



# Kamdis Management Plan

July 2011



Council of the  
**Haida Nation**



Cover photo: Ryan van der Marel

# Foreward

*“-the wind in the canopy, the little feeder, creeks trickling along, birds, the smell of moss, earth and cedar.”*

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.

Kamdis 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 Kamdis. 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 Kamdis 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 Kamdis;
- 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 Kamdis; and,
- manage visitor use.

## 1.2 Planning Area

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

Kamdis is located on the eastern side of Masset Inlet, on Kumdis and Graham islands, Haida Gwaii, between the communities of Masset and Port Clements (Figure 1). It is part of an archipelago-wide system of protected areas<sup>1</sup>. In total, half of the land base of Haida Gwaii is now in protected status. The terrestrial part of Kamdis consists of four discrete sites linked by a marine protected area. This complex lies in a linear north-south direction along Highway 16. It covers approximately a 20 kilometre stretch of Kumdis Slough and the eastern bank of

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<sup>1</sup> That includes Gwaii Haanas, several provincial parks and ecological reserves, and ten other protected areas.

Masset Sound (Figure 2). The terrestrial component of Kamdis covers 1,896 hectares. The elevation range is from sea level to 114 metres.

A marine component/foreshore has been delineated by a joint Haida Nation and Province of British Columbia process that covers an area of 413 hectares.<sup>2</sup> Boundaries for the marine portion of the protected area are brought forward first by Orders in Council, then by legislation to ensure equal protection across the terrestrial and marine components. This management plan will provide direction to this marine area as well.

There are two other protected areas nearby. Yaaguun Gandlaay, which is located on the north end of Yakoun River, is less than 10 kilometres to the southwest. Nang Xaldangaas is also located along Masset Sound but extends northward past Masset to the northern tip of Graham Island. Additionally, Drizzle Lake Ecological Reserve is only two kilometres north of Kamdis, and Pure Lake Park is situated less than 1 kilometre to the east.

Two national land conservation organizations and the British Columbia Ministry of Environment hold interests in the Kumdis Bay estuary area adjacent to the Kamdis boundaries. In 1993, the Nature Trust purchased a 26.5 hectare parcel of land and leases it to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Resource Operations to administer for 99 years. Through this lease, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Resource Operations acquired administration of over 500 hectares in Kumdis Bay to be dedicated to the conservation of waterfowl habitat. In 2009, the Nature Conservancy of Canada purchased a 58 hectare parcel of land on the southern end of Kumdis Bay on the mouth of the Kumdis River.

Access to Kamdis is easiest by boat via Masset Sound or Masset Inlet from the communities of Masset or Port Clements, but overland access from Highway 16 may be achieved at several locations by short side roads and/or footpaths. Several fee simple properties are located adjacent to Kamdis, and landowners typically use boats to access their properties by water via Kumdis Slough.

Haida Gwaii is not serviced by British Columbia's electrical grid. Studies are on-going to develop local power sources including off-shore wind, run-of-the-river hydro, and tidal power. Sustainable clean energy development is encouraged where possible. Kamdis has a potential site for a local tidal-based hydroelectric project.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

