

A Year of Contradictions

Great Bear Rainforest Agreement Report Card 2003

Two years ago, the world praised British Columbia for forging a great consensus — the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement. In April 2001, the long and intense battle over the fate of BC's Great Bear Rainforest — the largest area of intact temperate rainforest left on Earth — resulted in what many viewed as a great first step and a win for everyone — the BC government, First Nations, rural communities, forestry companies and people concerned about conserving ancient forests for posterity. The agreement was so expansive that nearly everyone could agree — a comprehensive solution unlike anything the world has seen could happen right here in British Columbia.

A key component of the agreement was a commitment to a new way of logging on the coast — one that valued the coast's unparalleled ecological diversity, and abandoned relentless and indiscriminate clearcut logging. And many of the most crucial areas for biodiversity were set aside for future protection. In turn, environmentalists suspended an international markets campaign that saw high-profile customers like Home Depot and IKEA resolve to stop buying forest products from the Great Bear Rainforest if clearcut logging continued.

Since then, what has the province's Liberal government done to ensure this unprecedented "peace in the woods" accord remains intact? ForestEthics, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network and the Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter — four environmental groups centrally involved in forging the agreement and working toward long-term solutions for the region — have evaluated governments progress in this second

annual report card.

Contradictory direction and a lack of open communication from the government are raising concerns about the fate of the Great Bear Rainforest. Cases of inconsistent government timelines and breaches of process are numerous. It appears that internal strife within government itself is holding back progress.

Opportunities for lasting solutions could be lost.

Internationally, BC's market reputation is at stake.

A lack of strong direction and clear communication from the government regarding their commitment to a conservation solution for the Great Bear Rainforest creates a climate of uncertainty. This projects an image of instability to potential investors, who could further diversify BC's economy, and to the international marketplace, which increasingly demands ecologically responsible products.

In fact, a new survey by IBM Business Consulting (formerly PricewaterhouseCoopers) of buyers who annually purchase more than \$2 billion worth of BC wood found that "there is clear evidence of a greenward shift in the market for forest products, including those from BC. The shift is real, buyers believe it will continue, and it will have a negative impact on forest regions and producers that do not respond to it."

Right now, British Columbia has the opportunity to lead the world and create lasting conservation solutions, as well as capture new market share for environmentally responsible products. Will the coming months be a time of unprecedented progress or increasing uncertainty for BC's coast?



Facts:

- The coastal temperate rainforest is a globally rare ecosystem that once covered 24 million hectares from Northern California to Alaska. More than half of the original forest has been logged, and in California, Oregon and Washington states, large-scale conservation can no longer occur.
- Coastal temperate rainforests are more endangered than tropical rainforests.
- Eighty companies avoid buying products derived from the destruction of endangered forests, including BC's Great Bear Rainforest.



BC Government: Which Side Are You On?

Protecting key ecological areas, investing in the best science available, helping communities through tough economic transitions — all this and more is critical to building lasting, sustainable solutions for British Columbia's coast. Is the BC government taking the lead and fulfilling its responsibilities? Or is the government's agenda of corporate-friendly reforms and environmental rollbacks stunting progress?

