



Nang Xaldangaas Management Plan

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Council of the
Haida Nation



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



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Cover photo: Berry Wijdeven

Foreward

“Nang Xaldangaas (the Slave) is named after a particularly dangerous, even vengeful, piece of water outside of Mia Kun (7-Mile). This is where the tremendous outflow of water from Massett Inlet clashes with north and westerly winds creating a conflict which lashes out on the waters. The close proximity to the shelter of Massett Inlet gives a false sense of security and many boats have been lost there.”

“The shoreline and a narrow strip of forest that quickly turns into muskeg. These forests continue to be used as they have over the millennium though remain as old growth forests. This area is heavily used for hunting, fishing, food gathering, medicines, seaweed picking and vision quests. The coastline is a natural trail between Massett Inlet and Naden Harbour that includes the beach and forest routes. Along the route there are numerous villages, ancient camp sites (Idstanaay) and workplaces of our forebaerers in the forests.”

Guujaaw

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1.0 Introduction

The Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia have a dispute of title over all of Haida Gwaii, but through planning and negotiations, the Haida Nation and the province have taken steps towards reconciliation of interests.

Nang Xaldangaas is now formally protected by both the Haida Nation as a Haida Heritage Site and the Province of British Columbia as a conservancy. For the purposes of this management plan, the area will be referred to as Nang Xaldangaas. Other areas established as both Haida Heritage Sites and conservancies will be referenced as protected areas in this document. The Haida Nation and the province through their respective authorities are now working together in managing this area.

This management plan does not have a complete or comprehensive listing of all cultural features or cultural inventory in the area. There are far more cultural features, many that are not inventoried, and other cultural values which are held in secret by the Haida Nation.

Preparation of this management plan for Nang Xaldangaas¹ has been jointly undertaken by the Council of the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Environment (hereafter referred to as "the Parties").

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to:

- establish the vision, long-term strategic direction, guidance, and acceptable uses for Nang Xaldangaas;
- ensure that any activities are respectful of the natural values and not in conflict with Haida social, ceremonial and cultural uses;
- ensure protection for lands and seas in their natural state;
- describe the background and legal context of Nang Xaldangaas; and,
- manage visitor use.

1.2 Planning Area

Nang Xaldangaas has been used by Haida people and given them life since time immemorial.

Nang Xaldangaas is located on the northern tip of Graham Island, Haida Gwaii, west of the communities of Old Massett and Masset (Figure 1). It is part of an archipelago-wide system of protected areas.² In total, half of the land base of Haida Gwaii is now in protected status.

¹ Phonetic pronunciation is "Nang Chaldangas"

² That includes Gwaii Haanas, several provincial parks and ecological reserves and ten other protected areas.

The terrestrial component of Nang Xaldangaas covers 6,897 hectares and extends from Masset Sound and Masset Harbour on Dixon Entrance, to Virago Sound and the eastern side of Naden Harbour, along a 60 kilometre stretch of Pacific Ocean coastline (Figure 2). The elevation range is from sea level to 91 metres.

A marine component/foreshore area has been delineated by a joint Haida Nation and Province of British Columbia process that covers an area of 10,255 hectares³. Boundaries for the marine portion of the protected area are brought forward first by Order in Council, then by legislation to ensure equal protection across the terrestrial and marine components. This management plan will provide direction for this marine area as well.

Two other protected areas are adjacent to Nang Xaldangaas. Kamdis, which is located on Masset Sound and Kumdis Slough, is next to the southern edge. Kumdis is immediately to the west across Naden Harbour and Virago Sound. Drizzle Lake Ecological Reserve and Pure Lake Provincial Park are only one kilometre east of Nang Xaldangaas, and Naikoon Provincial Park is 10 kilometres east.

Several small reserves⁴ are within the boundaries of Nang Xaldangaas; they will remain as reserves and are not a part of the Nang Xaldangaas management plan.

Historically, Nang Xaldangaas has not been a recreational destination. Access to Nang Xaldangaas is by floatplane or boat via Masset Sound or Masset Inlet from the communities of Old Massett, Masset or Port Clements. There are a number of sheltered inlets suitable for anchoring. Most of Nang Xaldangaas is roadless, except for a small section along Highway 16 about 8 kilometres south of Masset.

The Haida Guardians have camps at Skaos and Wiah Point reserves during the summer to serve as watchmen of these culturally significant sites. The guardians ensure the respect of the natural environment and important sites, and provide stewardship and information to visitors.

³ All navigation and activities related to navigation (including within any marine protected areas established by provincial legislation) are managed by Transport Canada mainly through the *Canada Shipping Act*, other federal statutes and international treaties.

⁴ Saughten Reserve #18, Yan Reserve #7 and Meagwan Reserve #8.

