

# The Coast Sustainability Trust II

## Report of the Trustee as of December 31, 2010

### General

The Province of British Columbia created the Coast Sustainability Trust (CST) in 2002 to mitigate the negative effects on workers, contractors and communities, including First Nations of:

1. provincial government decisions related to the Land and Resource Management Plan process; and
2. the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) in the:
  1. Central Coast;
  2. North Coast;
  3. Queen Charlotte Islands/ Haida Gwaii;
  4. Comox Strathcona Regional District; and
  5. Regional District of Mount Waddington.

The CST was initially funded with \$25,000,000 directed to mitigate forest workers and contractors (the Mitigation Fund), and \$10,000,000 directed to communities and mitigation related to the implementation of EBM (the Matching Fund). Any undisbursed funds in the Mitigation fund were required by the CST Trust Deed to be rolled into the Matching Fund as of March 31, 2005. At that time \$12,258,170 was rolled into the Matching Fund.

The Trust Deed that created the CST stipulated that it was to terminate on March 31, 2007, and that the Trustee then had two years to determine what to do with any remaining funds in the CST. The original intention was to disburse all matching funds to eligible beneficiaries by that time, but on March 31, 2007, there was still over \$20 million in the Matching Fund accounts. Roughly \$6 million had been committed to specific projects, but over \$14 million had not.

In anticipation of the termination of the CST, all the Advisory Board and Regional Steering Committee members, as well as all First Nations, organized communities and Regional Districts that were potential beneficiaries of the CST, were asked to comment on the disposition of remaining CST funds. The unanimous response was that the CST should be rolled over into a new trust that mirrored the existing trust, with only a few suggestions for minor changes.

The Advisory Board decided to roll the CST into the Coast Sustainability Trust II (CST II). CST II assumed all the assets and liabilities of the CST, retained the governance structure of the CST, and kept the Matching Fund Guidelines. The main differences are that the Regional Steering Committees now have the ability to increase the CST II commitment to any one project to as much as \$250,000 instead of the previous \$100,000 maximum and, in order to help small communities, the CST II may contribute up to 75% of the first \$50,000 in a project's cost, instead of the previous 50/50 minimum requirement, for all community matching fund projects.

The other main difference with the CST II is that the Ecosystem Based Management Land Use Planning (EBMLUP) and the Economic, Scientific and Adaptive Management Development and Planning (ESAMDAP) sub-trusts were rolled into a new Ecosystem Based Management Working Group (EBMWG) sub-trust Account effective April 1, 2007, and an additional \$1,644,320 was

received from the Province of British Columbia to fund the EBMWG. That sub-trust was terminated effective March 31, 2009.

Effective March 31, 2009 the Ministry of Agriculture and Land contributed \$580,000 to the CST II to create a new sub-trust, known as the Ecosystem Based Management Adaptive Management (EBM-AM) sub-trust. Residual funds in the EBMWG sub-trust were used first to settle any outstanding liabilities of the EBMWG, and the balance was allocated to the EBM-AM sub-trust.

Also effective March 31, 2009, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land contributed \$750,000 to the CST II to create a second new sub-trust, known as the Landscape Reserve Planning (LRP) sub-trust.

Given that the CST II assumed all the assets and liabilities of the CST, and given many partially funded Community Matching Fund projects were transferred to the CST II, activity reporting for the CST II Community Matching Fund includes CST activity:

### **CST II Account Balances and Distributions**

As of December 31, 2010 the CST II balances and distributions were as follows:

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Account Balances</b>                           |                            |
| Community Matching Fund Account                   | \$5,130,997                |
| EBM Adaptive Management Account                   | \$671,114                  |
| EBM Matching Fund Account                         | \$5,615,522                |
| Landscape Reserve Planning Account                | \$17,897                   |
| <b>Total available funds</b>                      | <b><u>\$11,435,530</u></b> |
| <br><b>Distributions to beneficiaries to date</b> |                            |
| Forest Worker Severance                           | \$2,933,857                |
| Contractor Mitigation                             | \$10,749,764               |
| Community Matching Funds                          | \$13,762,408               |
| EBM Adaptive Management Sub-trust                 | \$1,241                    |
| EBM Land Use Planning Sub-trust                   | \$209,068                  |
| ESAMDAP Sub-trust                                 | \$132,486                  |
| EBMWG Sub-trust                                   | \$1,633,855                |
| Landscape Reserve Planning Sub-trust              | \$735,000                  |
| <b>Total Distributions to beneficiaries</b>       | <b><u>\$30,157,679</u></b> |
| Total available funds plus distributions          | <b><u>\$41,593,209</u></b> |

In addition to the original \$35,000,000 given to the CST, five other sub-trusts of the CST and CST II were funded by the province. Unused funds in the EBM Land Use Planning and ESAMDAP sub-trusts were rolled into the EBMWG sub-trust, and unused funds in the EBMWG sub-trust were rolled into the EBM Adaptive Management sub-trust. The Landscape Reserve Planning sub-trust was also created effective March 31, 2009. These five sub-trusts combined have received a total of \$3,373,320. Income to date from investments of the CST and now the CST II has exceeded total administration expenses by over \$3.2 million. There was no need to use any of the capital of the CST to fund its administration. This allows over \$4.3 million more than originally planned to go to beneficiaries.

## Community Matching Fund Account

When the CST Community Matching Fund started operations, the Advisory Board agreed that decisions related to specific initiatives in the communities should be made at the local level as opposed to by the broader Advisory Board. Five Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) were formed. They are the Central Coast, Comox Strathcona, Mount Waddington, the North Coast, and Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii. Significant progress has been made to date with all five RSCs.

### Leverage of CST Community Matching Funds

Each of the five RSCs has been allocated \$3,700,000 to use towards developing Regional Economic Development Strategies and to support individual initiatives that fit those strategies. As of the end of December 2010, funding has been and remains approved for a total of 226 projects. An additional 24 projects were approved but were subsequently abandoned by the applicant for a variety of reasons and did not receive CST funding. The main reason for applicants abandoning their projects was an inability to source matching funds or other forms of financing.

The total commitment from the CST is \$17,056,063, for projects worth a total of \$126,796,087. Therefore, on average a total of \$7.43 goes into approved projects for each \$1.00 of CST funds committed.

Following is a table that shows the total value of the requests for assistance, and the progress in approving funding for each of the RSCs. As of December 31, 2010, Funding Agreements were being negotiated with proponents the most recently approved projects. You will note that two of the RSCs have allocated all their available funds, and two others are within less than \$200,000 of being fully committed. There are sufficient new applications to absorb any remaining funds in those four RSCs, or any funds that may be freed up if existing projects do not proceed.

### Status of Community Matching Fund funding requests As at December 31, 2010

| Regional Steering Committee | Total Project Size   | Amount Requested of CST | Amount Rejected by CST or abandoned by applicant | Amount still under consideration by CST | Number of Approved Projects | Amount approved by CST | Amount disbursed by CST |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Central Coast</b>        | \$19,349,771         | \$5,706,397             | \$2,432,633                                      | \$655,000                               | 56                          | \$2,618,764            | \$2,346,765             |
| <b>Comox Strathcona</b>     | \$55,074,915         | \$13,808,419            | \$8,766,491                                      | \$1,193,594                             | 42                          | \$3,698,333            | \$3,419,396             |
| <b>Mount Waddington</b>     | \$98,401,177         | \$8,833,517             | \$4,327,905                                      | \$799,726                               | 49                          | \$3,705,887            | \$2,748,693             |
| <b>North Coast</b>          | \$45,934,660         | \$8,257,201             | \$4,094,730                                      | \$658,639                               | 33                          | \$3,503,833            | \$2,428,448             |
| <b>QCI Haida Gwaii</b>      | \$47,248,481         | \$6,274,436             | \$2,315,190                                      | \$430,000                               | 46                          | \$3,529,246            | \$2,819,106             |
| <b>Total:</b>               | <b>\$266,009,004</b> | <b>\$42,879,969</b>     | <b>\$21,936,948</b>                              | <b>\$3,736,959</b>                      | <b>226</b>                  | <b>\$17,056,063</b>    | <b>\$13,762,408</b>     |