Is the BC Government	... building conservation solutions?	...or threatening environmental progress?
Protection	<p>In May 2002, the government enacted Orders in Council (OICs) providing temporary protection of ecologically critical, intact rainforest valleys.</p> <p>By endorsing the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement, the government committed to ecosystem-based management and high standards for ecologically appropriate forestry on the coast.</p>	<p>OICs expire in June - six months before the planning tables for the Central Coast and North Coast are scheduled to end.</p> <p>The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management has advocated logging in some Option Areas while planning and scientific analysis are ongoing.</p>
Science	<p>The Coast Information Team (CIT) is endorsed and funded by government.</p> <p>By endorsing the CIT, the government committed to scientific analysis by conservation biologists and accepting scientific recommendations to protect biodiversity.</p>	<p>The CIT is underfunded and behind schedule, due to delays from government in providing essential data. Thus, the CIT is unable to deliver final options until December, leaving no time for incorporating scientific and economic analyses into the planning scheduled to end that month.</p> <p>Lifted the moratorium on grizzly bear hunting and are advocating a wolf kill in the Muskwa Kechika wilderness to boost the population of animals for trophy hunters. No provincial Endangered Species Act. Rewriting forest-management regulations with industry.</p>
Forest Policy	<p>Announced a 20% take back of tenure (but also committed to unwarranted compensation).</p>	<p>Written behind closed doors, forest policy changes break the social contract and eliminate community benefits while increasing corporate benefits.</p> <p>Increasing corporate rights over public forests through commodification of tenure, proposed designation of a "working forest" and a move to a "Results-based" Code.</p>
Land-use Planning	<p>Extended the deadline for the Central Coast Planning table from March to December 2003.</p>	<p>Government-to-government negotiations between the province and many coastal First Nations will begin before the planning tables end. There are provisions for decisions to be made before planning tables have provided the provincial government their recommendations and the mandate to guide the province in government-to-government discussions.</p>
Managing Economic Change	<p>The provincial government is working with First Nations, environmentalists and stakeholders to explore conservation-financing models to help facilitate conservation and economic transition.</p> <p>Placed \$35 million in a trust for mitigation and transition for workers, contractors and communities.</p>	<p>Slashed community economic development programmes and dramatically increased the export of raw logs, removing opportunities for the BC value-added sector.</p> <p>First Nations are largely ineligible for assistance from this trust.</p>
First Nations' Rights	<p>Proceeding with discussions to negotiate with individual Nations regarding land-use planning.</p>	<p>Government's own land-use planning timelines are not consistent with proposed government-to-government negotiations.</p>
Forest Practices	<p>Temporarily reduced the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) to remove Protection Areas and Option Areas under moratoria from logging through June 2003.</p>	<p>Allows logging companies to continue clearcutting the Great Bear Rainforest without any move toward ecosystem-based management.</p> <p>Continues to allocate tens of millions of taxpayer dollars for international PR spin of status quo logging instead of funding sustainable solutions for local communities.</p>

Major Elements of the 2001 Great Bear Rainforest Agreement

- 20 large, intact valleys in the Great Bear Rainforest, totalling 603,000 hectares in area, were slated for protection from logging and development while allowing for ecologically sustainable First Nations' traditional uses.
- An additional 68 valleys, totalling 880,000 hectares, were placed under moratoria from logging until informed decisions are made on how to best manage the land. The official government term for these deferred areas is "Option Areas."
- A new framework for ecosystem-based management will guide ongoing land-use planning and forest-management activities in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands).
- An independent team of internationally respected scientists, community economic development practitioners, investment specialists, and First Nations and community representatives (called the Coast Information Team) will develop recommendations on ecosystem-based management and economic alternatives.
- The provincial government will establish financial mechanisms for economic diversification and managing economic change in the region.



Government-to-government protocol

- The province and eight coastal First Nations signed a formal government-to-government protocol, which includes endorsement of ecologically responsible forest practices and a framework for increasing environmentally responsible development and economic opportunities for First Nations.

In addition:

- Logging companies that operate in the region agreed to change their logging practices and their levels of logging to reflect the outcome of conservation and ecosystem-based planning. This will set them on the road to gaining Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) eco-certification — the ultimate guarantee of acceptance in the global marketplace.
- Logging companies acknowledged that the rates of logging on the coast would have to be reduced to more sustainable levels.
- The environmental groups involved in the agreement — ForestEthics, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network and the Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter — suspended their domestic and international markets campaigns around the Great Bear Rainforest to focus on implementing the agreement and building long-term solutions for the region.

British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest

This wild and rugged country stretches along a thin band of Canada's west coast for nearly 500 kilometres—from Knight Inlet to the Alaskan Panhandle. The Great Bear Rainforest covers almost 7 million hectares. It is home to a wide range of species, including salmon, wolves and grizzly bears. Perhaps the most unique and elusive inhabitant of all

is the Kermode, a creamy white variety of black bear known as the "Spirit Bear" for its shy, spectre-like appearance. Numbering less than 400, Spirit Bears are found only in this region.

Scientific studies have found that bears and other large mammals need large tracts of roadless wilderness like BC's Great Bear Rainforest to thrive, and

old-growth forests provide the best habitat. What's more, a strong population of large predators indicates a truly healthy ecosystem. For this reason and others, the rainforest is internationally celebrated as a natural treasure, a storehouse of biological richness.

Great Bear Rainforest Report Card

ForestEthics, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network and the Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter, developed the following benchmarks to measure the provincial government's progress in implementing the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement of April 2001.