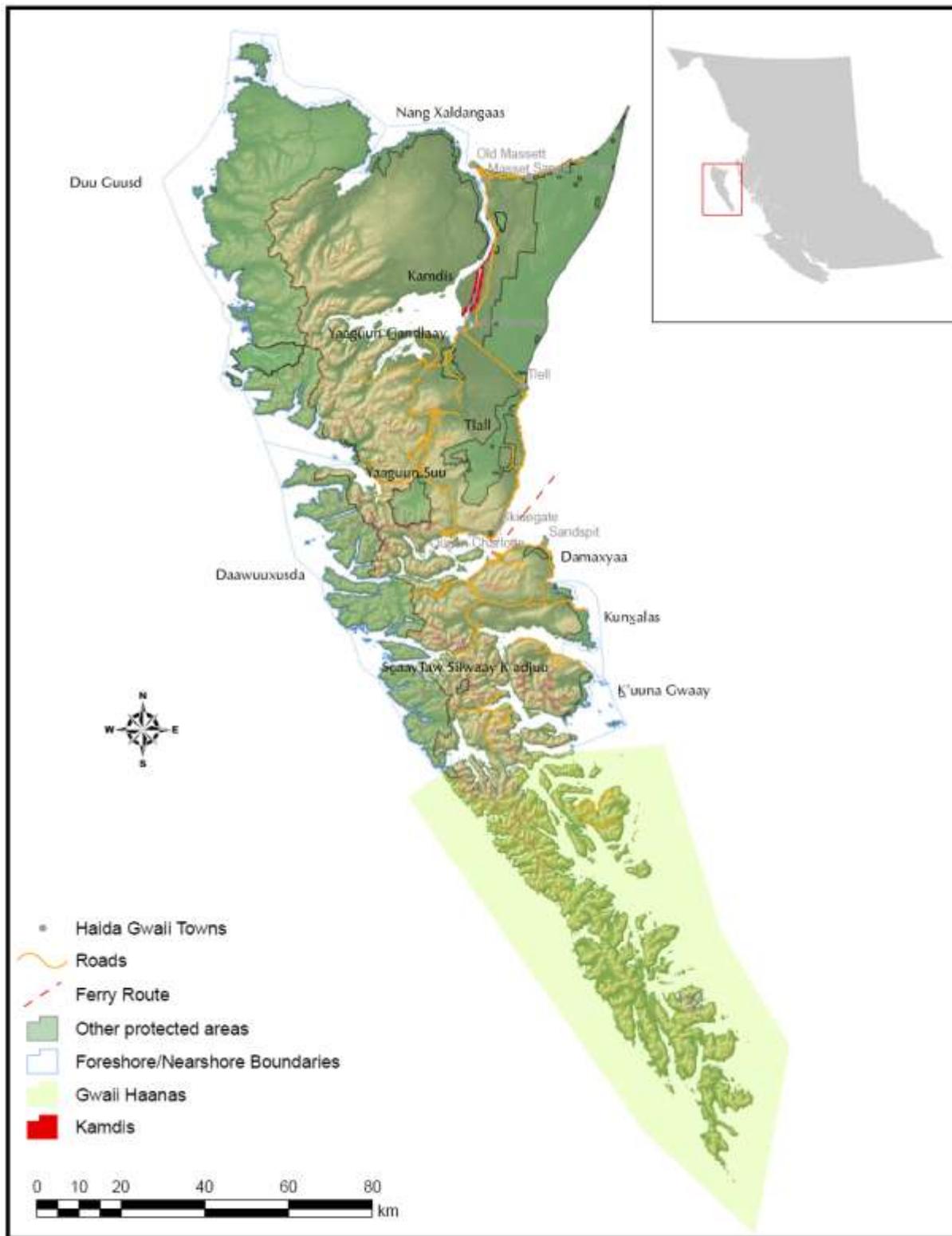


Figure 1: Regional Context Map

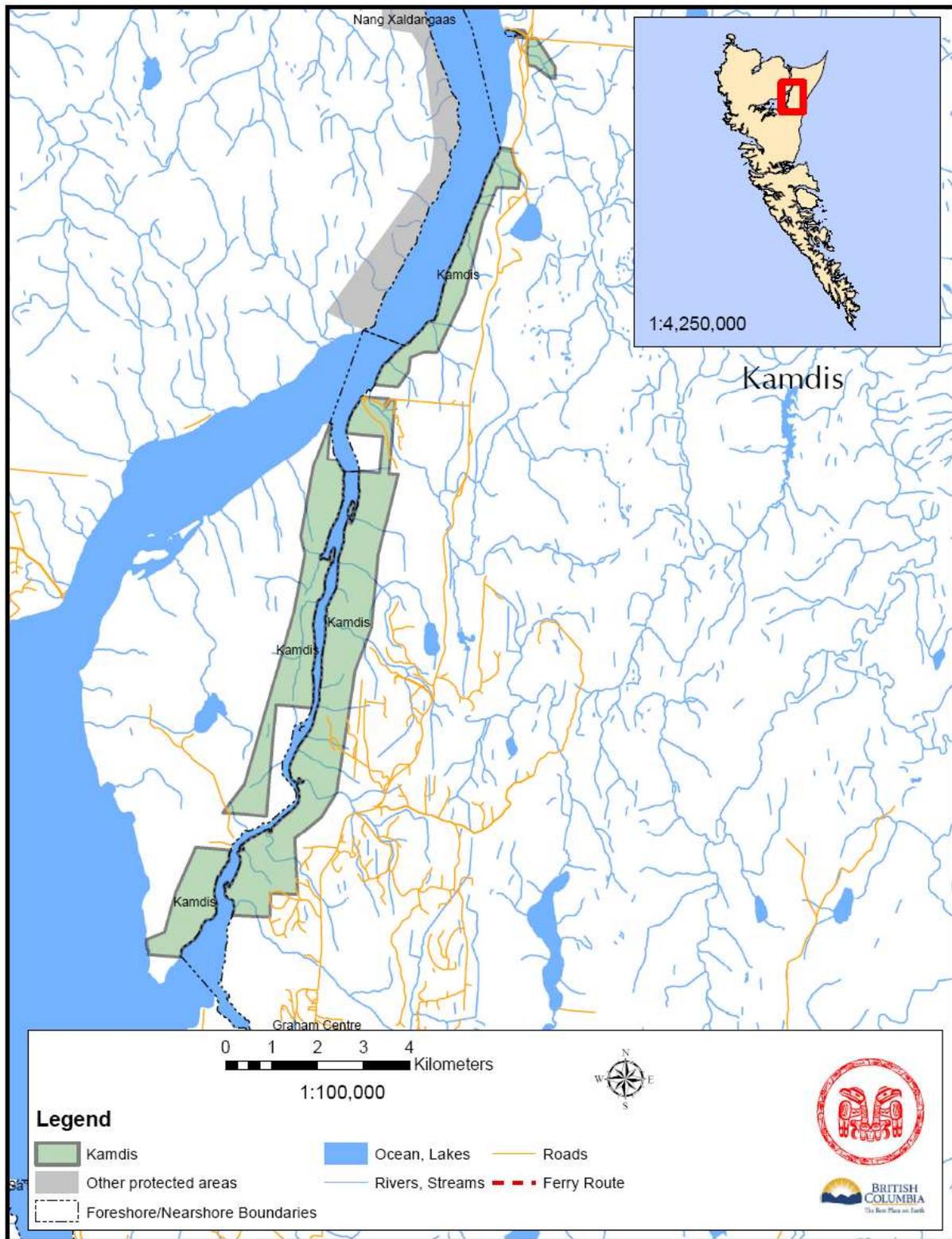


Figure 2. Kamdis Map

## 1.3 Planning and Policy Context

The Parties acknowledge each other's respective authorities and are cooperating in the management of Kamdis. 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 jointly reviewed and adjudicated 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, Kamdis has been occupied for at least 10,000 years by the Haida people although Haida oral history indicates much longer.

In 1996, Kumdis Slough was identified by the Province of British Columbia as a Goal 2 Study Area under the Protected Areas Strategy. The special features that merited consideration for protection included recognition of the area as an internationally significant tidal wetland containing critical waterfowl habitat.

In 2004, the Haida Land Use Vision based on the principles 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 Kamdis.

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, Order in Council No. 977/2008 established the terrestrial component of Kamdis. On October 29, 2009, Kamdis 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, culture and people through establishing structures to manage the forests and the land, which include 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 Kamdis 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 website and the BC Parks' website for broader comment and circulation.