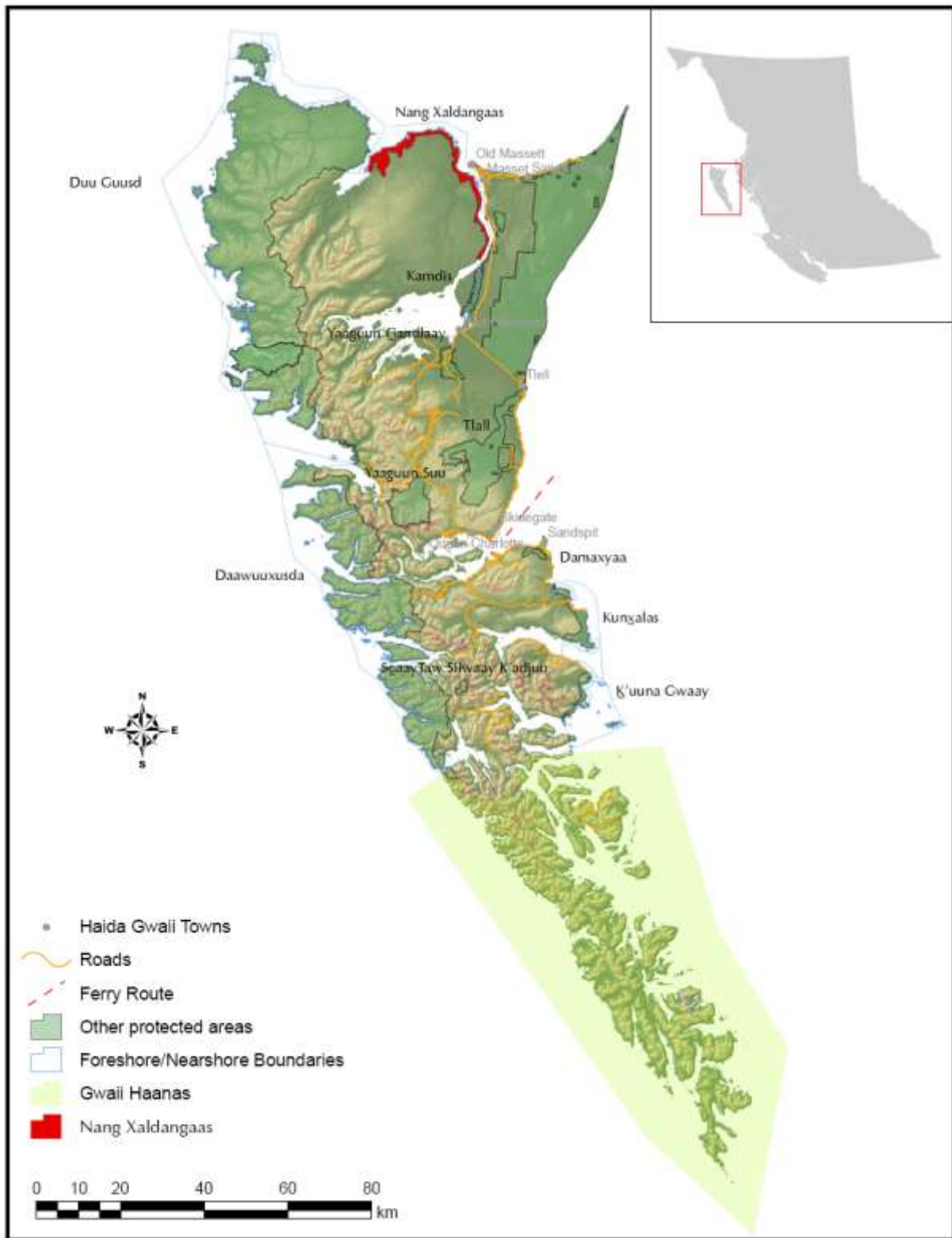


Figure 1: Regional Context Map

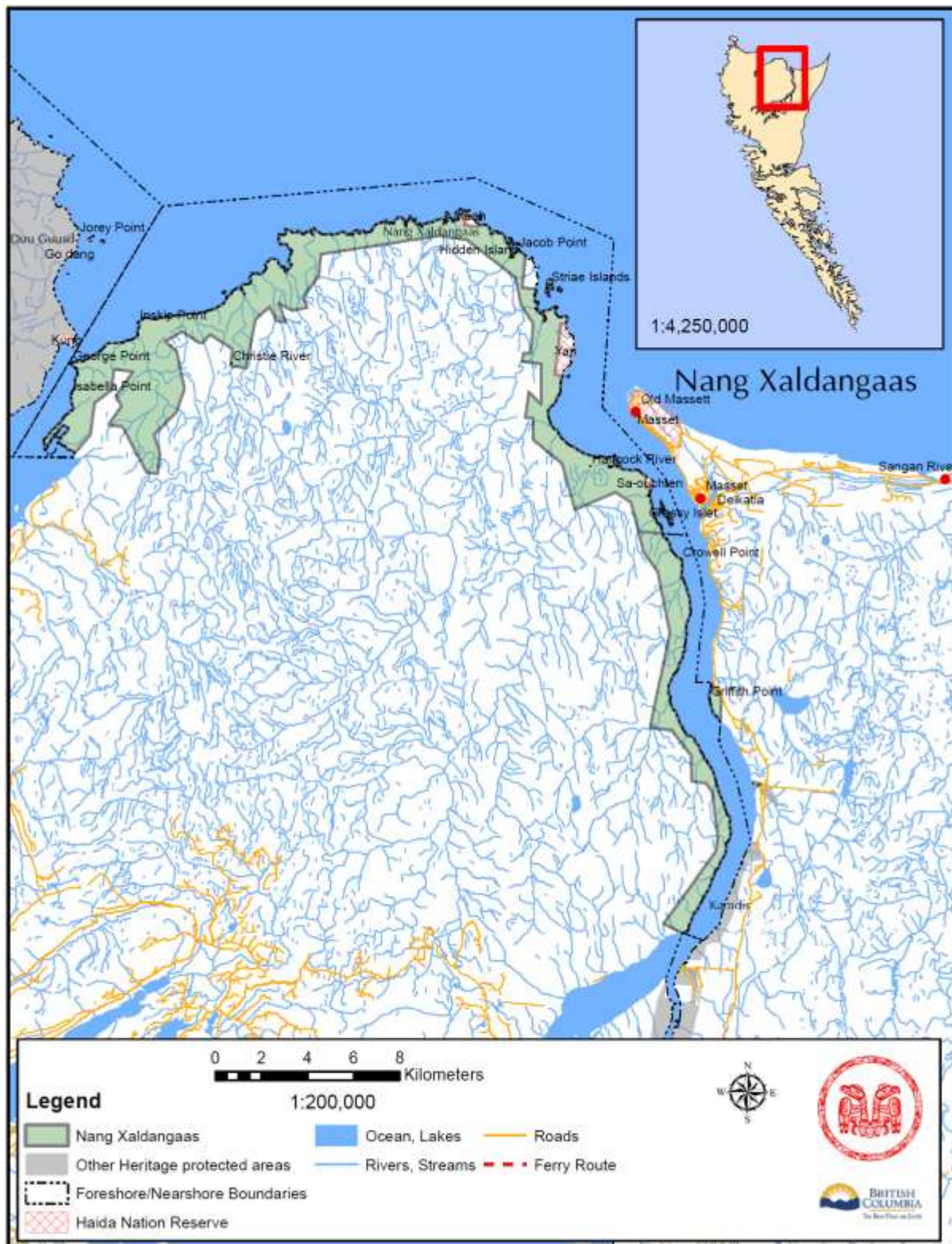


Figure 2. Nang Xaldangaas Map

1.3 Planning and Policy Context

The Parties acknowledge each other's respective authorities and are cooperating in the management of Nang Xaldangaas. The Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia have agreements on land use and reconciliation and use their respective lawmaking authorities to enact this management plan. For example, permits are to be jointly reviewed and determined as per processes such as the Solutions Table that are consistent with existing agreements between the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia. Additionally, an appropriate government to government forum will be utilized to address collaborative management of the protected areas.

A brief chronological history is summarized below.

According to archaeological evidence, Nang Xaldangaas has been occupied for at least 10,000 years by the Haida people although Haida oral history indicates much longer. Great stories of heroes and adventure exist within Haida lore. Many Haida families trace their ancestry to Nang Xaldangaas.

In 1996, the shoreline of northwest Graham Island was identified by the Province of British Columbia as a Goal 2 Study Area under the Protected Areas Strategy. The special features or characteristics that merited consideration for protection included recognition of the area as an excellent example of the Windward Queen Charlotte Mountains ecosection, and its very interesting biophysical features such as rustic shorelines, protected inlets, beaches and old-growth forests.

In 2004, the Haida Land Use Vision based on the principals of Yah'guudang (respect) was put forward by the Council of the Haida Nation to guide deliberations towards a sustainable land use plan for Haida Gwaii. In 2007, the Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement (SLUA) supported the Haida Land Use Vision which included the protection of Nang Xaldangaas.

The SLUA stated that the new protected areas were to be set aside for cultural, spiritual, ecological, and recreation purposes, and the areas were to be maintained for the benefit, education and enjoyment of present and future generations. The agreement was formally signed off by the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia on December 12, 2007.

On December 17, 2008, the Province of British Columbia passed Order in Council No. 977/2008 which established the terrestrial component of Nang Xaldangaas. On October 29, 2009, Nang Xaldangaas was named and described in legislation by passing and providing Royal Assent to Bill 10 — 2009 (*Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2009*).

The Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol was signed by the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia on December 11, 2009. On June 3, 2010, Bill 18 — 2010, entitled the *Haida Gwaii Reconciliation Act*, received Royal Assent. This bill contains amendments that have implications to protected area planning and management on Haida

Gwaii. This management plan is consistent with the intent of the *Haida Gwaii Reconciliation Act*.

In October 2010, the Haida Nation, at the Annual House of Assembly, adopted the *KaayGuu Ga ga Kyah ts'as – Gin 'inaas 'laas waadluwaan gud tl'a gud giidaa* (Haida Stewardship Law). The purpose of the Haida Stewardship Law is to ensure the well being of Haida Gwaii and create an economy that is respectful of the land and culture and people through establishing structures to manage the forests, the lands which includes and the manner in which humans interact with the natural world. This management plan is consistent with the intent of the Haida Stewardship Law.

