



INTRODUCTION – CANADA’S NATURAL OPPORTUNITY

“Protected areas provide options for humanity in a rapidly changing world.”

— World Conservation Union (IUCN) —

Canada's natural capital provides literally billions of dollars in ecological goods and services – clean air and water, productive forests and oceans, the genetic resource base for many pharmaceuticals, climate regulation, and pest and disease control, to name but a few. The non-market value of ecosystem services in the boreal alone is estimated at \$93.2 billion annually.¹ Case studies suggest that protecting natural capital in the settled areas of Canada could save hundreds of millions of dollars of these ecological goods and services every year.² And national parks alone have sequestered over 4.4 gigatonnes of carbon worth \$72–\$78 billion³.

Protected areas provide an important and unique contribution to the conservation of natural capital. They act as benchmarks by which we can assess the sustainability of uses on the broader landscape and marine environment and measure the impacts of climate change. They conserve representative samples of natural areas and preserve ecological features and processes. They provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife. They support important regional goals, from community recreation and health to land claims settlements. Adequately connected and buffered, protected areas are at the core of ecosystem-based management.

Protected areas are key to Canada's competitiveness in the global marketplace, and secure enormous socio-economic benefits to communities across the country. In 1996, for example, wildlife related activities stimulated 215,000 jobs and contributed over \$12 billion to the GDP⁴.

Canada has a long tradition of protected areas establishment and has earned a reputation globally as a leading steward of its natural resources. The 1992 Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas catalyzed an impressive growth in protected areas

across the country throughout the 1990s. Fifteen years later, Canada is faced with a variety of new opportunities to position protected areas planning and management squarely within the sustainable

development objectives espoused by many jurisdictions. These opportunities include the emergence of integrated landscape and oceans management, the initiation of Canada's Oceans Agenda, a recent dialogue towards development of a Biodiversity Outcomes Framework for Canada, and concerted international efforts to meet the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity objective of developing global networks of comprehensive and effectively managed terrestrial and marine protected areas by 2010 and 2012 respectively⁵.

Canada is well positioned to deliver on these commitments. Canada is one of the few countries on

What is a Protected Area?

Canada recognizes the IUCN's definition of protected areas as:

“an area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means.”

A Statement of Commitment...

On November 25, 1992, Canada's federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Environment, Parks, and Wildlife signed A Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas, in which these Ministers agreed to make every effort to:

- complete Canada's networks of protected areas representative of Canada's land based natural regions by the year 2000 and accelerate the protection of areas representative of Canada's marine natural regions;
- accelerate the identification and protection of Canada's critical wildlife habitat;
- adopt frameworks, strategies, and timeframes for the completion of protected areas networks;
- continue to cooperate in the protection of ecosystems, landscapes and wildlife habitat; and
- ensure that protected areas are integral components of all sustainable development strategies.

Representatives of Canada's forest ministers and four national Aboriginal organizations also attended the meeting and endorsed the recommendations.

¹ Canadian Boreal Initiative and Pembina Institute, Counting Canada's Natural Capital (2005).

² Ducks Unlimited Canada and The Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Value of Natural Capital in Settled Areas of Canada (2004).

³ S.N. Kulshreshtha et al., “Carbon Sequestration in Protected Areas in Canada,” University of Saskatchewan, Department of Agriculture and Economics, 2000.

⁴ Federal-Provincial-Territorial Task Force on the Importance of Nature to Canadians, The importance of nature to Canadians: the economic significance of nature-related activities, 2000.

⁵ Canada is signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a binding international agreement. Federal, provincial and territorial governments have together developed and are implementing the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy as the primary means to address our CBD commitments. The CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (2004) and its overall objective, goals and targets is intended as guidance to Canada's governments in advancing their protected areas programs in support of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

A Sample of Canada's Protected Areas

No.	Unique Feature	Name
1	The first municipal park in Canada	Mount Royal, Montréal, Quebec (1876)
2	The first national park in Canada	Banff National Park, Alberta (1885)
3	The first waterfowl refuge in Canada	Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan (1887)
4	The first provincial park in Canada	Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario (1893)
5	The first marine protected areas in Canada	Rochers-aux-Oiseaux Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Quebec (1919) Ile Bonaventure and Rocher Percé, Quebec (1919)
6	The first interprovincial park in Canada	Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, Alberta / Saskatchewan (1989)
7	The first offshore Oceans Act Marine Protected Area in Canada	Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents Marine Protected Area (2003)
8	The largest protected area in Canada	Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Nunavut (6,278,200 ha)
9	The smallest protected area in Canada	Christie Islet Migratory Bird Sanctuary, British Columbia (0.08 ha)
10	The most southerly protected area in Canada	Point Pelee National Park, Ontario (42° N)
11	The most northerly (also driest) protected area in Canada	Quttinirpaaq National Park, Ellesmere Island, Nunavut (82.06° N)
12	The most easterly protected area in Canada	Witless Bay Seabird Ecological Reserve, Newfoundland and Labrador (52.8° E)
13	The most westerly protected areas in Canada	Ivvavik National Park, Yukon (141° W) Kluane Game Sanctuary, Yukon (141° W) Kluane National Park Reserve, Yukon (141° W) Vuntut National Park, Yukon (141° W)
14	The highest protected area in Canada	Kluane National Park Reserve, Yukon (Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak at 5959 metres, is found in this national park)

Earth that holds vast expanses of intact natural areas – a great blessing that brings an equally great responsibility. Yet opportunities to secure natural capital in Canada and around the world are rapidly foreclosing. The UN Millennium Ecological Assessment recently reported that 60% of the world's ecosystem services are degraded or used unsustainably. And while the World Economic Forum has ranked Canada 6th overall in environmental sustainability, we consume our natural capital more intensely than many of our peer nations.

