



## Learning from EBM Experiences

For the first time in history, our leaders have successfully negotiated land and resource agreements government-to-government with the Province to increase our rightful authority to govern and manage our traditional lands. The Province and Coastal First Nations have committed to setting aside new protected areas that accommodate our Aboriginal Rights and Title and to managing our resources on the remaining land base using the principles of “ecosystem-based management”. We are committed to developing a thriving and diverse economy that is based on protecting ecosystem health and strengthening our cultures.

Ecosystem-based management (EBM) is a land management approach that recognizes that people, communities and the land are inseparable. Our choices must consider the health of both the people and the land that sustains them. EBM has two goals: maintain ecosystem health and improve human well-being.

Our community leaders are hopeful about the possibilities ahead as we work to implement our new land use agreements. The commitment to EBM has potentially far-reaching implications for our communities, but many aspects of it are new and the future is always unpredictable. People, communities and ecosystems and the surrounding world are always full of surprises. We do not always know whether our plans will deliver the outcomes we seek to achieve. We must be innovative and try out new plans and strategies, along the way monitoring whether we’re achieving our goals so that we can make needed adjustments.

We all learn from experience. That is how our ancestors adapted and prospered on the Coast for thousands of years. EBM will adopt a formal process of “learning from experience” called adaptive management.

### **Adaptive Management supports Ecosystem-Based Management Implementation**

Adaptive management is a systematic approach to learning from experience that will improve the effectiveness of implementing EBM on our land. It allows resource managers to determine whether land use plans are achievable and whether there is adequate information to make decisions. We can monitor whether our management actions are doing what we had intended and change our course along the way.

Adaptive management helps us clarify our strategies for improving human well-being and maintaining ecosystem health. It uses tools such as strategic planning, monitoring programs and formal research to ensure that we learn as much as possible as we go, and sets out a process so that new information will inform our activities in a timely way.

## Gathering the Best Information we need to Manage our Land

By having a system to gather information, resource managers can prioritize their limited time and resources for monitoring toward those management strategies and practices that are less tried and true or that pose greater risk to community goals and values. Having the best knowledge on hand can greatly reduce uncertainty and disagreements in decision-making.

Filling our gaps in knowledge can be done in several ways. Monitoring programs and formal research generate both scientific data as well as traditional knowledge. Simply creating opportunities to share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned is often the most effective way to improved planning and management.



## How will Adaptive Management be Implemented?

An Adaptive Management Steering Committee will be established to coordinate implementation of adaptive management in the Central and North Coast. This Committee and its program staff will engage and collaborate with First Nation resource offices and managers, provincial agencies, forest companies, researchers and environmental organizations to:

- ▶ Recommend monitoring and research priorities
- ▶ Communicate findings
- ▶ Interpret research results
- ▶ Fund essential monitoring gaps and priority research studies
- ▶ Link research to community needs  
(such as capacity-building, mentoring, and policy development)



**Turning Point Initiative Coastal First Nations**

T 604.696.9889 | F 604.696.9887 | [coastalfirstnations.ca](http://coastalfirstnations.ca) | 1051-409 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2