1.4 Planning Process

The Parties initiated management planning for Nang Xaldangaas in the fall of 2009 as part of a broader effort to prepare management plans for all eleven new protected areas on Haida Gwaii.

Area descriptions were developed from available information for each protected area to identify important cultural and natural values, as well as recreational and economic interests. Individual management plans incorporated information from the area descriptions.

Public informational sessions were jointly held by the Parties in the communities of Old Massett, Masset, Port Clements, Skidegate, Queen Charlotte and Sandspit in January 2010 as part of a series of public consultation sessions being held to implement ecosystem based management measures on Haida Gwaii. Protected area maps with proposed marine boundaries were shared with the public and information was provided regarding the management planning process, and what opportunities would exist for future public review and input.

In February, March and April 2010, draft management plans were developed for public review and presented at open houses held in Old Massett, Tlell, Skidegate and Sandspit. The public review drafts were also posted on the Haida Nation and the BC Parks' website for broader comment and circulation.

2.0 Values of Nang Xaldangaas

2.1 Significance and Role in the Protected Areas System

Nang Xaldangaas is an area:

- of high cultural values including locations of at least eight traditional villages or seasonal camps, thirty two registered archaeological sites and extensive cultural features within the forests;
- that is a part of an archipelago-wide system of protected areas that now protects half of the land base of Haida Gwaii;
- with high intertidal values and kelp forest areas which help protect unique marine ecosystems and an internationally significant intertidal estuarine wetland complex; and,
- with habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and salmonids.

2.2 Cultural Heritage

The people of the Haida Nation have occupied and collected food and materials from Nang Xaldangaas since time immemorial. The Haida made their homes and have several villages and seasonal camps within Nang Xaldangaas.

This management plan does not have a complete or comprehensive listing of all cultural features or cultural inventory in the area. There are far more cultural features, many that are not inventoried, and other cultural values which are held in secret by the Haida Nation.

Thirty two archaeological sites contain a diversity of cultural features including culturally modified trees (CMTs), lithics, fire broken rock, charcoal, shell middens, deer bones, bird bones, cultural depressions, plank houses, human remains, seal and sea otter remains, tapered bark strips and rectangular bark strips. Further work will undoubtedly reveal even more of these treasures.

The management plan provides for the continuance of Haida culture through traditional use of the area. Some examples of traditional use within Nang Xaldangaas include monumental cedar and cedar bark harvesting, seaweed harvesting, medicinal plant harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping and food gathering. Nang Xaldangaas also provides the setting for spiritual use and the physical expression of culture through monumental art such as totems or establishment of traditional style infrastructure.

Though now seen as a wilderness, Nang Xaldangaas was once the home for thousands of people and traces of their vibrant culture are enshrined across the landscape. Nang Xaldangaas will provide for present and future Haida access to those areas for on-going social, ceremonial and cultural purposes.

