



Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society

PO Box 1245 Tofino BC V0R2Z0

PRESS RELEASE

JUNE 18, 2024

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AHOUSAHT NATION CELEBRATES FIRST PHASE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IISAAKSTAŁ LAND USE VISION AND A NEW FUTURE FOR FORESTRY IN CLAYOQUOT SOUND

TOFINO, B.C.— Today, the Ahousaht Nation celebrates the first phase implementation of the Ahousaht Iisaakstał Land Use Vision where 49,167 hectares of Tree Farm License 54 are being transitioned into seven new conservancies throughout Ahousaht territories. This will be followed shortly by the transition of additional hectares into new First Nations Woodland Tenure Licenses for the Ahousaht.

This milestone results in significant positive outcomes for the Ahousaht, the surrounding region, and is a substantial win for climate and biodiversity. The Ahousaht will secure economic and cultural benefits from the co-management of new protected areas including cultural and social access to forest resources, generating and selling carbon credits, raising a stewardship endowment fund, increased investments in tourism, and access to community forestry opportunities. The new conservancies will preserve a significant amount of Vancouver Island's last intact old-growth rainforests, of which there is less than 2% remaining, in an ecosystem home to 45 known endangered, threatened, and vulnerable animal species. In a region dependent on tourism, this also means increased security for local industry.

Ahousaht territories make up over 61% of what people know as the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve, yet the Ahousaht have been historically marginalized from the regional economy and decision-making related to the management of natural resources including the establishment and management of provincial parks and public forest tenures resulting in long-term negative impacts to Ahousaht economic, social, and cultural wellbeing, and the regional ecosystem.

Following two years of community engagement and technical work, in 2017 the Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society (MHSS) announced the Ahousaht Iisaakstał Land Use Vision for what the Ahousaht believed to be the beginning of a new era, based on reconciliation, recognition and celebration of Ahousaht people and culture, a world-leading model of forest and marine conservation, the development of a more diversified, sustainable local economy, and solutions for the climate and biodiversity crises.



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Building on the Declaration Act on the Rights of Indigenous People in British Columbia, MHSS has been leading negotiations and technical work with the crown governments and resource industries to position Ahousaht as rightful leaders of natural resource and protected area management in Ahousaht territories. Ahousaht have been supported along the way by dedicated partners at Nature United, the Canadian affiliate of The Nature Conservancy, who have brought the necessary funding and technical support to make this work a reality.

?ikaatius (Tyson Atleo) and Hasheukumiss (Richard George), who were raised in the hereditary traditions of the Ahousaht and have led this work representing the Ahousaht Hawiih (Hereditary Chiefs) alongside other Ahousaht members and partners, believe this effort builds on the work of their ancestors. Both of their fathers and grandfathers led forest protection and management efforts on behalf of Ahousaht in the past. They also congratulate and thank the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation for their similar efforts.

Hasheukumiss commented: “I remember the work of my grandfather, late Earl Maquinna George, to stop clear cut logging. The announcement reflects a path forward to implementing the Ahousaht Nation’s title and rights on our lands and waters for generations to come. At the same time, more needs to be done to acknowledge the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act in B.C..”

?ikaatius and Hasheukumiss welcome the announcement but acknowledge that there is still much work to do. There are now over 140,000 hectares of protected areas in Ahousaht territories without a formal management plan. British Columbia under resources parks management and are looking at First Nations to fill the gap. In Ahousaht territories throughout Clayoquot Sound, MHSS is leading the way with protected area and natural resource management without any new government funding commitments. However, visitors and local business can contribute to regional stewardship by participating in the MHSS voluntary ecosystem stewardship fee program – The [Ahousaht Stewardship Fee](#) is a schedule of access fees that visitors and businesses can pay which directly fund the ongoing stewardship of Ahousaht territories.

The next phases of the lisaakstał Land Use Vision will include securing transitioning existing mineral tenure licenses into new conservancies, securing other existing timber licenses and then expanding into a marine use vision. This work is led by the Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society (MHSS) who are governed by and represent the interests of the Ahousaht Hawiih on behalf of the Ahousaht people. The Ahousaht are an Indigenous First Nation belonging to the broader Nuu-chah-nulth cultural group.

www.mhssahousaht.ca visit for full land use vision and ecosystem stewardship fee program



