

ACCOUNTING FOR PROTECTED AND OTHER CONSERVED AREAS



PATHWAY TO CANADA TARGET 1



Rouge National Urban Park, Ontario. Photo: Scott Munn

CONSERVATION2020CANADA.CA

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In 2015, in order to meet its international commitments to the conservation of biodiversity, federal, provincial and territorial governments developed 19 biodiversity targets for Canada.



Canada Target 1

By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of marine areas, are conserved through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.



11.8% OF CANADA'S TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER AREA IS PROTECTED AS OF THE SPRING OF 2019

Accounting System

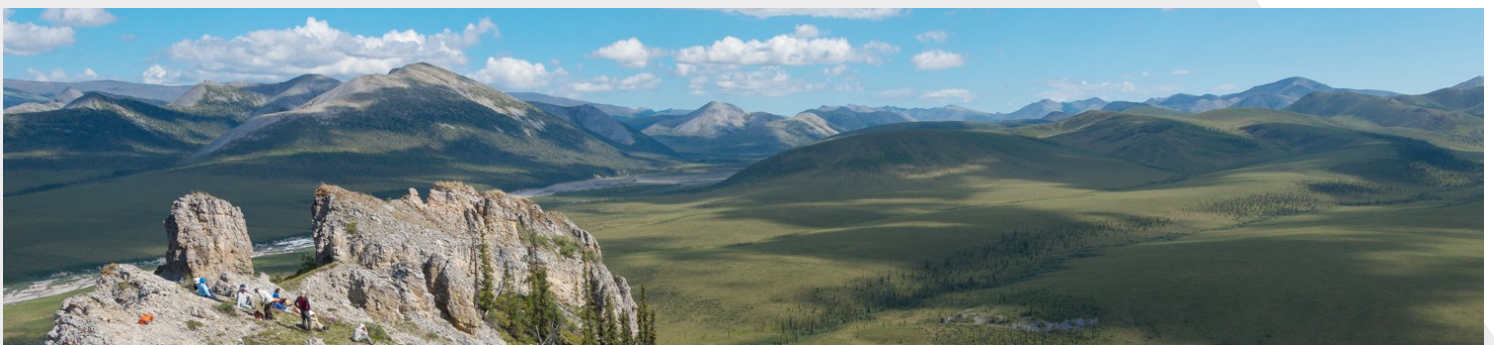
A Pathway to Canada Target 1 accounting process, following guidance in the 2019 pan-Canadian *One with Nature* report, will support jurisdictions as they assess and report on terrestrial and inland water protected and conserved areas which may contribute to Target 1. The *One with Nature* report interprets internationally agreed-to definitions for protected areas and other conserved areas in a way that is supportive of international guidance for these definitions within the Canadian context.

As part of that context, the *One with Nature* report also recognizes Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) as an important part of Canada's conservation network. IPCAs can be counted towards Target 1 if they have the attributes of a protected or other conserved area, and if the participating Indigenous people want the area to be counted.

Counting Progress Towards Target 1

A Pathway to Canada Target 1 decision support tool has been designed to promote consistency and transparency when identifying and reporting contributing areas for terrestrial and inland waters. Jurisdictions will evaluate candidate areas against the criteria in the decision support tool, taking local factors into account. Areas that meet the criteria can then be reported to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD), which in turn supports reporting at the national and international levels.

The Pathway to Canada Target 1 decision support tool and associated guidance is based on a tool originally developed and published by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA). The original CCEA tool has been collaboratively revised by Pathway jurisdictions, and by members of the CCEA and Nature Conservancy of Canada to support jurisdictions in assessing if an area contributes to Target 1.



Park national Iwavik, Yukon. Photo: Tyler Graham

Protected Areas

“ A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. ”

Protected Areas count towards Canada Target 1. Terrestrial and inland water protected areas may be established in various ways to meet the Pathway to Canada Target 1 criteria for reporting as protected areas. Areas are assessed for reporting based on whether they meet applicable conservation standards rather than the designation mechanism used.



