

# Collaborative Stewardship Framework 101

Working together to steward land and natural resources in B.C.



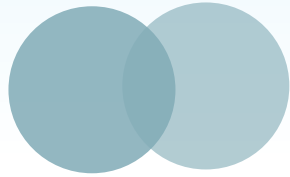
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# What is the Collaborative Stewardship Framework?

## CSF's shared vision is:

First Nations and the B.C. government as partners in the collaborative stewardship of natural resources in British Columbia.



### Partnership

Co-developed and co-implemented by First Nations and the B.C. government, the Collaborative Stewardship Framework (CSF) is British Columbia's partnership-based approach to natural resource stewardship.



### Trusted information

CSF integrates Indigenous knowledge and Western science to build a common evidence base and shared understanding of landscape-related values, risks and opportunities.



### Resource stewardship

CSF's strong partnerships and information base inform natural resource decision-making, processes, and management over time, improving stewardship of natural resources in B.C.

# Why collaborative stewardship is needed in B.C.

## Layered landscapes...

Natural resource decisions in B.C. take place in landscapes shaped by:

- Overlapping land uses
- Cumulative effects on environmental, economic, and social values and
- Long-standing Indigenous relationships with the land



## A comprehensive approach...

By bringing First Nations and the B.C. government together, along with industry and other partners at the regional level, CSF supports an approach that:

- **Looks beyond** single projects or sectors
- Focuses on shared **regional priorities over time** and
- Is centered on **government-to-government collaboration** and the inclusion of **Indigenous knowledge** alongside Western science in land and resource management

# How CSF works

## Regional forums

CSF work is delivered through **regional forums**, which are partnerships between First Nations and the B.C. government.

Each forum:

- Defines its own structure and priorities,
- Responds to regional stewardship issues, and
- Advances projects such as ecosystem monitoring, data development, and planning

Forums are **flexible and scalable**, allowing First Nations and partners to participate in ways that align with their interests, capacity, and priorities, and allow CSF to be responsive to changing needs and pressures as they arise.

## Shared governance

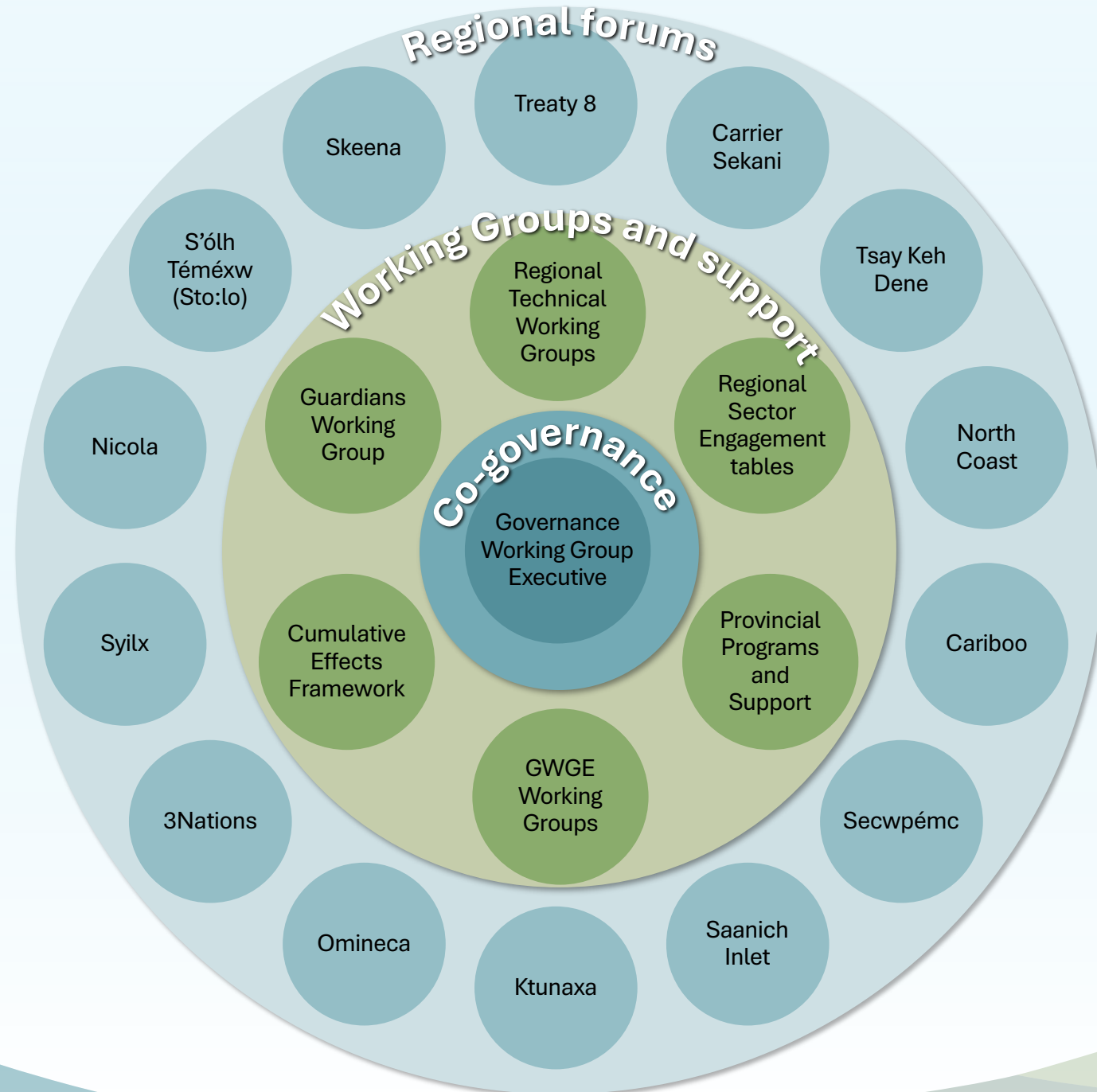
CSF is guided by a **shared governance model**, including:

- Regional leadership through forums,
- A Governance Working Group Executive with First Nations and B.C. government representation, and
- Coordination across natural resource sector ministries

# CSF structure

CSF is governed by a Governance Working Group Executive (GWGE), which provides strategic guidance and leadership to the forums and regional CSF model, and which includes First Nations and B.C. government representation.

Working groups and B.C. government programs provide further support to forums and the GWGE.



# CSF map

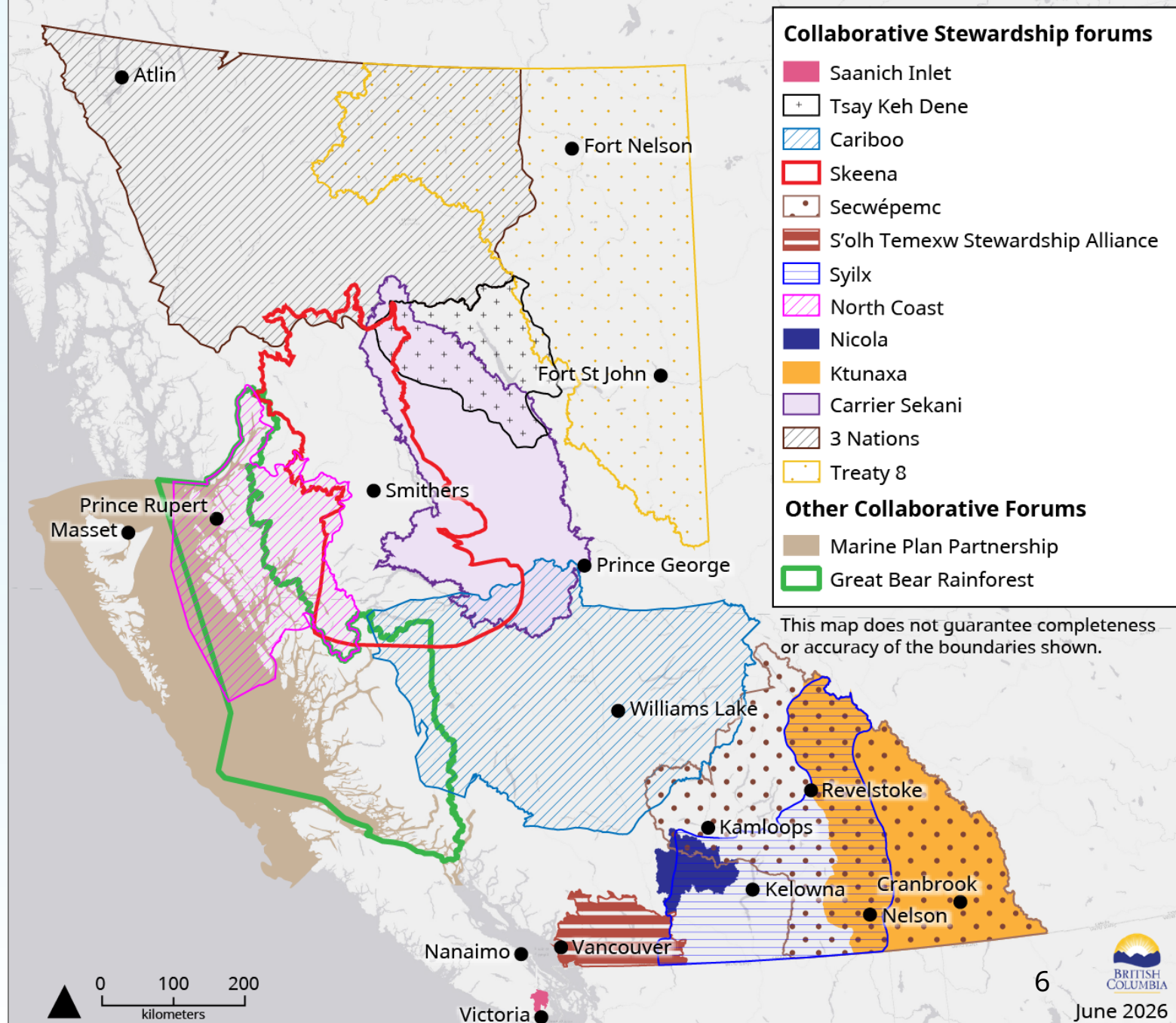
Northern forums include 3 Nations and Treaty 8.