2.3 Natural Heritage

Nang Xaldangaas is within the Queen Charlotte Lowlands terrestrial ecosection (which is well represented by protected areas on Haida Gwaii), and classed as Coastal Western Hemlock, Sub-montane wet hypermaritime (CWHwh1) according to the province's Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system.

The marine component that has been recommended for protection is within the Dixon Entrance marine ecosection.

The eastern section of Nang Xaldangaas is made up of undivided sedimentary rocks and the western section is made up of basaltic volcanic rocks. The gently rolling, low lying topography of Nang Xaldangaas is bordered by sandy beaches and tidal flats along its eastern edges and typified by basaltic coastline in the north and west.

Along the coastal fringes and moderate slopes, the area is dominated by productive Sitka spruce-pacific reedgrass (locally rare) and Sitka spruce-Western hemlock/Lanky moss ecological communities (blue-listed⁵). Upland areas contain wetter forests where nutrient-poor ecological associations merge into large wetland complexes characteristic of the northern Queen Charlotte Lowland ecosection. The area contains other important ecological associations including:

- the Western redcedar-Sitka spruce/Conocephalum community (blue listed);
- the Western redcedar-Sitka spruce/Foamflower community (blue listed); and,
- the Sitka spruce/False lily-of-the-valley community (red listed).

Nang Xaldangaas contains three estuaries, 5% of Haida Gwaii's inventoried kelp forests, and Herring spawning habitat along the coastline. Nang Xaldangaas contains 0.8% of Haida Gwaii's fish-bearing streams that are known to host Coho Salmon, Chum Salmon, Pink Salmon, Dolly Varden Rainbow Trout and Cutthroat Trout.

The Masset Sound area is recognized as one of the coast's most unique marine ecosystems. The western area of Virago Sound is dominated by warm, shallow, sandy and flat bottom with low currents and high exposure. The mouth of Masset Sound is dominated by warm, shallow, sandy and flat bottom with high current and high exposure. Masset Sound itself is dominated by warm shallow, sandy and flat bottom physiography typified by high current and low exposure. The Masset Sound shoreline is exposed to winds and wave action from the north, while further to the south, by Maast Island, the shoreline is more protected by Dixon Entrance. In a shallow narrow channel to the west of Maast Island, profuse eelgrass beds form 'hanging lagoons'. Small spike-rush (*Eleocharis parvula*), which is locally rare, is found within the estuaries along Masset Sound.

⁵ Blue list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies of special concern in B.C. Red list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies that are extirpated, endangered or threatened in B.C. (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/faq3.html#1>).

This area is described as a critical wetland habitat for waterfowl by the B.C. Waterfowl Technical Committee. Over one thousand waterfowl have been observed in the Sturgess Bay/Maast Island wetlands during migration, as well as large flocks of shorebirds. Pacific Brant Geese were also observed at Maast Island in 1980. Other species recorded include the Western Grebe, Oldsquaw, Red-breasted Merganser, Pelagic Cormorants (red listed), and Great Blue Heron (blue listed).

Important foraging habitat and potential nesting habitat and can be found within Nang Xaldangaas for Northern Goshawks (laingi subspecies – red listed), Marbled Murrelets (red listed), and Common Murres (red listed).

The remote location of Nang Xaldangaas provides an excellent opportunity to maintain biological diversity and natural environment values. Of recent concern is the presence of introduced mammals of which Black-tailed Deer and Raccoons pose a threat to local ecosystems and species.

2.4 Recreation

Boating and saltwater fishing for salmon and other species are popular activities within the waters of Nang Xaldangaas and the recreational opportunities are enhanced by its proximity to Old Massett Village, Masset and Masset Harbour. Recreational kayaking, and wildlife viewing are popular activities and some good anchorages are located within Nang Xaldangaas.

Mia Kun (or Wiah Point), also known locally as 7 Mile Point, has long been a fisherman's harbour and has several boating navigation lights.

Nang Xaldangaas provides many recreational opportunities that will be closely regulated to protect these values.

2.5 Respectful Use of Natural Values

The Haida trap throughout Nang Xaldangaas.

The province has issued four trapline licenses.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Vision

Haida culture is the interplay and relationship of the people to the land.

Nang Xaldangaas will remain as the ancestors of the Haida Nation have known it. Nang Xaldangaas and the other protected areas continue to provide the sustenance and spiritual values to this and future generations.

Scientific research, respectful observance, and enjoyment of the natural world are the preferred approaches to human interaction. Nang Xaldangaas contributes to the protection of an internationally significant intertidal estuarine wetland complex and maintains important habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and salmonids.

The values of Nang Xaldangaas to humanity will be hard to quantify though will prove invaluable to the understanding of the human relationship to the natural world for those who get there.

3.2 Management Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures

Management strategies and objectives for Nang Xaldangaas have been identified through a thorough analysis of key issues that may affect the balance between protection and use. The management plan will always consider the well being of the lands and marine areas first.

Knowledge, education and on-site monitoring will be primary tools of management.

The next stage of planning will develop site level management plans for select high use and sensitive areas.

Cultural Heritage

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated Haida cultural values in Nang Xaldangaas are described. These issues relate primarily to the lack of detailed inventories of key values. Filling information gaps in the early stages will help prevent current and potential impacts from recreational use and other activities. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 1).

Table 1. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Cultural Heritage

Overall Management Goal: Preserve and maintain Haida social, ceremonial and cultural uses.

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Identify, protect	Many cultural heritage features,	Continue historical and ethnographic	Completed historical and ethnographic

Overall Management Goal: Preserve and maintain Haida social, ceremonial and cultural uses.

