

Project Name **Bella Coola Community Forest Pilot Project**

Program Area Adaptive Management

Project No. AM03b

Related Projects All Adaptive Management projects
Human Wellbeing Strategies Inventory
Human Wellbeing Baseline

Start Date July 2008

Completion Date Mar 2009

Purpose

This pilot will demonstrate AM in action in a HW context and link the Bella Coola Community Forest initiative to the Adaptive Management Framework. The pilot will learn from the Bella Coola Forest Society management model, report on strategies to mitigate challenges identified in the Economic Strategies Inventory and on links to community Human Well-Being surveyed under the Community Baseline. A follow-up project to this pilot is recommended in 5 years.

Specific AMF Research Questions

1. How is the initiative learning from implementation?
2. How is the initiative explicitly addressing uncertainties associated with its success?

Pilot Overview

Monitoring Human Well-Being strategies in economic development initiatives at a community scale is a keystone in the effective implementation of the Adaptive Management Framework under EBM. The pilot will outline community interests and objectives as described by the operating principles of the Society, document management models and strategies adopted by the society to deal with the potential uncertainties and barriers to success, assist in structuring implementation monitoring, with necessary feedback to management systems as well as creating linkages for the Society monitoring report in the AMF.

The HWB Strategies Inventory report and related focus group discussions identified a number of barriers to successful implementation of HW strategies including:

- Lack of specific employment-oriented community capacity building, training delivery models and local opportunities for related employment; and
- Lack of available timber and local access to natural resources, access to markets, and access to fibre for local manufacturing.

The HWB Baseline community survey is expected to identify local employment, level of income, access to natural resources, limited skilled/trained workers and other factors that the Community Forest endeavours to address.

The Bella Coola Community Forest (BCCF) is unique in comparison with other Community Forests in BC¹, as Bella Coola is a relatively isolated coastal community with limited log processing capacity and access to the scale of services necessary to provide product to market. This will require forming local business models that will address issues and barriers specific to the situation. The BCCF is seen as an opportunity to strengthen the local economy and generate funds for community projects. One interesting aspect for the pilot is on how the project is mobilizing local capital and skills to make the initiative successful.

The Bella Coola Resource Society confirms the legal Land Use Orders in its operating and stewardship principles, and although Orders do not legally apply to community forests, the Society supports EBM principles and will strive to implement them. Given the small land base, the Society will take a measured approach in a landscape with significant harvest history while working to meet community needs. Therefore, the pilot will learn from and document a plan area initiative that is balancing strategies to manage for ecological integrity while meeting local community needs.

Pilot Objectives

- Frame the pilot project to report into the AMF on how AM is applied to the strategies and initiatives conducted by the Resource Society in the Community Forest;
- Develop strategies to address known and expressed limitations identified in the Strategies Inventory;
- Monitor those strategies and provide feedback into the management mechanism and report the results into the AMF.
- Identify how well the pilot can achieve the intent of the legal order.

The achieving these objectives the pilot will develop simple procedures/tools that can contribute to the practitioner guidance component of the AMF while demonstrating how AM works in a HW being context.

Expected Use/User/Benefits

The AM Pilot project will provide opportunity to develop and apply relevant strategies and bring expertise to the task that the Society may not have access to otherwise. Experts associated with the AM Framework will assist with the pilot in a way that will help the initiative succeed. The Pilot, in its review, will identify and guide the Society in determining future needs for a continued viable community-based initiative unique to their locale. Lessons learned from the Society's approach may be used in other community forestry models and strategies at the local and regional level under EBM.

¹ <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/community/objectives.htm>, accessed June 16, 2008

Key Tasks

1. Build and AM component into the Pilot, identifying key outcomes for the project in collaboration with the Bella Coola Resource Society;
2. Identify key economic development limitations identified in the *Human Wellbeing Strategies Inventory* in chosen Community Forest initiatives that need to be addressed as well as any other that appear to be important (e.g. communications systems);
3. Assist in developing strategies, models, and/or business approaches that are locally relevant to address those limitations;
4. Frame strategies within the prospective AMF;
5. Report monitoring results into CF management structure and incorporate into HWB reporting structure; and
6. Provide feedback to the Bella Coola Resource Society on Pilot results.

Deliverable(s)

1. Key and relevant economic development limitations report to the Community Forest initiative;
2. Strategies recommendations report, on how AM can be integrated into the Pilot framed in AMF context;
3. Deliver procedures and tools to the Coastal AMF Team for consideration for the practitioner guidance section and potentially the knowledge base of the coastal AMF HWB component; and
4. Monitoring template and report provided to Bella Coola Resource Society for community business planning purposes.

Milestones

- Economic Development limitations July 2008
- Strategies recommendations July 2008
- AM reporting November 2008
- Report initiative results into HWB Baseline December 2008

Responsibilities

This project will be overseen by a steering committee made up of EBM WG and LRF technical representatives

Peer Review Requirements

not required

Linkages to other EBM Projects or Initiatives

All Adaptive Management projects
Human Wellbeing Strategies Inventory
Human Wellbeing Baseline

Method of Implementation

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

Contract: Partnership with community

Expert Panel / Workshop

Internal EBMWG Task

Other:

Budget

Item	Budget	Source
Item 1	\$10,000	EBM WG
Item 2	\$10,000	BC RS*

Total: Include if there is more than one item.

- Contribution is in-kind through staff resources and potentially cash contributions