

Project Name **Adaptive Management Framework Development**

Program Area Adaptive Management
Element Experimental Watersheds Research Design
Project No. AM 02 b

Related Projects AM 02 a: Adaptive Management Framework Design
 HWB 02: Human Well Being Baseline and Targets
 HWB 03: Economic Development Inventory
 DS 01: Data Management System
 EI 02: Focal Species Analysis
 EI 03: Ecological Baseline – Current Condition

Start Date April 1, 2008
Completion Date September 30, 2008

Overview

A central requirement to implementing EBM in the Central and North Coast of BC by March 31, 2008 is the application of

...an adaptive, systematic approach to managing human activities, guided by the Coast Information Team EBM Handbook, that seeks to ensure the coexistence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities.

The Adaptive Management system that the EBMWG develops is intended to provide a structured learning framework to learn from the implementation of land use plans and to improve future decision-making. This framework will apply to both ecological integrity (EI) and human well-being (HWB) objectives.

The scope of current land use plans is summarized in a Land Use Plan Summary¹ developed for the EBMWG. The Land Use Plan summary accomplishes a key first step in the development of an Adaptive Management Framework by listing all objectives, strategies, and indicators in coastal land-use plans and agreements in a summary form that identifies correspondence between objectives and strategies². Strategies are presented as a target level of an implementation indicator. Many HWB objectives have no corresponding strategies identified in land use planning documents. The EBMWG is also undertaking further work to (1) inventory strategies for economic development that are underway but not identified in existing land use plans and agreements (2) develop improved effectiveness indicators for human well-being objectives³. The development of an Adaptive Management Framework will require consolidating the results of

¹ The Land Use Plan summary is available at http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/coast/cencoast/docs/Coast_Land_Use_Plan_Summary_Revised_Close_out_Draft_Sept_24_2007.pdf

² As a result of the development of the LUP summary, the EBMWG agreed on standardized terminology for discussing AM. See AMF Framework Background Document.

³ The RFP for this Human Well-being baselines project is available at http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/coast/cencoast/docs/rfp_ebmwg_human_well_being_20071221.pdf.

these projects. Further HWB strategies may be identified as part of further EBM implementation work but will not be available at the time of AMF development.

Due to the large number of land use planning objectives and strategies, another key element of the framework will be a methodology for prioritizing objectives for research, and for identifying what type of research is most needed to improve knowledge and management actions (and what delivery methods are most appropriate). Due to the broad interest of multiple parties in EBM implementation on the coast, the prioritization method needs to be transparent and replicable. It is expected that as knowledge improves, the prioritization method will be continually re-applied (possibly on an annual basis).

The AM framework will also provide advice and tools to develop the organizational structure for managing and implementing AM, including information management, knowledge dissemination, funding, and delivery in collaboration with local communities and First Nations. The recommended structure should build on existing institutional structures and programs while addressing any identified deficits in a pragmatic manner. Note that this structure does not extend to decision-making; see Figure 1.

Expected Use/User/Benefits

This project will provide:

- All stakeholders a clear explanation of objectives, strategies, and indicators for measuring Human Well Being and Ecological Integrity
- Licensees, First Nations and their operational foresters and planners with guidance on how to engage the AM framework
- Provincial government agencies, First Nations governments, and other stakeholders opportunities be involved in designing, implementing, and monitoring the adaptive management framework and ensuring effective information management
- Provincial government agencies, First Nations governments, and other stakeholders clearly defined procedures for adaptive management monitoring, including procedures, standards, and references for prioritizing objectives, strategies, and indicators, and methods of adapting the framework based on lessons learned.

Objectives

- To develop an overarching framework for the development, integration, and management of an adaptive management program to support the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management in the Central and North Coasts of British Columbia.
- To ensure that the designed framework addresses both ecological integrity and initiatives to improve human well-being in coastal communities.
- To address gaps and update existing baseline indicator information (from the Coast Information Team and from government agencies and other parties in support of land use planning processes)
- To provide guidance, tools, or templates for licensees on how to “monitor environmental impacts during any primary forest activity” and how to integrate monitoring and results among multiple licensees

Key Tasks

- Develop a workplan for Phase 1
- Recommend an institutional framework for collaborative implementation of AM in the Central and North Coast that meaningfully involves Provincial agencies, First Nations, local communities and stakeholders in AM planning, project design and implementation