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
and maintain Haida cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and traditional use locations.	archaeological sites and traditional use locations are well documented, but information for some areas may be incomplete. Where there is limited information it is difficult to ensure that the values are protected.	research, cultural heritage field mapping and inventory programs where knowledge gaps exist.	research and cultural heritage field inventories.
	Certain uses can cause unintended disturbance to cultural heritage and traditional use sites and features.	Identify and report where cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and/or traditional use resources or sites exist within areas that have periodic human use.	Prior to any site specific development or within areas that receive recreational use, ensure cultural heritage sites have been identified.
		Identify and evaluate extent of threats and implement site specific protective measures for sensitive or special feature sites, such as those in Appendix 2, which may include: - marking areas as off-limits; - focusing use away from sites; - restricting aircraft access; - developing site level management plans for select high-use and culturally sensitive areas; - developing best management practices for aircraft, and pleasure craft activities in anchorages; and/or, - public information/interpretation initiatives.	Appropriate measures established at sensitive sites.
		Consider opportunities for monitoring activity at most vulnerable sites.	Monitoring of activities achieved.
		Extend the Haida Watchmen program, and identify potential locations to support establishment of Watchman sites.	Recommendations from assessment implemented.
Ensure that new uses are compatible with Haida traditional activities.	Many traditional and sustenance harvesting sites and activities are well documented, but information for some areas may be incomplete or withheld for traditional reasons and customs. Where there is limited information it is difficult to ensure that the values are protected.	Support efforts to identify and monitor traditional and sustenance harvesting sites and activities where knowledge gaps exist.	Completed inventories of traditional use and sustenance harvesting areas.
		Visitors respect traditional reasons and customs for privacy through dialogue and understanding with either Party.	Visitors are respectful people on the land.
	There are traditional cultural use activities that can benefit from monitoring or facilitation using existing Haida Nation programs.	Identify uses (such as cultural cedar harvesting) that benefit from continued facilitation from the Haida Nation to ensure sustainable and on-going access to traditional resources, recognizing that many activities are preferable to occur in non-protected areas.	Traditional users are engaged in specific uses and programs Linkages are made with on-going Haida Nation and provincial administrative processes (such as Haida Gwaii cultural wood permit process).

Natural Heritage

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated biological diversity objectives in Nang Xaldangaas have been identified. These issues relate primarily to the desire to maintain or

restore important habitats, minimize potential impacts from introduced species, and create more complete inventories as a way to prevent negative impacts from recreational or commercial use within Nang Xaldangaas. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 2).

Table 2. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Natural Heritage

Overall Management Goal: Protect and maintain the diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine ecosystems.			
Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Identify and protect regionally important, and rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.⁶	Lack of knowledge of values results in unintended impacts on the protected area's rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Identify research and inventory needs. Support programs designed to fill information gaps with emphasis on rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Number of initiatives underway that enhance information.
			Comprehensive knowledge base achieved.
		Identify and support restoration initiatives for rare and at risk ecosystems and species (e.g., nesting seabirds and their habitat, eelgrass habitats, estuaries, rare plant assemblages, understory vegetation, and Western redcedar regeneration).	Rare and at risk ecosystems and species restored/maintained.
	Marine bird breeding, nesting and foraging sites require special considerations during sensitive periods. There is evidence that current use is causing unintended site-level disturbance and declines in the abundance and distribution of rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Increase public and visitor awareness about waterfowl and/or shorebird sensitivities and their key habitats and provide guidelines for appropriate conduct to avoid impacts.	Information package and guidelines available regarding waterfowl and/or shorebird needs, approach standards, etc., and are utilized by the public and commercial operators to minimize impacts.
		Where necessary, limit access to protect rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and/or sensitive species such as nesting waterfowl or shorebirds.	Access restrictions in place where appropriate.
	Waterfowl and/or shoreline bird breeding, nesting and foraging sites require special considerations. Eelgrass beds, for example, are important rearing habitat for fish and crabs, and provide foraging habitat for waterfowl such as Brant Geese and shoreline birds, but they appear to have been adversely impacted by previous activities.	Support efforts to maintain integrity of intertidal habitat.	Development does not occur within sensitive habitat areas. Activities that alter shoreline and/or intertidal or inshore marine waters are prevented.
		Support efforts to monitor presence and distribution of eelgrass habitat, and contribute to restoration programs.	Eelgrass beds presence and distribution are monitored and abundance sustained.
	Introduced species are displacing and harming native flora and fauna.	Evaluate presence, distribution and threat of introduced species.	Presence, distribution and threat of introduced species is documented.
Undertake prevention initiatives and introduced species control programs on a co-ordinated and priority basis.		Control programs in place. Target species controlled or removed. Disturbance and predation levels	

⁶ To recognize the likely occurrence of distinctiveness on Haida Gwaii, rare is applied to Conservation Data Centre (CDC)-listed species and ecological communities as well as identified locally rare or at risk species and ecological communities.

Overall Management Goal: Protect and maintain the diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine ecosystems.

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
		Mechanical and biological methods are preferred. Monitor and report on efficacy of efforts.	reduced. Monitoring reports completed.
		Support efforts in on-going introduced species research, education and public information programs.	Programs supported.
	Without knowing the effects of global climate change and sea level rise on ecosystems, ecological communities and species, it is difficult to know how to mitigate negative impacts to these values.	Support programs designed to monitor environmental change and impacts.	Monitoring programs supported.
		Initiate adaptive management practices and processes if required.	Adaptive management initiated.
Protect intertidal and subtidal habitat to help sustain the abundance and distribution of marine species.	Habitat and populations of marine intertidal and subtidal species are sensitive and are subject to adverse impacts from human activities.	Work with other agencies to monitor and, if necessary, consider limiting recreation and other activities.	Populations of intertidal and subtidal species are monitored and habitat sustained.
Protect paleontological resources.	A diversity of globally significant fossil beds from the Mesozoic era is well documented throughout Nang Xaldangaas. Removing these fossils threatens our understanding of the natural heritage of Haida Gwaii.	Support programs to educate public and visitors of the importance of paleontological resources remaining intact.	Public education and awareness is enhanced.
		Monitor and inventory fossil sites in Nang Xaldangaas.	Fossil sites remain intact.

