

# Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network Community-based Monitoring in the Great Bear Rainforest



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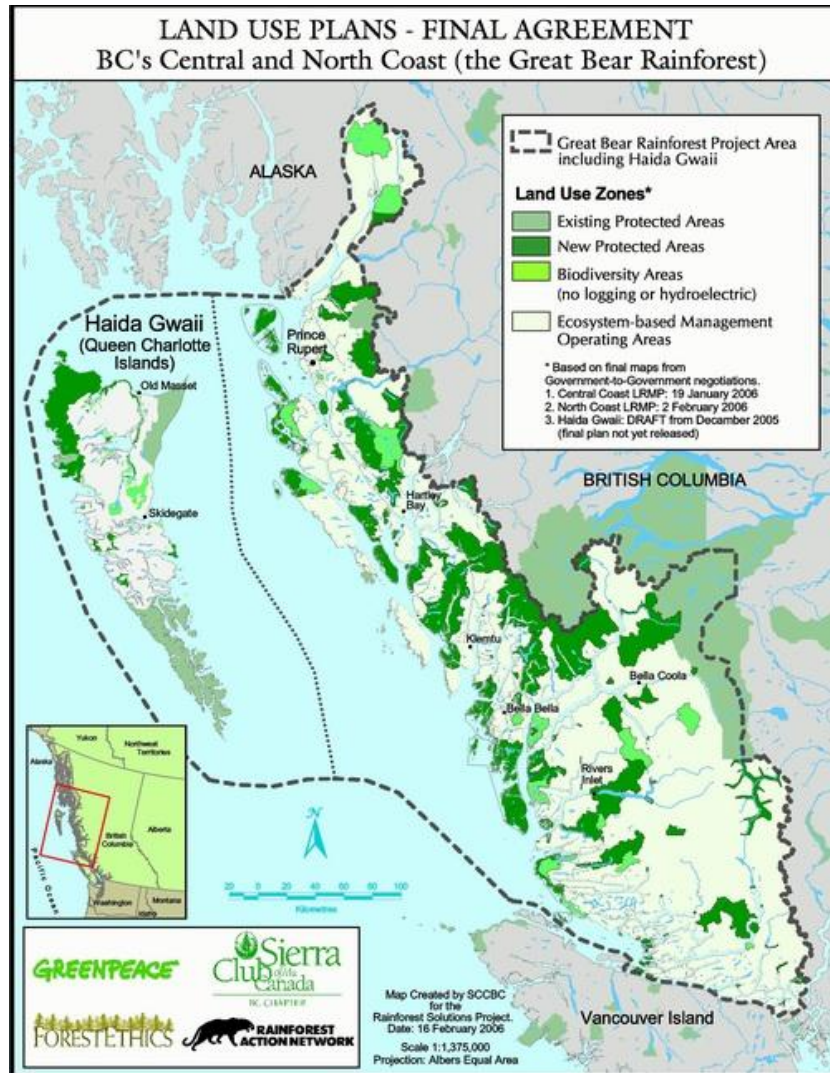


The **Coastal First Nations - Great Bear Initiative** is an alliance of First Nations on British Columbia's North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii working together to address issues related to ecological and human wellbeing.

- **Wuikinuxv**
- **Heiltsuk**
- **Kitasoo/Xaixais**
- **Nuxalk**
- **Gitga'at**
- **Haisla**
- **Metlakatla**
- **Old Massett & Skidegate**
- **Council of the Haida Nation**
- **Lax Kw'alaams**



# Innovative Agreements & Plans



- Collaborative multi-stakeholder planning process & FN led process
- New government-to-government relationship (Province & FN)
- 1/3 area in protection (over 2 million hectares)
- New lighter-touch forest practices (ecosystem-based management)
- \$120M fund for FN communities (Coast Opportunity Funds)
- AND marine use planning in process!

# What is the Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network?

- A project of the Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative
- **Supports local efforts** by First Nations to monitor, steward and protect their traditional territories by:
  - Bringing people together to **share knowledge and practices**
  - Working to **strengthen stewardship capacity** at the Nation level
  - Encouraging a **coordinated approach** to monitoring across the broader coastal region



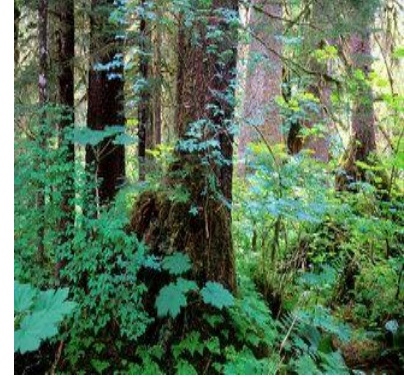
# Who are “Guardian Watchmen”?