- Develop guidance for practitioners (First Nations, local communities, licensees, etc.) on how to plan and implement specific AM monitoring and research activities
Develop a transparent methodology for allocating HWB and EI objectives and strategies to appropriate types of research and monitoring and ranking them in order of priority
- Finalize Phase 1 report
- Develop a workplan for Phase 2
- Develop a “current knowledge” summary describing hypothesized relationships between land use planning objectives and strategies
- Apply the prioritization process outlined in objectives I-3 in order to identify initial AM monitoring and research priorities and provide guidance for implementation
- Ensure key deliverables are peer reviewed

Milestone and Deliverables

Phase I

- Draft Phase I report, with the following sections: 1) Institutional design, 2) Types of monitoring and research, and standards/best practices/existing tools, 3) Prioritization/allocation system; 4) Knowledge dissemination
- Final peer reviewed Phase 1 report
- Description of research undertaken to develop Phase I report
- Guidance/ templates for licensees
- Recommendations on addressing climate change in AM Framework (may also be integrated into Phase I report)
- Presentation to EBM WG and/or LRFs
- Presentation to implementation partners

Phase II

- Draft Current Knowledge Summary
- Final peer reviewed Current Knowledge Summary
- Description of research undertaken to develop current knowledge summary
- Phase II report

Responsibilities

- A managing sub-committee, consisting of members of the EBM WG and AM 02 project steering committee, will oversee this project. Audrey Roburn will be the project and managing sub-committee lead
- Other stakeholders that may contribute to the project include:
 - Members of the EBM WG, the EBM WG Director, and co-chairs
 - Members of the Land Resource Forums (LRFs)
 - Members of the Central and North Coast Planning and Implementation Monitoring Committees (PIMCs)

Peer Review Requirements

- A peer review panel will review the draft Phase 1 report and the draft Current Knowledge Summary

Linkages to other EBM Projects or Initiatives

- **HWB 02 – Human Well Being Baseline and Targets:** The compilation of social, economic, and cultural Human Well Being (HWB) determinants and the collection of baseline data for specific HWB indicators, identified in HWB 02, will serve as a basis to develop the HWB component of the adaptive management framework. The RFP for the HWB 02 project is available at:
http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca/open.dll/showDisplayDocument?sessionID=9926109&disID=10884492&docType=Tender&dis_version_nos=0&doc_search_by=Tend&docTypeQual=TN
- **HWB 03 – Economic Development Inventory:** The inventory of existing and planned community and regional economic development initiatives that will contribute to improving the Human Well Being (HWB) of communities on the Central and North Coast, identified under HWB 03, could be used to test the effectiveness and rigor of the adaptive management framework.
- **DS 01 - Data Management System:** The EBMWG is currently working with the Integrated Land Management Bureau (Ministry of Agriculture and Lands) to develop a centralized, one-stop data portal for EBMWG data needs. This data system is being designed to allow users the flexibility to upload data, and could ultimately house the results of adaptive management projects.
- **DS 03 – EBM Forestry Pilots Summary:** Over the past 7 years there have been several attempts (EBM Pilots) by Forest Licensees and First Nations to “operationalize” aspects of EBM as described in the EBM Handbook. The purpose of this project is to document these efforts in terms of the objectives, implementation actions, results, monitoring provisions and associated documentation so they can contribute to information resources in an adaptive management context as well as to the selection of areas for ongoing AM planning.
- **DS 05 – Decision Making Structures:** This project will develop a detailed description of the EBM decision making system and the decision support tools and procedures that can be applied within it to inform decisions regarding “flexibility” and reconciliation of competing objectives, strategies and targets. The description will provide examples of how different types of decisions are addressed within the system from the strategic through to the operational.
- **EI 02b – Focal Species Analysis to inform full implementation of EBM:** A project is underway that will summarize lessons learned from various pilots of EBM in forest resource management that have already occurred on the coast. This information will be incorporated into the adaptive management framework.
- **EI 03 – Ecological Baseline – Current Condition:** A project is underway to provide subregional scale context on the distribution and current condition of key ecosystem indicators including ecosystem types (site series surrogates), focal species habitats, landform features, and other spatially definable wildlife habitat indicators. These indicators and baseline information will be used as the basis for the Ecological Integrity component of the adaptive management framework.

Method of Implementation

- State the implementation approach (check box with an “X”):

Contract: Research

Peer Review

Internal EBMWG Task

Other: _____

Budget

Item	Budget	Source
Total:	\$100 000.	EBM WG