

The Coast Sustainability Trust II

Report of the Trustee as of December 31, 2008

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 CST 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) subtrusts were rolled into a new Ecosystem Based Management Working Group (EBMWG) Subtrust Account effective April 1, 2007, and an additional \$1,644,320 has been received from the Province of British Columbia to fund the EBMWG.

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, 2008 the CST II Balances and distributions were as follows:

Account Balances	
Community Matching Fund Account	\$9,820,306
EBM Matching Fund Account	\$5,351,219
EBMWG sub trust	<u>\$709,599</u>
Total available funds	<u>\$15,881,124</u>
Distributions to beneficiaries to date	
Forest Worker Severance	\$2,933,857
Contractor Mitigation	\$10,749,764
Community Matching Funds	\$9,191,867
EBM Land Use Planning Subtrust	\$209,068
ESAMDAP Sub trust	\$132,486
EBMWG Subtrust	<u>\$1,068,133</u>
Total Distributions to beneficiaries	<u>\$24,285,175</u>
Total available funds plus distributions	<u>\$40,166,299</u>

In addition to the original \$35,000,000 given to the CST, three other subtrusts were funded by the province. Unused funds in the EBM Land Use Planning and ESAMDAP subtrusts were rolled into the EBMWG subtrust. These three subtrusts combined have received a total of \$2,043,320. Income to date from investments of the CST and now the CST II has exceeded total administration expenses by over \$3 million. There was no need to use any of the capital of the CST to fund its administration. This allows over \$4 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 2008, funding has been and remains approved for a total of 197 projects. An additional 16 projects were approved but were 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.

The total commitment from the CST is \$14,628,214, for projects worth a total of \$116,576,269. Therefore, on average a total of \$8.00 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, 2008, Funding Agreements were being negotiated with proponents of many of the approved projects.

**Status of Community Matching Fund funding requests
As at December 31, 2008**

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
Central Coast	\$17,674,464	\$5,221,397	\$2,266,511	\$600,000	54	\$2,354,886	\$2,126,963
Comox Strathcona	\$51,947,485	\$12,292,575	\$8,234,693	\$619,000	38	\$3,438,882	\$2,390,532
Mount Waddington	\$92,309,888	\$7,951,727	\$3,602,664	\$1,112,435	45	\$3,236,629	\$2,021,853
North Coast	\$35,600,175	\$6,504,117	\$3,140,730	\$734,912	26	\$2,628,476	\$1,360,724
QCI Haida Gwaii	\$39,305,566	\$4,977,033	\$2,052,190	\$0	34	\$2,969,343	\$1,291,795
Total:	\$236,837,578	\$36,946,848	\$19,296,788	\$3,066,347	197	\$14,628,214	\$9,191,867

Types of Projects approved

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. On the Central Coast, the North Coast and in Mount Waddington the highest concentration of project approvals relate to the enhancement of tourism opportunities, with an emphasis on eco and cultural tourism. Examples are the construction or renovation of First Nations Big Houses, support for tourism associations on the Central Coast, Northern Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii, assistance to the Nisga'a in Gingolx for their cultural longhouse and carving shed, 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 centre at Mount Washington, and bear watching operations in Phillips Arm for the Kwiakah First Nation, and in the Chuckwalla Nature Sanctuary for the Oweekeno First Nation. In aggregate, 42% 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/QCI. Some are aimed at enhancing tourism, such as 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, 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 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, 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, 32% of CST funding has gone to assist infrastructure related projects.

A third focus is shellfish aquaculture and processing. The Comox Strathcona and Mount Waddington Regional Steering Committees 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. The Comox Strathcona Regional Steering Committee also recently 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, 17% 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 51.4% of funding going to First Nations sponsored initiatives, and 48.6% going to civic community sponsored initiatives. In fact, a significant number of initiatives related to shellfish aquaculture, tourism, planning and broadband were joint initiatives between First Nations and civic communities.

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, 2008 the EBM Matching Fund Account had a value of \$5.35 million.

Because EBM was not projected to be fully implemented until March 31, 2009, none of those funds have been disbursed. 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 decisions made over the next few months would be better understood by then, so the board would be able to make better decisions on who the eligible beneficiaries should be.

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) Subtrust plus \$14,927 from the old Economic, Scientific and Adaptive Management Development and Planning (ESAMDAP) Subtrust were rolled in to the new subtrust. A further \$1,024,320 was added to the EBMWG subtrust during 2008. Its purpose is to fund consulting projects approved by the EBMWG with a view to improving the scientific basis of EBM related decisions.

As of December 31, 2008, there were a total of 33 awarded contracts and several workshops involving net commitments for \$1,593,010. Disbursements of \$1,068,133 had been made, and there were \$524,877 in outstanding contractual commitments. Interest income approximately matches the cost of the CST portion of EBMWG sub trust administration.

As of December 31, 2008, the Joint Land and Resource Forums had finalized a work plan and budget for the period from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2009 for the EBMWG. The total expected cost of the work plan plus non CST administration fees is approximately \$1,700,000. Funds currently held in the EBMWG subtrust are expected to be sufficient to deliver the proposed work plan.

Looking Ahead

During the first quarter of 2009, I expect the following activity in CST II:

- Funding requests will continue to be received and evaluated by each of the five Regional Steering Committees.
- Funding Agreements for Community Matching Fund projects will continue to be signed in the five RSC areas, and further disbursements will be made.
- Contracts aimed at increasing the EBM related knowledge base will be entered into with a variety of consultants related to the mandate of the EBMWG.

Eric van Soeren, Trustee