



Islands Trust Conservancy - Executive Committee

Liaison Meeting Agenda

Date: July 13, 2021
Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Location: Electronic Zoom Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Introductions and context for annual meeting

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. MINUTES/COORDINATION

3.1. Review of the July 14, 2020 meeting minutes.

4. BUSINESS

4.1. Items for Information

4.1.1. ITC 2020/21 Year in Review (presentation)

- Property Management
- Regional Conservation Plan Updates
- Reconciliation with First Nations
- Species at Risk Program
- Climate Change Project
- Donor Engagement

4.1.2. 2020/21 Executive Committee Updates (verbal)

- Provincial Funding Request
- NAPTEP Exemption Increase

4.2. Roundtable - Focus on Collaboration

4.3. Items for Collaboration

4.3.1. Strategic Fund Development - Briefing

4.3.2. Working with Crown Agencies for Forest Protection (verbal)

4.3.3. Policy Statement Amendment Project (verbal)

4.3.4. Islands Trust Strategic Plan / Regional Conservation Plan Overlap - Briefing

4.3.5. Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund Grant Application - Briefing

5. NEXT MEETING

To be determined in late 2021.

6. ADJOURNMENT



Islands Trust Conservancy - Executive Committee

Liaison Meeting

Minutes of Regular Meeting



Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020
Time: 1:05 pm
Location: Electronic Zoom Meeting

Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Board Members Present:
Kate-Louise Stamford, Chair
Sue Ellen Fast, Vice Chair and EC Member
Linda Adams
Donald Clarke (left the meeting at 2:01 pm)
Doug Fenton
Susan Hannon

Executive Committee (EC) Members Present: Peter Luckham, Chair
Laura Patrick
Dan Rogers

Staff Present:
Kate Emmings, ITC Acting Manager
Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services
Carla Funk, ITC Acting Communication and Fundraising Specialist
Dilani Hippola, Acting Senior Policy Advisor (left the meeting at 2:45 pm)
Kathryn Martell, ITC Acting Ecosystems Protection Specialist
Alexandra Trifonidis, Acting Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm. Chair Stamford acknowledged that the meeting was being held in traditional territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

1.1 Introductions and context for annual meeting

Chair Stamford welcomed the Executive Committee guests and initiated introductions. Trustee Clarke introduced himself as a new member of the ITC Board. Trustee Hannon introduced herself as an appointed Trustee to the ITC Board.

The Executive Committee warmly welcomed the new ITC Board members and individually introduced themselves.

Staff were introduced as meeting attendees.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was approved.

2.1 Agenda Context Notes

The Agenda Context Notes were received for information.

3. MINUTES/COORDINATION

3.1 Review of the July 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Islands Trust Conservancy Board received the July 16, 2019 meeting minutes for information.

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Items for Information

4.1.1 Introductions:

- Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC)

See item 1.1

- Executive Committee (EC)

See item 1.1

- Review of ITC\EC roles

ITC Acting Manager gave a brief overview about the logistics of the EC\ITC liaison meeting and their structures.

4.2 Items for Discussion/Direction

4.2.1 Working with the Province

- Trust Council Strategic Plan Item

ITC Acting Manager gave a background overview of the NAPTEP program. In September 2019, the ITC Board requested that Trust Council increase the property tax exemption rate for NAPTEP. Trust Council included amendment of the exemption rate in its strategic plan as a means of protecting forest cover.

Islands Trust Chief Administrative Officer updated the group that there has been very little conversation about this item between senior management and the Executive Committee, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed this item from moving forward.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Amending NAPTEP legislation to be compliant with UNDRIP (apple orchards, colonial history are optional cultural areas for protection, but

First Nations cultural sites are not eligible – with the exception of culturally modified trees)

➤ Target goal of 100% tax exemption

- Provincial Funding Request

Islands Trust Chief Administrative Officer update – this item is delayed due to COVID-19. Specific strategies will be developed soon. The conversation with ministry staff will be initiated.

4.2.2 Working with Trust Council

- COVID-19 Updates (verbal)

ITC has modified its annual property monitoring due to COVID 19 and the newly developed *Islands Trust Recovery and Safety Plan for COVID-19*. No ITC Nature Reserves were closed due to COVID. Assisted by its island partners, ITC was able to monitor the safety of visitors to lands that it manages.

The ITC is following the *Islands Trust Recovery and Safety Plan for COVID-19* for all its work, including monitoring and site visits on islands.

- Strategic Planned Giving

ITC fund development planning started in the 1990's. One approach to fund development that ITC is pursuing is Strategic Planned Giving. The Acting Communications and Fundraising Specialist described the ITC's approach to planned giving noting building relationships is key which has been hard due to social distancing.