## 2.0 Values of Kamdis

### 2.1 Significance and Role in the Protected Areas System

Kamdis:

- is an area rich with cultural values including at least eleven registered archaeological sites and extensive cultural features within the forests;
- is part of an archipelago-wide system of protected areas that now protects half of the land base of Haida Gwaii;
- helps protect an internationally significant intertidal estuarine wetland complex;
- provides habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and salmonids, and hosts numerous listed species such as Marbled Murrelets, Northern Goshawk, Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue Herons, Peregrine Falcons and important seabirds; and,
- provides opportunities for a variety of day-use activities such as boating, hiking, nature appreciation and wildlife due to its proximity to Highway 16 and the Village of Port Clements.

### 2.2 Cultural Heritage

The people of the Haida Nation have occupied and collected food and materials from Kamdis since time immemorial. The Haida have villages and seasonal camps at Nadu River and Watun River.

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.

Several archaeological sites contain a number of recorded cultural values. These include culturally modified trees (CMTs), a pre-contact cabin, lithics, fire-cracked rock, limpets, clams, a thumbnail stone blade, a cultural depression, a plank house, an aboriginally logged stump and one five pound stone. 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 Kamdis include monumental cedar and cedar bark harvesting, seaweed harvesting, medicinal plant harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping and food gathering. Kamdis 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.

Kamdis will continue to provide for present and future Haida access to those areas for on-going social, ceremonial and cultural purposes.

## 2.3 Natural Heritage

Kamdis is within the Queen Charlotte Lowlands terrestrial ecosection (which is well represented by protected areas on Haida Gwaii), and is 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 area consists of undivided sedimentary rocks, coarse morainal materials and blankets of organic soils found in the area's many bogs. The northeastern coast of Masset Inlet is dominated by steep bluffs with colluviums, otherwise the area has a gently sloping topography mixed with low flat hilltops.

The protected low gradient shoreline and fine-textured soils have resulted in the development of highly productive estuarine vegetation. The intertidal shallows contain extensive eelgrass beds, and the intertidal marshes are dominated by sedges, rushes and grasses. Much of the area is exposed at low tide, and the resulting sheltered and productive habitats are important migration, rearing and feeding areas for many wildlife species using the area.

There are three estuaries within the Kamdis area. The southern marine area is dominated by warm shallow, sandy and flat bottom physiography typified by low current and low exposure. The northern marine area is recognized by Fisheries and Oceans Canada as one of the coast's most unique marine ecosystems, characterized by warm shallow, flat-bottomed physiography typified by high current and low exposure.

The Kumdis River discharges into a large shallow bay which adjoins a long narrow tidal slough partly protected by Kumdis Island. These areas form an extensive complex of protected intertidal estuarine wetlands that have been identified as one of the top-ranking wetlands by the North Coast Wetland Program. The area also has received international recognition as critical waterfowl habitat by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (Canadian Wildlife Service). While surveys in 1990 showed an absence of Brant Geese (potentially due to a loss of eelgrass habitat and/or hunting pressure), this area was an important overwintering area in the past. The southern estuary is a rare Tufted hairgrass – Meadow barley ecosystem.

The area contains other important ecological associations including:

- the Western hemlock-Sitka spruce/Lanky moss (blue listed)<sup>3</sup>;
- the Western red cedar-Sitka spruce/skunk cabbage community (blue listed);
- the Western red cedar-Sitka spruce/Conocephalum community (blue listed); and,

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<sup>3</sup> 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>).

- the Western red cedar-Sitka spruce/Foamflower (blue listed).

Small spike-rush (*Eleocharis parvula*) and flat top golden top (*Euthamia graminifolia*) are blue listed and special concern species respectively.

Salmon species that utilize this area include Coho, Pink and Chinook salmon. Cutthroat Trout, Dolly Varden and Steelhead Trout are also present in most of the small streams entering Kumdis Slough and Kumdis River. Stickleback, Crab, Shrimp and most shellfish are common, and the area is particularly important to larval forms of invertebrates due to its sheltered location. Fauna such as River Otter, Marten and Weasel frequent the area.

