



Clayoquot Biosphere Trust: Strategic Business Plan 2023-2025

Approved by the CBT Board of Directors: Dec 8, 2022

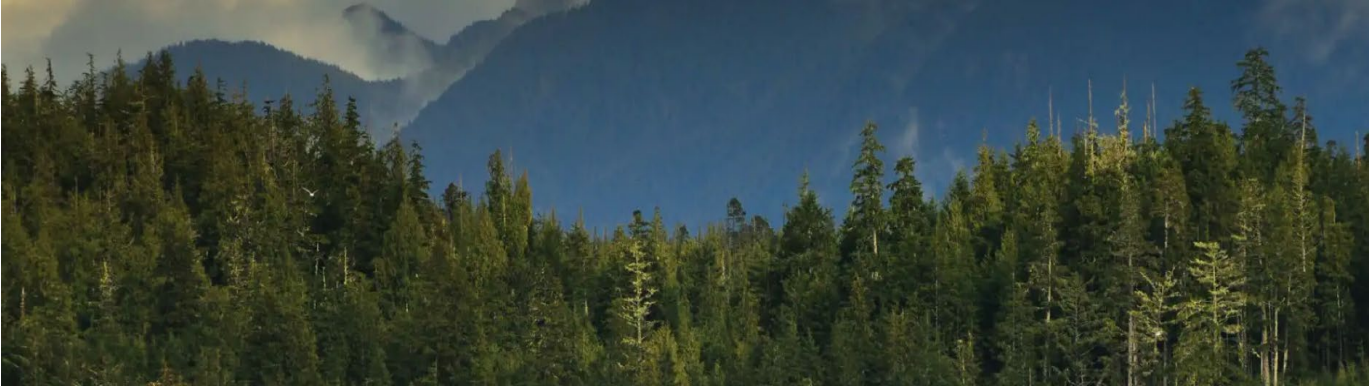


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In the spirit of truth, healing, and reconciliation, we acknowledge the territories of hišk^wiiʔath (Hesquiaht First Nation), ʒaaḥuusʔath (Ahousaht), λaʔuuk^wiʔath (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations), Yuuluʔifʔath Government (Ucluelet First Nation), and tuk^waaʔath (Toquaht Nation).

1. Introduction

The 2023-2025 Strategic Business Plan defines the core priorities and strategies for the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT). As always, the CBT uses every annual planning cycle to enhance its relationships and refine its alignment with the local, national, and international mandates of a UNESCO biosphere and a community foundation. We are further guided by the CBT Theory of Change, which is a tool we use to ensure our plans strengthen our commitments to our many diverse and vitally important community partners.

The 2023-2025 CBT Strategic Business Plan maintains our core focus on effective use of our resources and capacities toward processes of decolonization and working from a place of relationship. The Plan is approved by the Board of Directors along with a three-year operating budget providing staff with the foundation to implement the core priorities and strategies in a supported way in the years ahead.

The plan includes an overview of the CBT, a description of how our work aligns with our mandates, as well as a summary of the CBT theory of change. The 2023 plan also reviews our annual planning cycle method and presents our core priorities and strategies currently in focus. These strategies, and the specific tactics for implementing the strategies, are further planned and tracked using standardized work plans and progress report templates led by our committed staff team.

2. About the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT)

The CBT is a registered charity based on the west coast of British Columbia, Canada. Established in 2000, the CBT is the only organization in Canada that is both a community foundation and a UNESCO biosphere region. We pair this spirit of community with the power of a global presence to bring more people together for a shared understanding. We are one of 1,800 community foundations worldwide implementing United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reduce poverty, end hunger, ensure quality education, and protect the environment. The CBT also oversees the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region (CSBR) designation, one of Canada's 19 UNESCO biosphere regions, and sustainability is at the heart of everything we do. Our team works to strengthen the development of all citizens, communities, and the ecosystems on which we all depend, for a future we can all be proud of.

Our Vision - The community of the CSBR 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 tiic'mis* (life in the balance), and *his'ukniš' c'awaak* (everything is one and interconnected).

Our Mission- The mission of the CBT is to assist the CSBR community to achieve its vision by providing funding and logistical support for research, education, and training initiatives that promote conservation and sustainable development. The CBT will facilitate the sharing and exchange of knowledge and experience both locally and globally. The CBT will accomplish these objectives by working creatively and proactively within the framework of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme.

