

Definition of “Full Implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (“EBM”) by March 31, 2009”

The members of the of the Joint Land and Resource Forums have agreed, through the *Land and Resource Protocol Agreement* and the *Strategic Land Use Planning Agreement-in-Principle (the “Government-to-Government Agreements”)*, to achieve “full implementation of EBM by March 31, 2009”. The purpose of the document is to define what is meant by the phrase “full implementation of EBM by March 31, 2009”.

This phrase includes two components that require definition: (1) “EBM” and (2) and “full implementation”.

The following definitions of these two components provide a framework for achieving full implementation of EBM by March 31, 2009, subject to the completion of government to government discussions arising from the Government-to-Government Agreements and the completion of Detailed Strategic Planning activities, informed as appropriate by the EBM Working Group and Plan Implementation Committees.

Ecosystem Based Management

For the purposes of the Central and North Coast Land and Resource Management Plan areas, EBM is defined in the Government-to-Government Agreements between the various First Nations and Province of British Columbia as:

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

Full Implementation

“Full implementation” of EBM by March 31, 2009 will be achieved once the following are in place:

1. Governance Framework

A governance framework that provides an adaptive land use and resource management regime. The framework will include:

- a) government-to-government collaborative arrangements (i.e. FN-BC Land and Resource Forums, FN-BC collaborative management agreements); and
- b) structures and processes for ongoing collaborative and/or consultative stakeholder involvement, including the Plan Implementation Committees and the EBM Working Group.

2. Human Well-Being

Socioeconomic policies and initiatives that seek to achieve a high level of human well-being¹ over time, including:

- a) CIII management and funding mechanisms in place (Coast Economic Development Society Coast and Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation);
- b) Coast Sustainability Trust renewed;
- c) regional economic development policies and initiatives that seek to maintain diversified and viable businesses (forestry, tourism, mining); and
- d) capacity building and management/technical training programs.

3. Ecological Integrity

Conservation measures, including components of integrated Detailed Strategic Plans, that seek to achieve a low level of ecological risk² overall in the Central and North Coast, over time, including:

- a) strategic land use zones (conservancies, biodiversity etc) and, as appropriate, related management plans;
- b) landscape reserves (FN cultural areas, OGMAs, UWRs, GWMs); and
- c) land use objectives (cultural, biodiversity, hydroriparian, wildlife, etc.), based on review and revision of the initial suite of legal objectives

4. Adaptive Management

A collaborative adaptive management system, informed by recommendations of the EBM Working Group and the Plan Implementation Committees, that will support the further development and implementation of EBM beyond 2009, including:

- a) a system for monitoring and evaluating ecological integrity and human well-being;
- b) an independent research and inventory and data management system; and
- c) a decision support/analysis system.

¹ Current agreed upon guidance regarding what constitutes “high level of human well-being” is found in Government-to-Government Agreements and the Coast Information Team EBM Handbook; however this guidance is subject to change through consideration of other information, further research and adaptive management.

² Current agreed upon guidance regarding what constitutes “low level of ecological risk” is found in the Coast Information Team EBM Handbook; however the ecological indicators in the EBM Handbook are subject to change through consideration of other information, further research and adaptive management.

5. Flexibility

Consistent with provisions in the Government-to-Government Agreements, a suite of flexibility tools that can be used to facilitate transition and sustain First Nation and local community well-being in the Central/North Coast³, including:

- a) strategic planning flexibility – i.e. developing and implementing integrated Detailed Strategic Plans that enable management to varying levels of ecological risk in different watersheds and landscapes;
- b) operational flexibility – i.e. in particular management situations, applying risk-managed management objectives and practicability tests, guided by criteria defined in land use objectives and related policies and guidance documents; and
- c) decision variance – i.e. where strategic planning and operational flexibility are insufficient, developing a land use objective that allows for a higher level of resource development activity in specific landscapes and watersheds for a specific period of time.

³ Use of the suite of flexibility tools will be consistent with the structures and processes for ongoing collaborative and/or consultative stakeholder involvement developed as part of the EBM Governance Framework.