## Types of Projects Approved for Community Matching Fund Assistance

In order to stimulate economic activity, each RSC considers and approves projects that fit into the strategic priorities of their area or, if no formal strategic priorities have been developed, projects that clearly fall into the range of initiatives that likely will be included. The types of projects vary to some extent by the chosen strategic direction of each RSC. Following is a table that shows the type of projects approved for CST funding support:

### Types of projects approved for CST Funding

| Regional Steering Committee        | Total Project Size   | Amount approved by CST | Nature of Approved Project              |                          |                  |                    |                  |                    |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|                                    |                      |                        | Agriculture & NonTimber Forest Products | Aquaculture & Processing | Forestry         | Infra-structure    | Planning         | Tourism            |
| Central Coast                      | \$11,083,826         | \$2,618,764            | \$53,116                                | \$402,090                | \$99,604         | \$920,026          | \$528,366        | \$615,562          |
| Comox Strathcona                   | \$28,888,243         | \$3,698,333            | \$12,500                                | \$1,037,000              | \$0              | \$542,500          | \$190,500        | \$1,915,833        |
| Mount Waddington                   | \$31,116,910         | \$3,705,887            | \$91,400                                | \$354,188                | \$15,000         | \$1,562,411        | \$39,500         | \$1,643,387        |
| North Coast                        | \$16,820,427         | \$3,503,833            | \$0                                     | \$630,120                | \$50,000         | \$741,261          | \$24,750         | \$2,057,702        |
| QCI / Haida Gwaii                  | \$38,886,681         | \$3,529,246            | \$207,559                               | \$366,030                | \$227,398        | \$1,451,016        | \$165,232        | \$1,112,011        |
| <b>Total:</b>                      | <b>\$126,796,087</b> | <b>\$17,056,063</b>    | <b>\$364,575</b>                        | <b>\$2,789,428</b>       | <b>\$392,002</b> | <b>\$5,217,214</b> | <b>\$948,348</b> | <b>\$7,344,496</b> |
| <b>Percent of Approved Amounts</b> |                      |                        | <b>2.1%</b>                             | <b>16.4%</b>             | <b>2.3%</b>      | <b>30.6%</b>       | <b>5.6%</b>      | <b>43.1%</b>       |

On the North Coast and in the Mount Waddington, Comox and Strathcona Regional Districts the highest concentration of project approvals relate to the enhancement of tourism opportunities, with an emphasis on eco and cultural tourism. Examples are providing funding for a Vancouver Olympics Destination Marketing Initiative for Haida Gwaii, the construction or renovation of First Nations Big Houses, support for tourism associations on the Central Coast, Northern Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii, assistance to the Nisga'a in Gingolx for their cultural longhouse and carving shed, production of an Art Route brochure in Haida Gwaii, assistance to the Haida in the construction of a cultural center and a totem pole carving project, assistance to the Kwakiutl in a resort upgrade, assistance to the Bella Coola Valley Museum to help make it an even better attraction, funding for self directed walking tours in Campbell River and the Comox Valley, a mountain Sports Centre and an outdoor wilderness centre at Mount Washington, bear watching operations in Phillips Arm for the Kwiakah First Nation and in the Orford River Estuary for the Homalco First Nation, the promotion of movie film sites in northern Vancouver Island, and a tour information centre in Old Masset on Haida Gwaii. In aggregate, 43.1% of CST funding has gone to assist tourism related projects.