Trust Council Chair Luckham spoke about community and conservation aspects of living on the islands. Community centers and other island initiatives also need funding. Giving is significant on islands in different ways. Raising the profile of ITC is needed.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- How can we expand the strategic planned giving more broadly? For example, beyond island residents and landowners to groups such as island visitors.
- The ability to have a planned giving program that is not in competition with island conservancies; ways of developing mutual supports.

- Climate Change Emergency Declaration

1. FireSmart and Ecology / Fire Risk Management
2. Climate Change Projections Report
3. Climate Action Plan

The ITC Acting Manager spoke to the context notes provided.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Scientific reports within the Trust Area – Of note, there are different reports for climate change within certain areas of the Trust but not one covered the whole of the Trust Area which is why ITC commissioned the CCPR.
- Bringing awareness about the CCPR – There is value in bringing the CCPR to Local Trust Committees (LTC) as useful information for locals (for example, farmers could possibly benefit from the information providing how projected growing days could change into the future)
- Referrals and communication
 1. Between TC and ITC
 2. Between Committees and ITC

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Overall communications between Islands Trust and ITC have been streamlined over the last few years. There are still possibilities for bringing more items to the attention of the ITC.
- Land use planning – planned preservation. Reconsider how things are done. What mechanisms do we have in place now and should there be new ones added? Major shift in thinking.
- ITC's response to LTC referrals – How does ITC respond? What is the capacity of the ITC to respond to these referrals? There are set procedures on how ITC responds to LTC referrals outlined in IT and ITC policy. ITC is typically brought in on Official Community Plan reviews.
- More ITC resources will be needed if an increase in referrals is considered
- Ecological awareness
- LTC's supportive to preserve and protect mechanism
- Co-management with First Nations in the Trust Area
- Budget:
 1. Fire Risk Assessment
 2. Property Management Formula

Discussion ensued on the following:

- ITC is currently working on new budget formula for property management.
- ITC is exploring a possible budget request for Fire Risk Assessment on ITC lands; alternatives for partnerships with external agencies are also being explored to keep costs low.
- ITC revenue reporting –Highlight the donation side of the Conservancies revenue rather than just expenditures in Islands Trust budget reporting.

- Canada Nature Fund (verbal)

The ITC Acting Manager gave an update on the status of the Canada Nature Fund request, submitted by ITC, stating the request for funding is still active but no news has been received.

- Regional Conservation Plan Update

The ITC Acting Manager gave an update on the ITC Regional Conservation Plan noting that the first three-year work plan will come to an end in December 2020. The RCP is a 10-year plan broken down into three, three year increments, with a final year for assessment and planning of the next RCP. The plan is designed this way so staff are able to adjust work items if needed.

- Ecosystem Based Management

1. Ecological Research Network (ERN)

Dr. Hannon, a member of the ERN, provided insight into who is involved, why it was created and what the network does. The ERN is a Salt Spring based group comprised of many talented islanders with a broad range of expertise in the field. The group is volunteer run and provides information such as environmental reports, brings forward climate change awareness, and has access to cutting edge information and research.

Discussion ensued on ecosystem-based management and the Ecological Research Network. The following topics arose:

- Do we need to do things differently?
- Review of how land planning is done
- Next meeting - discuss ecology of gulf islands (fire)
- Should the ERN be available to all of the Trust Area?
- Ways to manage properly/co manage/be responsive in a timely manner

4.2.3 Working with Local Trust Committees

- LPS\ITC policy
- CDF Tool Kit

The ITC Acting Manager shared that ITC has processed 6 referrals from Local Trust Committees in the last year. See agenda item *Referrals and Communication* for more detailed discussion points on referral communications between ITC and LTC's.

4.2.4 Working with First Nations

- Reconciliation Declaration and Action Plan

- Crown Land Policy

Staff noted that reconciliation action is outlined for the Trust Council in the Reconciliation Action Plan and the ITC is contemplating development of its own Reconciliation Action Plan. ITC's current reconciliation actions are described in its Regional Conservation Plan and through associated staff work programs. The ITC staff have recently participated in two retreats with the Island Trusts Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor to educate and reflect on how ITC can include reconciliation into ITC work.

Staff continue to have a work item to review Trust Council Procedure 2.1.12, Administration of the Crown Land Acquisition Initiative to better reflect engagement with First Nations. The program is a Trust Council Program that is administered in collaboration with the ITC. ITC continues to receive interest from the islands to move forward with Crown land acquisition, but has currently paused actions while awaiting procedure review.

