



Hello and happy holidays to you!

2022 has been a very busy year for us since our UNESCO designation in September 2021.

Our work on biodiversity conservation received a big boost with four years of funding from [Environment and Climate Change Canada's Enhanced Nature Legacy](#) Program. This kickstarted numerous projects with regional partners in collaboration with Skwxwu7mesh Úxwumixw. We welcomed new volunteers and staff to our organization to help build capacity.

We continued to host online and in-person consensus-building events such as the Future of Howe Sound Forum with our many community stakeholders as we developed the [Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan](#), a guiding management plan for the biosphere region.

Local governments around the region renewed and strengthened their commitment to the Biosphere and the principles for cooperation through Memorandums of Understanding.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We wish you a healthy, safe and happy holiday season.

*Ruth Simons,*

*Executive Director, [Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society](#)*



We are proud to see Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound being showcased by UNESCO internationally, most recently at the UN Biodiversity Conference, COP15, in Montreal. Joyce and Linda Williams image, taken by Kris Krug for DSF, is a backdrop to a panel discussion on Language as a Pathway for biodiversity conservation. Photo provided by Kyla Zhoushkawabunokwe Judge at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, December 7-19, 2022.

## Recapping the 2022 Future of Howe Sound Forum



On November 5, 2022, an intimate group of 75 people gathered at the Gleneagles Clubhouse near Ch'axáy in West Vancouver to learn about and discuss the Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan. Participants included new and returning

elected officials from Howe Sound, First Nations, sectors, academics, scientists and NGOs. Read the recap to learn more about the event and the key themes we discussed and stay tuned for our What We Heard summary document.

READ MORE

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## Biodiversity Conservation in Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound

The global community is working towards conserving **30% of land by 2030**. With the support of funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada, we are building capacity to support projects that focus on biodiversity conservation and the buffer zones that rest just outside protected areas (also known as Other Effective Conservation Measures or OECMs). [Learn more about our work.](#)

### New OECM Project Director

We welcome Mica Anguita, to our team. Mica brings knowledge and education in Environmental Sciences, GIS, and fieldwork experience from across the Sea to Sky region.



**The return of the Sea Otter** and confirmed sightings of JPod, the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales to Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound are great news!

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# You Can Help Protect our Marine Life

Together with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, local non-government organizations and the Invasive Species Council of BC, we are pulling together to monitor for the highly invasive [European Green Crab](#). [Your donations](#) will be matched to help with urgent and much-needed capacity! [Contact us](#) if you would like more information on how to help.

## Three ways to support our work

1. Core funding via direct donations to [Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society](#)
2. Long-term and project-specific tax-deductible donations through the Howe Sound Biosphere Fund held at [West Vancouver Community Foundation](#)
3. Program and research funding through the Howe Sound Biosphere Fund at Capilano University Foundation. [Contact us to learn how.](#)



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Atl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region is located in the unceded territory of the Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) people.

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