



UNESCO News Soon!

The 27th session of the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR) was held between 8 and 12 March.

The IACBR provides scientific and technical advice to UNESCO's Director-General and the MAB-ICC regarding the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, such as the designation of new sites and periodic reviews. We are anxiously awaiting the news about the success of our nomination.

[Read More about next steps](#)

5-Year Strategic Plan

Collaboration is at the heart of our organization. As such, our strategic plan was informed by eight years of conversations and dialogue across the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region (AHSBR) with First Nations, civil society, multi-sector stakeholders, and all levels of government. In response to the key systemic challenges in the region, we are focusing on three outcomes over the next 10 years:

- **Sustainable Development:** An overarching, holistic land and marine use plan, mutually recognized and respected by First Nations, civil society, multi-sector stakeholders, and all levels of government.

- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Needs are understood and defined, and measures are in place to ensure the conservation of critical ecological values.
- **Reconciliation, Equity & Inclusion:** Needs and meaning for the Squamish Nation and all nations and communities in the region are learned and defined collaboratively, and plans for advancement are mutually supported.

To achieve our 10-year outcomes, we need to focus on and achieve four interim outcomes over the next five years, as described in our strategic plan.

[Download the 5-Year Strategic Plan Summary](#)



Embedding Marine Education

Kids who grow up near the shoreline might take for granted the fact that they have access to one of the world's best playgrounds. Educators who teach in ocean communities just might forget that they have access to one of the world's greatest teaching resources.

In response to great community feedback about the educational value of the Ocean Watch Howe Sound Edition Reports (2017 & 2020), Oceanwise has created a seven-week curriculum for middle school students to deepen their learning about Átl'ka7tsem/ Txwnéwu7ts/ Howe Sound. Teachers can access a three-hour workshop to get classroom-ready with the curriculum.

It is our goal to ensure this valuable resource as part of the curriculum of every school in the region.

The seven-week curriculum taps into core competencies for Grade 7 in Language Arts and Science, including big ideas like evolution, climate, and its change over the earth's geologic time; while tapping into critical core competencies including communication, creative thinking, critical thinking and social responsibility.



Cumulative Effects Project wrap up

March 5, 2021 we hosted a wrap-up over Zoom of the Cumulative Effects Pilot Project for Howe Sound. Representatives from the Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resources and Rural Development shared their findings and provided a demonstration of the soon-to-be-launched Stewardship Baseline Objectives Tools.

[Learn more & view the presentations](#)



Place-based learning

The Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative offers a wide

range of opportunities for place-based learning – through case studies, through research and monitoring initiatives, and through field experiences for students and others.

The UN's UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (Regions in the Canadian context) focus on connecting people and nature through place-based initiatives related to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and reconciliation.

We are excited to be working with the Institute for Environmental Learning and Capilano University on new programs based in Howe Sound.

Contact Us

Events

Howe Sound Community Forum - April 23

We are hosting representatives from around the Sound who will come together online for another Zoom Forum. The Forums are for elected officials and invited observers focused on the well-being of the region. [Read about the history of the forums and what is on the program.](#)

UN World Oceans Day Event - June 8th

We are collaborating with [Blue Mar 4 Change](#) and [Ocean Wise Education](#) on a special online learning event for all learners on the morning of June 8th. To celebrate [UN World Oceans Day](#) schools are invited to register for virtual seats in our customized program focused on life in *Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound - so close, so special.* [Learn more here.](#)

Join us in making history for Howe Sound and donate today!

Your donations support ongoing efforts of this volunteer initiative. [Learn more here](#) about sustainable funding and how you can help.

Atl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region is the unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) people.
The photo above overlooking Skwxwú7mesh is the cover photo for the UNESCO nomination document by Chris Christie.
Place-based learning Photo credit Wayne Kaulbach:



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