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Hello, happy Spring!

May 22nd is the International Day for Biological Diversity created to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. This year's theme builds on the commitments made at COP 15 in December - *From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity*. Our story in Howe Sound is about our ongoing environmental recovery, and our commitment to the actions that restore biodiversity on the land and in the sea. We are pleased to be bringing people together and help build the capacity for continued action.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*Ruth Simons,*

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

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## Howe Sound Conservation Network Forum



On March 31st we hosted the Howe Sound Conservation Network to consider the outcomes of COP15, share information about ongoing and future projects and consider how our efforts contribute toward the global goals to curb biodiversity loss and climate change. [Read more here](#)

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## Knowledge Sharing Across Biosphere Regions





Representatives of BC's three UNESCO Biosphere Reserves came together early April in the Clayoquot Biosphere Region to learn about Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

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BC Biospheres at the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association national gathering in Ottawa, February 2023. Over three days there was knowledge transfer and learning with the 19 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Environment and Climate Change Canada and CCUNESCO. Ruth Simons, Joyce Williams, and Mica Anguita pictured here with colleagues from Clayoquot Sound and Mt. Arrosmith Biospheres.

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**Connecting Youth to the Biosphere**



*Photo: Capilano University - Tom Flower's field trip*

Connecting people with nature is a key objective of a UNESCO Biosphere. These regions are also places for learning, monitoring and restoration, providing wonderful opportunities for partnerships with academic institutions. Over the past two years our partnership with Capilano University has resulted in more youth in the field through the new Interdisciplinary Studies course INTS110, and also Biology classes out monitoring in the field helping to support species monitoring and much more. Read more, or donate directly to [the Biosphere Fund](#) to support field trips and projects.

READ MORE

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## **Biodiversity Conservation in Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound**





The global community is working toward 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 protect important habitat in the buffer zones that rest just outside protected areas (also known as Other Effective Conservation Measures or OECMs).

[READ ABOUT OUR PROJECTS](#)

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### **New Board Member**

We welcome Dan Rogers to our Board of Directors. Dan is former a Gambier/Keats Trustee of the Islands Trust. This role followed a career as a labour lawyer in Alberta and BC during which time he served on a range of environmentally and socially focused Boards and Associations. Dan lives part-time in Vancouver and part-time on Keats Island, and is a founding member of the Keats Island Conservation Group.



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### **New Research Assistant**

Joseph (Joey) Moric joins Mica, our OECM Project Director, as together they

are scoping the start of a Terrestrial Atlas for the Biosphere Region. Read more about [this project here](#)



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## Howe Sound Community Forum Town of Gibsons



On April 21st the Howe Sound Community Forum came together in the Town of Gibsons with returning and new elected officials from communities around Howe Sound. [Read more here.](#)

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# Three Ways to Support our Work

DONATE

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. Support program and research funding through the [Howe Sound Biosphere Fund at Capilano University Foundation](#).



Atl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region is located in the unceded territory of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) people.



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