

October 15, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to affirm our support for the continued designation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region, established in 2000. Our region has worked together for the past decade to advance the objectives of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program.

As a partner of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT), WildSafeBC has been able to collaborate with them and other partners on achieving the objectives of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and reconciliation. This has been accomplished by co-leading sustainable development and biodiversity conservation projects; participating in programs and events that develop cross-cultural understanding and advance reconciliation; and participating in networks to enhance communication and coordination. The following examples describe CBT activities that WildSafeBC has been involved with:

- CBT co-led and facilitated the development of Terms of Reference for the lisaak Sin Hay Tiic?mis Regional Wildlife Co-existence Network
- CBT facilitated establishment of the Indigenous-led West Coast Stewardship Corridor and is on the steering committee
- CBT partnered with the Ucluelet and Toquaht First Nations to establish the Hitacu-Macoah WildSafeBC Program. This program is the first Indigenous-led WildSafeBC Program in the province and sets the stage for further programs and initiatives.

In addition, CBT has supported WildSafeBC's work to develop alliances and partnerships to strengthen the development of citizens, communities, and ecosystems as well as the stewardship of ecosystem services. This has been accomplished through the CBT funding support of two WildSafeBC Community Programs in the Biosphere region. These two programs, Hitacu-Macoah and Pacific Rim, support First Nations and municipal governments with input on a host of issues that help "keep wildlife wild and communities safe" and assist them in becoming Bear Smart Communities. These activities include:

- Preparing human-wildlife hazard assessments and conflict management plans
- Providing input into best practices for coexistence with wildlife for Official Community Plans and other policy documents
- Working with waste management providers and developing solid waste management strategies that reduce wildlife attractant management issues
- Participation in a regional working group dedicated to prevent domestic animal-wildlife conflicts
- Working with ecotourism operators and others to support responsible wildlife viewing practices and to provide visitors with relevant education
- Participation in West Coast N.E.S.T.
- CBT facilitated a presentation to Royal Roads University Field School where the WildSafeBC Pacific Rim coordinator shared a case study of human-wildlife co-existence that outlined the successes and challenges in the region



- WildSafeBC collaborated with the CBT on contributing data and knowledge to the Vital Signs program by developing human-wildlife conflict trend indicators as part of the monitoring community and ecosystem health.

These examples illustrate some of the many ways in which the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust contribute and support the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are proud to support the continued Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere designation, and look forward to participating in the next ten years of activities in our region.

Sincerely,

Bob Hansen
WildSafeBC Pacific Rim Coordinator

Marianne Paquette
WildSafeBC Hitacu-Macoah Coordinator

Vanessa Isnardy
WildSafeBC Provincial Coordinator