Our Team- The CBT relies on the vision and strategic direction of a committed Board of Directors representing a diversity of experience, skills, and interests that support our roles as a UNESCO biosphere and a community foundation. The Board of Directors is comprised of appointments from Hesquiaht First Nation, Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government, Toquaht Nation, District of Tofino, District of Ucluelet, and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Area C, as well as two at-large directors. We also appreciate the dedication of non-voting board advisers appointed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Parks Canada, and the Province of British Columbia.

The CBT staff, board and volunteers are catalysts for positive change and a sustainable future. As champions, change-makers, researchers, advocates, and allies, our team—with our diverse backgrounds and training—works to realize our priorities by implementing the strategies outlined in this plan.

3. Mandates and How Our Work Connects

In January 2000, Clayoquot Sound was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Region with the support of all First Nations and communities in the region. To mark this designation, the Canadian government entrusted a \$12M grant to Clayoquot Sound communities, and the CBT was created to manage the endowment fund to uphold the spirit and intent of the biosphere region designation through innovative education programs, sustainability knowledge development, and annual grants.

In 2012, the CBT became a community foundation and joined the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), an association of 191 community foundations across Canada that provides networking, resources, funding, expertise, and opportunities for its members. Since becoming the regional community foundation, CBT has worked with donors to create a diversity of endowment funds while building capacity as a grantmaking organization, all with the goal of leveraging its invested funds for the benefit of our region's communities and ecosystems.

The CBT is one of the only organizations in the world that is both a community foundation and a UNESCO biosphere region and is uniquely positioned to simultaneously address social and environmental issues. Our two complementary mandates allow us to enhance the vitality of the region's socioecological systems in an integrated way, embodying the spirit of *his̓ukniš'cawaak*—that everything is one and interconnected—as stated in our organization's mission.

As a member organization of both the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and the CFC, we use several frameworks adopted by these networks to align our work with our mandates. These frameworks include: the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, Statutory Framework of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, and the Lima Action Plan. The latter two frameworks are specific to the WNBR, while the former two are used by both the CFC and the WNBR.

4. Theory of Change: Living Vision Guiding Our Planning and Partnerships

A Theory of Change (TOC) is a description and graphical representation of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context. It shows what an organization is in terms of values, and how these values are transformed into actions leading to positive outcomes for communities.

As the CBT continues to advance the global goals of UNESCO biospheres, while also responding to community priorities in ways consistent with the roles of a community foundation, it is valuable to have a simple graphical representation of how the CBT bridges these complementary functions. As such, the CBT TOC is a tool that helps by:

- informing internal and community-focused communication about what the CBT is, what it does, and how it works in collaboration with community partners and stakeholders;
- giving shape to program and initiative-specific evaluations and assessments in a way that brings coherency and alignment among diverse evaluation and assessment activities over time; and,
- guiding strategic and program planning activities so existing and new initiatives are working to contribute to the forms of change that CBT is expressly aspiring to manifest in the Biosphere.

The CBT TOC shown on the next page was used to guide conversations and review priorities for the coming year. It is important to note that the CBT TOC is primarily a communication tool and that what are expressed as “actions” in the TOC are the equivalent to what are defined as “priorities” in this planning document.

Theory OF Change

The communities of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere 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 tiič mis* *life in the balance*, and *hišukniš čawaak* *everything is one and interconnected*.

VALUES

Why we are connected . . .

- culturally safe practise
- connection to place, land, and territory
- partnerships
- trust
- engagement
- resources



ACTIONS

What moves us . . .

- healthy community and ecosystem initiatives
- empowering youth
- sustainability research, education, and training
- achieving the biosphere centre
- granting and governance

OUTCOMES

Where we are going together . . .

- increase engagement in regional planning and decision-making
- understanding and collaboration for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and reconciliation
- knowledge and data to support understanding about complex social and ecological systems
- awareness of sustainability issues to achieve healthy ecosystems
- co-learning and capacity development opportunities
- share lessons and successes locally, nationally, and internationally



The CBT's Theory of Change was inspired by Hithiyis, the carving created by Robinson Cook to reflect the Hisinqwih regional gathering of September 17, 2017.

clayoquotbiosphere.org

5. How We Update the CBT Strategic Business Plan

Each year our board and staff meet to review what we have heard from our community partners. We engage in dialogue and deliberation to honour community priorities and our commitments to working in good ways with them. The diagram below depicts how we ensure that we are guided by community voices and informed by staff and board members.



