

2015 Impact Report

The **Clayoquot Biosphere Trust** stands on two pillars: we are both a biosphere reserve and a community foundation. As the only organization in Canada that encompasses both of these internationally recognized mandates, we are able to see the opportunities and challenges in our region through a unique lens.

The CBT supports the work of many organizations and communities in the region through our grant programs, while also delivering our own programs and regional initiatives. On behalf of the CBT Board of Directors, we are pleased to share our 2015 highlights.

Tammy Dorward and Cathy Thicke
CBT Co-chairs

Our Biosphere Reserve

Biosphere Reserve Research Award

The CBT is pleased to announce the Pacific Wildlife Foundation as the inaugural recipient of the 2015 CBT \$20,000 Research Award for their research on gray whale societies. Dr. Jim Darling, the principal investigator for the project, will use the research funds to analyze over 40 years of local gray whale sightings and 20 years of DNA samples to further develop his theory on gray whale social structure. Supporting scientific research is a key objective of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program and we are especially proud of the calibre of research conducted by our local scientists and researchers.

*Biosphere reserves inspire a positive future
by connecting people and nature today.*

Biosphere Centre

The CBT is working to establish a permanent Biosphere Centre in the region. The building will be more than an office location for the CBT — it will be a place of sharing and learning in and for the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve region. In 2015, the CBT worked with local communities to evaluate potential locations for the centre and determined that the building would operate as a social enterprise. We are now in the process of conducting a feasibility study.

Sydney Inlet Remote Listening Station

Our first soundscape ecology project continues to expand with exciting new discoveries. Over the last 10 months, we've gathered nearly 1,000 hours of recorded sounds from the Sydney Inlet Remote Listening Station. Local wildlife enthusiasts Adrian Dorst, Jim Darling, Katherine Carey, and Rachel Myers have each contributed approximately 25 hours of listening time, and the recordings have documented 32 species of birds, 10 separate late-night "spouts" from marine mammals, seasonal shifts in the dawn songbird chorus, and numerous mystery sounds.

The project also provides an opportunity for ecological monitoring via the soundscape. For example, soundscape recordings from July to August captured the post-dusk and pre-dawn flight patterns of marbled murrelets returning to their nesting sites in the upper Sydney River watershed. We recently used this information to support the need for the inclusion of spatially designated marbled murrelet reserves in the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources threatened species recovery plan. Within the next year, we'll be working with the director of the UNESCO Biosphere Soundscape Project, Dr. Leah Barclay, to host sound recording workshops and soundscape ecology master classes in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.



CBT summer student Katherine Carey helping to set up the Sydney Inlet remote listening station in July 2015.

Living Wage

In 2015, the CBT produced its first Living Wage Report as a part of our research program. The living wage was calculated as \$19.27/hour for the entire Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve region. We are proud to bring this unique tool to communities to help inform conversations on affordability, health, and quality of life. This calculation helps us better understand the unique context of the west coast in relation to other places on Vancouver Island, in British Columbia, and in Canada, and also allows us to track changes over time. We can compare this living wage to the provincial minimum wage, thresholds for government benefits, and the cost of inflation to understand what is required to make ends meet in our region.

Engaging Internationally

In May, co-chairs Tammy Dorward and Cathy Thicke headed to Haapsalu, Estonia for the EuroMAB 2015 conference. EuroMAB is a network of nearly 300 European and North American biosphere reserves that are part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme. Our representatives had an opportunity to collaborate with peers from the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region and the West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve to lead a workshop called Cultural Heritage and Indigenous Knowledge within Biosphere Reserves. Working together, we considered how indigenous protocols, practices, and ways of knowing can be better honoured and integrated into biosphere reserve management and project development.



Canadian and Estonian delegates at EuroMAB 2015.

Our Vision

The community of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Region will live sustainably in a healthy ecosystem, with a diversified economy, and strong, vibrant and united cultures while embracing the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations "living" philosophies of iisaak (living respectfully), qwa' aak qin teechemis (life in the balance), and hishuk ish ts'awalk (everything is one and interconnected).

