



ALASKA NATIVE RESILIENCE CIRCLES

2023 IMPACT REPORT





**INVESTING IN
ALASKA NATIVE
RESILIENCE &
INNOVATION**

ALASKA NATIVE CONTEXT

We are 241,797+ Indigenous peoples of Alaska.

Our traditional lands are 2.5X the size of Texas.

After 10,000+ years of Indigenous stewardship, 23.6% of our state population is still Indigenous.

Yet less than 2% of our traditional homelands are still in Native hands.

Over the past 300 years, extraction of gold, timber, and fish brought waves of colonizers who criminalized, displaced and traumatized our communities.



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

After three years of development we are deeply humbled to share this breakthrough solution in the Indigenous movement for healing and regenerative economies. The first Resilience Circle cohort of ten Southeast Alaska Native owned businesses has been selected and begins their journey together in March, 2024.

We are filled with hope as the Resilience Circles project harnesses local Indigenous expertise, trauma-informed practice, business ecosystems, and impact capital for transformative investments in Alaska Native-led innovation and community wellbeing.

Enjoy reading our 2023 Impact Report and join us in this movement for Indigenous economic wellbeing.



Alexis Buntun PhD
(Yupik)

JumpScale Partner
Indigenous Economics



Lisa Nelson
(Tlingit/Eyak)

Director,
Resilience Circles
Community Wellbeing



Alana Peterson
(Tlingit)

Executive Director,
Spruce Root
Alaska Native Innovation

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

The background features a large, stylized leaf pattern in shades of gray on the left side. On the right side, there is a prominent circular graphic with a black center, surrounded by concentric rings of teal, yellow, and red, all set against a white background.

4 project team members recruited and hired

10 Alaska Native-led companies nominated, interviewed, and selected for the pilot cohort

7 day Learning Journey for partners and funders

12+ impact measurement tools included in an Indigenous economic wellbeing framework

\$700K invested in Resilience Circles

SOUTHEAST ALASKA IN FOCUS

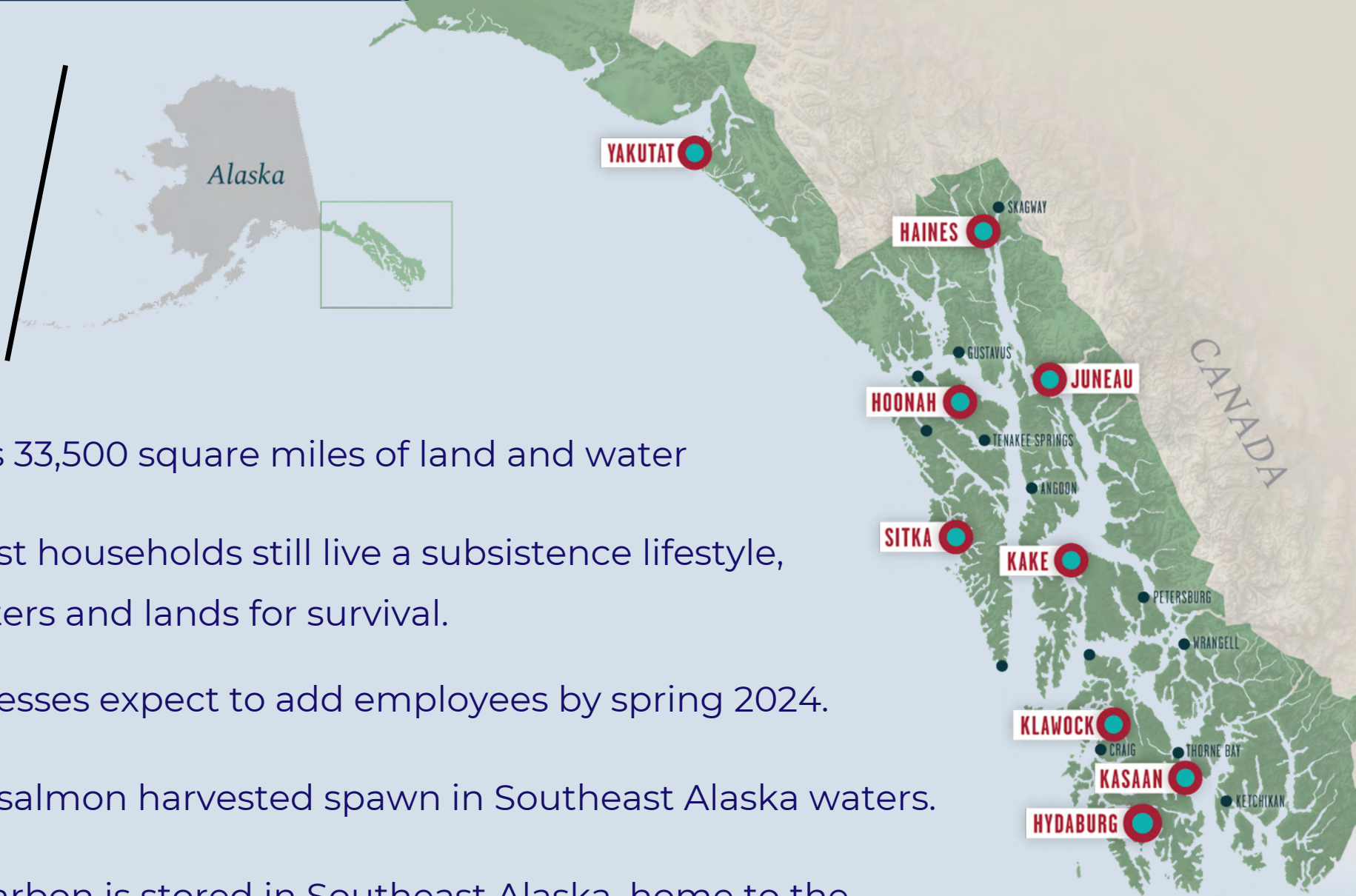
34 communities across 33,500 square miles of land and water