4.2.5 Working with the Public

- Website (verbal)

The Director of Trust Area Services updated the meeting attendees on the progress of the website. The new website will be merging three existing sites: MapIT, ITC and IT. The design work is done. Training sessions have been provided to staff; however, more training will be needed in the future to better equip staff on how to use the new software to its full potential. Prior to the launch of the site, a user testing experience will be offered to multiple groups that are known to use the site often: trustees, real estate professionals and landowners to name a few.

5. **NEXT MEETING**

To be determined in late 2020; in Victoria.

Of note, there was mention of the possible need for ITC and EC to meet more often. Specific items on today's agenda will likely need to be addressed before the next annual liaison meeting.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

By **general consent**, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Kate-Louise Stamford, Chair

Certified Correct:

Recorder



BRIEFING

To: Islands Trust Conservancy/
Executive Committee

For the Meeting of: July 13, 2021

From: Staff

Date Prepared: June 30, 2021

SUBJECT: Strategic Fund Development

PURPOSE: To provide an update on the ITC strategic fund development work since approval of the ITC Fund Development Strategy.

BACKGROUND:

The Island Trust Conservancy 5-year plan (2018 – 2022) states that ITC “will continue to pursue new and innovative sources of funding to ensure that it can seize time-sensitive land securement opportunities and prevent further loss of the rare and fragile ecosystems of the Islands Trust Area.” In January 2019, the ITC Board formed the Fund Development Advisory Committee (FDAC). From April 2019 to January 2020, the FDAC worked to identify funding needs, produce a financial analysis, and develop fundraising strategies. The ITC Board approved a Fund Development Strategy (2020 -2025) in February, 2020, and a 3-year Fund Development Action Plan was approved January 2021. The Action Plan describes features of a culture of philanthropy and itemized actions required to execute the ITC Fund Development Strategy 2020 – 2025, including timelines and estimated budget. As ITC pursues funding, it is cognizant of working cooperatively and not competitively with other island-based agencies.

Actions completed since approval received:

- “Building a Culture of Philanthropy” training – staff, Board and Trust Council presentations/training
- Signed on to Willpower (CAGP), Canadian National promotion of ITC legacy giving; operational September 2021
- Listed ITC in the Canadian Donor’s Guide
- Increased Facebook presence
- Revamped Heron Newsletter – more story-based and “skimmable” for broader audience appeal
- Telling donor impact story through infographics: 30 year timeline of land protected, 30 year milestones of ITC, impact infographic of Opportunity Fund since 2005
- 170 personalized “gratitude letters” including an Opportunity Fund impact infographic to all donors of the Opportunity Fund since 2005

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Infographic: 30 year timeline of land protected
2. Infographic: 30 year milestones of ITC
3. Infographic: Impact infographic of Opportunity Fund since 2005

FOLLOW-UP: ITC staff will continue to implement the Fund Development Action Plan.

