



VISIONING CLAYOQUOT SOUND'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

TRANSFORMATIVE SCENARIO PLANNING WORKSHOPS

September - November 2017



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

What will Clayoquot Sound's economy look like in 2050? What do people want for future generations in the region? And how do we get there?

These three questions formed the basis of a workshop on September 14th 2017, facilitated by Gathering Voices Society in Tofino, with fifteen representatives from the Maqtussis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society (Ahousaht First Nation), Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, the District of Tofino, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, local business and civic organizations. Building a shared understanding on the economic future of Clayoquot Sound, and how all groups can collectively work together to transform, rather than adapt to the future, was the key ambition of this study.

There were three approaches used to meet the aim of this work. The first part involved the presentation of land use visions from Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht, as well the Municipality of Tofino. Informed by the land use visions, the second part of this study involved the use of a transformative scenario planning (TSP) method to collaboratively explore possible futures and ways that different groups can work together to influence the future. The third part involved a survey to understand individual perceptions and preferences for the economic future of Clayoquot Sound, which helped validate insights from the TSP approach.

Transformative scenario planning

The main part of this work was the TSP approach, where the goal was for participants to develop stories around possible futures, and to reflect on risks and opportunities in the region, including those which could be unexpected. In the workshop there were three groups formed to discuss scenarios with representatives from First Nations and different stakeholder

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groups (for five people in each group). Group discussions were facilitated by Dr. William Nikolakis (Gathering Voices Society), and Professors Harry W. Nelson (University of British Columbia) and Subhrendu Pattanayak (Duke University).

The three questions focused on in the TSP sessions were: (1) What will Clayoquot Sound's economy look like in 2050? (2) What do people want for future generations in the region? and (3) How do we get there? The results from this are presented below:

(1) What will Clayoquot Sound's economy look like in 2050?

- *Food and energy security*: participants emphasized that the region must focus on food and energy production to be self-sufficient, particularly if climate change measures, like carbon taxes, imposes additional costs on food transport and energy.
- *Diversified tourism economy*: tourism must be less transient and grow to include Ahousaht in the tourism economy. This will ensure the region remains competitive in the global tourism industry.
- *Technology driven*: exploring ways to develop a web-based knowledge economy, like education, can help diversify the region's economy.
- *Conservation economy*: exploring new economies, like payments for ecosystem services and alternative forms of forestry. The conservation economy can also support First Nation's livelihoods and the tourism economy in the region.

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(2) What do people want for future generations in the region?

- *Food and energy sovereignty*: Despite being a major source of fish products, the Clayoquot Sound region is still dependent on food imports from the United States and elsewhere. This reliance exposes future generations to risk from shocks to global food systems. Also, exploring new forms of green energy can ensure the livelihoods of people in the Clayoquot region are sustainable over the long term, and not subject to global energy shocks.
- *Equality*: participants emphasized they wanted future generations to have economic, social and political equality – to close the gap on First Nation's socio-economic disparities.
- *Conservation and sustainable economies*: participants wanted to build a conservation economy in the region that invested in maintaining natural capital for future generations. A conservation economy operates within the limits of ecosystems.
- *Housing*: participants emphasized they wanted future generations to have sufficient, affordable and appropriate housing. There could be more pressure from migration to areas like Tofino because of climate change, imposing further pressure on housing.

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(3) How do we get there?

- *Social and physical infrastructure*: more investment in social infrastructure (education) and social capital, as well as physical infrastructure, such as roads and information technology networks.
- *Build capacity*: focus on building education outcomes and the capacity for all people to engage with the economy. It is important to provide resources for First Nation's youth to be actively mentored into leadership and business roles.
- *Partnerships with First Nations*: engage in meaningful economic partnerships with First Nations in the region in tourism and other emerging sectors. These partnerships can form the basis of locally owned businesses and industries that keep profits in the region. This can facilitate economic and political equity in the region.
- *Build political will for change*: need to elect people that put limits on economic growth and establish a common vision for sustainable development. Need to put community back into the economy. Also need to ensure that First Nations and Non-First Nations have equal support to engage in the economy.
- *Reciprocity payments – ecosystem stewardship fees*: payments to conserve, restore and manage ecosystems in the region. These payments are a recognition that a healthy environment is the economic and social engine of the region; providing fisheries, clean air and water, as well as aesthetics and recreation opportunities. Structured economic programs through payments to First Nations for

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ecosystem management can build sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic outcomes. These payments may be direct from park entry, or from the tourism economy (through payments from hotel users), or from other resource users (a rod fee or an ecosystem service fee).

- *Increased housing stock*: there must be a change to zoning bylaws for increased density in Tofino.

Survey findings

A survey of individual respondents was conducted after the TSP session. Eleven respondents answered the six questions. Respondents all agreed that the economy would change incrementally, rather than radically. Nine respondents believed the change would be positive, while two respondents were indifferent.

In terms of positive outcomes, the respondents believed there would be an increased 'recognition of ecosystem services', 'opportunities in the conservation economy', 'recognition of ecosystems in the economy' and 'meaningful involvement of First Nations in the economy'.

The biggest drivers for economic change to 2050 were identified as 'climate change' (three respondents), the environment (three respondents), followed by population change (two respondents) and technological change (two respondents).

Eight of eleven respondents wanted a conservation/restoration as the primary source for economic growth in 2050 (two wanted tourism and one wanted industrial development). Some selected comments from respondents on their vision for the economic future of the Clayoquot Sound region:

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- “[Having] greater respect for the land than post-contact generations before them. They will see beyond the instant satisfaction, the here and now, and make conscious long-term decisions.”
- “Living off the watershed in truly sustainable fashion, from local food, (limited) tourism, and a thriving cultural economy (both settler and First Nations).”
- “[Using] conservation and green energy as [sources of revenue] and job creation.”
- “Endeavors [such as] protecting forests for carbon sequestration, restoring salmon populations, and working and innovating with First Nations.”

Next steps

The findings from the first workshop will be discussed with First Nations and other stakeholders in November 2017. In this November session, the scenarios and answers in this report will be deepened and refined, and then finalized into a guiding document for a more comprehensive regional plan.

This report builds on previous work by Gathering Voices Society (www.gatheringvoices.com), which explores the potential for ecosystem management and stewardship programs in the Clayoquot Sound region. Ecosystem management and stewardship programs enable First Nations to restore and manage ecosystems for a more sustainable future.

FIRST NATIONS, COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS

First Nations, Community Stakeholders & Partners

This report was prepared by Gathering Voices staff, with the key insights and contributions from workshop participants. The following individuals all contributed to the workshop dialogue and survey:

William Nikolakis, Gathering Voices Society and University of British Columbia

Harry Nelson, University of British Columbia

Subhrendu Pattanayak, Duke University

Colton Kasteel, Gathering Voices Society

Tara Atleo, Ahousaht First Nation and Maqtuusis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society

Saya Masso, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

Terry Dorward, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

Dan Lewis, Clayoquot Action

Jen Dart, Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce

Aaron Rodgers, District of Tofino

Josie Osborne, Mayor District of Tofino

Nicole Gerbrandt, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

Eileen Floody, Friends of Clayoquot Sound

Laura Loucks, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

George Patterson, Tofino Botanical Gardens

Greg Blanchette, District of Tofino

Ashley Hawker, District of Tofino