PROTECTION: D-

1. Have the Protection Areas agreed to in the provincial government's April 2001 announcement been formalized through Orders in Council (OICs)?

Two years after the historic "peace in the woods" agreement, none of the valleys have been permanently protected. In May 2002, the BC government passed Orders in Council to place the valleys in "interim" protection. However, this designation expires on June 30, 2003 — six months before the Central Coast planning table is due to end, and nine months before First Nations will have finished negotiating directly with the BC government.

After the OICs end in June, the valleys will have no protection from development and logging could resume anytime, despite a commitment from all parties to reach a comprehensive solution. This situation is of grave concern to environmental organizations.

2. Have the moratoria (Option Areas) agreed to in the provincial government's April 2001 announcement been formalized through Orders in Council (OICs)? Are logging deferrals continuing in all moratoria (Option Areas) until the independent science and economic team has completed regional analysis to adequately inform land-use planning?

REPORT CARD SUMMARY

PROTECTION: D-

CREDIBLE SCIENCE: C+

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT

AND PLANNING: F

MANAGING CHANGE: B-

FIRST NATIONS RIGHTS

AND TITLE: D

FOREST POLICY: D-

Yes and No. In May 2002, the BC government enacted Orders in Council on the Option Areas as well. However, this designation also expires on June 30, 2003 - six months before the Central Coast planning table is due to end. The valleys will have no formal protection from logging or other development after June 30, potentially opening them up to resource extraction before independent science is available to inform decision-making and the land-use planning process ends. The Coast Information Team (CIT) will not deliver their final analysis to the planning tables before December 2003 — months after the formal moratoria expire. Any logging in these valleys before the government-sanctioned planning process ends, or prior to delivery of the CIT's analysis, would be a violation of the "peace-in-the-woods" agreement.

There is also strong concern about government pushing for opportunities to commence logging in Option Areas.

CREDIBLE SCIENCE: C+

3. Has a team of ecological and economic experts been established to develop credible scientific and socio-economic options for the region?

A strong team of biologists and ecologists has been pulled together, and good work is being done on the ecosystem-based management framework. However, the work of the independent Coast Information Team (CIT) remains underfunded and behind schedule. The delays are due to government's sluggish delivery of critical scientific data and analysis, largely because of ill-advised reductions in technical capacity, as well

"[M]any corporate buyers perceive government to be too close to industry to be considered an objective source of assurance."
— joint press release, IBM Business Consulting Services and the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS), March 2003

as significant delays from forests licensees. Three-fourths of the CIT's work should be complete by September. But further delays in providing data would delay the CIT even more. Moreover, successful completion of the entire CIT project by December is questionable due to an insufficient budget. So, despite the extension of the Central Coast Planning Table to December 2003, it's increasingly likely that the

Forest Policy: D- Communities Lose Out to Forest Corporations

On March 26, the BC government announced a package of forestry reforms severing the social contract that has governed the relationship between communities and logging companies for more than half a century. While communities saw their long-standing benefits from this contract simply eliminated with little in return, the logging companies' benefits were greatly increased and further entrenched.

These momentous changes have been drafted with the forest industry behind closed doors, with no community consultation.

The government's policy changes will increase corporate powers by allowing forest tenures to be subdivided and sold, while companies are released from their obligations to run local mills and sustain local economies. Together with the move to a "results-based" Forest Practices Code, the changes mean much more corporate control of BC's forests, while accountability decreases due to greatly reduced public oversight and involvement.

While a small amount of corporate tenure will be redistributed to First Nations and communities (for which companies will receive largely unwarranted compensation), it will be insufficient

to make up for the extensive mill closures, concentration of processing and increase in mechanization of logging that will hit rural British Columbia. Government has foregone a rare opportunity to make fundamental changes that have been called for in British Columbia by successive Royal Commissions and forest policy reviews.

To see a forest policy reform package that is in BC's public interest and addresses the challenges of the softwood lumber dispute, go to the BC Coalition for Sustainable Forest Solutions: www.forestsolutions.ca



Central Coast and North Coast planning tables will not have enough time to understand or adequately incorporate the CIT's work into final decisions.

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING: F

4. Are the region's three land-use planning tables credible among First Nations' governments and regional stakeholders, including environmental organizations?