The area hosts numerous listed species such as Marbled Murrelets (red listed), Northern Goshawk (laingi subspecies – red listed), Sandhill Cranes (blue listed), Great Blue Heron (blue-listed) and Peregrine Falcons (red listed). A baseline of marine birds were surveyed for the Kumdis slough by Ducks Unlimited in 1991. Other foraging birds recorded along the Kamdis slough are Bufflehead, Common Merganser and Trumpeter Swan.

Of recent concern is the presence of introduced mammals of which Black-tailed Deer, Beavers and Raccoons pose a threat to local ecosystems and species. Several non-native invasive plants have been recorded in the area including scotch broom, oxeye daisy, bull thistle and common tansy.

## 2.4 Recreation

The recreation opportunities in Kamdis are not well developed. However, a variety of day-use activities such as boating, hiking, nature appreciation and wildlife viewing occur due to the proximity of Kamdis to Highway 16 and the Village of Port Clements. Boat access from Masset Inlet provides access to most of the shoreline of Kamdis. Nadu Road and the Watun River Road provide access into the area as well, and a primitive boat launch site exists at the end of Watun River Road.

Hiking opportunities include the Kumdis Divide and Kumdis Slough trails. The Kumdis Divide route passes by abandoned homesteads and follows an old skid road to the shoreline of Masset Inlet. Another short trail located about 8 km north of Port Clements leads to Kumdis Slough and accesses an area used by the Baxter Pole Company in the 1920s and 1930s.

There is much evidence of small-scale development by early European settlers with many signs of ditching and drainage and early trail systems. Sites of recreational interest abound; at the mouth of the Nadu River is the site of early homesteaders such as Edward Evans (c. 1911); to the south is a 1909 coal drilling site; and in 1967 a peat moss plant was constructed – only the foundation and dock remnants are located at this site. The Nadu whirlpool is a travelling whirlpool off the mouth of the Nadu River with sizable eddies that change with the tide. At the mouth of the Watun River is the site of a 1920s cannery which was established at the Haida Nation's seasonal fishing site.

## **2.5 Respectful Use of Natural Values**

The Haida trap throughout Kamdis.

The province has issued licenses for two traplines and one trapline cabin.

## 3.0 Management Direction

### 3.1 Vision

Haida culture is the interrelationship of the people to the land.

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

Kamdis contributes to the protection of an internationally significant intertidal estuarine wetland complex and maintains important habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and salmonids.

Although recreational facilities are not well developed, hiking, boating, nature appreciation and wildlife viewing are activities enjoyed by Haida Gwaii residents and visitors alike who are attracted to the natural beauty and wilderness nature of the area.

### 3.2 Management Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures

Management strategies and objectives for Kamdis 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 be to 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 Kamdis are described. These issues relate primarily to the need for 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
<p><b>Identify, protect and maintain Haida cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and traditional use locations.</b></p>	<p>Many cultural heritage features, 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.</p>	<p>Continue historical and ethnographic research and cultural heritage field mapping and inventory programs where knowledge gaps exist.</p>	<p>Completed historical and ethnographic research and cultural heritage field inventories.</p>
	<p>Certain uses can cause unintended disturbance to cultural heritage and traditional use sites and features.</p>	<p>Identify and report where cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and/or traditional use resources or sites exist within areas that have periodic human use.</p>	<p>Prior to any site specific development or within areas that receive recreational use, ensure cultural heritage sites and features identified.</p>
		<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- marking areas as off-limits;</li> <li>- focusing use away from sites;</li> <li>- restricting aircraft access;</li> <li>- developing site level management plans for select high-use and culturally sensitive areas;</li> <li>- developing best management practices for aircraft, and pleasure craft activities in anchorages; and/or,</li> <li>- public information/interpretation initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Appropriate measures established at identified sensitive sites.</p>
		<p>Consider opportunities for monitoring activity at most vulnerable sites.</p>	<p>Monitoring of activities achieved.</p>
<p><b>Ensure that new uses are compatible with Haida traditional activities.</b></p>	<p>Many traditional and sustenance harvesting sites and activities are well documented, but information and knowledge 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.</p>	<p>Support efforts to identify and monitor traditional and sustenance harvesting sites and activities where knowledge gaps exist.</p>	<p>Completed inventories of traditional use and sustenance harvesting areas.</p>
		<p>Visitors respect traditional reasons and customs for privacy through dialogue and understanding with either Party.</p>	<p>Visitors are respectful people on the land.</p>
	<p>There are traditional cultural use activities that can benefit from monitoring or facilitation using existing Haida Nation programs.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Traditional users are engaged in specific uses and programs.  Linkages are made with on-going Haida Nation and provincial administrative processes (such as the Haida Gwaii cultural wood permit process).</p>

