

# Community Involvement in the Nomination and Management of SGang Gwaay World Heritage Site

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# Presentation Overview

- Project Background
- SGang Gwaay World Heritage Site
- Our Methodology
- Community Involvement in Nomination
- Community Involvement in Management
- Lessons Learned

# Project Background

- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World Heritage Convention
- Theme: “World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities in the Management of World Heritage Sites”



# Project Objectives

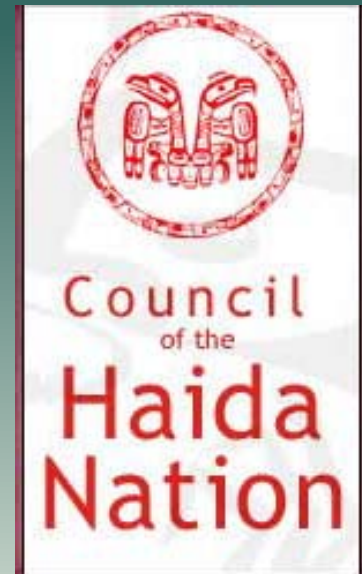
Showcase community based approach to heritage conservation

- Celebrate First Nations culture
- Promote Aboriginal tourism



# Project Objectives

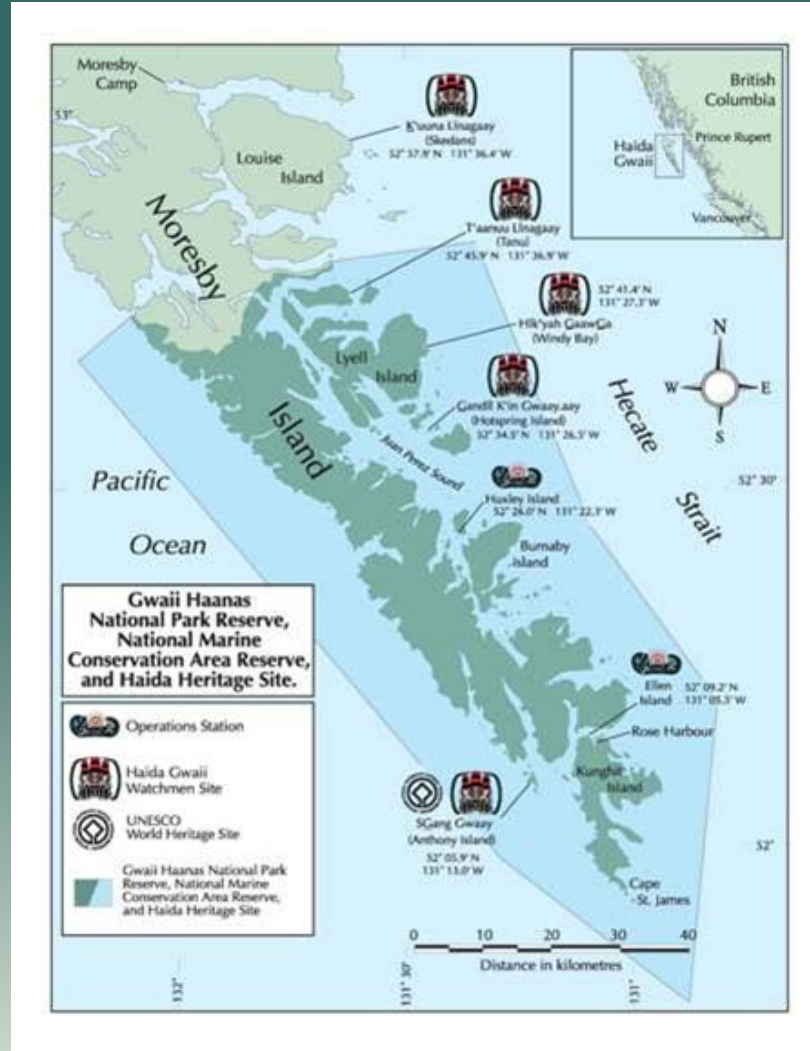
- Case study for best practices
- Strengthen relationships between the Province, Parks Canada and Haida Nation



# SGang Gwaay World Heritage Site



# SGang Gwaay World Heritage Site





# S'Gang Gwaay World Heritage Site





# Our Methodology

- Goal: involve the community in the developing the process & telling the story



# Our Methodology

- Build relationships first
- Open ended questions
- Consolidated notes
- Get feedback
- Identified key themes
- Follow-up