Your Community Foundation

Neighbourhood Small Grants

We launched our new Neighbourhood Small Grants Program based on a simple but powerful idea: when people feel a sense of connection and belonging to their neighbourhood, they are more likely to be engaged in activities that make it a better place to live. These small grants of \$50 to \$500 helped connect and engage residents in their community by encouraging them to develop their own ideas for how their neighbourhood can be strengthened. We invited projects that shared skills and knowledge among residents, built a sense of community ownership and pride, and celebrated diversity. We were proud to fund 12 projects with the help of our partners the Vancouver Foundation and the Westcoast Community Resource Society.

Higher Education Endowment Fund

When Cathy Thicke completed her Master of Arts in Tourism Management in 2011 she became a champion for higher learning in our communities. Her thesis explored the feasibility of a higher learning centre in Tofino by building partnerships that bring educational opportunities closer to home. This idea continues to gain momentum as local communities and organizations work to distinguish the region as an education destination. In 2015, Cathy built on this idea by creating the Higher Education Endowment Fund at the CBT. Cathy and Steven Thicke created the fund with a \$1,000 donation. Cathy's goal is to create a permanent stream of funding to support higher learning in our region. Cathy invites others to join her in building this fund by making a contribution to the CBT.

We Thank our Supporters

Our 2015 donors join a group of committed funders who invest in our region through their donations, grants for our programs, or in-kind contributions. Sincere thanks to all our supporters, past and present.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Allison Tremain | Cermaq Canada |
| Anonymous | Decoda Literacy Foundation |
| Barney and Trina Williams | District of Tofino |
| Ben Bernstein | Evergreen |
| Brooke Wood and Miles Steven | Tofino Consumer Cooperative |
| Catherine and Steven Thicke | Vancouver Foundation |
| Rebecca and Dave Hurwitz | Vancouver Island Health Authority |
| | Westcoast Aquatic Management Society |

A founding contribution from the Government of Canada has offered support to the CBT since our beginning in 2000. We are grateful for their investment in our communities through the gift of a \$12 million endowment fund. This support continues to shape our achievements.



Cultural advisor Barney Williams sharing his knowledge with Rebecca Hurwitz, executive director of the CBT.

Create Your Own Legacy

With the CBT, it's possible to give back to your community now and leave a legacy for the future as well. We can work with you to set up a personalized endowment fund dedicated to your goals whether it's supporting youth, health, or arts in the community; sharing your passion for education; or investing in the vibrancy of our environment. Donors choose the CBT as an alternative to setting up a private foundation because of our connections to the community, and because it's easier administratively. You can then focus on the most fulfilling part — giving.

Contact the CBT to learn more about how we can help you as a community foundation and how your gift will give back for years to come. Gifts can be made in many ways, including one-time cash donations, but also multi-year pledges and gifts make through estate planning such as bequests and life insurance policies.

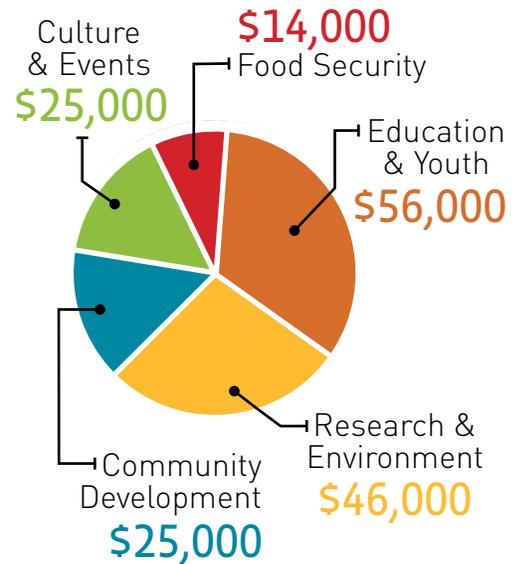
For more information please contact CBT staff at 250.725.2219.

CBT's fully audited financial statements are available on our website at: <http://www.clayoquotbiosphere.org/web/who-we-are/documents/>
Registered Charity Registration #870641727 RR0001

Interested in knowing more?

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- www.clayoquotbiosphere.org

2015 by the Numbers



3 **NEW** grant programs =
14 **NEW** grants awarded



\$18,000

in scholarships

\$72,000

in-kind contributions
leveraged by grants



\$20,000

1 inaugural Biosphere
Reserve Research Award