Recreation

Key issues which may support provision for recreational opportunities in Nang Xaldangaas are described. These issues relate primarily to maintenance of access and potential impacts on stated cultural or ecological values from recreational use. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 3).

Table 3. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Recreation Values

Overall Management Goal: Provide for limited commercial and public recreational use in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
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Overall Management Goal: Provide for limited commercial and public recreational use in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Identify opportunities for appropriate wilderness recreation and identify any necessary associated facilities.	There is a need to determine appropriate and respectful approaches to recreational visits in Nang Xaldangaas. Where there is limited information it is difficult to ensure that the values are protected.	Develop a baseline inventory of structures and current and potential recreational uses, with emphasis on use or sites near cultural or natural features of interest.	Completed baseline inventory of recreational opportunities, structures and use.
		Implement a Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring (BRIM) assessment on current recreation sites.	Bi-annual backcountry site inspections completed with BRIM reports every five years.
	Recreational use can impact other heritage and natural values.	Develop criteria to ensure recreational use is compatible with the cultural and natural heritage features or values.	Criteria is developed to determine acceptable limits of impacts, and BRIM reports are used to inform adaptive management on a site specific basis.
	The current level of public awareness of available recreation opportunities affects the ability to meet economic objectives.	Identify recreation opportunities and facilities in promotional and marketing materials in consideration of existing cultural activities.	Development and distribution of promotional information and materials.
	There are companies offering facility-based fishing opportunities in Nang Xaldangaas that do not have the required authorizations.	Permits are to be jointly reviewed and determined as per processes such as the Solutions Table that are consistent with existing agreements between the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia. Additionally, an appropriate government to government forum will be utilized to address collaborative management of the protected areas.	Processes are in place.
		Companies with pre-existing operations in Naag Xaldangaas but without authorizations will not be offered permits until jointly reviewed and determined by the Parties.	Companies without tenures and new proposals undergo review by the Parties.
	Tourism in Nang Xaldangaas provides limited benefits to the people of Haida Gwaii.	Provide young people with the requirements in guiding and career opportunities related to Nang Xaldangaas.	Nang Xaldangaas is relevant to island youth.
		Encourage companies to utilize residents and local services in the use of Nang Xaldangaas.	Increase in the number of local opportunities.
		Assist in the diversification of local economies.	Nang Xaldangaas becomes an asset to the Haida Gwaii economy.
	Provide limited facilities for low impact and safe wilderness recreation opportunities.	Availability and access to recreation opportunities is limited.	Consider development of access points, trails, shelters and/or cabins where deemed to be appropriate and consistent with the purposes of this plan.
		Determine long-term visitor use infrastructure and maintenance or development needs.	Analysis completed for long-term maintenance and infrastructure needs.

Respectful Use of Natural Values

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated objectives related to the respectful use of Nang Xaldangaas relate primarily to the potential conflict between use of and potential

impacts on the cultural and natural values that have been identified. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 4).

Table 4. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Respectful Use of Natural Resources⁷

Overall Management Goal: Provide for compatible opportunities where appropriate.			
Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Identify appropriate uses and support the delivery of local economic benefits.	Small-scale ⁸ tree removal is an acceptable management option when required for human health and safety, or to facilitate approved development or for ecological restoration or forest health management projects.	Identify appropriate opportunities for small-scale tree removal.	All projects compliant with management plan direction.
	Current and future commercial uses by the Haida Nation including infrastructure development may be needed to enhance the visitor experience.	Proposals will be subject to meeting the goals, objectives and protection of values outlined in this management plan.	Visitor experience is enhanced by cultural infrastructure.
	Harvesting of forest botanicals ⁹ by Haida medicinal practitioners will continue in Nang Xaldangaas. Any harvesting of forest botanicals by others can be permitted if the harvest is sustainable and will not impact identified values or conflict with other management objectives.	Authorizations will not be issued to any individual that may compromise the natural values.	Monitor harvest levels for different botanicals.
		Specific proposals for access will be considered in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values.	All proposals are compliant with management plan direction.
		To guide conditions for commercial permit approvals, consider method and scale of harvest (quantity over area), location (to gauge degree of compatibility with traditional or recreational users), and level of benefit to local economy.	Commercial use is consistent with balancing traditional/sustenance use, ecosystem integrity and local economic benefit.
	Harvesting of marine plants (including seaweed), herring spawn on kelp, or shellfish by Haidas will continue in Nang Xaldangaas. Harvesting by others can be permitted if the harvest is sustainable and will not impact identified values or conflict with other management objectives.	Specific proposals for access will be considered in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values.	All proposals are compliant with management plan direction.
		To guide conditions for commercial permit approvals, consider method and scale of harvest (quantity over area), location (to gauge degree of compatibility with traditional/sustenance use), and level of benefit to local economy.	Commercial use is consistent with balancing traditional/sustenance use, ecosystem integrity, and local economic benefit.

⁷ Natural resource uses and developments must be consistent with the cultural, natural and recreational purposes of Nang Xaldangaas.

⁸ A few trees, or less than 1 hectare in area.

⁹ Forest botanicals are non-timber-based products gathered from forest and range land with seven recognized categories: wild edible mushrooms, floral greenery, medicinal products, fruits and berries, herbs and vegetables, landscaping products, and craft products.

Overall Management Goal: Provide for compatible opportunities where appropriate.

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
		Commercial marine harvest activities will not be permitted in Management Unit 1.	Commercial marine harvest does not occur in Management Unit Type 1.
	Development of local run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects ¹⁰ may be permitted if the development does not conflict with the ecological well being or other management objectives in Nang Xaldangaas.	Specific proposals will be considered for further evaluation and approval.	All projects are compliant with management plan direction.
	The nature of economic benefits for the Haida Nation in Nang Xaldangaas has not yet been defined.	Utilize an appropriate government to government forum to access economic opportunities for the Haida Nation.	Develop and maintain an economic plan for protected areas on Haida Gwaii that assists Haida individuals and businesses to take advantage of economic and employment opportunities.