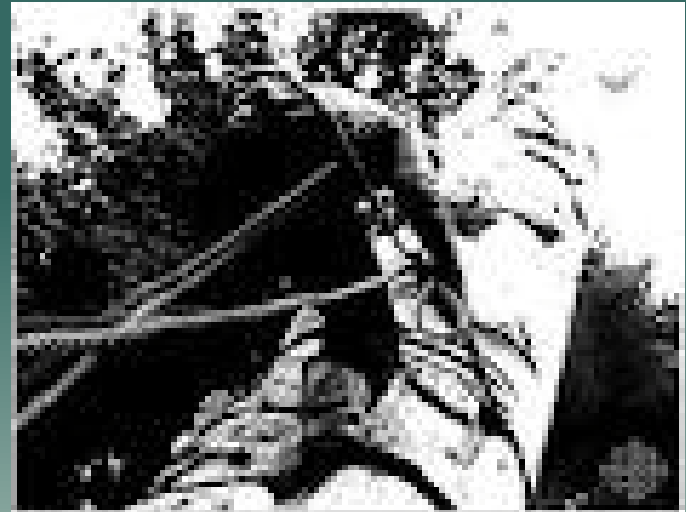
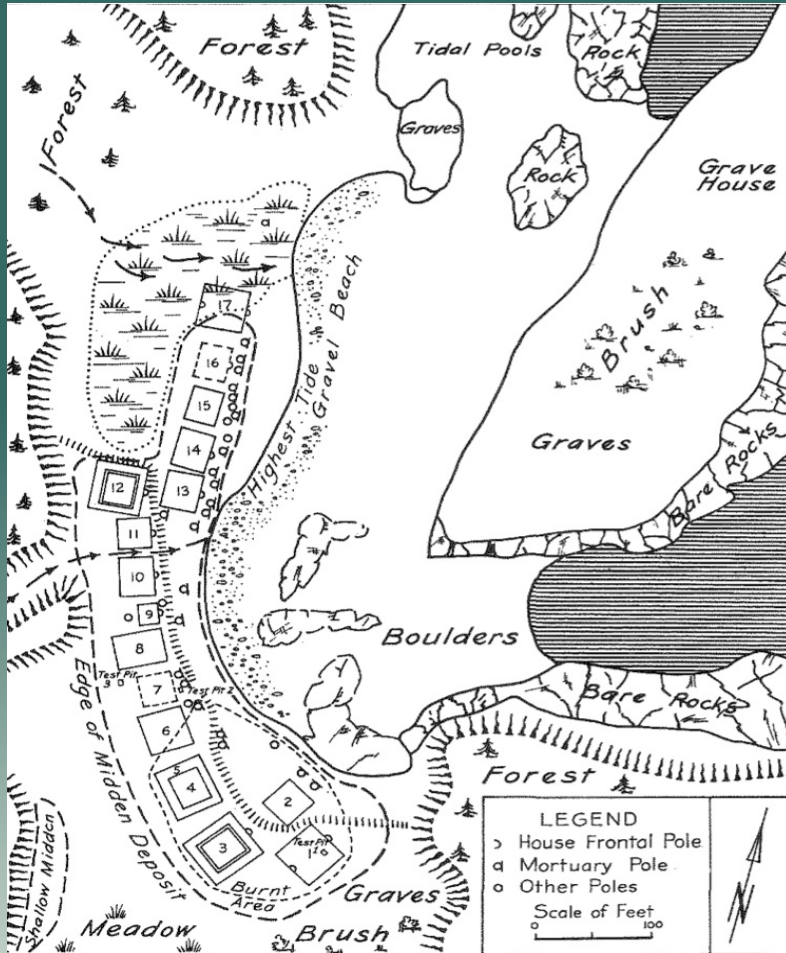


# Community Involvement

Responsibility for cultural heritage and the management of it belongs to the cultural community that generated it.



# 1957 Pole Salvage Expedition



# Parks Canada and Skidegate Band Council



# World Heritage Designation - 1981





- Multiplicity of values
  - Material culture
  - Vanished culture
  - Living culture
  - Continued use



# Cooperative Management

- Gwaii Haanas Agreement
- Archipelago Management Board
- 6 members:
  - 3 Haida
  - 2 Parks Canada
  - 1 DFO
- Decisions by Consensus



“The Archipelago Management Board worked to transform The language in the designation from “extinct Indian culture” to “living Haida culture.”



# Haida Watchmen Program

More than 1000 Watchmen have worked as guardians since 1981



What does it mean  
to become a Haida  
Watchman?



# What is the importance of the Poles?





# What are your thoughts on a new pole in Skung Gwaii?



# Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Significance of site varies between Haida and non-Haida community



# Outcomes and Lessons Learned

World Heritage Site and National Historic Site designations are less important than expected



# Outcomes and Lessons Learned

- For the Haida the site is an important part of the revitalization of Haida culture



Thank you!

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