

CLAYOQUOT SOUND CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



January 28, 2021

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, which resides within the territories of Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht and Hesquiaht First Nations.

Over the past decade, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust in partnership with local communities within the region have worked to advance the objectives of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program. Priorities have included biodiversity conservation, reconciliation and sustainable development. With support from the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT), there has been research, education and collaboration related to these important topics.

One such project is support for the convening of regional conversations about the establishment of an Indigenous-led Stewardship Corridor. The Corridor is aimed at helping to align the Iisaak sin hay tiičmis - Regional Wildlife Coexistence Network with other progressive land management initiatives along western Vancouver Island. The steering committee for the initiative is comprised of First Nation leaders and community members, wildlife experts and representatives from the CBT.

We're also pleased that the CBT has invested the endowment funds in partnership with Genus Capital Management, a pioneer in Canada's fossil fuel divest-invest movement to ensure that CBT funds are not invested in the fossil fuel industry and other socially and environmentally harmful industries. This is an important step to align CBT investments with the organization's commitment to living sustainably.

As the CBT continues to move the mandate of the UNESCO Biosphere designation forward, we believe it is key for governance of the organization to prioritize the active involvement of First Nations in the region, whose territories cover the entirety of the UNESCO Biosphere region. We also hope to see increased support for Indigenous conservation and community development opportunities identified as priorities by the Nations, as well as support for language revitalization and other key priorities.

We support the continued Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere designation, and look forward to the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust building on the work accomplished to date.


Sincerely,

Clayoquot Sound Conservation Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lee-Ann Unger', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Lee-Ann Unger
Senior Corporate Campaigner, Canopy

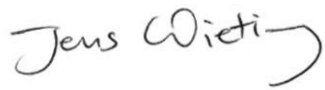
Shane Moffatt
Head of Nature and Food Campaign
Greenpeace Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'SM'.

Tegan Hansen
Forest Campaigner, Stand.earth

A handwritten signature in black ink on a grey background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Jeh Custerra'.

Jeh Custerra
Campaigner, Friends of Clayoquot Sound

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Jens Wieting'.

Jens Wieting
Senior Forest & Climate Campaigner, Sierra Club BC

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'T. Coste'.

Torrance Coste
National Campaigns Director, Wilderness Committee