Infrastructure improvements are another primary focus, and the biggest one in the Central Coast and Haida Gwaii. Some are aimed at enhancing tourism, such as adding an interpretive garden, salt water aquarium and movable webcams to the Visitor Information Centre in Queen Charlotte, creating or improving destination hiking or mountain biking trails, establishing a waterfront trail in Prince Rupert, construction of RV and campground facilities, construction of an all season all weather boat ramp in Campbell River, improving the dock at Holberg and upgrading the seaplane ramp in Seal Cove, Prince

Rupert, improving cruise ship terminals, docks and harbours, and investing in the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre at Mount Washington and the Strathcona Park Outdoor Centre. Other projects enhance industrial or commercial opportunities, such as an industrial park in Port Alice, building a new town square in the Village of Queen Charlotte, or assistance in creating an Economic Development Zone on Quinsam Indian Reserve 12 in Campbell River. The Central Coast RSC voted to contribute \$35,000 to a Central Coast Business Enterprise and Visitor Centre, \$302,500 towards a project that provides Broadband Internet to the communities on the Central Coast, and \$400,000 to help the Oweekeno acquire road building and maintenance equipment and barge facilities that would have been lost to them on the withdrawal of Western Forest Products from their area. The Mount Waddington and Comox Strathcona RSCs have also approved funding to assist in the installation of Broadband Internet in seven Northern Vancouver Island communities. In aggregate, 30.6% of CST funding has gone to assist infrastructure related projects.

A third focus is shellfish aquaculture and processing. The Comox Strathcona and Mount Waddington RSCs jointly elected to help fund a Shellfish Industry Investment Attraction Initiative promoted by the Vancouver Island Economic Developers Association (VIEDA). This was expanded to assist in attracting investment for shellfish processing. Support was given to the BC Shellfish Growers Association to help it with a business and market development initiative. The Comox Strathcona Regional Steering Committee also approved a grant to the Homalco First Nation to assist it in developing a scallop farming venture. The Central Coast, North Coast and Queen Charlotte Islands - Haida Gwaii RSCs jointly agreed to support a combined North Coast – Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society and Turning Points Initiative Society application for assistance in developing a coast wide shellfish aquaculture initiative. The Central Coast RSC has also provided support to the Heiltsuk Nation Shellfish Co-operative, and the North Coast RSC has provided funding to assist in performing Biotoxin studies. On Haida Gwaii, the Skidegate and the Old Massett Haida have received funding to help in training shellfish farm workers at two pre-commercial pilot projects. In aggregate, 16.4% of CST funding has gone to assist aquaculture and processing related projects.

The CST also supports the development of non timber forest products. In Northern Vancouver Island this has taken the form of the Wild Island Food Co-operative, while the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii RSC approved funding to a Co-op that will initially pursue vacuum drying of chanterelle mushrooms, and later branch into other edible products.

To date, CST funding has been fairly evenly split, with 52.3% of funding going to First Nations sponsored initiatives, and 47.7% going to civic community sponsored initiatives. In fact, a significant number of initiatives related to shellfish aquaculture, tourism, planning and broadband internet installations were joint initiatives between First Nations and civic communities.

### **Employment Impact of CST Funding**

Following is a table which displays the employment impact of CST funding in the five Regional Steering Committee operating areas. The numbers are based on a combination of information submitted in the original applications, quarterly reporting as the project proceeded, and results of a survey taken of recipients of CST funding after the projects were completed. Numbers shown are actual employment or contract positions and have not been reduced to full time equivalents. On the

other hand, spin off jobs were not included as, especially in the case of tourism, the provision of high speed internet and long range planning, they are very difficult to estimate.

| <b>Regional Steering Committee</b> | <b>Full time Jobs while Project Active</b> | <b>Part time Jobs while Project Active</b> | <b>Full time Jobs when Project Completed</b> | <b>Part time Jobs when Project Completed</b> |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Central Coast</b>               | 26   | 127  | 184  | 213  |
| <b>Comox Strathcona</b>            | 75   | 214  | 202  | 203  |
| <b>Mount Waddington</b>            | 69   | 223  | 176  | 189  |
| <b>North Coast</b>                 | 93   | 107  | 75   | 31   |
| <b>QCI Haida Gwaii</b>             | 183  | 219  | 84   | 94   |
| <b>Total:</b>                      | <b>446</b>                                 | <b>890</b>                                 | <b>721</b>                                   | <b>730</b>                                   |

### **Ecosystem Based Management Matching Fund Account**

Upon the roll-over of funds from the CST to the CST II, the Advisory Board directed that \$5,000,000 within the CST Matching Fund Account remain segregated from the Community Matching Fund Account, so a separate account named the EBM Matching Fund was established. The purpose of the EBM Matching fund is to help mitigate the negative impacts of the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management on the forest workers, contractors and both civic and First Nations Communities in the CST operating area. This account has been dormant since the roll-over and the only activity has been growth through interest on the invested funds. As of December 31, 2010 the EBM Matching Fund Account had a value of \$5.616 million.