## Natural Heritage

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated biological diversity objectives in Kamdis 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 use within Kamdis. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 2).

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

<b>Overall Management Goal: Protect and maintain the diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine ecosystems.</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
<b>Identify and protect regionally important, and rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.<sup>4</sup></b>	Lack of inventory 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.
	There is evidence that current use is causing 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 public and visitors 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 bed presence and distribution is 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 are documented.

<sup>4</sup> 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.**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
		Undertake prevention initiatives and introduced species control programs on a co-ordinated and priority basis. Mechanical and biological methods are preferred. Monitor and report on efficacy of efforts.	Control programs in place. Target species controlled or removed. Disturbance and predation levels 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.
	Kumdis Bay is of special interest to land conservation organizations.	Work with organizations to develop an integrated management approach to upland area that is consistent with values and management direction for Kumdis Bay.	Co-ordinated management program in place with consistent management goals and objectives.
	Sources of potential environmental contaminants (e.g., waste management site runoff, old waste dump sites, unreclaimed settlement sites, etc) pre-exist within or adjacent to Kamdis.	Identify sources, extent and threat of potential environmental contaminants.	Presence, distribution and threats are documented.
		Determine priorities for monitoring, further reclamation, and/or removal programs, and support restoration initiatives.	Monitoring and restoration programs designed and implemented.
<b>Protect intertidal and subtidal habitat to help sustain the abundance and distribution of marine species.</b>	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.

## Recreation

Key issues which may support provision for recreational opportunities in Kamdis 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**

<b>Overall Management Goal: Provide for limited commercial and public recreational use in a largely undisturbed natural environment.</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
<b>Identify opportunities for appropriate wilderness recreation and identify any necessary associated facilities.</b>	There is a need to determine appropriate and respectful approaches to recreational visits in Kamdis. 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.	Annual frontcountry site inspections completed with BRIM reports every three years. Bi-annual backcountry site inspections completed with BRIM reports every four years.
	Recreational use can impact other heritage and natural values.	Develop criteria to ensure recreational use has acceptable impacts to the cultural and natural heritage features or values.	Criteria are developed to determine acceptable limits and avoidance of impacts, and BRIM reports are used to inform adaptive management on a site-specific basis.
	Informal trail system and boat launch site have been established.	Maintain current access and trail system, and manage for low-moderate levels of use as day-use destination areas.	Trails accessible and maintained as warranted by level of use.
		Recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations designate the section of Kumdis Divide and Kumdis Slough trails (outside of Kamdis) used for access to Kamdis under Section 56 of the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> .	Both trails duly designated.
	Consider potential for further boat launch site development at Watun River location.	Site assessed and developed for boat launch if appropriate.	

