

# RAINFOREST SOLUTIONS PROJECT

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### Glossary of terms

**Aboriginal Title and Rights:** Aboriginal title in Canada is recognized and affirmed by the Canadian constitution and the courts, which acknowledge title as equal to, but different from, Crown title. The Supreme Court of Canada has defined Aboriginal rights as falling along a spectrum from rights that are practices, customs and traditions integral to the culture, through activities directly connected to the land - and possibly to a particular site - through Aboriginal Title, which is a right to the land itself.

**Allowable Annual Cut (AAC):** The allowable rate of timber harvest from a specified area of land. The chief forester sets AACs for timber supply areas (TSAs) and tree farm licenses (TFLs) in accordance with Section 7 of the Forest Act.

**Biodiversity (biological diversity):** The diversity of plants, animals, and other living organisms in all their forms and levels of organization, including genes, species, ecosystems, and the evolutionary and functional processes that link them.

**Blue-listed species:** In B.C. the designation of an indigenous species, subspecies or population as being vulnerable or at risk because of low or declining numbers or presence in vulnerable habitats. Included in this classification are populations generally suspected of being vulnerable, but for which information is too limited to allow designation in another category. *See also red-listed species.*

**Central Coast:** A Land and Resource Management Planning area defined by the Government of BC. This area is roughly bounded by the northeast coast of Vancouver Island, the north coast of Princess Royal Island and the eastern boundary of Wells Grey Provincial Park. The central coast is also the southern portion of the Great Bear Rainforest. It's the portion of the mainland coast that lies between the northern tip of Princess Royal Island and Knight Inlet. It is a globally rare region of threatened ancient rainforests with rich species diversity and is home of aboriginal communities.

**Coast Information Team (CIT):** The Coast Information Team (CIT) was an independent, multidisciplinary group established and supported by the Provincial Government of British Columbia, First Nations governments, the forest industry, environmental groups, communities and later the federal government, as part of the implementation of the 2001 CCLCRMP (Central Coast Land and Coastal Resource Management Planning) Phase I Framework Agreement. The CIT was formed as an independent body established to provide scientific, ecological and socio-economic analysis to guide and inform land use planning decisions in the central and north coasts. CIT products are meant to inform both the government stakeholder land use planning processes and First Nation land use planning.

**Clearcut:** A swath of land where all marketable and non-marketable trees, large and small, in a stand are removed in one cutting operation. In a clear-cut all trees are cut, the

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non-marketable trees are removed into slash piles and burned, all natural vegetation effectively destroyed.

**Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI):** An alliance of major coastal forest industry corporations that approached the RSP groups to form the Joint Solutions Project. See *Joint Solutions Project* below. CFCI members include Weyerhaeuser Canada Coastal Division, Canadian Forest Products, International Forest Products, Western Forest Products and Norske Canada.

**Coast Opportunities Fund (COF):** The institution established to receive and administer all conservation fundraising proceeds to the Coast Investments and Incentives Initiative (CIII) and conservation financing. Once in place the COF funds will include monies raised for conservation management and economic development/diversification in the Central Coast, North Coast, and Haida Gwaii areas of British Columbia.

**Conservation Economy:** A conservation economy both maintains ecosystem integrity and provides for human well-being. Resource development stays within natural limits, through the use of an ecosystem-based management approach and by setting aside land from development. Economic activity is focused on meeting human needs and contributing to human well-being while sustaining fully-functioning ecosystems. A diversity of economic activities are pursued in a manner that benefits local communities, while contributing to the common good.

**Conventional or 'status quo' logging:** Any combination of mechanical or hand felling and rubber-tired or tracked skidding equipment. In the interior, cable logging is not considered conventional; on the coast, it is.

**Critical Habitat:** An ecosystem or particular ecosystem element occupied or used by a species, or local population, that is essential for its health and/or long-term persistence.

**Culturally modified tree (CMT):** A tree that has been altered by First Nations people as part of their cultural and social use of the forest. CMTs could show signs of bark-stripping or plank removal from the living tree, for instance.

**Ecological integrity:** A quality or state of an ecosystem in which it is considered complete or unimpaired; including the natural diversity of species and biological communities, ecosystem processes and functions, and both the ability to absorb disturbance (resistance) and to recover from disturbance (resilience).