3.3 Zoning

Zoning assists in the planning and management of protected areas. In general terms, zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives. The management units identified in Nang Xaldangaas are in accordance with Haida Gwaii Yah’guudang - respect for all living things - and reflect the intended land use, the acceptable level of development and use, and the level of management required (Figure 3).

The following two units have been identified within Nang Xaldangaas and uses that have been deemed as appropriate for each of the units are identified in Appendix 1.

Management Unit Type 1

Management Unit Type 1¹¹ is an area within Nang Xaldangaas where the primary goal is to protect and maintain Haida cultural values, and provide for social and ceremonial uses within the natural environment.

The purpose of the unit is to protect these significant features in the context of a living Haida culture. Sensitive heritage special feature sites are identified in Appendix 2. These sites are for cultural and spiritual use including the special use by youth and elders. These areas will receive site level management plans and protective measures which may include: restricting and/or limiting access or the development of best management practices for aircraft and pleasure craft activities in anchorages.

¹⁰ May only supply power to approved uses in Nang Xaldangaas or nearby communities that do not otherwise have access to hydro-electric power.

¹¹ This unit corresponds to the BC Parks Cultural Zone.

Management efforts in this unit will focus on protecting cultural and natural values. Management efforts will be directed to ensuring that access and the use of this area occurs in such a way that the cultural and natural values are maintained.

Management Unit Type 5

The purpose of Management Unit Type 5¹² is to maintain natural biodiversity and ecological processes while protecting Haida cultural features and access for social and ceremonial uses. This unit also allows for enjoyment of natural environment where compatible with cultural and natural values. Low impact activities, such as no trace hiking and camping, are appropriate with minimal development in this wild and remote setting.

Management activities in the unit will focus on efforts to maintain and sustain cultural use, natural biodiversity and ecological processes, and protecting habitat for species. Additionally, a secondary objective will be to manage for some development or use of natural resources while maintaining opportunities for commercial and public recreation in a largely wilderness environment.

¹² The unit corresponds to the BC Parks Nature Recreation Zone.

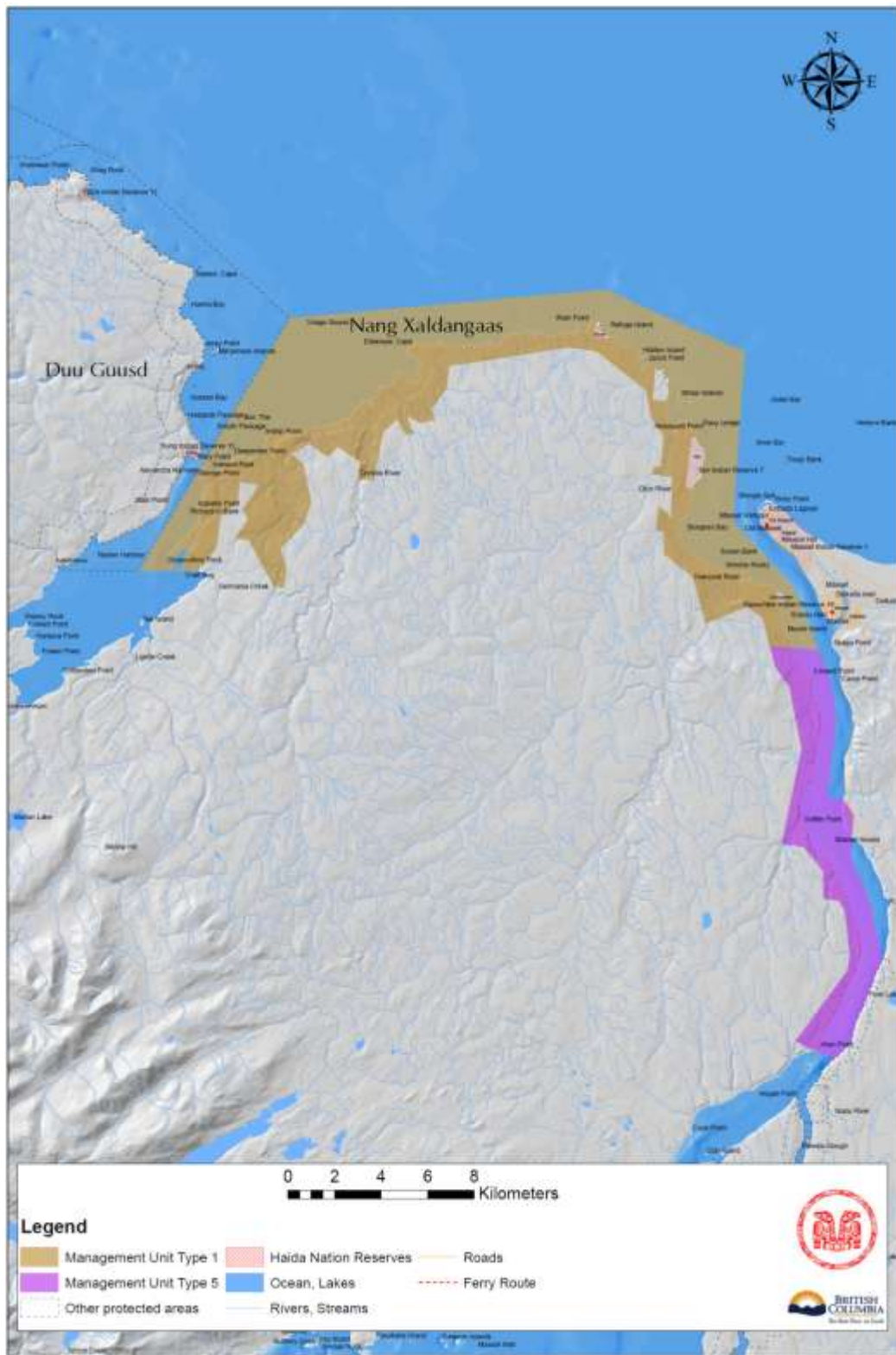


Figure 3. Nang Xaldangaas Management Zones Map

4.0 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Nang Xaldangaas Management Plan will involve identifying strategies and achieving stated performance measures, while focusing on implementing high priority strategies. Strategies and performance measures will be prioritized in terms of cost, feasibility and overall benefit to management.