## Respectful Use of Natural Values

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated objectives related to the respectful use of Kamdis relate primarily to the potential conflict between the 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 Values<sup>5</sup>**

<b>Overall Management Goal: Provide for compatible opportunities where appropriate.</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
<b>Identify appropriate uses and support the delivery of local economic benefits.</b>	Small-scale <sup>6</sup> 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.
	Harvest of forest botanicals <sup>7</sup> by Haida medicinal practitioners will continue in Kamdis. 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.
	Development of local tidal-based hydroelectric projects <sup>8</sup> may be permitted if the development does not conflict with the ecological well being or other management objectives in Kamdis.	Specific proposals will be considered for further evaluation and approval.	All proposals are compliant with management plan direction.
	The nature of economic benefits for the Haida Nation in Kamdis 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.

<sup>5</sup> Natural resource uses and developments must be consistent with the cultural, natural and recreational purposes of the Kamdis.

<sup>6</sup> A few trees, or less than 1 hectare in area.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> May only supply power to approved uses in Kamdis or nearby communities that do not otherwise have access to hydro-electric power.

### 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 Kamdis 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 Kamdis and uses deemed appropriate for each of the units are identified in Appendix 1.

#### Management Unit Type 4

The purpose of Management Unit Type 4<sup>9</sup> is to maintain intact ecological processes and protect the outstanding natural biological diversity found within this area.

The management activities in this unit will focus on maintaining natural biodiversity and ecological processes, and protecting habitat for species. Additionally, a secondary objective will be to manage for some limited water-based access for recreation in a largely undisturbed environment.

#### Management Unit Type 5

The intent of Management Unit Type 5<sup>10</sup> is to provide opportunities for limited access recreation while protecting Haida cultural features, and access for social and ceremonial uses. This unit will protect natural features and also allow for some sustainable use of natural resources where compatible with the values of Kamdis.

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

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<sup>9</sup> This unit corresponds to the BC Parks Special Feature Zone.

<sup>10</sup> This unit corresponds to the BC Parks Nature Recreation Zone.