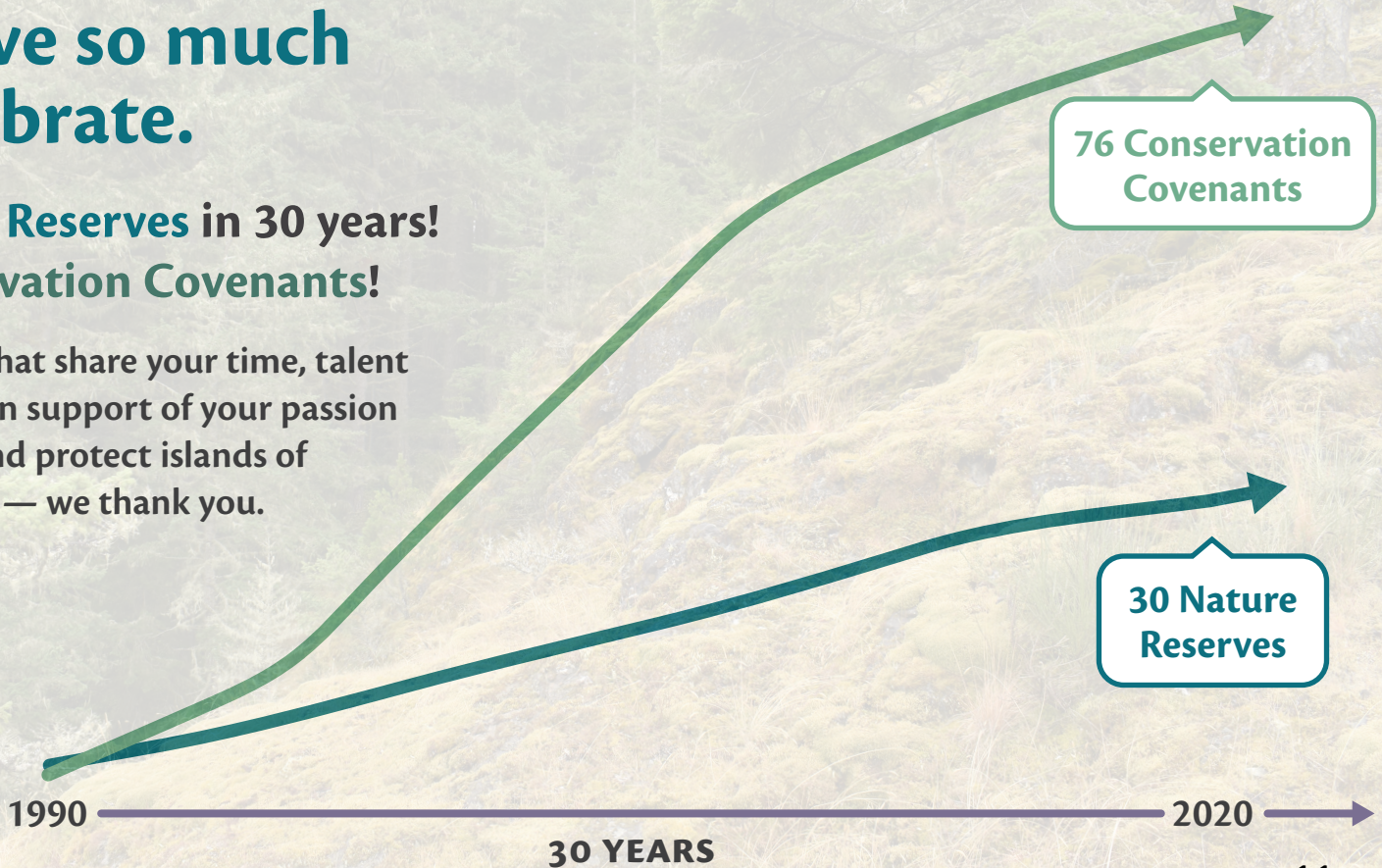
Prepared By: Carla Funk, Fundraising Specialist

Reviewed By/Date: Kate Emmings, ITC Manager / July 5, 2021

We have so much to celebrate.

30 Nature Reserves in 30 years!
76 Conservation Covenants!

To all of you that share your time, talent and treasure in support of your passion to preserve and protect islands of the Salish Sea — we thank you.



ISLANDS TRUST CONSERVANCY

Celebrating 30 years of conservation

2020 ●

30th nature reserve created, on Keats Island!

2018 ●

Renamed Islands Trust Conservancy.
10-year Regional Conservation Plan launched

2015 ●

NAPTEP available throughout Islands
Trust Area (Bowen last to sign on)

2008 ●

Over 15% of Islands Trust Area land
protected by public and non-profit
conservation organizations.
1000 ha protected

2003 ●

500 ha protected; NAPTEP (Natural Area
Protection Tax Exemption Program)
piloted on Gambier Island

1997 ●

100 ha protected

1990 ●

April 1: Islands Trust Act is amended,
establishing Islands Trust Fund.
May 17: first Trust Fund Board meeting

● 2019

Reconciliation Declaration acknowledges that the
islands and the waters that encompass the Salish
Sea have been home to Indigenous Peoples since
time immemorial

● 2016

100 places protected!

● 2010

Fairy Fen Nature Reserve on Bowen Island
becomes 20th nature reserve in 20 years.
Total of 60 conservation covenants

● 2005

Five Year Regional Conservation Plan.
Opportunity Fund established to support land
purchases for nature reserves or conservation
covenants. 50 places protected

● 2000

15 conservation covenants and 8 nature reserves
created on 10 islands

● 1992

First conservation covenant, on Salt Spring
Island. First nature reserves, on Denman and
Salt Spring Islands



PHOTO: NATALIE HUNT

ISLANDS TRUST CONSERVANCY

Opportunity Fund:

Kick-starting Conservation 2005–2021

28
9

grants to
conservation
partners on
islands

**1st
grant**

Salt Spring Island

*Result: Mount Erskine
Provincial Park ▶*

Latest grant: Bowen Island Conservancy
Result: Cape Roger Curtis Conservation Area



\$104,000

granted since 2005



\$47,000,000!



total appraised value of properties
protected by kick-starting grants
to conservation partners



Largest grant
\$7,000



Smallest grant
\$700



Average grant
\$3,700



**200+
donors**

Generosity of donors to the Opportunity Fund has kick-started conservation on islands of the Salish Sea.