Further, in a spirit of clarity, our planning sessions and the related CBT Strategic Business Plan uses a set of standard planning concepts and related definitions to ensure alignment in the work we do to implement our plan. There are three core concepts that we use:

1. **Priorities:** The priorities are statements that guide a set of strategies and actions toward the vision and mission of the CBT, aligning with values at the same time.
2. **Strategies:** The strategies are the practical efforts that move the people and resources in CBT toward the set priorities, in pursuit of the CBT mission and vision.
3. **Actions:** The actions are the operational tasks that staff complete to implement strategies, expressed in detail in staff and program work plans (not included in this Strategic Business Plan).

6. CBT Priorities and Strategies for 2023-2025

The CBT has five current priorities that guide all of our efforts toward the realization of our vision and mission. The diagram below shows these reinforcing priorities and the information tables on the following pages details the specific strategies that we are using within each priority area.



- **Priority 1: Strengthening Healthy Communities, Ecosystems and Diversifying Economies**

Priority 1 focuses on all aspects of our region that make people and communities healthy and is grounded in research on the social determinants of health, on belonging, and on the connection between people, how they work and their environment. Humans are part of ecosystems, as is inherent in *his̓ukniš̓čawaak*. Healthy ecosystems require healthy people and communities; one cannot care for the environment if they cannot care for themselves. Caring for one another involves ensuring we all have a means to earning income and participating and diversifying our local economy.

| Strategies | |
|------------|--|
| 1.1 | Deliver the West Coast Nest Program |
| 1.2 | Coordinate Eat West Coast and co-lead the Coastal Agriculture Roundtable |
| 1.3 | Manage and continually improve CBT grant programs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts & Culture Grants 2. Biosphere Research Grants 3. Community Development Grants 4. Neighbourhood Small Grants 5. Nuu-chah-nulth Language Grants 6. Research & Environment Grants 7. Vital Grants 8. Youth & Education Grants |
| 1.4 | Implement OECM project as per Environment & Climate Change Canada contribution agreement |
| 1.5 | Administer Coastal Family Resources Coalition & Decoda Literacy Program |
| 1.6 | Deliver Leadership Vancouver Island and coordinate meaningful alumni events |

Priority 2: Empowering Youth

The CBT supports healthy youth development by empowering youth to gain the necessary skills and capacity to positively impact their lives, the lives of others, and to contribute to community change and sustainability. Education is recognized as a social determinant of health and is a key component of youth empowerment. The CBT coordinates a range of initiatives that support youth including education awards to graduating high school students and field trip funding to schools for experiential learning opportunities. The CBT also supports youth leadership and decision-making by inviting youth to participate on the CBT Board of Directors and advisory committees.

| Strategies | |
|------------|--|
| 2.1 | Deliver field trip funding program |
| 2.2 | Develop a youth programming strategy and fundraising approach (including a focus on LVI for Youth and partnership approaches to empowering youth) |
| 2.3 | Deliver three education awards: two youth awards and lifelong learning award |
| 2.4 | Coordinate the development of curriculum based on local sustainability science and knowledge development utilizing the StoryMaps collection with support of PromoScience funding |
| 2.5 | Develop a model for engaging youth in the CBT and supporting existing youth groups and councils |

Priority 3: Co-Leading Sustainability Knowledge Development and Education

Consistent with the Lima Action Plan for UNESCO’s MAB Programme (2016–2025), the CBT knowledge development and education priority focuses on building partnerships, facilitating research, and delivering locally based education for sustainable communities. In pursuit of priority 3, we follow the principles and practices of the CFC network, including the tracking and reporting of local and regional trends in the Vital Signs® report to better understand our communities within the CSBR. We also share our knowledge with the communities through an iterative process of knowledge gathering, reflection, evaluation, and dialogue.

| Strategies | |
|------------|--|
| 3.1 | Support the implementation of the Sydney Inlet remote listening station and share the findings with the Ahousaht community |
| 3.2 | Maintain the Sydney Research Cabin as per the terms of the 2021–2024 park use permit and engage in ongoing knowledge exchange with Ahousaht and other partners |
| 3.3 | Support the development of the Indigenous-led stewardship corridor |
| 3.4 | Participate in the TRANSECTS project |
| 3.5 | Deliver the Vital Signs program by publishing a Vital Signs report and convening related vital conversations |
| 3.6 | Implement a climate action program with a focus on salmonberry and water quality monitoring |

Priority 4: Establishing the Biosphere Centre

The CBT is working to create a permanent home for the delivery of the CBT programs and projects. The biosphere centre will be a place of sharing and learning in and for the CBT. Over the past decade, the CBT board and staff have engaged in numerous community consultation activities, visioning, research, criteria-setting, and planning. Informed by the voices of our communities, we envision a welcoming place and a community space—where residents, visitors, and researchers feel equally comfortable, and where scientists and storytellers can share their valuable information and teachings.

