



Coast Forest Conservation Initiative

APRIL 2002

Photo: Typical shoreline old-growth forest in the Central Coast of BC.



Background of the Central Coast agreement

The Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) is an initiative of a group of coastal BC forest companies committed to new approaches to forest conservation issues on the BC coast. The objective of the initiative is to support development of plans for conservation and management of coastal forests still containing large areas of pristine old growth that can be credible both locally and globally.

"The future of our sector now depends on the ability of all the different parties involved to support an industry that is productive, competitive and widely recognized as an environmental leader," says Linda Coady, Vice President, BC Coastal Group of Weyerhaeuser, speaking on behalf of the CFCI companies.

The companies involved in the CFCI are Canadian Forest Products, International Forest Products, NorskeCanada, Western Forest Products, and Weyerhaeuser. CFCI companies are working with environmental groups in a special project known as the Joint Solutions Project aimed at reducing conflict over coastal forests by introducing new ideas on forest conservation and management issues. The environmental groups involved with the Joint Solutions Project are Greenpeace Canada, the Sierra Club of BC, ForestEthics and the Rainforest Action Network.

Provincial government pledges ongoing support for planning

Last year, the provincial government, together with CFCI companies, coastal communities, First Nations and environmental groups, endorsed the Interim Land Use Plan for the Central Coast. This was an historic agreement that provided the framework for what could become one of the largest conservation initiatives in North America.

"The framework has been developed to complete land use plans on the BC coast," says Linda Coady, Vice President, BC Coastal Group of Weyerhaeuser. "It represents a new approach to conservation and sustainable management, both in BC and elsewhere in the world."

With the change in government, all eyes were on BC Sustainable Resource Management Minister Stan Hagen, to see whether the Liberal regime would support the agreement and follow through with finalizing land-use designations and detailed planning for the region.

On November 15, 2001, Minister Hagan made the announcement that project members were waiting for: He not only announced the Liberal government's endorsement of the interim land use plan in BC's Central Coast region, but confirmed the government's intent to see that the work will be continued, built upon, and completed.

"Today the government has renewed its commitment to move forward to ensure greater conservation of British Columbia's rainforests and sustainability of coastal communities," said Merran Smith, Director of the BC Coastal Program for Forest Ethics, in a November press release. "We have outstanding concerns about the process as currently designed. However, we are hopeful that the process will be transparent, scientifically rigorous and stand up to international

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Photo: Khutze Inlet new protection area in the Central Coast of BC.

Government support (cont'd from page 1)

scrutiny, as well as continuing the conservation and sustainability initiative that all parties have been working on."

The interim land-use plan designated three types of zones in the region: protection areas (603,000 hectares) in addition to the existing 393,000 hectares of protection areas where industrial development is not allowed; option areas (537,000 hectares) where logging is deferred until an ecosystem-based management plan is developed; and special management zones, where visual quality is a critical value for tourism. Following are the key points in the plan:

- × Creation of more than 20 large protected areas, bringing the total area protected for the region to approximately one million hectares or 20 percent of the region;
- × Harvesting deferrals for 12 to 24 months in a further 11 percent of the region pending implementation of ecosystem-based management framework and completion of the plan;
- × A commitment by all parties to ecosystem-based planning and management at the regional level, including the creation of a team of scientists as well as specialists with local and traditional knowledge to provide information to inform land use planning processes on the Central Coast, the North Coast and Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Island; and

- × A special Protocol Agreement between the BC government and First Nations on the Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands that means that processes for completion of land use plans in all three areas are jointly mandated by the BC government and local First Nations.

This outcome is the culmination of many planning sessions and much hard work by First Nations, coastal stakeholders, the provincial government and the Joint Solutions Project. Aimed at introducing new ideas on forest conservation and management issues, the multi-interest planning processes involved input from forest companies, environmentalists, logging contractors, forest workers, local communities and First Nations.

Now, with ongoing support from the provincial government, the Central Coast planning process moves into Phase II. Campbell River Mayor Jim Lornie has been appointed to chair the completion table, and will be accountable to the Minister and the table for ensuring the process is completed in an efficient and timely fashion. As well, a planning table for the North Coast is underway, and one is expected to be launched for Haida Gwaii.

How do we define ecosystem-based management?

The methodology for developing and implementing ecosystem-based management (EBM) consists of scientific analysis and assessment of ecosystems and human needs and activities informed by existing data and local and traditional knowledge. This leads to development of options and scenarios expressed on maps that will inform decision-making by the land use planning tables.

The end product - if everything goes as planned - will be a system of protection areas, areas for production of commodities such as timber, and tools for monitoring and adapting the plan as a result of learning. The EBM plan will not be static in the way it is expressed and implemented over time.