100% of donations go to our partners and individual landowners in support of important conservation projects.

To donate call 250-405-5186, visit islandstrust.bc.ca/donate-to-conservancy/
or mail a cheque to Islands Trust Conservancy, 200–1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

Photos by Kristine Mayes



BRIEFING

To: ITC Board / Executive Committee **For the Meeting of:** July 13, 2021

From: ITC Staff **Date Prepared:** July 4, 2021

SUBJECT: Islands Trust Strategic Plan / Regional Conservation Plan Overlap

PURPOSE: To provide an overview of areas of overlap between the Regional Conservation Plan, which guides the work of the Islands Trust Conservancy, and the Islands Trust Strategic Plan, which guides the work of the Islands Trust.

BACKGROUND: The Trust Council approves a Strategic Plan at the beginning of its electoral term. The current Islands Trust Strategic Plan will be in place until the end of 2022 and guides the work of Trust Council.

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) develops a Regional Conservation Plan (RCP) to guide its work. The current RCP is in place until 2027 and includes three-year work plans that allow the ITC to direct work items and evaluate them on a three-year cycle. The first workplan was schedule to complete at the end of 2020, but has been extended to the end of 2021 due to staff capacity.

Six areas of overlap between the Islands Trust Strategic Plan and Regional Conservation Plan are noted below in Table 1.

Table 1. Topics of overlap between the Islands Trust Strategic Plan and the Islands Trust Conservancy Regional Conservation Plan

	Islands Trust Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	ITC Regional Conservation Plan (2018-2021 Work Plan Item)
1	Coastal Douglas-fir Mapping (Strategy 1.1) - SSI Coastal Douglas-fir Project - Distribution of contiguous forest mapping	Share Ecosystem Mapping (Relevant to Objective 1.4) - Coastal Douglas-fir Outreach Project - Data sharing program
2	Amend legislation to increase the percentage of the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) (Strategy 1.3) Ministry officials have referred the Islands Trust to the Ministry of Finance for further information, which has not yet been scheduled.	Promote NAPTEP in one LTA per year (relevant to Objective 3.5) Promoting NAPTEP through: - Islands Trust tax notice - CDF outreach (Summer 2020) - Landowner contact program on Gabriola in collaboration with Gabriola Land and Trails Trust
3	Eelgrass & Kelp Mapping (Strategy 2.2) Eelgrass Mapping Request for Proposals	Explore option for Bull Kelp mapping (Relevant to Objective 1.1) Participation in BC KelpR project with UVic to evaluate new mapping techniques for bull

		kelp and to map current and historical kelp distribution in the Salish Sea • Data sharing program (marine data)
4	Climate change data and performance criteria (Strategy 3.3) • Islands Trust Climate Indicators Report	Identify data to support decision making (Objective 1.1 & Climate Change Project Charter) • Climate Change Project (delayed to 2022)
5	Stewardship education (Strategy 4.3) • Climate Action Speaker Series	Support outreach activities where ITC/Islands Trust overlap (Relevant to Objective 1.5) • Coastal Douglas-fir Outreach (2020) • Gabriola Landowner Contact Partnership with the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (2021)
6	Archaeological Impact Strategy (Strategy 4.7) • Heritage preservation overlay mapping for the Trust Area and model heritage regulatory bylaws for protection of potential heritage and cultural sites	Explore tools for conservation of First Nations landscape features (Relevant to Objective 2.6) • Development of Reconciliation Action Plan

ATTACHMENT(S):

- [Islands Trust Strategic Plan](#)
- [Islands Trust Conservancy Regional Conservation Plan](#)
- Regional Conservation Plan (2018-2027): 2018-2020 Workplan Progress Highlights - July 14, 2021

FOLLOW-UP: Staff will follow up based on current Islands Trust Strategic Plan/ Islands Trust Strategic Plan and as directed.