- Eyes and the ears of the land and water
- Monitor, protect and restore cultural and natural resources
- Involved in fisheries, forestry, tourism, marine use, etc.
- Part of First Nation Resource/Stewardship Offices
- Vary from Nation to Nation but shared issues and priorities
- Work together to create a united presence on the Coast

**First Nations taking care of their territories  
through on-the-ground monitoring and  
stewardship**

# Why are “Guardian Watchmen” important?



- assert First Nations’ **authority and responsibility**
- play **integral role in resource management**
- essential for **implementing land and marine use plans**
- help to ensure **rules and regulations** are being followed
- protect important **cultural and ecological values**
- **critical to First Nations’ stewardship** over land, water and resources



# Lots to do ...

## Cultural & Natural Values



## Resource Activities









# Networking to identify shared issues and develop common solutions





# Networking ♦ Strategizing ♦ Collaborating





# Providing **in-community support** to resource stewardship offices to integrate GW and monitoring activities



# Integration ♦ Stewardship ♦ Monitoring





# Creating a **unified visual presence** and asserting rightful authority to manage territories





# Presence ♦ Visibility ♦ Legitimacy



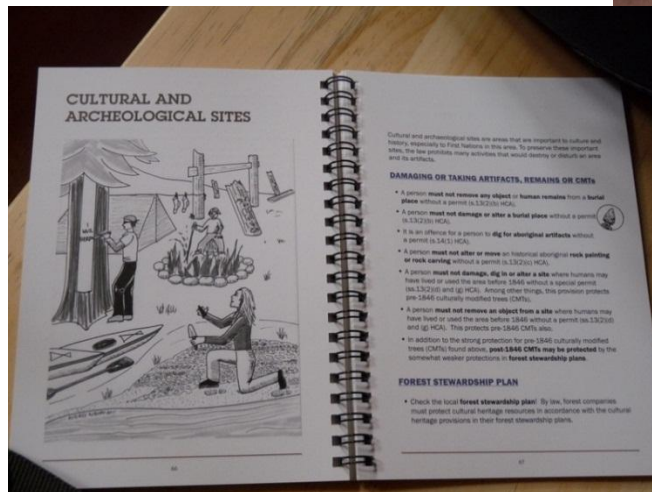


# Training and **skills development** for GW practitioners





# Skills ♦ Capacity ♦ Knowledge

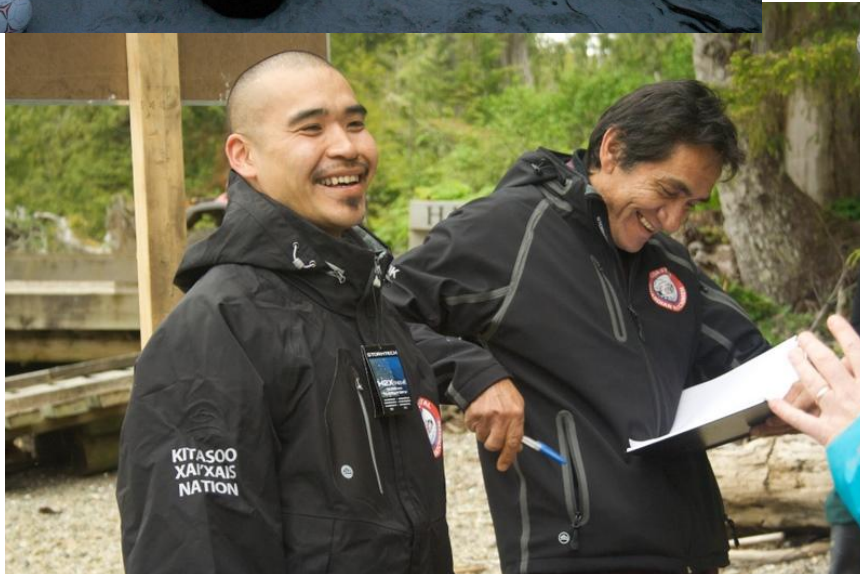




# Building relationships between CFN communities



# Trust ♦ Friendship ♦ Cohesiveness





# Collecting data on priority issues to inform resource decisions and respond to threats





# Data ♦ Influence ♦ Ownership



**Patrol Report-2010-07-10-metiakatia watchman1**

[View](#) [Edit](#)

Nation: Metiakatia  
Patrol on water or land?: Water  
Date: July 10, 2010  
Patrol start time: 352  
Patrol end time: 1152  
Sky: clear  
Precipitation: none  
Seas: calm  
Visibility (in nautical miles): > 5  
Visibility note: clear

- Enter Wildlife Sighting
- Enter Boat Sightings (not approached)
- Enter Crab or Prawn Trap Sighting
- Enter Approached Tourist Boats
- Enter Cultural and Ecological Site Visit
- Enter Enforcement Incident
- Enter Lodge Visit
- Enter Eulachon Survey
- Finish Report

## Detailed Nation Reports

These reports are comprised of all the data from your nation.

