENUE

STREAMS

Revenue Streams

- Private/philanthropic funding
- Federal, provincial, or territorial government funding
- Trust and endowment funds
 - This type of fund generally includes an initial investment (e.g. through fundraising and private donors, Crown contributions, or own-source revenue). The income is invested by a fund manager and generates income. Typically, the organization receives the investment income while the principal (the main amount of money) is reinvested to keep growing.
- Own source revenue
 - Development projects and joint ventures
 - Carbon offsets
 - Ecosystem services fees
 - Tourism

→ Please see the web version for linked examples and resources

Governance

SOLELY INDIGENOUS



CO-GOVERNANCE

FRAMEWORKS

AND PROCESSES

- » Who will make decisions about the operations and management of the IPCA?
- » How will Indigenous governance systems inform how you establish and care for your IPCA?
(E.g. Band Council governments and hereditary leaders/traditional governance systems)
- » How will Indigenous authority and leadership be upheld in partnerships with external organizations?

Solely Indigenous

- Indigenous Nation(s), based on rights for self-governance

Co-governance

- Co-governance with the Crown, based on agreements
 - Some IPCAs have established boards with appointees who have a mandate to implement management and operational directives.

Frameworks and Processes

» Who can help come up with a plan for how decisions about the IPCA will be made?

(E.g. leaders, knowledge holders, Elders, lawyers, advisors, etc.)?

» How will decisions be made to uphold the Nation(s) and community(ies) values and objectives for the IPCA?

» How can Indigenous laws and Indigenous/traditional governance contribute to decision-making?

» How could community members, including Elders and youth, be involved in making decisions?

» How could Indigenous Guardians, as “the eyes and ears” on the ground, be involved?

» How will conflict be addressed?

» Are there cultural/traditional conflict mediation processes and protocols that can be helpful?

→ Please see the web version for linked examples and resources



Support

» What kinds of support would be helpful for establishing and caring for your IPCA?

(E.g. legal, financial/fundraising, training, operations, monitoring, purchasing land, equipment/infrastructure, stewardship, etc.)

Allies

» Who could be appropriate partners?

(E.g. Indigenous Nations and organizations, NGOs, Crown governments and agencies, universities, municipalities, etc.)

» What avenues exist for increasing understanding and support of the IPCA from neighbouring municipalities, local business owners, and the public?

» What avenues exist for increasing understanding and support for the IPCA among federal/provincial/territorial governments and agencies?

→ Please see the web version for linked examples and resources

Operations and Stewardship



Capacity

- » What skills or capacity gaps need to be addressed to support leadership and staff to take on this work?
- » Who could share knowledge, or help train people, to build this capacity?
- » Will new positions need to be created (e.g. Board Chair, IPCA Manager, Advisor, Liaison, Community Coordinator, etc.)?
 - » How could the IPCA support inter-generational knowledge sharing?

Guardians

- » How could Indigenous Guardians support the establishment and ongoing care for the IPCA?

Knowledge Systems

» **What types of knowledge will inform how you establish, or interact with, your IPCA?**

(E.g. oral history, cultural teachings, data, reports, etc.)

» **In what types of activities or processes can different knowledge systems be applied?**

(E.g. Naming/language, hiring, management directions, communications and reporting, etc.)

» **How could Indigenous language/s be strengthened through your IPCA?**

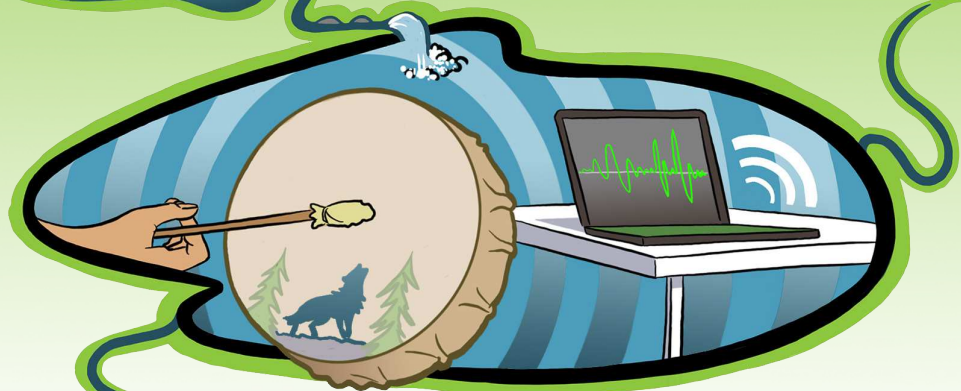
Monitoring

» **How could you measure progress towards your conservation and protection objectives?**

→ Please see the web version for linked examples and resources

Communications and Relationships

MESSAGING



NEGOTIATIONS

Messaging

» How can the IPCA vision and plans be communicated internally (at the community and Nation level) and externally (neighbouring Indigenous Nations, state governments, stakeholders, public) to gain support?

- Some Nations enter into agreements with neighbouring Nations

» How can you make a strong case for the IPCA if you're looking for partners and external support?

- » **Tip:** What benefits will the IPCA provide locally, nationally, and globally? (E.g. cultural, environmental, economic, health and well-being, etc.)
- » **Tip:** What information can you share about protection efforts, management approaches, and resources required? (E.g. ecological goods and services, sustainable economic frameworks, proposed management plans, etc.)
- » **Tip:** What reports or evidence would strengthen your case?

Negotiations

» Does it make sense to coordinate communications with ongoing or potential negotiations with Crown governments or industry?

→ Please see the web version for linked examples and resources



Designing for Success

Industry

- » How will tenures held by external companies (e.g. mining, forestry, commercial fishing, development) be addressed if they threaten the viability of the IPCA?

Private Lands

- » If applicable, how can the issue of private land ownership for or in the IPCA be addressed?

→ Please see the web version for linked examples and resources