Prepared By: Kate Emmings, ITC Manager
Kathryn Martell, Ecosystem Protection Specialist

Reviewed By/Date: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services / July 6, 2021

Regional Conservation Plan (2018-2027)

2018-2020 Workplan Progress Highlights, July 2020 - July 14, 2021

Goal 1. Identify, investigate and communicate about important natural areas to generate action on conservation priorities

Mapping, Data and Analysis

Complete	Training for staff in using new contact database (CRM)
	Updated Conservation Profiles for each LTA, using current protected areas maps and statistics
	Species at risk surveys conducted on properties throughout the ITA [lichens/bryophytes survey (confidential property); Moore Hill NR & Fairyslipper NR (TH) - bats and W. Screech owl (incl nest box install); Trincomali NS (GL) - Cormorant Nest monitoring; Moss Mountain covenant (SSI) - bats]
Ongoing	Annual updates for Species and Ecosystems at Risk Data and Critical Habitat designations
	Developing internal database (within TAPIS) for storage of property management information
	Annual protected areas updates
	Maintain information on priority conservation lands
In Progress	Sharp-tailed snake population distribution study on Salt Spring (Cyril Cunningham NR, Moss Mountain covenant) and Thetis (Moore Hill NR)
	Updating metadata (information about data) for existing datasets
	Worked with LPS to prepare RFP to expand / complete eelgrass mapping throughout Islands Trust Area
	Participating in LPS Salt Spring Island Scientific Working Group to identify priority areas for CDF Forest conservation
	Participating in study using eDNA to determine presence of forage fishes, for Salt Spring Island Nature Reserve sites
	Refining Protected Areas display in TAPIS, and data cleaning of protected areas information
	Exploring partnership for Bull Kelp mapping for possible execution in the 2021-2023 work plan.
Workplan Changes/Notes	Migrating information from spreadsheets into new internal database (within TAPIS)
	Considering mapping expected shift in ecosystems due to climate change for 2050 and 2080 and integrating these predictions into conservation model
	Conservation priority modelling updated in 2019 but analysis and integrating these new data delayed. Staff plan to incorporate into 3rd or 4th Q workplan for 2021.
	Forage fish mapping remains incomplete. Staff continue to investigate options to complete mapping for Gabriola and Saturna, but options are currently limited.

Information Sharing

Complete	Local Trust Area/Island Municipality Profiles created with data highlights--updated annually
	Data shared with 12 agencies
	Annual updates to BC Conservation Areas Database, complete for 2018, 2019, & 2020
	Provided training to LPS staff and newly elected trustees and ITC Board members
	Assisted Islands Trust with Stewardship Series Webinars about eelgrass, climate change, and land care
	Completed transition to digital data collection during site visits and property monitoring
	Provided input to Islands Trust Policy Statement Amendment
Ongoing	Provide annual information training to LPS staff and Trust Council
	Participate in Climate Change Working Group with Islands Trust staff to improve collaboration
	Meet annually with Islands Trust Executive Committee

In progress	Updating website to integrate with Islands Trust website and provide streamlined information
	Training staff and revising digital data collection tools
Workplan Changes/Notes	Considering best approaches to providing open data (refining data sharing process)
	Will need to update materials with new website address
	Extensive work developing and revising new web site content and layout
Goal 2. Strengthen relationships with First Nations to identify and collaborate on shared conservation goals	
Looking internally	
Complete	Updated Conservation Covenant template with language to protect archaeological and cultural sites, and acknowledge FN rights to harvest
	Updated Management Plan and Baseline Report templates to improve First Nations information
	Staff and ITC Board training regarding reconciliation and the Nations in the Islands Trust region
	Budgeted to allow increased First Nations engagement for property management
	Updated contract templates to ensure contractors adhere to best practices around language and acknowledgment of First Nations presence on the landscape, and chance finds protocols
Ongoing	Continued learning for staff and ITC Board
	Working to include better language and recognition of First Nations throughout policies and communications
	Drafted template for Management Plan for Areas of Cultural Heritage and Sacred Significance
	First Nations territory acknowledged in news releases, indigenous place names used where appropriate
In progress	Creating ITC Reconciliation Action Plan
	Revising ITC Vision Statement to include acknowledgement of First Nations
	Working to increase First Nations engagement in ITC Property Management
Workplan Changes/Notes	Soon to initiate policy revisions to better reflect engagement of First Nations in land securement and management
Working with First Nations	
Complete	Encouraged First Nations participation in wetlands restoration projects on Lasqueti and Sidney islands
	Invited FN engagement with wetlands restoration projects on Lasqueti and Sidney Islands
	Worked with First Nations artist to develop signs for Elder Cedar Nature Reserve, that include and honour culturally important plants and indigenous language
Ongoing	Site visits with Coast Salish Cultural Knowledge Holder to existing and potential acquisition properties
	Continue to identify and pursue opportunities to share resources with First Nations in areas of mutual interest
In Progress	Participating in Sidney Island Forest Restoration Program with Penelakut, Tsawout, Pauquachin, Lyackson and Tsartlip First Nations
	Developing relationship with Penelakut for land management on Thetis Island
Workplan Changes/Notes	Continue to seek opportunities to work collaboratively with Islands Trust to build relationships with First Nations
	Continue to explore tools to protect cultural and archaeological sites where compatible with ITC land conservation work
Goal 3. Continue to secure and manage Islands Trust Conservancy lands and conservation covenants to maximize ecological integrity	
Property Management	
	Completed transition to in-house property monitoring
	Secured funding and conducted preliminary planning for Species at Risk Program