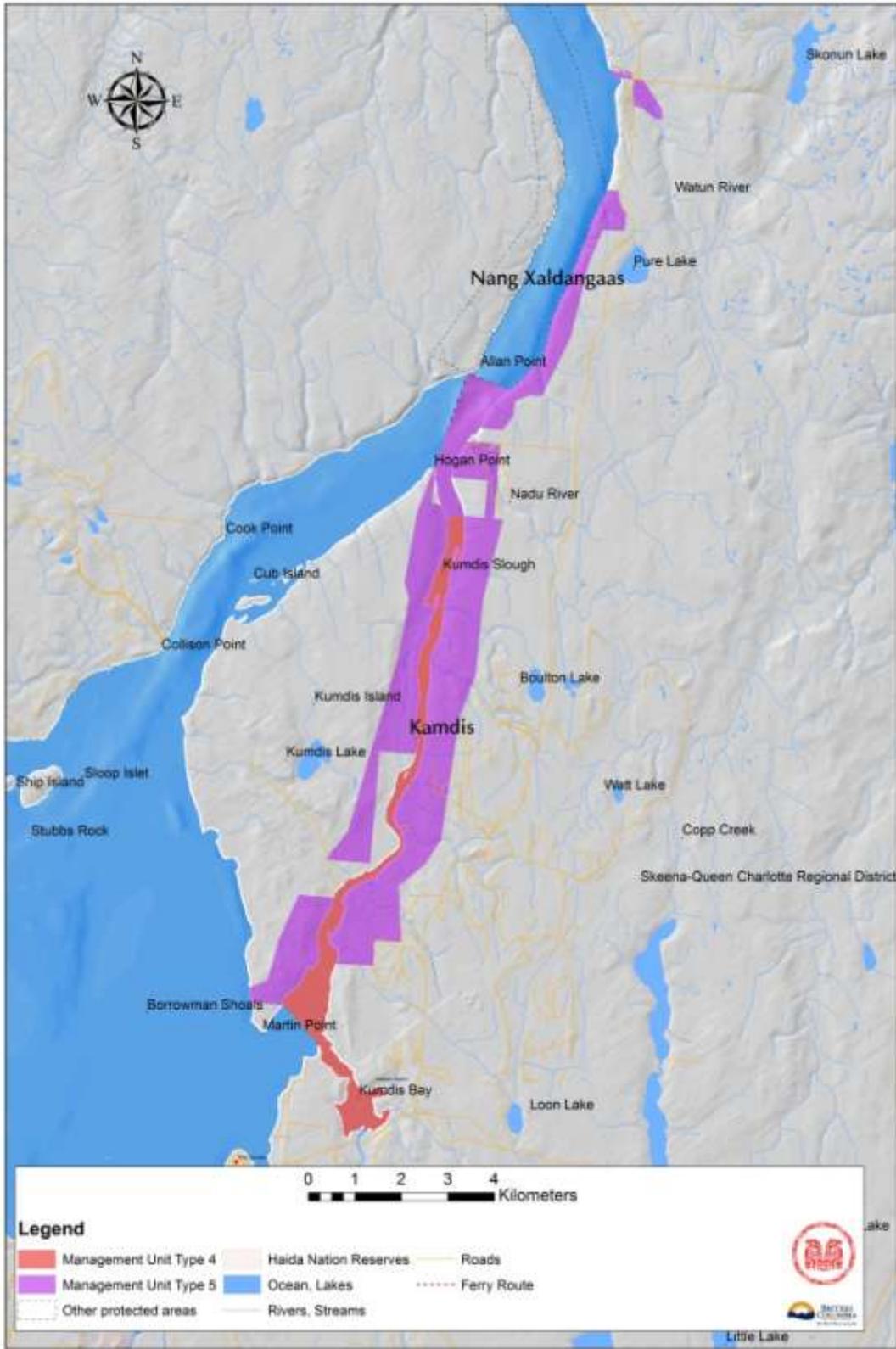


Figure 3. Kamdis Management Zones Map

## 4.0 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Kamdis 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 Kamdis. 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 Kamdis 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 Kamdis. 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 Kamdis. 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 Kamdis 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 4 <sup>11</sup>	Management Unit Type 5 <sup>12</sup>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>		
Cultural, Ceremonial, Food Gathering and Social Uses	Y	Y
<b>Natural Heritage</b>		
Fire Management <sup>13</sup>	Y	Y
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y	Y
Noxious Weed Control	Y	Y
Scientific Research	Y	Y
<b>Recreation</b>		
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	N
Aircraft Access	Y	Y
Anchorage	Y	Y
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N	N2
Boat Launches	N	Y
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)	N	N
Commercial Recreation (no facilities)	Y	Y
Fishing	Y	Y
Heli-hiking	N	N
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y	Y

<sup>11</sup> This unit covers 437 hectares of marine foreshore in Kamdis.

<sup>12</sup> This unit covers 1,896 hectares of land and 165 hectares of marine foreshore in Kamdis.

<sup>13</sup> As per fire management plan.

Activity/Facility	Management Unit Type 4 <sup>11</sup>	Management Unit Type 5 <sup>12</sup>
Hunting <sup>14</sup>	Y	Y
Interpretation and Information Buildings / Signs	N	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	Y <sup>15</sup>	Y
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y	Y
<b>Respectful Use of Natural Values</b>		
Angling Guiding	Y	Y
Aquaculture (finfish)	N	N
Aquaculture (shellfish)	N	N
Commercial Botanical Forest Products	N/A	Y
Commercial Filming	Y	Y
Commercial Marine Plant Harvesting	N	N
Communication Sites	N	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	Y <sup>16</sup>
Guide Outfitting <sup>17</sup>	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

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> May be considered for access to private land holdings only.

<sup>16</sup> For existing tenure only.

<sup>17</sup> 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



# Kamdis Management Plan

**Approved by:**



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April Churchill  
Vice President of the Haida Nation

July 29, 2011

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Date



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Brian Bawtinheimer  
Director, Parks Planning & Management Branch  
BC Parks

August 2, 2011

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Date

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