Because EBM was not projected to be fully implemented until March 31, 2009, none of those funds could be disbursed before then. In the December 2, 2008 CST Advisory Board meeting, a decision was made to not release those funds until at least June 2009, as it was felt by the Board that the implications of the implementation of EBM would be better understood later in 2009. Since that time the CST Trustee has been working with Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands staff to try to determine the projected impact of the implementation of EBM on workers and contractors so that an allocation of available funds can be made between workers, contractors and communities. In a May 18, 2010 meeting the Advisory Board of the BC Forestry Revitalization Trust (BCFRT) agreed to consider the possibility of providing matching funds to the EBM Matching Fund to allow workers and contractors on Haida Gwaii to receive mitigation for the negative impacts of EBM on them. A letter was sent out to the three major licensees on Haida Gwaii asking them to submit proposals for worker and contractor mitigation. A meeting of the BCFRT Advisory Board is scheduled for mid January 2011 to review the responses and requests for mitigation assistance.

### **Ecosystem Based Management Working Group subtrust (EBMWG)**

In the second quarter of 2007 a donor directed EBMWG sub trust of \$620,000 was added to the CST II by the Province of British Columbia. In addition, surplus funds of \$70,488 from the old Ecosystem Based Management - Land Use Planning (EBMLUP) Sub-trust plus \$14,927 from the old Economic,

Scientific and Adaptive Management Development and Planning (ESAMDAP) Sub-trust were rolled in to the new subtrust. A further \$1,024,320 was added to the EBMWG subtrust during 2008. Its purpose was to fund consulting projects approved by the EBMWG with a view to improving the scientific basis of EBM related decisions.

As of March 31, 2009, disbursements of \$1,633,855 had been made. Surplus funds totaling approximately \$78,000 were credited to the newly created EBM Adaptive Management sub-trust.

### **EBM Adaptive Management sub-trust**

Effective March 31, 2009 a new sub-trust called the EBM Adaptive Management sub trust was created. It was seeded with \$500 from the EBMWG subtrust, and received a further \$575,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands during the second quarter of 2009. Its goal is to invest in the Central Coast, North Coast and the Haida Gwaii plan areas by:

1. funding the successful implementation and management of an Adaptive Management program that supports the goals of Ecosystem Based Management,
2. funding projects in an Annual Work Plan approved by the Joint Land and Resource Forum, and
3. investing in and supporting Adaptive Management, Ecosystem Based Management, and other specific uses as directed by the donor.

To date, only minor meeting related and administrative expenses have been incurred by this sub-trust.

### **Landscape Reserve Planning sub-trust**

Also effective March 31, 2009, a second new sub-trust called the Landscape Reserve Planning (LRP) sub-trust was established. It received a total of \$750,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in the second quarter of 2009. Its purpose is to support the First Nations represented by the Nanwakolus Council, the Coastal First Nations, and the Tsimshian Stewardship Committee in Landscape Reserve Planning. To date disbursements of \$735,000 have been made to those groups out of this fund.

### **Looking Ahead**

During the first quarter of 2011, I expect the following activity in CST II:

- Funding requests will continue to be received and evaluated by the three Regional Steering Committees that have unallocated funds.
- Funding Agreements for Community Matching Fund projects will continue to be signed in the five RSC areas, and further disbursements will be made.
- The new EBM Adaptive Management sub-trust will become operational.
- Proposals for worker and contractor mitigation related to the impact of the implementation of EBM on Haida Gwaii will be evaluated by the CST Advisory Board.

Eric van Soeren

Trustee