Forums in central B.C. include Carrier Sekani, Skeena, Tsay Keh Dene, and Cariboo.

Much of coastal and marine B.C. is covered by the North Coast forum, as well as the other collaborative forums (Great Bear Rainforest and Marine Plan Partnership).

In the south of B.C. are: S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance, Nicola, Syilx, Secwépemc, and Ktunaxa.

## Collaborative Stewardship Framework forums



# CSF's scope

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## CSF does...

- ✓ Support **ongoing regional collaboration** through standing partnership tables (forums)
- ✓ Develop **trusted data and information** to inform stewardship discussions
- ✓ Strengthen **relationships and coordination** across sectors and regions
- ✓ Work alongside B.C.'s **Cumulative Effects Framework** to understand pressures and trends across landscapes

## CSF does not...

- ✗ **Does not** replace regulatory or consultation processes
- ✗ **Does not** make or dictate permitting or approval decisions
- ✗ **Does not** determine Indigenous rights or title
- ✗ **Does not** change existing legal authorities

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CSF does not create new approval requirements. Rather, it strengthens natural resource decision-making by improving information, coordination, and relationships.

# CSF supporting reconciliation in practice

Reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia is important work. CSF provides a practical partnership model demonstrating that reconciliation is not a barrier to growth; it is the path to it.

CSF:

- Is **co-developed and co-delivered** with First Nations
- Supports **government-to-government relationships**
- Advances **shared stewardship responsibilities** and
- Delivers on **Action 2.6 of B.C.'s Declaration Act Action Plan**, which calls for co-developed approaches to collaborative stewardship that address cumulative effects and respect Indigenous knowledge

CSF recognizes reconciliation as an **ongoing journey** that requires **long-term commitment, trust-building** and **continuous learning**.

# CSF strengthening B.C.'s natural resource sector

Through its **collaborative, regional, holistic approach**, CSF contributes to a natural resource sector that is:



## **More efficient**

Discussions on recurrent stewardship issues occur at coordinated regional tables, rather than repeatedly through fragmented processes.



## **More resilient**

Regional conversations improve understanding of cumulative pressures and support adaptive management.



## **Better prepared**

When issues arise, forum tables can respond since relationships and shared context are already in place.



## **Better aligned**

Stewardship discussions are grounded in long-term environmental, cultural, social, and economic values.

# Examples of CSF forum outputs

These are a few examples of the types of activities and products delivered by CSF forums...

## **1. Cumulative effects assessments**

Assessing how multiple activities together affect environmental, cultural, and social values over time.

## **2. Guardians programs**

Nation-led stewardship programs supporting on-the-ground monitoring, education, land and water care.

## **3. Water governance**

Collaborative planning and oversight to protect water quality, quantity, and aquatic ecosystems.

## **4. Land use and forest landscape planning**

Supporting the development of long-term plans to balance forestry, ecosystem, community, and cultural values across landscapes.

## **5. Marine and estuary management**

Coordinated management of coastal and estuary areas to support ecosystems, economies, and uses.

## **6. Cultural values integration**

Incorporating place-based cultural knowledge and values into planning and management processes.

## **7. Data systems development**

Building shared, reliable data tools to support planning, assessment, and transparent decision-making.

## **8. Governance capacity-building**

Strengthening organizing bodies, processes, and skills to support effective, collaborative stewardship.

## **9. Restoration planning**

Identifying priorities and actions to restore ecosystems affected by past or ongoing disturbance.

## **10. Wildlife stewardship, monitoring, and recovery**

Supporting species health through monitoring, habitat protection and coordinated recovery actions.

# Learn more...

Visit [gov.bc.ca/CollaborativeStewardshipFramework](https://gov.bc.ca/CollaborativeStewardshipFramework) for more information

You can also reach us at:  
[CSF@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CSF@gov.bc.ca)