90% of rural Southeast households still live a subsistence lifestyle, and rely on traditional waters and lands for survival.

30% of regional businesses expect to add employees by spring 2024.

25% of all West Coast salmon harvested spawn in Southeast Alaska waters.

8% of total US forest carbon is stored in Southeast Alaska, home to the largest temperate rainforest in the world.



RESILIENCE CIRCLE 2024 COHORT



CIRCLE

The 10 Southeast Alaska Native businesses selected will move together through a powerful 12-month cultural wellbeing, business accelerator program designed to improve wellbeing for employees and families throughout the community.



A close-up photograph of a person with a beard, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, focused on working on a wooden boat hull. The person is using a tool to shape the wood. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the texture of the wood and the person's concentration.

A TRAUMA-INFORMED CULTURAL APPROACH

Each Southeast Alaska Native business receives:

- **Skill building to address collective trauma in our communities.**
- **Culturally tailored well-being capacity-building services embedded within a business growth accelerator.**
- **Customized support with local cultural bearers, traditional and conventional health practitioners, business mentors, and coaches.**



INDIGENOUS-LED IMPACT EVALUATION

Sharnel Vale-Jones Yaagál now leads our culturally grounded Resilience Circle outcome evaluation. Sharnel's clinical work and research focuses on intergenerational trauma and resiliency strategies for Alaska Native and Indigenous people.

Sharnel is Lingít from Yakutat, Alaska, belonging to Kwaashk'IKwáan (Raven, Humpy Salmon) Dis hítdaxáyáxat (Moon house), and she holds an M.S. in Clinical Psychology and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Clinical-Community Psychology at University of Alaska Anchorage. .

RESILIENCE CIRCLES IMPACT EVALUATION MODEL



Building on the Working Model the impact evaluation model for Resilience Circles uses a multi-domain approach to allow for a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of resilience. It highlights the synergistic potential of interventions across different ecological levels and emphasizes the importance of a coordinated holistic approach in resilience-building initiatives.

ANTICIPATED COMMUNITY IMPACTS

KEY IMPACTS

Improved well-being of employees and families

Increased team performance

Reduced burnout and workplace stress



2024

20 Native Leaders

60 Employees

300 Family members



2025-2026

60 Native Leaders

180 Employees

1000 family members

3000 community members



2027+

100 Native Leaders

300 Employees

1500 family members

5000 community members



REGIONAL IMPACTS

Resilience Circles are nested within a potent coalition of The Sustainable Southeast Partnership and SeaCoast Trust. This will support a ripple effect of impact on the economic wellbeing of Alaska Natives who are innovating in key regenerative sectors:

- Regenerative tourism
- Eco hospitality
- Indigenous Arts
- Kelp farming
- Natural CPG
- Cleantech
- Sustainable Fisheries



AN INVITATION

Become a partner in scaling the impact and health of Alaska Native-led regenerative enterprises that enhance ecological and community well-being.



JOIN OUR PARTNERS

SEALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION

NATURE CONSERVANCY

RASMUSON FOUNDATION

EDGERTON FOUNDATION

WELLBEING TRUST FOUNDATION

ONE SMALL PLANET FOUNDATION

GEOFAMILY FOUNDATION

2024 RESILIENCE CIRCLES

FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1.3M





JOIN THE 2024 LEARNING JOURNEY FOR PARTNERS

In June 2023 we hosted a week long Alaska Native Learning Journey for 15 partners and funders. As one participant who directs a National Foundation described:

“The learning journey was a fantastic way to gain a deeper understanding of the current reality of the community, culture, land, sea, and people, and how so many of us can come together to support building a resilient society.”



RSVP now for July 2024



**WE ARE RESILIENT
TOGETHER.**

**CONTACT US
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