Complete	Management Plans approved for three nature reserves on Denman Island (Inner Island NR, Valens Brook NR and Lindsay Dickson NR) and one on Lasqueti Island (Salish View NR).
	Information panels and kiosk developed and installed at Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve, Thetis Island
	Restoration projects including planting and protective caging on Gambier and Lasqueti
	Staff training to incorporate climate change considerations in land management
	Secured funding for wetlands restoration projects on Lasqueti Island and Sidney Island
Ongoing	Invasive species management on Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Lasqueti, Salt Spring and Thetis nature reserves
	Trail management on Bowen, Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Lasqueti, Salt Spring and Thetis
	Work with covenant landowners to manage invasive species
	Developing and maintaining partnerships with local conservancies for nature reserve monitoring and management activities
	Annual monitoring of seventy-six conservation covenants and twenty-nine nature reserves
	Member of Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership
In progress	Management Plans for Moore Hill NR (TH), Elder Cedar NR (GB), Coats Millstone NR (GB) and Ruby Alton NR (SSI) with partners for editing before final approval
	Improving TAPIS database for better storage of property management information
	Designing and installing signs at Elder Cedar NR, honouring FN language and cultural use of plants
	Wetland restoration project on Lasqueti on three nature reserves (Salish View NR, John Osland NR and Mt. Trematon NR)
	Invasive species management on covenant properties on Sidney Island
	Working with First Nations, Parks Canada and others on the Sidney Island Ecological Restoration Project
	Develop property-specific management goals / activities that explicitly consider climate change
Workplan Changes/Notes	Considering best approaches to include climate change adaptation / mitigation actions in land management
	Adapted monitoring and on-the-ground work due to CoViD-19 pandemic
	Develop region-wide wildfire response strategy for conservation lands in consultation with island fire departments and BC Wildfire Service
Land Conservation	
Complete	Lisa Baile Nature Reserve (North Pender Island) and Sandy Beach Nature Reserve (Keats Island) transferred to ITC
	Approved Morrison-Waxler Biodiversity Protection grant for a NAPTEP covenant on North Pender Island (\$5,500)
	Registered Earl Batista covenant on Salt Spring Island
	Outreach to 375 landowners across the Islands Trust Area with large forest patches (part of Coastal Douglas-fir outreach)
	Issued Opportunity Fund Grants for three projects
	Rare species inventories for current securement projects (Mayne Island, Salt Spring Island)
Ongoing	Meet with landowners interested in conservation (3 onsite meetings, 2018/2019, 3 onsite meetings 2019/2020, 4 onsite meetings 2020/2021, respond to 10-15 inquiries annually with detailed information)
	Continue to develop relationships with landowners who have expressed interest in conservation
	Steering Committee member for Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Program (CDFCP) and member of Securement Working Group
In Progress	Four covenants and four nature reserve acquisitions in active negotiation
Workplan Changes/Notes	Considering best approaches to include climate change adaptation / mitigation actions in securement strategy and conservation planning

Goal 4. Continue to build internal and shared organizational strength and resilience to ensure long-term nature conservation in the Islands Trust Area	
Strong Finances	
Complete	Developed a Fund Development Strategy
	Training for staff, Board, and Trust Council in cultivating culture of philanthropy
	Developed funding partnership with the Federal Government for Species at Risk program
Ongoing	Manage finances and complete annual financial audits
In Progress	Developing a Strategic Planned Giving Action Program based on recommendations from the Fund Development Strategy
	Calculating impacts of Opportunity Fund grants and developing materials to promote donations
	Creating a donor-oriented "impact report" version of the Annual Report
Workplan Changes/Notes	
Strong Communication	
Complete	Participation in Local Conservation Fund survey for CDFCP
	Presenter with Conservation Tools for Local Government Workshop, hosted by SEAR and CDFCP
	Updated email signatures to new 'corporate identity' and to include new website address
Ongoing	Updating signage to new logo as appropriate
	Update materials to new website address, as appropriate
	Develop image bank for communications materials
	Revise layout and content of new website to address gaps, new information, and user needs
	Issue Enews regularly and Heron newsletter once each year
In Progress	Participation in Islands Trust Freshwater Sustainability Strategy
	Migration of photos to new DigiKam cataloguing tool, as appropriate
	Working with Trust Area Services to conduct landowner outreach regarding forest ecosystems.
	Promotion of 30th Anniversary - newsletter/website stories and profiles, 30th property celebration, celebration (online) , etc.
	Participating in website redesign project with Islands Trust, integrating Islands Trust Conservancy webpage with Islands Trust webpage.
	Plan celebrations for new nature reserves and covenants, as and when pandemic health restrictions allow
Workplan Changes/Notes	Celebrations for new nature reserves delayed due to pandemic health restrictions
	Updated the ITC webpage and developed and communicated out regarding revised workplans in response to CoViD-19 pandemic.
Ongoing Learning	
Complete	Board and staff participated in awareness training regarding working with First Nations
	Staff and a board member participated in the Land Trust Alliance of BC Seminar Series
	Board and staff Fund Development training
	ITC property and covenant management staff participated in Invasive Alien Species database training
	The ITC Chair participated in the annual Union of BC Municipalities conference
	ITC Manager participated in the annual Local Government Management Association conference
	Attended the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference remotely