We picture a community “living room” that brings together people, place, and learning. The CBT will continue to ensure that community voices help shape the Biosphere Centre by asking for ongoing input from the broader community on the building’s design features, benefits and uses.

| Strategies | |
|------------|--|
| 4.1 | Develop and implement a communication strategy for the Biosphere Centre |
| 4.2 | Commence and complete the project’s schematic design & design development phases |
| 4.3 | Implement the capital campaign and activate donor engagement to reach the goal of \$4M |
| 4.4 | Pursue capital funding from government and engage key provincial and federal ministries to secure major commitments of at least \$7M |

Priority 5: Maintaining Good Governance

Good governance is the common thread that holds together all of the work of the CBT. The CBT places emphasis on creating processes that ensure our Board of Directors are representative of the diversity of the communities we work with, and we utilize ongoing assessments, skill development, and learning initiatives that promote positive collaboration between staff and Board Directors.

| Strategies | |
|------------|--|
| 5.1 | Apply our definition of equity to the focus of each advisory committee and continue to develop equity approaches for granting that are unique to each stream |
| 5.2 | Administer the regular Board Assessment process and apply the learnings by creating Board training and related capacity development initiatives |
| 5.3 | Host a semi-annual relationship-building event with Board of Directors and staff |
| 5.4 | Review and revise Board and staff policies to align with legislation and best practices |

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Calculation

One of the underpinning objectives of the CBT’s strategic plan is to grow the Canada Fund while allowing for ongoing funding of local programs and projects in support of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region designation and CBT’s vision and mission. Effective fund management has been a focus of CBT since its inception. A careful approach to fiscal management is reflected in this plan and its accompanying budget. The organization is confident that the strategic asset allocation meets the need for balancing growth and risk exposure.

The status of the Canada Fund is summarized below.

Table 1. Fund Status as of December 31, 2022

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Original Fund Value (May 5, 2000) | \$ 12,000,000 |
| Current market value of the Canada Fund December 31, 2022 | \$ 16,402,462 |
| Funding agreement obligation as of December 31, 2022 (\$12,000,000 plus cost of living adjustment) | \$ 19,119,073 |
| Surplus (deficit) above COLA before expenses | (\$ 2,716,611) |

Appendix B: CBT Program Summaries and Alignment with Guiding Global and National Frameworks

West Coast NEST

West Coast NEST (Nature. Education. Sustainability. Transformation.) is a regional collaboration led by the CBT along with communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals from Hesquiaht to Ucluelet, developed to expand local education opportunities, diversify the economy, and establish further employment opportunities.

The West Coast NEST works to diversify our region's economy by supporting the development of the education tourism economy. Education tourism seeks to connect visitors with experiential learning opportunities. Local experts and knowledge holders lead informative talks, guided tours, and hands-on workshops about a variety of topics such as nature, science, history, sustainability, language, culture, and art.

Education tourism is a sustainable and restorative economy, and its growth contributes to the development of healthy ecosystems and communities. Many outdoor experiential learning opportunities provided on the west coast are centred around the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations philosophies of iisaak, qwa' aak qin tiič mis, and hišukniš čawaak. In support of a sustainable, healthy ecosystem, we are seeking to increase learning opportunities offered in off-peak seasons and in less-visited communities within our region.

The NEST provides funding and logistical support for education and training initiatives that promote conservation and sustainable development. By supporting the development of education programs and communicating those education opportunities to both local and visiting learners, NEST is supporting the CBT's mission to facilitate sharing and exchange of knowledge and experience locally and globally.

NEST core activities include: i) supporting the creation of new education and skills training programs for community members and visitors, ii) communication and marketing of the region's education programs to visiting learners, iii) coordinating the delivery of education programs for visiting high school, university, and adult learners, and iv) testing a financial sustainability model for this regional education tourism initiative.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Goal #1. No Poverty: By supporting the delivery of education programs; using the West Coast NEST website, social media, and other marketing tactics to expand the market of learners; and by connecting learners with local educators and knowledge holders.

Goal #8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Several of the regions' communities have identified the West Coast NEST in their economic development plans as a means to advance local knowledge and innovation and to diversify their economies.

