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联合国教育、  
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Programa  
sobre el Hombre  
y la Biosfera



**Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences**  
**Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**

Ms Eleanor Haine Bennett  
Programme Officer  
Natural Sciences  
150 Elgin Street | rue Elgin  
PO Box  
CP 1047 Ottawa ON  
K1P 5V8  
Canada

1 June 2021

Ref.: SC/EES/ESP/21/CND

Dear Ms Bennett,

I am pleased to inform you of the results of the deliberations of the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR), which met through the Zoom platform from 8 to 12 March 2021 to consider proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions to biosphere reserves that are already part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), as well as periodic review reports and follow-up information.

The IACBR requested the MAB Secretariat to circulate the enclosed recommendation to concerned Member States. Please note that these recommendations are to be examined and endorsed by the MAB ICC which will meet for its 33<sup>rd</sup> session, at Abuja, Nigeria, in September 2021. This meeting will decide on the complete list of new sites that will be included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2021 and extensions, renaming or changes in zonation to biosphere reserves that are already part of the WNBR.

With regards to the proposals from your country, the Advisory Committee recommended that the **Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound** Biosphere Reserve **be approved**.

If not done yet, I would appreciate if you could send to the Secretariat, by 31 August next, some promotional material regarding the proposed site of **Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound** notably high quality photos, and/or short videos on the site so as to allow the Secretariat to prepare appropriate files for press events that will take place during the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the MAB ICC. To this end, we would need a selection of photographs in high resolution (300 dpi), with photo credits and captions and video footage (rushes), without any comments or sub-titles, of professional quality – in .mov or .mp4 formats only.

cc: Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO  
National Commission of Canada for UNESCO

In addition, I would be grateful if you could return to us a signed copy of the Agreement on Non-Exclusive Rights to allow the audio-visual section of UNESCO to produce a maximum of ten (10) minutes film on each biosphere which will be sent to the press (see here-after the link for the file).

[https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/agreement\\_granting\\_non\\_exclusive\\_rights\\_en.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/agreement_granting_non_exclusive_rights_en.pdf)

Thank you for your continued support of the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miguel Clüsener-Godt', written in a cursive style.

Miguel Clüsener-Godt  
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences  
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere Programme

## **Extract of the Report of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves, 8-12 March 2021, online meeting**

### **New nominations recommended for approval**

**Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound (Canada).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal from Canada.

As one of the southern-most fjords in Canada, Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound (AHSBR) is located directly adjacent to Vancouver of British Columbia, Canada's third largest city. The total area of AHSBR is 218,723 ha with combined terrestrial and marine components.

The mountainous coastal ecosystems of Howe Sound support a high diversity of terrestrial wildlife species, among the highest in Canada, due primarily to the spatial heterogeneity of the Pacific Ranges. Approximately 721 native terrestrial animal species potentially occur in the Howe Sound region.

For the past 10,000 years, Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound has been settled by First Nations people whose livelihoods and cultural identity have been supported and inspired by the area's lands, waters and contributing watersheds.

Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound contains a total population of almost 50,000 persons, the vast majority of which are permanent residents. People living in the region enjoy a diverse economy based on forestry, tourism, recreation and service-based businesses.

The Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS), a registered non-profit organization, will assume responsibility for the management and coordination of the proposed Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Reserve (AHSBR). Members of the HSBRIS Board and participants in the AHSBR Roundtable will be a balanced representation of First Nations, federal, provincial and local governments, various commercial sectors and civil society. The area is collectively managed by various levels of government at multiple scales reflecting a diversity of jurisdictions, values, administrative boundaries and plans.

The main objectives of the proposed biosphere reserve are to establish and manage an overarching holistic land and marine use plan for the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region that is mutually recognized and respected by First Nations, civil society, stakeholders and all levels of government, to protect and conserve biodiversity in the region and to be a model for best practices and a place where people live in harmony with nature by bringing together First Nations, NGOs, academia, industry and civil society.

The Advisory Committee welcomed the fact that the designation would help to develop a comprehensive plan/policy for land and marine management/cooperation that would strategically guide the management of all land and waters in the Howe Sound area and create a unified vision and plan for the region and avoid fragmented planning.

The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the quality of the nomination proposal and acknowledged that it represents the culmination of a long process. The Advisory Committee recommended that the site **be approved**.