- **Enforcement Incidents**
  - Table - Open Enforcement Incidents
  - Table - Enforcement Incidents Reported & Actions Taken
  - Table
  - Map
  - Download spreadsheet
- **Ecological and Cultural Site Visits**
  - Table
  - Map
  - Download spreadsheet
- **Wildlife Sightings**
  - Table
  - Map
  - Download spreadsheet





# Regional Monitoring Strategy





# What We Heard

- “Sick of collecting data and don’t know where it goes”
- “We want to know more about what’s happening in our territory”
- “We want to be in control of our own data”
- “What did you say they’re doing in that other community?”
- “Would make sense to work together and monitor stuff in the same way for things that we’re all concerned about”



# Our Response

- Work with communities to create a coordinated approach to monitoring priority indicators up and down the coast to increase effectiveness of Guardian Watchmen and Stewardship efforts

... And call it the “**Regional Monitoring Strategy**” ...



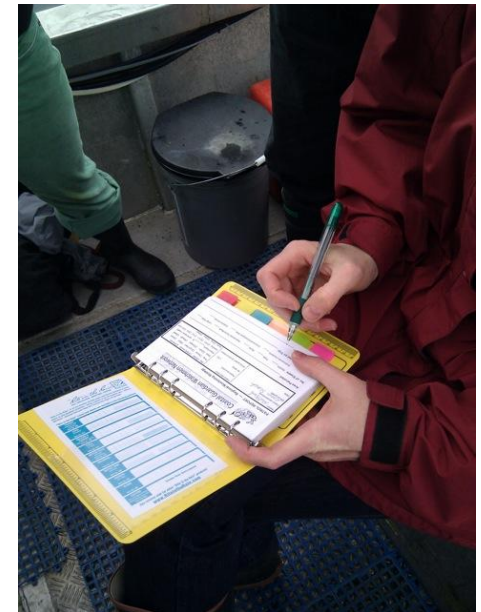


# Regional Monitoring Strategy

- **standardized approach** to monitoring priority issues relevant at a regional scale
- includes RMS **Field Cards**, **CoastTracker** (hand-held mobile device), and online **Data Management System** to collect, store and access information
- enables **compilation and comparison of territory and coast-wide data** generated by First Nations
- **complements existing monitoring** efforts and integrated into broader stewardship work
- empowers Nations to **use data collected** in planning and decision-making

# priority indicators

- **Wildlife** sightings
- **Boat** sightings, including sport fishing, commercial fishing, tourist, and government agency boats
- Activities of **tourists**
- **Sport fishing** lodge visits
- **Crab** and prawn trap sightings
- Impacts to **cultural and ecological sites**
- **Enforcement** incidents, agency responses, and outcomes
- **Eulachon** returns
- **Stream** assessments





# RMS Pilot Season 2010

- **5 communities** piloted RMS – Nuxalk, Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo, and Haisla
- **Took home the RMS Binders** from the conference
- Went out on patrol and **collected data using RMS Field Cards**
- Participated in **RMS training** and meetings
- **Entered data** into the online Data Management System
- Identified **strengths and weaknesses** of RMS



# RMS Pilot Season 2010

- 5 Nations together logged over **1300 hours** in the field
- Together entered **198 patrol reports** into the online data management system
  - 300 wildlife sightings
  - 450 boat sightings
  - 120 trap sightings
- Participated in post-season evaluation and **made recommendations for 2011**





# CoastTracker Pilot Season 2011



- 6 Nations piloting **CoastTracker** - new mobile hand held data collection devices
- Same as RMS Field Cards but with **automatic data upload**
- Some **technical challenges** and “integration issues”
- Will **improve data integrity**, data entry, and spatial data
- **Big experiment** – outcome to be determined!

# Successes



- **Ground-up** – grown from needs of communities
- **Member-driven** – priority activities identified by GW
- Fosters **peer-peer learning** and mentorship
- Strengthened **relationships** between Nations
- Strong identification and **pride** with GW brand
- Increased visibility and **presence** of FN on water
- Increased **capacity** – new GW programs
- **Data** being collected by FN for FN through RMS
- Successes in one community **uplifts** other communities
- **Meeting people where they are at**