The CIT region comprises three sub-regions:

- ✗ Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii (1.0 million ha)
- ✗ North Coast (2.0 million ha)
- ✗ Central Coast (4.8 million ha)

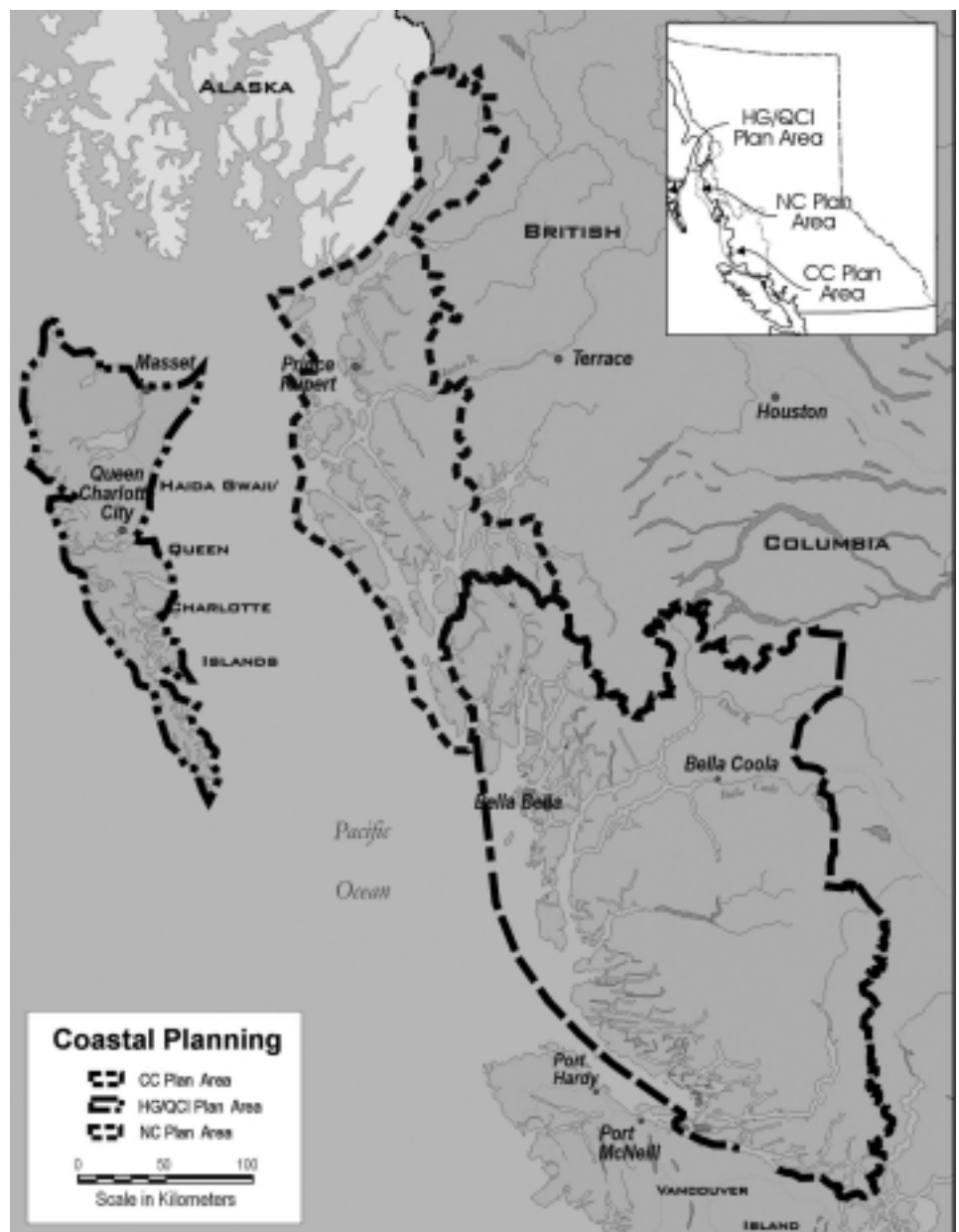
Development of EBM has begun with regional/sub-regional analysis and assessment:

- ✗ Ecosystem spatial analysis mapping
 1. representation of ecosystem types,
 2. protection of special elements;
 3. conservation of focal species; and
 4. maintenance of major genetic variations.
- ✗ Human spatial analysis including socio-economic parameters and limits, community condition, business opportunities, cultural aspirations, vulnerabilities, etc. Note: this is cutting edge analysis and will mirror the ecosystem analysis and be combined with it.
- ✗ Wellbeing assessment to determine how on a scale ranging from bad to good the ecosystem and human system are doing.

- ✗ Development of options and scenarios.
- ✗ The Gitga'at and Kitsoo Pilot Projects designed to test EBM at an operational scale.
- ✗ Development of a Riparian Decision Tool to assist managers to improve conservation of ecosystem elements associated with streams, lakes and wetlands.

