Working Together to Create a Biodiversity Atlas

Why are the Species and Ecosystems in Southwest British Columbia Important?

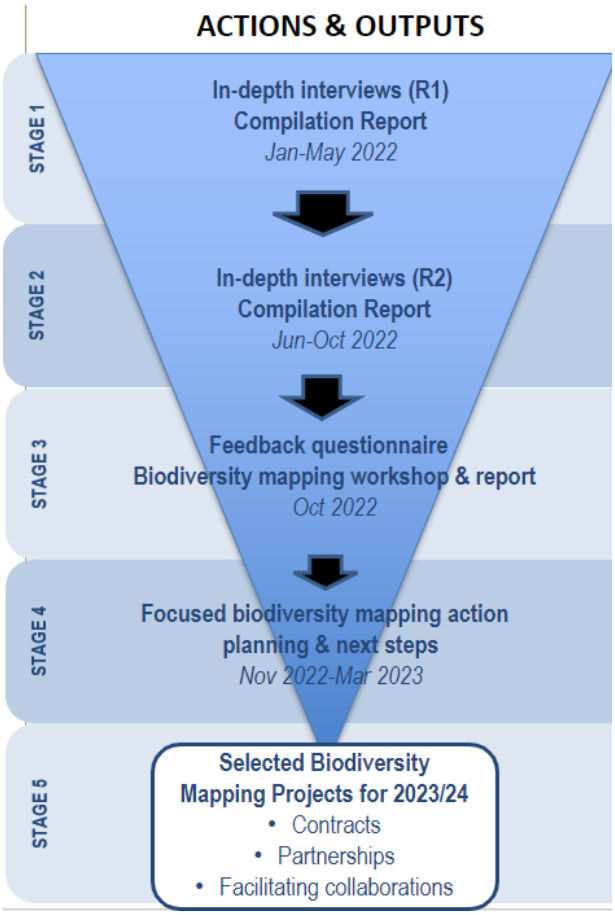
Southwest British Columbia's (BC) Georgia Basin lowlands host over 75% of BC's population and includes the Coastal Douglas-fir zone (CDFmm), home to the largest number of species and ecosystems at risk in the province. The ecosystems present provide critical services, including supplying water, urban cooling flood control, removal of particulates from the air and carbon storage and sequestration. As the traditional territory of the Coast Salish and other First Nations, these ecosystems are important as they provide indigenous food security, and support culturally important plants and animals.

Increasing demand for residential development and timber are intensifying pressure on the area's natural assets and the ecosystem services they provide. These pressures are compounded by climate change threatening the well being of BC's south coast communities, and their capacity for adapting to climate change.

Working Together

In 2022 the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership (CDFCP) and UBC Botanical Gardens came together with the combined aspiration of producing a digital Biodiversity Atlas that would provide First Nations, local governments and land managers with the tools they need to make informed decisions in relation to biodiversity in a changing climate. The aim of the biodiversity atlas is to inform policy, decision-making, conservation and climate change adaptation.

Process being Followed



Priority Areas

- Connecting and collaborating with First Nations and local governments.
- Building on existing policy, tools and guidance.
- Identifying a suitable online host platform for the Atlas.
- Establish a framework for the maintenance of the Atlas

https://www.cdfcp.ca/nature-smart-project/ and https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/tag/sustainable-communities-field-school/