Goal #11. Sustainable Cities and Communities. Historically, many Nuu-chah-nulth knowledge holders were not compensated when participating in the delivery of education programs. West Coast NEST is working to develop a pay for service model that seeks to provide equal pay for work of equal value.

Goal #4. Quality Education: West Coast NEST is working towards quality education, with a strong focus on education for sustainable development.

Goal #17. Partnerships: West Coast NEST works to bring organizations and businesses together to build relationships and partnerships for developing local education programs and helping to build a more sustainable and resilient region.

Statutory Framework of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

Objective II.1: Secure the support and involvement of local people.

Objective III.3: Improve education, public awareness, and involvement.

Objective IV.1: Integrate the functions of biosphere reserves.

Lima Action Plan

A1.1 Promote biosphere reserves as sites that actively contribute to achieving the SDGs.

A1.5 Promote green/sustainable/

social economy initiatives inside biosphere reserves.

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

West Coast NEST works in the spirit of the TRC's calls to action by respectfully supporting First Nations community members in their efforts to develop and deliver new education programs, and by increasing access to quality education programs and skills training opportunities for First Nations community members.

Eat West Coast

Eat West Coast (EWC) is a regional food security initiative of the CBT. EWC is a member of Island Food Hubs, a collective of organizations working together under Island Health to address food security issues and ultimately improve health across Vancouver Island. Food security exists when everyone in a community has physical and economic access to adequate amounts of nutritious, safe, and culturally-appropriate food. As a CBT priority, food security encompasses many of the things that lead to health: a clean environment, employment, cultural relevance, education, and self-esteem. This program aims to

help communities and organizations in the CSBR develop effective, community-based responses to food access challenges and increase the understanding of healthy, affordable food choices.

EWC helps achieve the CBT's broad vision by bringing a holistic approach to food security program design and delivery, focusing on regional resilience and community building. The Nuu-chah-nulth philosophy of iisaak (living respectfully) is a recurring theme in EWC's work, highlighting the important connections between food, the environment from which it comes, the people who eat it, and the systems of which they are a part.

Given the integrated nature of food and food security, EWC helps deliver on CBT's mission broadly, through education and training focused on developing sustainable patterns of resource use in the biosphere region. More specifically, EWC facilitates the sharing and exchange of knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and skills at the local level. Through grants from national and international institutions, this local work is also transmitted globally.

EWC's food focus is strongly linked to CBT's Living Wage and Vital Signs projects. Access to food—as a critical measure of poverty and socioeconomic health—is tracked and recorded as part of these projects. As EWC programming grows, there is increasing opportunity to continue formalizing connections between regional food security initiatives and the broader environmental, conservation, and biosphere sustainability conversations that are convened by CBT.

In the past years, EWC has focused on building partnerships across organizations and communities to support local priorities and increase local capacity. Priorities include strengthening food access networks, addressing food issues for children, emergency food planning for natural disasters, and recognition of west coast food security in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District priorities and strategic plans. The CBT also renewed its contract with Island Health to continue coordination of the food hub program into 2019.

EWC bridges the CBT's biosphere reserve and community foundation mandates. Moving forward, there is potential for to make greater connections between regional food initiatives and regional research on the environment, climate change, and sustainable development. To strengthen these relationships, it is important to build on the existing capacity and knowledge of communities in the biosphere region.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land

Statutory Framework of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

Objective II.1: Secure the support of the local people.

Objective II.3: Integrate biosphere reserves into regional planning.

Objective III.2: Improve monitoring activities.

Lima Action Plan

A1.1 Promote biosphere reserves as sites that actively contribute to achieving the SDGs.

A4.2 Establish partnerships with educational and training institutions...to undertake education, training, and capacity building activities.

A7.1 Identify ecosystem services and facilitate their long-term provision, including those contributing to health and well-being.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

3. Jordan's Principle

5. Parenting Programs

10. Cultural Education

19. Measures of Health

Leadership Vancouver Island

Leadership Vancouver Island is a regional program coordinated and administered by the CBT and guided by an ad hoc committee of the CBT. As a community-focused, grassroots leadership development program, LVI aims to inspire and build capacity for outstanding leadership, learning, and service. The west coast chapter is focused on the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region and its communities. The purpose of the LVI is to foster leadership development, raise community awareness, and build innovative communities.