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NEW CONSERVANCIES IN AHOUSAHT TERRITORIES

ACNA Name (Eng)	Traditional Name	Phonetic pronunciation	Traditional name context
1. Sydney - Pretty Girl	Kiišhniq ^w us	Keesh-ha-neh-kwus	An important ʔaaḥhuusath fishing camp situated at the mouth of the Sydney River and may be used in reference to the entire mouth of the Sydney River.
2. Flores Island	Čicȳi	Chits-yee	This name is applied to Rafael Point on the southwest side of Flores Island and also to Mt. Flores located northeast from Rafael Point. They are important landmarks for fishing and historical boundaries.
3. Vargas Island	Suḗpsaqtuʔis	Suh-pits-aak-two-is	This is the historic Kiltismaʔath - ʔaaḥuusʔath territorial boundary on Vargas Island.
4. Meares Island	ʔuḗpic	Klooth-pitch	Kiltismaʔath winter site was shared by the ʔuuʔinmitisʔath and the Q ^w aatuwiiʔath prior to the amalgamation with the ʔaaḥhuusath. Winter spawn of salmon and cod were caught here.
5. Cypress Bay Islets	Waʔuus Čaʔakm̓inḥ	Wah-oos Cha-uck-min-ha	This is an adapted name to reference the groups of islands within Cypress Bay. Waʔuus is an important ʔaaḥhuusath winter village site along the Cypre River and is reference to the cultural connection with wolves.
6. Bedwell - Ursus	ʔuuʔinmitis	Oo-in-mit-is	The name applied to the village site on the east side of the Bedwell River and is in reference to both the Bedwell



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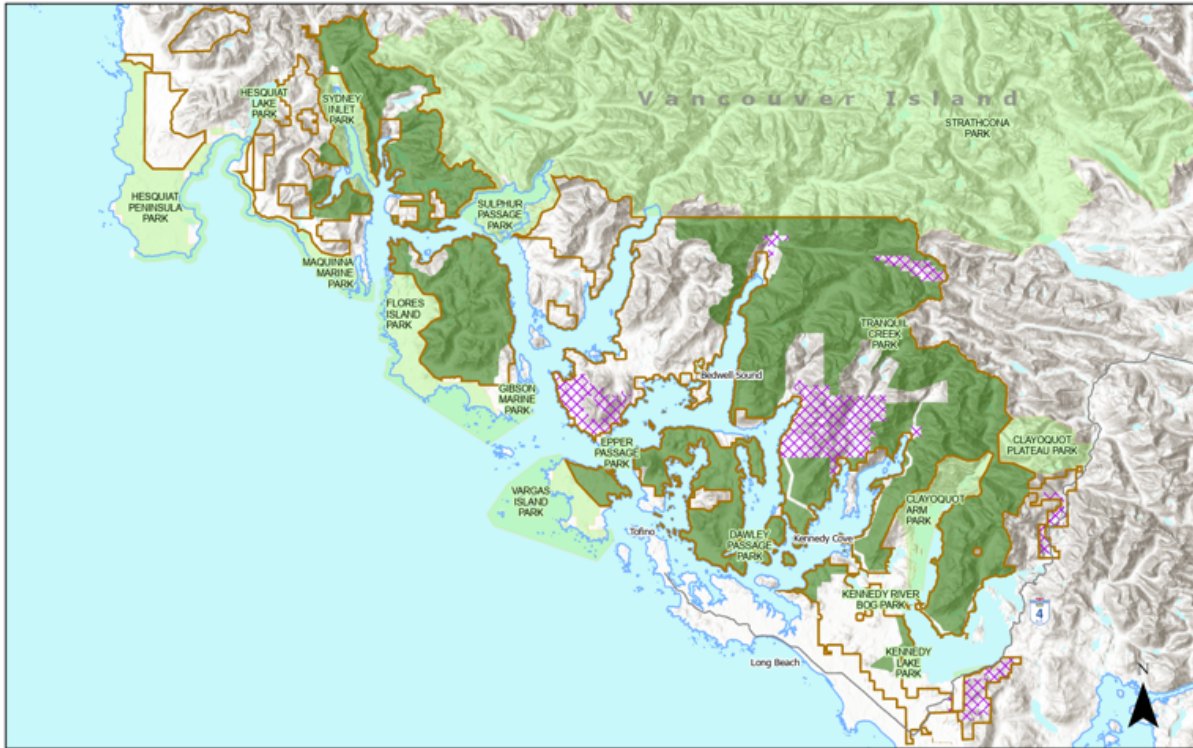
			River and Ursus Creek. This is the term form which the ʔaah̓huusath̓ amalgamated ʔuuʔinmitisʔath̓ take their name.
7. Stewardson	Kʷuḥaa	Kwew-haa	The name is applied specifically to the head end of Stewardson Inlet, and generally to the inlet as a whole. The name is in reference to an open passage as the first people to see the inlet thought it was a passage through to the outer coast.



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MAP OF NEW CONSERVANCIES IN AHOUSAHT AND TLA-O-QUI-AHT TERRITORIES



Legend

- Proposed Conservancies in Clayoquot Sound
- TFL54 Boundary
- Provincial Parks
- Mineral Title
- Highways

Created by: South Island District
Datum: NAD 83
Date: February 28, 2024
Scale: 1:400,000

0 2.5 5 10 Kilometers

Overview Map

