

ECOTRUST CASE STUDY: CLAYOQUOT SOUND, BC

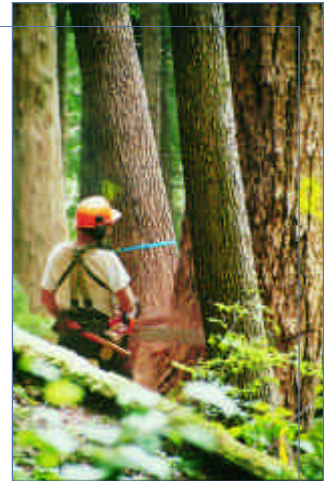


PROBLEM:

The industrial logging of the 1970s and 80s was devastating one of the most beautiful remnant rain forests left in British Columbia. Local people felt powerless to act and resorted to large-scale protests over road building and logging.

ACTIONS:

- *An Inventory of Watersheds in the Coastal Temperate Forests of British Columbia* (Ecotrust, Conservation International, & Earthlife Canada Fdn.) identifies Clayoquot Sound as having three of the five remaining large, pristine watersheds on Vancouver Island.
- Ecotrust recruits Clayoquot community and business leader Dorothy Baert with a fellowship to help build local conservation capacity.
- *A Vision for Scientific Understanding of Clayoquot Sound* (Clayoquot Biosphere Project, Ecotrust) outlines a long-term scientific program for Clayoquot Sound, including the establishment of a series of research field stations (Clayoquot Lake, 1992; Flores Island, 1994; Sydney River, 1996) to undertake careful biological inventories. Ecotrust continues through this period to develop research capacity at the Clayoquot Biosphere Project.
- On the heels of the Rio Earth Summit, Ecotrust and Conservation International convene a seminar in Clayoquot Sound for journalists from tropical rain forest countries to highlight the deficiencies in Canadian and American management of *temperate* rain forests.
 - Ecotrust supports the rights of the Nuu-chah-nulth bands, beginning work with several on subsistence and resource-access issues: with the Hesquiaht Nation to restore a clam bed for traditional harvesting, with the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation to reverse the decline of sockeye salmon in Kennedy Lake, and with the Ahousaht Nation to develop GIS mapping capabilities.
 - As the “forest wars” climax with 800 arrests, Ecotrust encourages NRDC and other national and international organizations to rally support for Clayoquot protesters, helps publish “Stumps Don’t Lie” ads in *NY Times*. Bobby Kennedy Jr. draws media attention to the issue.
 - Clayoquot Biosphere Project and Ecotrust convene a symposium to promote UNESCO Man & Biosphere (MAB) status for Clayoquot Sound. Canadian MAB representatives George Francis and Peter Pearse, as well as local scientists and stakeholders, are in attendance. The designation, along with a CAN\$10 million endowment for research and education, is made six years later.



PRINCIPLES & TOOLS:

- Partnership with and support of local NGOs.
- Respect for indigenous culture and sovereignty.
- Building of national and international support.
- Scientific and technical analysis based upon a whole-watershed perspective.
- Long-term commitment to economic development.



- *Seeing the Ocean through the Trees* (Ecotrust Canada) maps the recommendations of the Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forestry Practices, illustrating the achievability of the promised “world-class” logging standards. The book also details a conservation-based development strategy for the region and advocates for the permanent protection, which the Panel has not assured, of the three pristine watersheds.
- Shorebank Enterprise and Ecotrust Canada establish Canadian revolving loan fund business support program with an office and staff in the Clayoquot region; BC Ministry of Community Development seeds the fund with a CAN\$1.1 million grant.
- Shorebank Enterprise / Ecotrust Canada provide financing to the newly-formed Iisaak Forest Resources, a joint-venture between the Nuu-chah-nulth bands and Weyerhaeuser. Iisaak aims to harvest the forests while honoring the principles of the Scientific Panel and in 2001 is the first Tree Farm License holder in BC to become FSC-certified.

OUTCOMES:

- All three pristine watersheds are permanently protected.
- Annual cut declines from 900,000 cubic metres to sustainable 30,000 metres.
- Three scientific field stations continue to operate.
- The MAB endowment supports local environmental education and research projects.
- A joint-venture between First Nations and a major logging company demonstrates a model of cooperation.
- Awareness of the importance of temperate rain forests is raised worldwide.
- Value-added businesses are supported. Tourism season expands from three to twelve months a year at 90%+ occupancy rate.