Agreed upon definition:

This is a strategic approach to managing human activities that seeks to ensure the co-existence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities. The intent is to maintain those spatial and temporal characteristics and processes of whole ecosystems such that component species and human social, economic and cultural activities can be sustained.





Marketplace update: Europe

The German paper industry imports about 800,000 tons of pulp from Canada, nearly half of it comes from BC. Using its position as a large customer, the German paper industry threatened to suspend contracts unless the BC forest industry took action to pursue eco-based forest management practices in the Central and North Coast of the province.

Now that the process is well underway, and government support has been secured, how does the German Pulp & Paper Association (VDP) feel about the issue? We went to VDP chairman Dr. Georg Holzhey for answers to our questions.

How does the VDP view the progress on ecosystem-based management in BC?

“The VDP - representing a major customer group - very much appreciates the recent developments in BC forestry. This trend meets the requirements of the paper customers to provide the consumer with paper based on ecologically unobjectionable raw materials.”

How important is this issue to the European market?

“Despite the fact that the general eco-debate is in decline, European paper customers still give high priority to the ecological impact of paper consumption.”

How do you feel about how serious the BC forest industry is on this issue?

“By starting the Joint Solution Project the BC forest industry has taken an extraordinary step forward. The public has noticed this widely. A failure would cause serious damage to the image of all, so the partners involved have to adhere to the solution process.”

To what extent do you think BC forest companies are serving as an example to the world?

“For the first time the forest industry has engaged in a long-term co-operation with major ENGOs. After a long period of confrontation the new kind of co-operation should be the model for how diverging interest of economy and ecology should be merged in future.”

How confident are you that a resolution will be found that will meet industry expectations?

“Only if a resolution is supported by all partners involved can it be communicated to the markets. Acceptance of products in the markets is one of the most important needs of the industry”.

Photo: German journalists and customers (VDP) tour the Central and North Coast with representatives of CFCI companies and Greenpeace in the summer of 2001.



Photo: Orca whales are among the many species dependent on ecological wellbeing in BC's coastal regions.

Marketplace update: North America

The North American marketplace is extremely important to BC's forest industry. To get the North American perspective, we looked to the Certified Forest Products Council (CFPC), whose mission is to promote forest certification as a tool to conserve, protect and restore the world's forests. CFPC president and CEO David Ford answers our questions:

How do you view the progress on ecosystem-based management in BC?

"From our perspective, it's been very encouraging to see the progress that's been made through the CFCI process. It's a great example of getting everyone to the table and working together in a collaborative way."

How important is the process to the North American market?

"Issues around responsible consumption, illegal logging, high conservation value forest management, appropriate use of wood, and how are we using those forest based products are all issues that the North American marketplace is taking seriously. As well, the North American marketplace is catching up to Europe in what role it can play in influencing high conservation value forest man-

agement. The CFCI sets a good tone for us as they sit down and communicate and cooperate in good faith."

How do you feel about the conflict resolution process?

"We've looked at the CFCI process and there's a lot we can adapt from that for North America. Seeing that things can move forward in a collaborative process encourages us that we can apply that collaborative process here. Traditionally environmental interests have wanted to tell companies what to do; it's better to have collaboration, where you look at each other's goals. That's what leads to a solution that will represent every party's needs."

How are the markets responding?

"The retailers I've talked to have been very encouraged. When someone who is buying a forest product hears concerns from their customer base, they need to look to their suppliers to provide assurance that forests are being well managed. The danger is that, if assurance can't be provided, the buyer might go to non-wood products because they are less controversial. So it's incumbent upon the various interests to look at the

concerns of publishers and retailers, to provide better communication links, and to assure them that the issues will be dealt with. And that's what we see happening with the CFCI process."

To what extent is the North American industry watching the results of this groundbreaking work in BC?

The industry is not only watching it, but beginning to contemplate how we can utilize some of the lessons learned in the process and replicate it elsewhere. Each debate has its own elements and qualities, and the industry is watching closely to see how the participants can move forward in a collaborative discussion around some very challenging issues. There are environmental bodies that are also looking at this with interest.



Independent science to combine with local and traditional knowledge

The CIT will be looking at the human dimensions of ecosystem-based forest management, evaluating the condition of people and environment together.

The Coast Information Team (CIT) has been established through a joint agreement by government and the JSP, each of whom has contributed \$500,000 to the team. A five-person management committee co-chaired by the province and First Nations has been created. The management committee includes representatives from industry (Rick Jeffery), ENGOs (Jody Holmes), and communities (Graham Wells).

The team will help develop recommendations on the best ecosystem-based approach to natural resource management and planning on the Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii.

The five CFCI companies and the four environmental groups involved in the Joint Solutions Project will provide \$500,000 in funding for the CIT in 2002. The BC government will provide an additional \$500,000 for a total of \$1 million in funding for the new team.