- Central Coast

The second phase of this planning process is now scheduled to end in December 2003. The provincial government has been sluggish in providing essential data and analysis to the CIT who, in turn, has been unable to meet the timetable for delivery of information to the planning table. Instead of delaying discussion until they have credible information to use,

the government is forcing the table to go over old ground. Recently, environmental groups have been forced to opt out of a nonsensical process of reviewing values in Option Areas without any new information to inform the dialogue.

Without analysis from the CIT, the government's approach to socio-economic studies has been a narrow — and skewed — cost-benefit review relying on seriously outdated information with hardly any value placed on less-easily quantifiable contributors, such as healthy, functioning ecosystems or sustainable economies.

Meanwhile, the province and some First Nations have agreed to initiate government-to-government negotiations — in the absence of both the CIT's analysis and a mandate of recommendations from the table members whose interests the province supposedly represents. Decisions on

“Producers [of BC forest products]: regardless of how good you believe your forest practices to be — and they may be excellent — it is time to move from ‘doing it’ to ‘proving it.’ Without independent environmental forest certification, your market share is in jeopardy.” — joint press release, IBM Business Consulting Services and the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS), March 2003

the future of the landbase could be made through government-to-government negotiations before the planning table has even completed its work.

While it is appropriate for First Nations to determine when they are ready to begin these discussions, it is inappropriate for the provincial government to

proceed with these discussions without a mandate from its own land-use planning process.

- North Coast

The North Coast planning table began in January 2002 and is set to adjourn in December 2003. Several issues are causing profound concerns among environmentalists and other stakeholders, including: the tight timeline for the planning process, limited capacity of First Nations to engage effectively in this process, the government's continuing approval of raw log exports from this district, and the proposed rapid expansion of aquaculture on the coast.

Despite the provincial government's commitment to provide information from the CIT to the planning table, the North Coast process is functioning very much in isolation from the CIT. Furthermore, requests to integrate existing CIT information have been met with resistance. There are more concerns that information being developed for the table by the govern-

ment is not consistently meeting standards for peer review or independence. At present, the North Coast land-use planning table runs a serious risk of receiving two divergent products; one from the CIT and one from government's technical teams.

- Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands)

The Haida Nation has begun work on a Land Use Vision to inform the planning process. On March 28, the provincial government and Haida

“Until implementation of ‘joint solutions’ occurs [on the BC coast], we will not source from BC — there has to be sign off on the next round.” — major BC wood buyer in the 2003 report, “A Greenward Shift in the Market for Forest Products from British Columbia,” by IBM Business Consulting Services (formerly Pricewaterhouse Coopers), available at www.savethegreatbear.org.

Nation signed a formal framework agreement to co-manage the land-use planning process on Haida Gwaii. The Haida Land Use Vision will form the basis for discussions at the table.

5. Has the government reduced the rate of logging in the immediate term to take into account the Protection Areas and moratoria (Option Areas), ensuring logging pressure is not transferred to other sensitive areas while planning continues? Has the amount of logging been reduced to more sustainable levels?

The Orders In Council passed in May 2002 temporarily reduced the rate of logging, as 1.5 million hectares of rain-forest were officially removed from the Annual Allowable Cut. However, this designation expires in June 2003 and the BC government is in the process of revamping forest policies and regulations in the province, which will give logging companies freedom to log more and log faster (see “Forest Policy”).

While the framework for ecosystem-based management is still a work in progress, British Columbians expected the logging companies to abide by the letter, as well as the spirit and intent, of

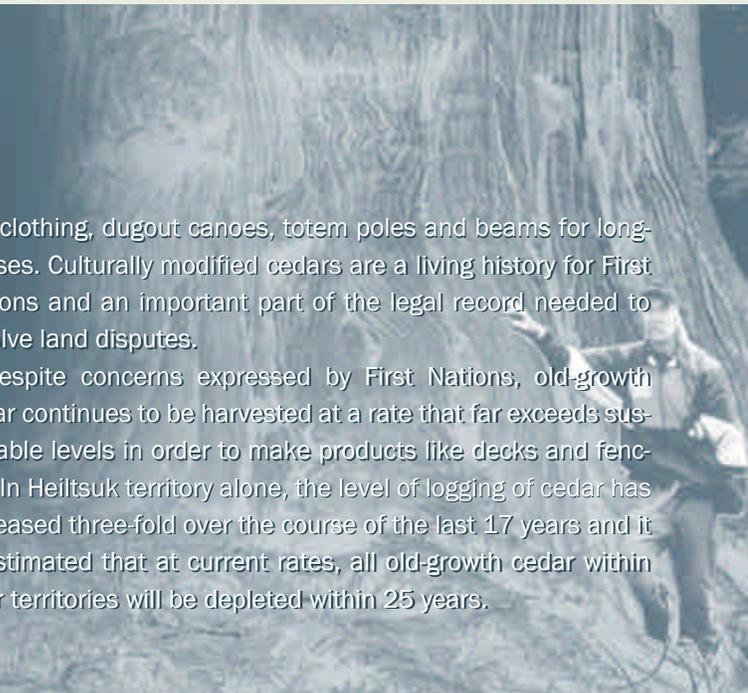
A New Battle for Cedar?