LVI is a program accredited by Vancouver Island University and guided by local leaders in government, business, and non-profit organizations. Over its 10-year history, LVI has evolved to become a unique and effective leadership development experience, and for the past four years, the west coast chapter has tailored a unique approach for west coast communities. The CBT coordinates and administers LVI on behalf of the region in order to grow local leaders, provide local educational opportunities, and develop cross-community and cross-cultural connections. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to receive six credits from Vancouver Island University. LVI helps the CBT to achieve its vision by growing capacity in local communities, facilitating cross-cultural community building, and supporting and strengthening traditional knowledge.

The CBT provides administration and coordination support for LVI in fulfillment of its mission; specifically, to provide logistical support for education and local training initiatives, and to help facilitate the exchange of local knowledge.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- 3. Good Health and Well-being
- 4. Quality Education
- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth

Statutory Framework of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

Objective III.3: Improve education, public awareness, and involvement.

Objective III.4 Improve training for specialists and managers.

Lima Action Plan

A4.2 Establish partnerships with educational and training institutions...to undertake education, training, and capacity building activities.

A4.5 Encourage managers, local communities, and other biosphere reserve stakeholders to collaborate in designing and implementing projects that inform the management and sustainable development of their biosphere reserve.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

63. Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.

57. Provide education to public servants on the history of First Nations peoples.

Coastal Family Resource Coalition

The Coastal Family Resources Coalition (CFRC) is a regional network coordinated and administered by the CBT and guided by an ad-hoc committee of the CBT. The CFRC is an interdisciplinary network of service providers that develops capacity to address the needs of children, youth, families, and communities, and to improve communications between service providers, agencies, communities, and funders.

Monthly meetings are held from September until June in alternating communities to provide an opportunity to network, share resources, and reduce service delivery duplication. The CFRC's goal is to improve the overall health in our communities. The coalition serves all west coast communities and contributes to building strong and united cultures. It helps the CBT achieve its mission by facilitating the local sharing and exchange of knowledge and experience that promotes social and cultural sustainable development.

In terms of knowledge transfer and mobilization, the CFRC is a key audience and stakeholder group for the community data presented in the Living Wage and Vital Signs reports. Also, the regional health priorities identified at CFRC meetings and the Coming Together Forum are referenced in the Vital Signs report, making the coalition a valuable source of community data.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- 1. No Poverty

2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education

Statutory Framework of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

Objective II.3 Integrate biosphere reserves into regional planning.

Lima Action Plan

A1.1. Promote biosphere reserves as sites that actively contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

The CFRC upholds and respects the principles laid out in the language and culture, health, and child welfare calls to action.

The CFRC hosted the Nuu-chah-nulth language gathering in 2018, which provided a space for celebrating language learning and revitalization. The gathering itself was a success but the planning process truly honoured this call to action:

14.iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of First Nations languages and cultures are best managed by First Nations people and communities.

Knowledge Development and Education Programming

Knowledge development plays a vital role in our advocacy for community and ecosystem health. We constantly seek and support new discoveries to build a disciplined body of scientific work, for deeper meaning and heightened relevance in today's world. Our knowledge development efforts are carried out in collaboration with our community to make a difference locally, nationally, and internationally.

Our knowledge development initiatives include:

- producing the biennial Vital Signs report using a sustainability science approach
- building research alliances for biodiversity conservation
- coordinating social and ecological research and education projects that contribute to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- funding research projects led by charities, local governments, and First Nations
- maintaining a remote listening station for acoustic ecology monitoring

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality

- 6. Clean Water and Sanitation
- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 10. Reduced Inequalities
- 11. Sustainable Communities
- 13. Climate Action
- 14. Life Below Water,
- 15. Life on Land
- 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Statutory Framework of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

Goal II: Utilize biosphere reserves as models of land management and of approaches to sustainable development.

Objective II.1: Secure the support and involvement of local people.

Objective II.3 Integrate biosphere reserves into regional planning.

Goal III: Use biosphere reserves for research, monitoring, education, and training.

Objective III.1: Improve knowledge of the interactions between humans and the biosphere.

Objective III.2: Improve monitoring activities.

Objective III.3: Improve education, public awareness and involvement.

Objective III.4 Improve training for specialists and managers.

Lima Action Plan

A.1.1 CSBR actively contribute to achieving SDGs

A1.3 Establish alliances at local, regional, international levels for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local people, taking into consideration the rights of indigenous people.

A.4 Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of biosphere reserves and sustainable development in biosphere reserves.

A4.1. Establish partnerships with universities/research institutions to undertake research, especially UNESCO chairs and centres

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

Action 62: university education, increase awareness and knowledge of Indigenous learning practices.