"Coastal forest companies must work with government and other interests to ensure that public investment will be matched by the private sector," says Linda Coady, Vice President, BC Coastal Group of Weyerhaeuser. "This is a complex initiative involving a number of parties that will occur over a

period of time. It is therefore important that it be framed from the outset as a public-private partnership."

The CIT Management Committee will assume overall management for the team. The committee's key responsibilities are to finalize a general terms of reference, work-plan and budget for the CIT; prioritize information development projects; approve terms of reference for projects; and communicate project results to the Land Use Planning tables

Noted writer and sustainable development consultant Robert Prescott-Allen has been retained by the CIT management committee to act as executive director.

"The CIT will recommend a framework that reflects the definition, principles and goals of ecosystem-based management," says Prescott-Allen. "The framework will include methodology that weaves western science together with traditional knowledge, as well as economic, social and community transition factors."

North America's ranking conservation biologist Reed Noss, and sociologist Dr. Robert Lee have collaborated with Robert Prescott-Allen and other specialists to develop a spatial analysis and regional/sub-re-

gional assessment process that covers the ecosystem and human dimensions of ecosystem-based management.

"The human spatial analysis is cutting edge research," says Prescott-Allen. "It involves looking at areas of importance for cultural value and economic gain. Another cutting-edge component is our wellbeing assessment. It's a way of evaluating the condition of people and environment together."

The CIT is not a decision-making body, a forum in which land use planning or negotiations take place, or a forum where social choices are to be made. Its mandate is to bring together the best available scientific, traditional and local knowledge, environmental expertise and community experience to develop information and analyses to present to the three planning tables.

The team will conduct regional and sub-regional analyses to provide ecological and socio-economic context for planning. It will also support pilot projects that are currently investigating applications of ecosystem-based management and planning, such as the Kitsoo and Gitga'at pilot projects.



Photo: Using helicopters reduces the environmental impact of harvesting.

Introduction to some members of the CIT

- ✕ Robert Prescott-Allen is an independent consultant and writer on sustainable development. Since 1993 Prescott-Allen has specialized in assessing wellbeing and sustainability. He has strong practical experience in assessment at international, national and local levels, and in training others to design and conduct their own assessments. Among his many significant achievements is the Barometer of Sustainability, a graphic method which he devised that combines indicators and displays the results. The barometer is the only performance scale designed to measure human and ecosystem wellbeing together, without submerging one in the other. It has been used at the community level in India, Nicaragua, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the "ecozone" level in Manitoba, the provincial level in British Columbia, and internationally in The Wellbeing of Nations.
 - ✕ Reed Noss, Ph.D., is Co-Executive Director of the Conservation Biology Institute, an international consultant in conservation, a courtesy professor at Oregon State University and Science Editor for Wild Earth magazine. He has published more than 140 scientific papers as well as two books: *Saving Nature's Legacy*, co-authored by Allen Cooperrider (1994, Island Press), which won the 1995 annual publication award of the Natural Resources Council of America; and *The Science of Conservation Planning*, co-authored by Michael O'Connell and Dennis Murphy (1997, Island Press). He is presently editing books on redwood forests and ecological integrity.
 - ✕ Robert G. Lee, Ph.D. specializes in bio-social analysis (the interaction of human societies and their natural environments). His work focuses on the study of rural resource producing communities, institutionalization of ecological processes, organizational learning for adaptive management, and the relationships between social and environmental ethics. He has 32 years of experience in teaching, research and consultation involving the integration of sociology, anthropology, and systems ecology. He has managed research contracts totaling over 3.5 million dollars, published over 100 papers, and authored or edited two books.
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Photo: Central Coast Land and Resource Management Planning (CCLRMP) participants in Bella Coola (circa 2000).

The zones of the Central Coast

The Central Coast region of BC is an area of about 5 million hectares of temperate rain-forest, fjords, inlets, islands, mountains and glaciers. Its boundaries are Bute Inlet in the south and Butedale in the north. There are three zone designations in the Central Coast:

Protection areas (603,000 hectares):

The new agreement sets aside new protection areas in which industrial development such as logging and mining will not be allowed. These are in addition to the existing 393,000 hectares that are currently designated protection areas. One of the most recognized of the new protection areas is Princess Royal Island, which will be known as

the Spirit Bear Protection Area. The area offers 1,000 square kilometres of habitat for the Kermode bear.

Option areas (537,000 hectares):

In these areas logging operations are deferred for 12 to 24 months while an ecosystem-based plan for the region is developed. Future agreements will spell out the nature and location of commercial enterprises.

Special management zones:

These are areas that have tourism value. Commercial activities such as sustainable forestry will be carried out in ways that protect the visual quality of the area.



Coast Forest Conservation Initiative

For more information on the coast Forest Conservation Initiative, please contact the CFCI at:

www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com

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