Examples:

National, provincial, territorial, and municipal government areas focused on nature conservation, such as Provincial and Territorial Parks, National Parks, Indigenous-led land use planning areas, Wildlife Refuges, Ecological Reserves, Biodiversity Reserves, Natural Areas, and Habitat Protection Areas. Specific examples include Rouge National Urban Park, Cape Chignecto Provincial Park, Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary, and Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Other areas, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), privately owned conservation lands, areas protected through Indigenous land claim agreements, and traditional use planning areas, among others. Specific examples include the Edézhíé Protected Area, and Jenkins Woodlands Natural Area.



Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Nunavut. Photo: Christian Marcotte

Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

"A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values."

Areas that meet the full list of criteria will also count toward Canada Target 1, but most have not yet been identified.

Examples:

- Indigenous peoples' and local community conserved areas (or sections of these areas) managed for traditional or cultural purposes, while maintaining natural or near-natural ecosystems, with non-industrial, sustainable use of natural resources, certain agricultural lands with high levels of associated biodiversity maintained through low-intensity agriculture (e.g. livestock grazing on native grasslands)
- some permanently set-aside forest areas (i.e., not part of the harvest schedule and managed to avoid other damaging land uses), such as ancient, old-growth, primary, or other high-biodiversity forest areas
- some watershed areas effectively managed for source water or to mitigate disaster risks (e.g. water catchment areas, wetlands, coastal forests, natural forest protected for long-term soil and slope stabilization)
- hunting reserves that maintain natural habitats and other native flora and fauna as well as hunted species.
- some areas created by active restoration of degraded and threatened ecosystems (e.g. freshwater and coastal wetlands)



Spiers Lake, Alberta. Photo: Todd Kemper

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)

IPCAs can count towards Canada Target 1 when they are recognized as a Protected Area or an OECM following guidance found in the *One with Nature* report. Work is ongoing with Indigenous peoples at many levels across Canada to further elaborate the concept of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), and to clarify their contributions to Canada Target 1 as well as to Indigenous cultural, social and conservation priorities. This is being done in the spirit and practice of reconciliation; in ways that respect existing federal, provincial and territorial government approaches; and consistent with legal duties and mutual commitments in treaties, land claim and self-government agreements, as well as other agreements as required.



Edézhíe Protected Area, Northwest Territories. Photo: James Larivière

- ✓ IPCAs are Indigenous-led
- ✓ Involve a long-term commitment to the conservation of lands and waters for future generations
- ✓ Highlight Indigenous rights and responsibilities



Management Models :

There are a range of management models that can apply to IPCAs that support a meaningful role for Indigenous peoples. Some IPCAs will employ a cooperative or co-management model where Indigenous peoples, government, and others adopt shared decision-making, joint management or advisory mechanisms. In other cases, an IPCA will be governed by Indigenous peoples. No matter what model is used, when establishing IPCAs, the establishment process must respect the unique circumstances and priorities of each federal, provincial and territorial government as well as that of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. The Edézhíe Protected Area is an example of an IPCA that is counted as an interim protected area.

Other Areas of Consideration

Interim Protected Areas and Interim OECMs

To complement existing and new protected areas, pan-Canadian standards for interim protected areas and interim OECMs were developed through the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative. With this guidance, governments and conservation partners are able to report qualifying conservation lands that will be protected to applicable standards but have not yet reached formal establishment.



As part of Canada's accounting framework, Canada will track fully established, interim and candidate protected areas and OECMs. However, with respect to reporting against Canada Target 1, Canada will recognize and report fully established protected areas and interim protected areas and OECMs where:

- ✓ There is a geographically defined area
- ✓ There is a clear public commitment and intent to complete formal establishment as soon as possible
- ✓ There are interim protection measures in place that the governing body for conserving biodiversity has deemed effective and appropriate



Areas that are intended to be Protected Areas or OECMs but lack some of these attributes can still be recognized and tracked as candidate protected areas, but will not be included in international reporting.

Supporting Documents

One with Nature Report

Decision Support Tool

Decision Support Tool Screening Template

All supporting documents can be found at:

www.conservation2020canada.ca/accounting



Pathway to Canada Target 1 guidance
continues to be developed

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