6 On March 13, the Heiltsuk First Nation, representing several First Nations and environmental groups, petitioned the International Convention on Biological Diversity to help end the over-harvesting of western red cedar in British Columbia. "We are in Montreal today to tell the international community that the rapid loss of old-growth western red cedar is the same as the loss of our culture," said Kelly Brown, an elected Councillor with the Heiltsuk. "Canada has pledged to the world to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and the lands of this country, and Canada is not living up to its promises."

Cedar has played a central role in First Nations' life for uses

like clothing, dugout canoes, totem poles and beams for long-houses. Culturally modified cedars are a living history for First Nations and an important part of the legal record needed to resolve land disputes.

Despite concerns expressed by First Nations, old-growth cedar continues to be harvested at a rate that far exceeds sustainable levels in order to make products like decks and fencing. In Heiltsuk territory alone, the level of logging of cedar has increased three-fold over the course of the last 17 years and it is estimated that at current rates, all old-growth cedar within their territories will be depleted within 25 years.



Clearcutting Continues

According to a new extensive analysis by the David Suzuki Foundation, Global Forest Watch and the Raincoast Conservation Society, logging companies have not changed practices, despite commitments on paper to “conservation” and “sustainability.” The report, released in January, was initiated by the three groups to review the progress of BC coastal logging companies in implementing changes to forestry practices, as agreed in the April 2001 Great Bear Rainforest Agreement.

Key finding from the report, “Clearcutting Canada’s Rainforests,” include:

- 72% of the logging completed or planned between April 2001 and January 15, 2002 used clearcutting as the standard practice.
- 227 logging plans for individual sites were reviewed. In the vast majority, fully 80% of the trees on site were removed during logging operations. BC companies increasingly claim they are no longer “clearcutting,” while removing 80% of the trees from a given site.
- Trees left standing in logging sites are too few to sustain old-growth dependent species and these meager patches cannot be defined as old-growth “habitat.”
- Logging continues to the banks of small fish-bearing streams, some of which are critical habitat for Pacific salmon.
- Only 4% of small fish streams flowing in logging sites analyzed were left with protective streamside buffers. In nearby Washington State, loggers on US Federal Lands are required to leave a 90-metre no-logging reserve zone on each side of a fish-bearing stream. BC regulations allow zero protection of small fish streams.

As this report demonstrates, improvements to practices are virtually non-existent. Destructive clearcutting of the Great Bear Rainforest continues outside the agreed moratoria areas.

For more information, go to: www.canadianrainforests.org.



the 2001 agreement, which outlines a new, ecologically sustainable direction for the coast. The companies may be upholding the former, but the rate of clearcutting on the coast indicates an unwillingness to abandon old practices. A recent report by several BC environmental groups illustrates status quo logging is still the order of the day, with little movement toward more ecologically sensitive and sustainable practices (see “Clearcutting Continues”).

What’s more, logging companies are overcutting old-growth western red cedar — the climax species of the ancient forest. Cedar plays a key role in

cultures of Northwest Coast First Nations (See “A New Battle for Cedar?”).

6. Does land-use planning continue to allow clearcut logging of old growth forests, or does it propose alternative-logging methods, such as those currently employed on Vancouver Island’s Clayoquot Sound?

Clearcut logging continues in the Great Bear Rainforest, and very little has changed on the ground. A recent report by several BC environmental groups illustrates status quo logging is still largely the order of the day, with little movement toward more ecologically

sustainable practices (see “Clearcutting Continues”).

