

Backgrounder

EBM Implementation

There is a five-year target for fully implementing EBM in the Central and North Coast. The first steps include improving knowledge, training and skills development for professional staff and loggers, learning through on-the-ground experience, teamwork and investing in change.

Knowledge

EBM requires deep knowledge about the ecological, economic, and social values of ecosystems. It also requires careful interpretation of information to understand what EBM means in practice in specific areas. CFCI has relied extensively on outside specialists to improve the EBM knowledge base, including:

- Dr. Terry Lewis, Soils and Forest Ecology, member Clayoquot Sound Science Panel
- Stephen Northway, Economist
- Bryce Bancroft, MRM, RPBio, EBM Training
- Shannon Janzen RPF, CFCI EBM Implementation Manager
- Jim Hackett, MSc, RPF, Forest Economist
- Dr. Tom Watson, RPBio, Senior Environmental Scientist
- Laurie Kremsater, M.Sc Forest Wildlife Ecologist, member Clayoquot Sound Science Panel
- Don Davis, GIS Analyst
- Glen Dunsworth MSc, Conservation Biologist
- Ken Zielke, RPF, EBM Training
- Dr. Bill Bourgeois, RPF, Forest Soils, CFCI Project Manager
- Glynnis Horel. M.SC., P.ENG, Forest Engineering and watershed assessment
- Dr. Edwin Blewett, Economist
- Mark Gaboury, MSc, Senior Fisheries Biologist
- Bob Green, MSc, RPBio, RPF, Ecologist
- Shayne Boelk, RPF, Consulting Forester

One Hundred People Trained

The transition to EBM means doing things differently: planning differently, managing differently, and logging differently. CFCI has held workshops to train over 100 professional staff responsible for planning and managing forestry operations in the region. Logging crews are also being trained in new techniques that allow them to protect ecosystem values while doing their work safely and cost effectively.

Learning through experience

It has been said that EBM is a process not an event. It's all about learning through experience-or, as the scientists say, it's an adaptive way of doing things. This means that as specialists and loggers implement EBM they will make strategic and operational changes based on what they are learning. CFCI's implementation program is founded on this idea of learning through experience and always being ready to adapt to change in a dynamic environment.

Teamwork

The consensus agreements on the Central and North Coast led to adoption of the EBM Handbook. This guide to implementing EBM was provided by the Coast Information Team, an independent group of specialists commissioned to inform conservation and development in the region. One of the foundations of EBM as expressed by the handbook is teamwork:

“Engaging local community representatives and stakeholders explicitly in developing locally relevant goals and objectives, in making land and resource decisions, and in formulating and implementing strategies and plans that seek to improve family and local community well-being and economic health,” *CIT, 2004 Ecosystem-Based Management Handbook*.

CFCI is participating along with the Province, First Nations, environmental groups, local communities and labour in informal planning of the implementation of EBM. Once ratified it is anticipated the land use plans will include a formal mechanism for multi-party implementation of EBM.

Investment

Since early 2004 CFCI companies have invested approximately one million dollars in EBM implementation. This is in addition to the \$3.2 million invested by companies, environmental groups, the province and the federal government in independent science (Coast Information Team) used to inform development of EBM.

The Province has pledged \$30 million to conservation and economic development initiatives in the Central and North Coast. And private investors have been exploring innovative investment opportunities with the Province, First Nations, local communities and business interests.