

# ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

## *Learning Forum*

**JULY 2007 UPDATE**

### What is the EBM Learning Forum?

In 2006, most coastal First Nations signed land use agreements with the British Columbia government. These agreements include greater decision-making authority for First Nations, a network of protected areas called Conservancies and a commitment to applying Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) across First Nations' traditional

territories. This means changes in approaches for logging companies and coastal First Nations communities who will be responsible for implementing and monitoring EBM at the local and territorial level.

To support the transition to implementing EBM, the Coastal First Nations Turning Point Initiative is facilitating a regional learning network, called the EBM Learning Forum, to build a strong understanding of EBM at a local and regional level among

land use practitioners (land use planners, resource managers, foresters, technicians, etc).

The EBM Learning Forum will take the form of workshops and field trips 2-3 times per year. Through these events, participants will share their own EBM experiences and outside resource people with specific expertise will be invited on an as needed basis. It is a forum for dialogue and capacity building to support and strengthen the implementation of EBM.

#### MARK YOU CALENDARS NOW!

#### NEXT EBM LEARNING FORUM—SEPTEMBER 2007—

Join us on September 18-20 for the next EBM Learning Forum on Haida Gwaii. Based on the priorities that you identified at the Needs Assessment Workshop, the upcoming Learning Forum will focus on "Making EBM Accessible". We will explore the following questions:

- Where did EBM come from?
- Where can I access information and details about land use agreements and EBM implementation?
- What do other First Nations land use plans look like?

- What's happening right now with EBM implementation?

- How can I talk to people in my community about EBM?

There will be lots of time for discussion, networking and learning from each other. The Learning Forum will also include a field trip to learn about EBM on-the-ground. September's Learning Forum will take place in Masset. As further details become available we will let everyone know. Funding will be available to sponsor two people from each community to attend the Learning Forum (additional participants are welcome).

**More details coming soon!**

#### OUTCOMES OF EBM LEARNING FORUM NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

An EBM Learning Forum Needs Assessment Workshop was held in October 2006 in Vancouver. Seventeen participants from coastal communities attended (Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk, Haisla, Kitsoo, Gitga'at, Old Masset, Metlakatla). Participants met over two days and created a set of recommendations for the EBM Learning Forum including what they thought the Learning Forum should be as well as ideas for content. Here's what they came up with (see next page):

## The EBM Learning Forum will:

Provide opportunities for communities to share experiences and information related to EBM and land use planning

Create networking opportunities

Make information accessible

Identify expertise that already exists in communities and build upon it through workshops and field trips

Include training opportunities

Address various audiences within and across each community (experienced and new EBM practitioners)

Be an open and supportive environment that supports different formats for sharing and learning

If you have any questions or additional ideas about the EBM Learning Forum, please contact Kelly Brown at 604-831-2848 or [kbrown\\_23@hotmail.com](mailto:kbrown_23@hotmail.com)

Coastal First Nations -  
Turning Point Initiative  
401-409 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2  
Telephone: 604.696.9889  
Fax: 604.696.9887  
[www.coastalfirstnations.ca](http://www.coastalfirstnations.ca)

## Future EBM Learning Forums will explore topics such as:

Making EBM accessible – understandable information on EBM for the public

Effective communication – tools to support the EBM Learning Forum network

Sharing EBM technical information - political to technical, regional to community

Referrals and EBM – forestry legislation, operational planning, and EBM

Legal Objectives and EBM – legal step towards full implementation

Ecological Restoration and EBM – what does it look like?

Monitoring and EBM – who's monitoring and enforcing?

New Governance Structures and Government-to-Government Relationship – what do they mean?

Economic Opportunities under EBM – value-added manufacturing, forest certification, non-timber forest product development

Human Wellbeing – integrating cultural, social and ecological values in EBM

## NEW community materials on EBM

At the Needs Assessment workshop, people said that there wasn't accessible information that could be shared with community members about EBM. In response, a new booklet has been produced called "Keepers of the Land - ecosystem-based management". It is an understandable brochure that explains what EBM is about. This booklet is intended for community members and is a tool to help raise awareness in your community about EBM.

### Access to Information

Based on your feedback we have posted relevant land use planning and EBM related documents and agreements on a website. Check it out [www.coastalfirstnations.ca/documents/](http://www.coastalfirstnations.ca/documents/).

### EBM Learning Forum Community Working Group – Members Needed!

At the Needs Assessment workshop a suggestion was made to create a working group with a volunteer representative from each of the communities to ensure that the activities of the Learning Forum remain consistent with the needs of communities and to help raise community awareness and participation in the Learning Forum. Currently, we are seeking members for the Community Working Group. Please let Kelly Brown know (contact information below) if you are interested in being the volunteer representative for your community. A Community Working Group conference call will be held in July to confirm agenda of next EBM Learning Forum.

This list will be added to and changed as time goes on. The plan is to have 2-3 Learning Forums each year. The topics and content of the Learning Forums will be shaped by the participants.