In 2001, BC coastal logging companies committed to transform standard industrial logging practices and adopt an ecosystem-based management approach. The land-use planning processes, the independent science and economic teams, and stakeholders are still working to fully define a mutually acceptable standard for “ecosystem-based management.” Nonetheless, while this work continues, it is clear that the most egregious practices, such as large-scale clearcutting or the eradication of wild salmon habitat, will not fit

into any acceptable interpretation of ecosystem-based management.

Business as usual continues.

MANAGING CHANGE: B-

7. Are transition funds and plans available to coastal communities, forest-industry workers and logging contractors to adapt to economic change?

While there have been some positive steps, BC's Liberal government has slashed existing community economic development programmes on the coast and the infrastructure for assisting with economic diversification has not been replaced.

On March 27, 2002, the Liberal government placed \$35 million for mitigation and transition management into a fund designated for workers, contractors and communities. The trust has now been established and some contractors and workers have received

recompense.

However, communities believe the fund so far leaves little room for their needs. First Nations have not been included in this trust. Most First Nations have traditionally received hardly any economic or employment benefits from industrial forestry in their traditional territories. Turning Point, a coastal First Nations' initiative, is attempting to address this long-standing inequity by establishing a separate First Nations' trust that will fund regional economic diversification. Turning Point is seeking provincial support for this initiative.

8. Is financing available to develop new regional strategies for economic development? Is the provincial government willing to explore new options for conservation that meet First Nations' and others' needs?

While little has been done in coastal communities, there are various initia-

"We are concerned when we see that logging practices have not really changed since we reached this agreement. Clearcut logging is not acceptable in these forests and we are working with government, the timber companies and environmental groups to ensure that environmentally responsible practices are implemented."
— Art Sterritt, Girga'at First Nation, from the 2003 report "Clearcutting Canada's Rainforests," available at www.canadianrainforests.org

tives taking place, including development of potential investment models to help fund economic transition for communities that want to undertake conservation-based planning. To date, these

The Market Speaks: Buyers of BC Wood Want Green Products

A new report released in March by IBM Business Consulting Services (formerly PricewaterhouseCoopers) confirmed that major customers of BC's logging industry are shifting their purchasing toward more environmentally friendly products.

The IBM report includes the following key findings:

- There is a clear evidence of a greenward shift in the market for forest products, including those from British Columbia.
 - The shift is real, buyers believe it will continue, and it will have a negative impact on forest regions and producers that do not respond to it.
 - The majority of customers interviewed would like to avoid controversy related to purchases from endangered forests, including old-growth regions.
 - Environmental campaigns have

been effective. By locating and communicating with customers and shareholders, environmentalists have raised the profile of endangered forests and brought customers to the table for joint discussions.

The report surveyed 30 customers globally, including US, Japanese, European and Canadian buyers who together purchase more than \$2 billion worth of BC forest products.

Customers' concern over endangered forests, especially the Great Bear Rainforest, is a warning for the BC government, which over the past 19 months has made deep cuts to environmental regulations province-wide. Given the findings of the report, such drastic environmental rollbacks could take a toll on BC's share of the international market.

Most of the buyers of BC forest products indicated that companies that ignore environmental criteria could be punished. Customer comments include: "Take a lead — these will be the suppliers we will work with when we return to previously controversial areas," and "[s]ome producers have been short termist — this will come back to bite them."



Commit to Solutions

Although the Liberal government is behind in its commitments, environmental groups and all stakeholders remain dedicated to making this unprecedented made-in-BC solution work. Here's what the government needs to do:

- Maintain the moratoria on logging in the key intact rainforest valleys (the Protection Areas and Option Areas) until the end of the planning process.
- Do not approve Forest Development Plans (FDPs) submitted by coastal logging companies that fail to fully reflect a commitment to ecosystem-based management.
- Do not issue cutting permits in approved FDPs submitted after April 4, 2001 unless the plans are based on ecosystem-based management (EBM) principles and the latest framework for application of EBM.
- Ensure the process to reallocate to First Nations those tenures taken back from major licensees is integrated with the overall land-use planning processes and the analysis of the Coast Information Team (CIT).
- Ensure that the regional land-use planning tables have enough time to integrate analy-

ses from the CIT, and that the CIT has adequate data and resources to complete analyses and develop recommendations.

- Uphold their commitment to the initial 20 Protection Areas, and advocate for these areas during government-to-government negotiations with First Nations.