Support for natural capital conservation in Canada is strong today. Industries are calling for clear protected areas strategies to inform long-term business plans and promote land certainty. First Nations are advancing natural area preservation to help maintain their cultural practices and heritage and in support of community economic development. Many new conservation collaborations can be found across Canada, bringing together a diversity of government and non-government interests. And the public continues to show consistent support for completing Canada's protected areas networks.



Newfoundland's Witless Bay Ecological Reserve is the most easterly protected area in Canada and is North America's largest Atlantic puffin colony with more than 260,000 pairs. Photo Credit © David Tilley



Aires protégées du Canada

Carte provisoire, mai 2006

Scale / Échelle 1:6250 000

Aires protégées du Canada, par catégorie de l'UICN^{1,2}

Aires protégées du Canada, par catégorie de l'UICN
L'Union internationale pour la nature (UICN) définit une aire protégée comme une « portion de territoire affectée

L'Union mondiale pour la nature (U.M.N.) défend une aire protégée comme une « portion de terre affectée à une vocation spécialement à la protection et au maintien de la diversité biologique, parce que elle renferme des espèces ou d'autres ressources, ou d'autres caractéristiques qui ont une valeur scientifique, culturelle, esthétique, éducative, ou autre ».

Catégorie 1. *Ains protégée (grande principauté)* : a des fins scientifiques ou de protection des ressources sauvages. Encaisse l'ensemble d'efforts visant à améliorer l'administration, les caractéristiques géographiques ou physiologiques et/ou des aspects techniques ou réglementaires, généralement à des fins de recherche scientifique et/ou de surveillance continue de l'environnement.

Catégorie Ib Aire protégée d'intérêt principalement à des fins de protection des ressources sauvages. Valeur écologique limitée d'un point de vue strict, mais qui a été préservée en raison de sa valeur naturelle, d'importance scientifique, historique, culturelle, esthétique et/ou pour la recherche.

[illegible]

Catégorie III Les produits les plus dangereux sont ceux qui ont le plus de risques pour la santé humaine et l'environnement. Ils sont interdits dans tous les cas.

Catégorie IV Aire protégée principalement à des fins de conservation, avec l'interdiction des activités qui la gaspillent. Les territoires états marins faisant l'objet d'une intervention active au niveau de la gestion, du suivi et comme le maintien des habitats états à valent être soumis à des exigences strictes quant à l'usage. Cependant, ils ne sont pas considérés comme des zones de pêche, mais ils sont considérés comme des zones de conservation.

Catégorie V *Une prolégende girle principalemint chue le bid d'assumer la consécration des physyques farraines on flammes de la d'ins révélation.* [Zone farraine, comprenant parfois le flérial et les aures adhésives, où l'interaction entre l'humaine et la nature a, au fil du temps, mené à de nouveaux usages techniques, technologiques et/ou culturels par ailleurs et accompagnés, et/ou précédant souvent une grande œuvre technique. Présenter l'histoire de cette interaction traditionnelle et/ou associée à la prolégende, au moment de la Nouvelle France ou plus tard. Exemples : bâtiment dans

Catégorie VI *Aires protégées* principalement à des fins d'utilisation durable des écosystèmes. Elles comprennent des systèmes naturels, au grand public non exclués, pour offrir à l'homme la protection et le maintien à long terme de la diversité biologique, tout en garantissant la durabilité des fonctions et produits naturels nécessaires au bien-être de la communauté. (Programme d'aires protégées de l'UNESCO) «changements communautaires, questions liées au développement durable, zones protégées» (UNEP).

Non-classifiées: autres protocoles qui n'ont obtenu le statut de l'UICN, mais dont la catégorie de protection n'a pas encore été déterminée.

¹ *Source*: Comité consultatif des aires protégées, 2009, p. 10 (ministère des pêcheries de l'Ontario et des provinces de l'ACN) : Guide à l'intention des organisations canadiennes représentatives des aires protégées. (Système de soutien et de suivi pour les aires de conservation, première version, février 2009) (non publié). Adapté de l'ACN, de la Commission mondiale des aires protégées et du Centre mondial de surveillance.

² Remarque importante : Le demi-cercle des catégories sémantiques de l'UICb a véritablement été conçu pour être très confus avec des noms semblables à ceux au Canada. La définition détaillée de chacune des catégories reflète de façon plus précise les objectifs de la gestion des risques chez

Par ailleurs, deux événements d'envergure internationale comme le Congrès mondial des Parcs en 2003 et la Conférence des Parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur la diversité biologique en 2004, à Montréal et d'autres Parcs se sont mis d'accord pour rendre compte de l'état de leurs aires protégées en utilisant ce thème.

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measured in the Western Hemisphere, was 3000 (2006), an

Canada, Nations Unies
Rapport de la Subcomité des droits politiques nationaux CDDP, un rapport
Canada

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This map has been produced as an accompaniment to the *Western Perspective: Women's Labour Report* (2005), a unpublished report coordinated for Environment Canada.

Cette carte a été produite pour accompagner le rapport *Western Perspective: Women's Labour Report* (2005), un rapport non publié coordonné pour l'Environnement Canada.

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