Gained in Translation: Distilling international expertise into local knowledge and support for the Llgaay gwii sdiihlda- Restoring Balance, Haida Gwaii Deer Eradication

Robyn Irvine*, Miranda Post, Nadine Wilson*, Peter Dyment, Chris Gill, Tyler Peet, Ernie Gladstone
No Deer

Deer

© R.G.I.S., JL Martin

© Parks Canada

Canada

HAIDA NATION
Cultural Significance
The project site
The project site

[Map of the project site with labels for various islands and geographic features.]
Eradication Overview

- Removal of every single animal

- Maintaining all invasive alien species off the islands for 2 years minimum

- Retaining invasive free status in perpetuity as aspirational goal.

- Starts with knockdown method – needs to remove 70-90% of animals

- Mop up method – removes wary and sparse remainder

- Grid searches – confirms zero
Restoring Balance Operational Plan

Three phase operation

1. Bait station hunting
2. Aerial Hunting
3. Dog and Ground hunting
Baiting Operations
Aerial Operations

©Parks Canada/Joe Crawford

©Parks Canada/Andy Wright

©Parks Canada/Joe Crawford
Aerial Operations
Dog and Ground Operations
Boat Operations
Benefits communicated to local communities early through community events, interpretive programs and select local media outlets

- Venison for local groups
- More cedar for future generations of artists
- Better habitat for shorebirds/seabirds
- Local economic opportunities and capacity building
Community Acceptance and Concerns
Out with the new and in with the old - the archipelago of Haida Gwaii is trying to restore balance by preserving indigenous species.
Results
Results

• Learned what worked really well in this setting
• Leveraged but could not directly translate from other projects and countries
Results

• Incorporating local knowledge
• Logistics is massive component especially in remote setting of Gwaii Haanas
Conclusion