

In April 2001, as part of several agreements between the Province of British Columbia, First Nations governments from the Central and North Coasts and Haida Gwaii, local governments and non-government interests, a coastal consensus on the definition, principles and goals of ecosystem-based management was established for what would become the Coast Information Team (CIT) analysis area. Parties to the agreements made a commitment to implement EBM as a means of achieving "healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities".

April 2001 Principles and Goals of Ecosystem-based Management

(excerpted from the CCLRMP Framework Agreement/Draft Interim Plan, April 2001)

#	Overarching Principles
1	Healthy, fully functioning ecosystems provide the basis for sustaining communities, economies, cultures and the quality of human life therefore ecological sustainability is fundamental to land and marine management.
2	Empowered and healthy communities play a leadership role in sustaining healthy eco-systems, cultures and economies.
3	Focus planning on the needs of the ecosystems and the values that you want to maintain.
4	Planning should be done over ecologically and economically relevant time frames and involve regional, landscape and site scale planning.
5	Incorporate the best of existing knowledge (e.g. traditional, local and western science) into planning and decision-making.
6	Knowledge of natural processes and human interactions is incomplete and inherently limited, and decisions made in the present can pose unacceptable risks for the future. Apply the Precautionary Principle and practice adaptive management in decision-making. Monitor the consequences of decisions and adopt a learning approach to planning.
7	Maintain natural, social and economic capital in the region and preserve the full range of options for future generations.
8	Respect individuals, communities of interest (including businesses) and cultures.
Recognition of FN history and rights	
9	Respect and acknowledge aboriginal rights and title as defined by the Constitution and case law.
10	First Nations of the Central Coast should be engaged with the governments of BC and Canada in a process to reconcile outstanding land issues involving aboriginal rights and title including securing interim measures agreements.
11	Support the efforts of First Nations to establish government-to-government to government tables with the objective of developing interim measures agreements.
12	Aboriginal settlements must be based upon mutual trust, respect and understanding. They must be fair and equitable and recognize the interests and aspirations of individual First Nations including providing tools and resources to enable social and economic prosperity for First Nation people as well as other people of BC.
Ecological Principles	
13	Sustain the biological richness and the biological services provided by natural terrestrial and marine processes at all scales through time (e.g. water quality, soils and vegetative productivity, species richness, predator/prey interactions, etc.).
13a	Conserve hydro riparian areas and maintain hydro riparian functions.
13b	Ensure an appropriate level of ecological representation and habitat connectivity.
13c	Protect and conserve focal species, as well as rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats as a priority.
13d	Conserve native species and their habitats within the range of natural variability.

13e	Protect sensitive soils and unstable terrain.
13f	Sustain the structure, function and composition of natural ecosystems including the land-sea interface.
13g	Incorporate ecological restoration of degraded landscapes, stands and sites into forest management.
13h	Avoid the introduction of alien species
13i	Sustain adequate levels of spawning biomass and population age structure of all aquatic species (e.g., rock fish, lingcod, salmon).
13j	Recognize that the dynamics and resiliency of ecosystems vary.
14	Establish a credible terrestrial and marine protection area system that contributes to sustaining the biological richness and the biological services provided by natural terrestrial and marine processes.
15	Use zoning as a management and planning tool.
16	Sustain human communities within the limits of ecosystem processes.
16a	Ensure that the consumptive use of natural resources is maintained within limits that can be sustained.
16b	Employ resource use techniques that emphasize low environmental impact and ensure that activities do not degrade ecosystems or conflict with meeting conservation goals.
16c	Ensure that the harvesting of natural resources and rates of harvest are an output of planning and do not compromise the long-term ecological integrity of landscapes and watersheds.
16d	Ensure sustainable harvest of old growth (250 years +) and second growth timber.
16e	Ensure that the development of non-renewable resources is undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the ecosystem framework.
16f	Redefine tenure arrangements to make them more ecologically relevant.
Socioeconomic Principles	
17	Promote the well being of the communities in the Central Coast for this and future generations.
18	Recognize the interests of work communities on the Central Coast whose residents live outside the Central Coast.
19	Maintain the historical, current and future unique qualities of life on the Central Coast as a basis for diversified economic activity.
20	A diversity of economic opportunities is key to healthy communities and sustainable economies. Diversification should include both the local development of different economic activities as well as local involvement in different levels of existing activities.
21	Provide greater local employment and economic benefits to communities through increased local access to local resources.
22	Build community economic capacity including employment and business opportunities beginning with communities in the Plan Area. Ensure access to leadership, decision-making, business planning and management skills training.
23	Redefine tenure arrangements to make them more equitable.
24	Encourage diverse and innovative options that increase the employment, economic development, revenue, cultural and environmental amenities and other benefits derived from resources.
25	Recognize the financial investment and economic contribution of the full range of existing economic enterprises and their employees and shareholders.
25a	Seek new ways of deploying existing investments within the context of these principles and goals.
25b	Increase the economic viability and sustainability of existing investments within the context of these principles and goals.
25c	Incorporate potential economic contributions of local, regional and global interests.
26	Seek out and encourage new and innovative investment opportunities in the region in support of these goals and attract capital investments in those opportunities.

26a	Explore innovative ownership structures (including private ownership), rights allocations and opportunities to share assets or business functions.
27	Ensure the full range of impacts and opportunities are considered in decision-making. Develop full-cost accounting tools and models to assess opportunities and impacts of resource management alternatives.
28	Do more with less: prioritize business and economic strategies based on quality, adding value and decreasing material throughput thereby improving economic and ecological outcomes.
29	When land use decisions are made in the public's best interests the costs of such decisions should not be visited on individual parties. Thus, direct loss of economic livelihood or employment resulting from a breach of contract resulting from land use planning decisions must be subject to mitigation first and fair and timely compensation as a last resort.
Principles of Information and Adaptive Management	
30	Practice Adaptive Management
30a	Identify benchmarks against which future management performance can be measured.
30b	Establish explicit objectives for managing risk.
30c	Incorporate science, local and traditional knowledge and available data into management decisions.
30d	Identify research and inventory priorities that will increase the effectiveness of ecosystem-based planning and management in the future.
30e	Monitor performance and outcomes for the purpose of adapting and improving planning and management.
31	Adopt a coordinated approach to information management.
Principles for Managing Ecosystem-based Planning Processes	
	Follow up processes shall:
32a	be neutrally administered
32b	be transparent
32c	ensure full public access to relevant information necessary to make informed decisions
32d	consider all community and other interests affected
32e	look to find common ground
32f	respectful of the diverse values, traditions and aspirations of local communities
32g	fair
32h	efficient and effective (efficient use of time and resources)
32i	measurable and enforceable (decisions must be properly monitored and enforced)
32j	adaptive and flexible (capable of modifying decisions in response to technological innovations, field experience, shifts in social preferences and new information)
32k	comprehensive and integrated (cross sector and addressing the full range of economic, social and environmental concerns and values)
32l	accountable (decision makers must be accountable to all participants in the process as well as to the broader public)
33	Recognizing regional, provincial, national and international interests establish collaborative, land use planning and decision-making processes that empower, and build capacity, within local communities.
34	Resolve conflicts with generosity, compassion and clear understanding.
35	Engage independent expertise in a manner that reveals the consensus of opinion and the differences of opinion on issues of concern.