These are important and achievable goals for the province to meet in the near future. It is critical for not only international customers, but also all the parties to the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement to see progress and commitment from the BC government.

talks — while promising — have been slow. A committee is working on this project, and government and others have committed funds to develop new models and securing conservation investments.

FIRST NATIONS RIGHTS AND TITLE: D

9. Has the provincial government implemented the government-to-government protocol, signed with coastal First Nations in April 2001?

The government-to-government protocol, signed by eight coastal First Nations and the province, establishes mechanisms for land-use planning and commits the two parties to both a framework for environmentally responsible development and implementing agreements that would provide economic opportunities for First Nations.

The province and First Nations agreed to develop a range of economic strategies for forestry, tourism and fisheries guided by principles of ecologically responsible management. These measures could include training and capacity building, joint ventures with existing forest licensees and contractors, forest tenure — including Community Forest licenses, the development of local silvi-

culture crews, First Nations involvement in the forest management workforce and other opportunities. The protocol also commits the signatories to foster other economic development opportunities, such as tourism and fisheries, guided by the principles of ecologically responsible management.

In the past year, progress has been

“At the rate they are logging, soon there will be nothing left for us.” - Heiltsuk First Nation’s 2002 report “How Long Will It Last? Cedar Logging in the Heiltsuk Traditional Territory”

made to plan activities for economic measures, but First Nations still have not had any direct benefits.

The First Nations participating in Turning Point - a coastal First Nations' initiative — have successfully completed negotiation with the federal government on fish and aquatic resources. The agreement sets the framework for marine-use planning, economic measures and cooperative management guided by ecosystem-based management.

The First Nations in Turning Point, several Kwakwaka'wakw nations and the province have agreed to an outline

for government-to-government negotiations on land-use planning. (The needs and concerns of Nations not participating in Turning Point and sovereign nations not engaged in the treaty process have not been addressed.)

Meanwhile, the province's changes to forestry regulations will further infringe on First Nations' rights through the weakening of provincial oversight mechanisms, without which it is questionable whether the government can fulfill its fiduciary obligations to BC's aboriginal peoples.

Finally, the Liberal government's commitment to massive expansion of the aquaculture industry has proven to be an enormously contentious issue in First Nation communities. While one or two First Nations are receptive to, or engaged in, fin-fish aquaculture, the huge majority are adamantly opposed to the siting of this high-risk industry in their traditional territories. Blockades, protests and court actions have resulted in the southern reaches of the Great Bear Rainforest, the returns of wild pink salmon have collapsed, plummeting from returns of two to three million fish to a mere 148,000. The collapse has been largely attributed to sea-lice infestations on the nearby fish farms spreading to young wild salmon.



Who We Are



ForestEthics, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, and the Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter, are environmental groups jointly advocating conservation and economic alternatives to industrial logging in British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest and on Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands). We promote a new approach to the land and sea, founded on the principles of ecosystem-based management, which would safeguard areas of global biological rarity, maintain the ecological integrity of the coastal temperate rainforest, respect traditional knowledge, and provide for the long-term sustainability of local communities.

In the mid-1990s, we launched an intense global campaign targeting the trade and investment of logging companies linked to the destruction of the Great Bear Rainforest. As a result, dozens of companies voiced strong concerns over logging the Great Bear Rainforest, including Home

Depot, the world's largest "do-it-yourself" store, and IKEA, the world's largest furniture retailer. In addition, British and Canadian fund managers, including the Royal Bank, divested shares in logging companies. This market pressure drove logging companies to sit down with us to negotiate a truce in the "war in the woods."

We are now working to make the 2001 agreement a reality by fully engaging in the government-sanctioned planning process, helping lead scientific and economic analysis of regional options, and working with local communities, First Nations, and forestry companies to explore new economic options for British Columbia's coast. Together, our work won't be complete until we help build a conservation-based economy in the Great Bear Rainforest. British Columbians have a rare opportunity to do it right on the coast, before it's done wrong.

Photos Page 1: (grizzly) O'Neill/Greenpeace, (flowers) Al Harvey, (banner) Wilderness Committee, Page 3: (salmon) Al Harvey, (otter) Al Harvey, Page 5: (cutblock) Clarke/Greenpeace, Page 6: (cedar) John Nelson, Page 7: (clearcut) Garth Lenz, Page 8: (FSC table) Barry Calhoun, Page 10: (banner) Wilderness Committee, (kayaks) Al Harvey.