4.1 Implementation Resources

The Parties will develop and maintain a collaborative workplan for the protected areas. Items to be included in the workplan will include a description of the resources available during a given time period including staff and any additional operating or project funds that may support identified initiatives. The Haida Nation will dedicate staff and resources as funding allocations permit. The Ministry of Environment will seek project-specific funding to implement priority strategies and monitor key performance measures, subject to provincial funding availability. Specific projects will be evaluated for priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. Many of the initiatives contemplated are not funded as part of core ministry activities so jointly seeking funds from available funding sources either provincially or externally will be considered.

Permit holders will be required to collect and provide information related to performance measures and the overall state of Nang Xaldangaas. Such requirements will be defined in approved permits and in any protocols between the Haida Nation and the permittee.

4.2 Priority Implementation

As part of developing on-going workplans, priorities will be developed for the implementation of strategies and performance measures. A key priority is to implement management strategies which support cultural use and cultural inventory information. These priorities will be developed based on Haida Nation and provincial interests taking into account the requirements of other protected areas on Haida Gwaii such as developing baseline data to support management strategies.

4.3 Reporting

The Parties will prepare a summary bi-annual report describing progress on implementation of the protected area management plans.

4.4 Management Plan Review

In order to ensure the management of Nang Xaldangaas remains relevant and effective, an adaptive management approach will be used. Adaptive management involves a five-step process of planning, action, monitoring, evaluation and revision of the management plan to reflect lessons learned, changing circumstances and/or objectives achieved.

The management plan will be reviewed as required by the Parties and may be affirmed, revised, or amended by written agreement. A review of the management plan should generally be triggered by the complexities of the management issues in the protected area and/or a significant change in circumstances (e.g., a natural disaster, major environmental change or discovery of a major new archaeological site), and not by a specific time period.

A management plan review looks for any necessary updates to the management plan that are required to keep management direction current and relevant, correct the intent of a policy statement or address some error or omission. Any updates or changes to the content of the management plan will be addressed through a formal management plan amendment process. The amendment process will include an opportunity for public input.

Appendix 1 – Appropriate Uses Chart

The following table lists existing and potential future uses or activities in Nang Xaldangaas. However, it is not an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area. The table also indicates the uses which the management planning process has confirmed are not appropriate in Nang Xaldangaas. Additionally, a permit cannot be issued for commercial logging, mining, or hydroelectric power generation, other than local run-of-the-river projects that supply power to approved uses in Nang Xaldangaas or nearby communities that do not otherwise have access to hydro-electric power.

The table must be reviewed in conjunction with the other sections of the management plan, including the descriptions, vision, objectives and strategies. Uses are subject to existing policies and any relevant impact assessment processes.

Activity/Facility	Management Unit	
	Type 1 ¹³	Type 5 ¹⁴
Cultural Heritage		
Cultural, Ceremonial, Food Gathering and Social Uses	Y	Y
Cultural Infrastructure (facility-based)	Y	Y
Natural Heritage		
Fire Management ¹⁵	Y	Y
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y	Y
Noxious Weed Control	Y	Y
Scientific Research	Y	Y
Recreation		
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	N
Aircraft Access	Y	Y
Anchorage	Y	Y
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N2	N2
Boat Launches	N	N
Boating (Motorized)	Y	Y
Boating (Non-motorized)	Y	Y
Camping – backcountry or boat accessible	Y	Y
Campsites and Picnic Areas – road accessible	N	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N2	Y
Commercial Recreation (no facilities)	Y	Y
Fishing	Y	Y

¹³ This unit covers 5,292 hectares of land and 8,145 of marine foreshore in Nang Xaldangaas.

¹⁴ This unit covers 1,604 hectares of land and 1,653 hectares of marine foreshore in Nang Xaldangaas.

¹⁵ As per fire management plan.

Activity/Facility	Management Unit	
	Type 1 ¹³	Type 5 ¹⁴
Heli-hiking	N	N
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y	Y
Hunting ¹⁶	Y	Y
Interpretation and Information Buildings / Signs	Y	Y
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	N	N
Motorized Off-road Access (i.e., 4x4, motorcycles)	N	N
Pack Animal Use	N	N
Trails (hiking)	Y	Y
Wharves/docks	N2 ¹⁷	N
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y	Y
Respectful Use of Natural Values		
Angling Guiding	Y	Y
Aquaculture (finfish)	N	N
Aquaculture (shellfish)	N	Y
Commercial Botanical Forest Products	Y	Y
Commercial Filming	Y	Y
Commercial Marine Plant Harvesting	N	Y
Commercial Herring Spawn on Kelp	N	Y
Communication Sites	N	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	N
Guide Outfitting ¹⁸	Y	Y
Independent Hydro Electric Power Projects & Infrastructure	N	Y
Marine-based Manufactured Log Recovery	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y

- Y Appropriate
N Not appropriate
N1 Not appropriate except for expressed management purposes as identified in the Management Plan
N2 Not appropriate, but if the specific activity or facility existed at the time of establishment of the protected area, it is normally appropriate for it to continue
N/A Not applicable

¹⁶ The management of black bear hunting will be consistent with outcomes of negotiations between the Council of the Haida Nation and Province of British Columbia. If required, changes will be reflected in amendments to this management plan.

¹⁷ Pre-existing wharf at Seven-Mile (Whia) Point.

¹⁸ The guide outfitting certificate is owned by the Council of the Haida Nation. There will be no commercial black bear hunting.

Appendix 2 – Heritage Special Feature Sites



Nang Xaldangaas Management Plan

Approved by:



April Churchill
Vice President of the Haida Nation

July 29, 2011

Date



Brian Bawtinheimer
Director, Parks Planning & Management Branch
BC Parks

August 2, 2011

Date

Back Cover Photo: Berry Wijdeven