Ongoing	Continue to improve awareness of First Nations and engagement work with First Nations
In Progress	
Workplan	Board training plan still in development
Changes/Notes	

To:	Islands Trust Conservancy/Executive Committee	For the Meeting of:	July 13, 2021
From:	Clare Frater	Date Prepared:	June 8, 2021
SUBJECT:	Grant Application - Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund		

PURPOSE: To present opportunities for Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy cooperation in the anticipated fall 2021 grant intake for the Government of Canada Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

BACKGROUND:

On May 5, 2021, the Executive Committee directed staff to investigate the benefits and opportunities for the Islands Trust to cooperate with others in the anticipated fall 2021 grant intake for the Government of Canada Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

The Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) is a \$631 million, ten-year fund to support projects that restore and enhance wetlands, peatlands, and grasslands to store and capture carbon.

NSCSF activities will focus on three main program objectives to effectively sequester carbon:

- 1) restoring degraded ecosystems;
- 2) improving land management practices, especially in agriculture, forestry, and urban development sectors; and,
- 3) conserving carbon-rich ecosystems at high risk of conversion to other uses that would release their stored carbon.

Funds will also support monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Indigenous partnerships

The NSCSF will support Indigenous organizations and communities to undertake Indigenous-led, on-the-ground projects for ecological restoration, as well as improved management and conservation of wetlands, grasslands, agricultural lands and forests that result in reduced and captured GHG emissions. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) will make funding available to Indigenous partners to deliver projects to build capacity and advance Indigenous efforts on natural climate solutions, using a blended approach that includes directed and application-based funding through existing mechanisms such as Indigenous Guardians.

Place-based actions

The place-based actions stream of the NSCSF will support on-the-ground ecosystem restoration and enhanced land management activities as well as the conservation of ecosystems to increase carbon sequestration. In addition, the NSCSF will support projects for the conservation of ecosystems that store significant amounts of carbon but are at high risk of degradation or loss from conversion to other land uses, or projects for the conservation of ecosystems that have been degraded, but could sequester and store significant carbon following restoration.

Sector-based policy

The sector-based policy stream of the NSCSF will engage regulators and representatives of the forestry, agriculture, urban development, mining, and oil and gas sectors. These projects will update, develop and/or implement policies, programs and tools to reduce emissions from ecosystem conversion and over the long term, enhance land management to reduce GHG emissions and optimize carbon sequestration and storage through NBS practices.

While the primary objective of the NSCSF is to reduce Canada's net GHG emissions, projects supported under all streams must also provide benefits for biodiversity and should support benefits for human well-being.

In the fall of 2021, ECCC will launch an application-based process for those projects that will be starting in 2022-2023.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION:

While details on eligibility, evaluation and selection criteria are yet to be published by the Federal Government, it is likely that the place based actions stream could be a good fit for Islands Trust Conservancy strategic priorities. There may be a fit for Trust Council or local trust committee projects under the sector-based policy stream but that will be unknown until more information is released.

First Nations initiated projects under the Indigenous Partnership Stream could support Islands Trust's reconciliation efforts through closer working relationships on shared goals.

Depending on the scope of grant-funded projects contemplated, staff will need to assess the capacity to undertake the work, in the context of the grant-funded and regular business already planned and underway.

ATTACHMENT(S): See: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/nature-smart-climate-solutions-fund.html#toc2>

FOLLOW-UP: Staff will monitor for the opening of this grant opportunity in the fall of 2021. If directed, as more information becomes available staff will further investigate if any of Islands Trust's projects would be suitable for this funding opportunity.

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