**Ecological restoration:** An intentional activity that initiates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its integrity and health. It seeks to protect and restore the plant and animal communities of a given area or region and the renewal of the ecosystem and cultural functions necessary to maintain these communities now and into the future.

**Ecosystem Based Management (EBM):** An adaptive approach to managing human activities that seeks to ensure the co-existence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems

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and human communities and cultures. The intent is to maintain those spatial and temporal characteristics of ecosystems such that component species and ecological processes can be sustained and human well-being supported and improved. To read the Coast Information team's EBM Handbook go to: <http://www.citbc.org/pubpcit.html>

**Ecosystem Spatial Analysis:** An analysis undertaken to identify priority areas for biodiversity conservation and to provide an information base and decision support for subsequent planning and management efforts designed to address four well-accepted goals of conservation: representative ecosystems from a range of environmental grades, viable numbers of native species, sustained ecological and evolutionary processes with a natural range of variability and to build a conservation network that is resilient to environmental change. For more information or to read the CIT ESA report go to: <http://www.citbc.org/pub.html>

**Ecotourism:** A tourism market based on promoting and touring a regions' natural habitat through interpretation and education programs, usually aims at a management framework that poses minimal ecological impact. Ecotourism operations usually also strive to ensure local people and indigenous people share in the economic benefits of the operation. *See also wilderness tourism.*

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** An activity designed to identify, predict, interpret and communicate information about the impact of actions (legislative proposals, policies, programs, projects and operational procedures) on human health and well being, including the well-being of ecosystems on which human survival depends.

**Environmental risk assessment:** A process for estimating the likelihood or probability of an adverse outcome or event due to pressures or changes in environmental conditions resulting from human activities.

**Estuary:** The embayed or sheltered mouth of a river where the tide meets the river flow, creating brackish water zones with a range of salinity. Extremely rich and productive ecosystems exist where tidal marine water and sediment mixes with freshwater and river sediment.

**Forest license:** A forest license allows orderly timber harvest over a portion of a sustained yield management unit, and the timely reforestation of harvested areas according to a strategic resource management plan prepared by the Forest Service for each timber supply area. The license has a term of 15 to 20 years, generally replaceable every five years (some are non-replaceable) and operating areas that shift over time. Once an area is harvested and reforested the licensee moves to another part of the timber supply area. A forest license specifies an annual allowable cut, requires a management and working plan, and specified management activities.

**Forest Stewardship Council-BC (FSC-BC):** The FSC is an international non-profit organization that was founded in 1993 to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. FSC-BC forest management certification involves on-the-ground assessment of a landowner or

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licensee's forestry practices by an interdisciplinary team of experts. The assessment evaluates the ecological, economic and social aspects of the operation in accordance with the certification standards of the region. The FSC brand ensures that the FSC-labeled product comes from a well-managed forest.

**Great Bear Rainforest:** The area of coastal British Columbia comprising the Central Coast, and North Coast planning areas as well as Haida Gwaii.

**Haida Gwaii:** The archipelago of islands and surrounding waters that together makes up the traditional territory of the Haida Nation (also known as the Queen Charlotte Islands). Haida Gwaii is home to the Haida Nation, an aboriginal group that is known for its amazing totems and huge canoes. The worlds 'king cedar' – the majestic yellow cedar – are also found on Haida Gwaii.

**Joint Solutions Project:** The purpose of the Joint Solutions Project is to promote new ideas for solutions to old conflicts over coastal temperate rainforests. It represents an attempt by forest companies and environmental groups to collaborate on the development of models for conservation and management of globally significant coastal forests that fully integrates social, economic and ecological needs. The Joint Solutions Project includes RSP partner groups: Greenpeace Canada, Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter, ForestEthics and the Rainforest Action Network as well the forest companies Canadian Forest Products (Canfor), International Forest Products (Interfor), Norske Canada, Western Forest Products and Weyerhaeuser Canada. For more information go to: <http://www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com/index.html>

**Kermode bear:** A rare, genetically unique subspecies of black bear that exists on the North Coast of British Columbia. Also known as the 'Spirit Bear'. For more info click [here](#).

**Land use plan:** An approved and codified plan outlining and defining acceptable land uses within a given area that is sanctioned by both the Province and relevant First Nations.

**Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP):** A strategic, multi-agency, integrated resource plan at the sub-regional level. It is based on the principles of enhanced public involvement, consideration of all resource values, consensus-based decision-making, and resource sustainability. LRMP processes engage interested parties and stakeholders in the region. The recommendations of the process are delivered to governments for final decision-making.

**Marbled Murrelet:** A small, black and white seabird whose marine and terrestrial habitat is found along the Pacific coast and in the old growth forests of British Columbia. The Marbled Murrelet is considered a red-listed species in BC.

**Markets Campaign:** Using the power of the marketplace, environmental non-governmental organisations are able to steer consumers and corporate purchasers away

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from environmentally destructive products and eliminate the incentive for corporations to use ecologically unsound practices. See also <http://www.marketsinitiative.org>.

**North Coast:** A Land and Resource Management Planning area defined by the Government of BC. The area is roughly bounded by the Pacific coast north of Princess Royal Island to the west, the southern border of Alaska to the north and the Coast Mountains to the east. Bound by Ursula, Whale and Laredo Channels to the south and the Portland Cannel and Alaskan border in the north, BC's north coast is vastly rich in both flora and fauna. Many First Nations call the north coast home. The North Coast is also home to Canada's only Grizzly Management zone.

**Old growth forests:** Old forests that are defined by a group of attributes, including age, multi-layered canopies, canopy gaps, high levels of decayed wood, and large trees. Due to a lack of inventory for these attributes, old growth forests are considered to be those stands identified as older than 250 years (note: current forest inventory tends to underestimate stand age, particularly stands located on moderate and poor growing sites).

### **Protected Areas:**

- 1) General large areas set aside for a specific form of protection by government or First Nations under specific legislation or authority. They are generally established through strategic planning at regional and sub-regional and territorial scales.
- 2) An area in which little or no industrial development has taken place that is formally designated as protected from industrial development through a legal instrument.
- 3) An area which has been subjected to industrial development but still retains high habitat capability and is slated for restoration and protection

**Red-listed species:** In BC, the designation of an indigenous species, subspecies, or population as endangered or threatened because of its low abundance and consequent danger of extirpation or extinction. See also *Blue-listed species*.

**Socially Responsible Investment (SRI):** Investments made by individuals and institutions that seek financial returns while supporting environmental, community health and social justice issues.

**Stakeholders:** The range of groups and individuals who have a formal or informal stake in resource planning and management decisions, including: tenure holders, local resource user and community groups, non-governmental organizations, and research institutions.

**Sustainability:** Living within the Earth's limits. To learn more about sustainability within a lifetime go to: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Sustainability/>.

### **Sustainable:**

- 1) To keep in existence or to maintain

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- 2) Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Traditional territory:** The geographic area identified by a First Nation as its historical domain. Traditional territory includes areas of natural resource use and stewardship. Historical regimes of land use and resource stewardship are such that many First Nations have overlapping traditional territories.

**Transition strategy:** A broad design of plans and approaches to deal with a time of change between one state and another; in particular, overview planning for the B.C. coast during the period until EBM is fully established and implemented.

**Timber Supply Area (TSA):** An integrated resource management unit established in accordance with Section 6 of the *Forest Act*. TSAs were originally defined by an established pattern of wood flow from management units to the primary timber-using industries.

**Tree Farm License (TFL):** TFLs are privately managed Sustained Yield Units. These licenses commit the licensee to manage the entire area under the general supervision of the Forest Service. Cutting from all lands requires Forest Service approval through the issuance of cutting permits. TFLs should not be confused with Certified Tree Farms under the Taxation Act, though some Certified Tree Farm land (Crown-granted) may comprise a part of the TFL. A TFL has a term of 25 years.

**Watershed:** The area drained by a river or stream and its tributaries. The size of the watershed will depend on the size of the stream or river considered. From a practical planning standpoint, a watershed generally ranges in size from 500 to 50,000 hectares. Equivalent to drainage basin.

**Wetlands:** Sites where the water table is at, near, or above the soil surface and soils are water-saturated for a sufficient length of time that excess water and resulting low soil oxygen levels are principal determinants of vegetation and soil development.

**Wilderness Tourism:** A tourism market aimed at promoting and touring a region's natural habitat.