

## CHAPTER 1 – CANADA’S PROTECTED AREAS – THE FACTS

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

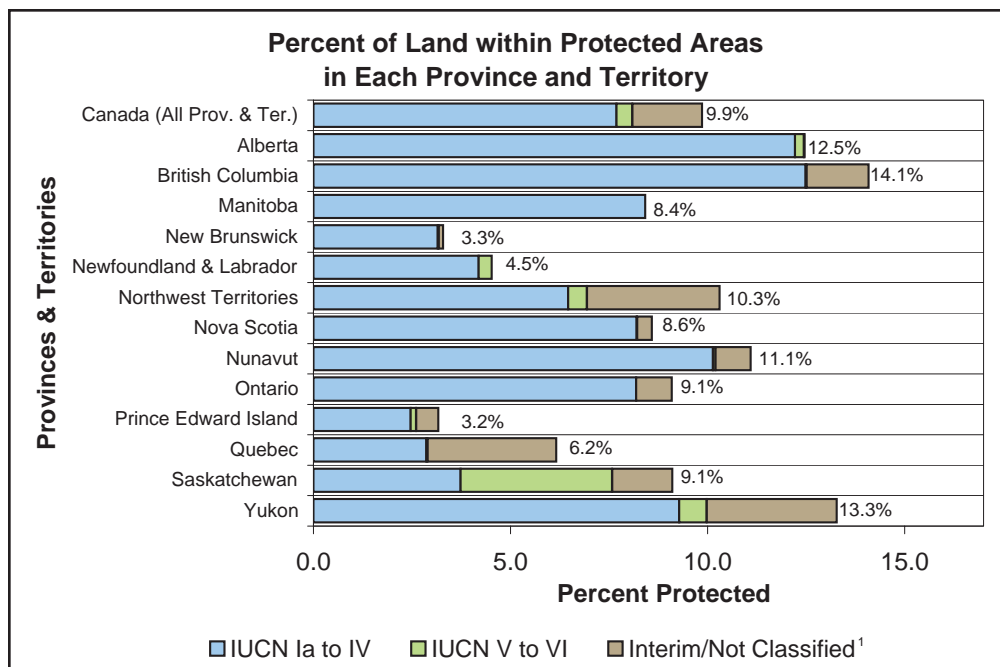
- Canada has set aside 9.9% of its lands in protected areas (8.6% in existing protected areas and 1.3% in interim protected areas), a growth of approximately 19% since 2000.
- Canada has set aside 0.5% of its oceans in marine protected areas.
- The extent of protected areas in Canada varies considerably between different ecological regions of the country – from the 22.6% of the Arctic Cordillera ecozone that is found within protected areas, to 7.4% of the Boreal Shield ecozone, to 0.4% of the Mixedwood Plain ecozone (Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Valley).
- 95% of lands within Canada’s terrestrial protected areas are classified within IUCN Management Categories I-IV, which largely prohibit industrial activities such as forestry, mining and hydro development.
- Canada ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of 30 OECD countries in terms of the amount of lands in protected areas that largely prohibit industrial activities. Canada ranks 16<sup>th</sup> out of 30 OECD countries in terms of the amount of lands set aside in all terrestrial protected areas. Canada ranks 70<sup>th</sup> globally in percentage of oceans protected.

- Canada’s various governments administer a diverse range of terrestrial protected areas – wilderness areas, parks, wildlife areas – although about half of the entire network is found in national, provincial, or territorial parks.
- Protected areas in Canada are managed for multiple values – resource conservation, public education, preservation of culturally significant sites, research, and wildlife and habitat conservation.

### ANALYSIS

#### - EXTENT OF TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS -

- Canada has set aside 9.9% of its lands as protected areas.
- Canada’s terrestrial protected areas network includes a total of 98.3 million hectares (ha).
- 12,662,819 ha (13%) of these lands currently have interim protection<sup>1</sup>.
- The federal government administers 49.2% of lands in Canada’s terrestrial protected areas and the provinces and territories 49.3%.



<sup>1</sup> Includes interim protected areas, Aboriginal and privately owned protected areas, and unclassified government administered protected areas.

<sup>1</sup> Interim protected areas receive effective legal or regulatory protection, temporarily or otherwise, while negotiations and legal issues are resolved. Note that these land withdrawals are subject to feasibility studies, consultations, and/or the negotiation of agreements. The various interim protected areas, or portions thereof, may or may not eventually be established as protected areas.

Summary of Terrestrial Protected Areas in Each Province and Territory<sup>1</sup>

Province/Territory	No. of Protected Areas	Area Protected (ha)	Interim Area Protected <sup>2</sup> (ha)	Total Area Protected <sup>3</sup> (ha)	% of Land Protected <sup>4</sup>
Alberta	537	8,250,133	0	8,250,133	12.5
British Columbia	948	12,088,155	1,224,996	13,313,151	14.1
Manitoba	122	4,275,508	1,194,510	5,470,018	8.4 <sup>5</sup>
New Brunswick	106	232,095	5,000	237,095	3.3
Newfoundland & Labrador	63	1,838,275	0	1,838,275	4.5
Northwest Territories	19	9,489,418	4,363,896	13,853,314	10.3
Nova Scotia	75	455,671	17,000	472,671	8.6
Nunavut	27	21,353,025	1,870,000	23,223,025	11.1 <sup>6</sup>
Ontario	647	9,429,202	381,194	9,810,396	9.1 <sup>7</sup>
Prince Edward Island	184	16,053	1,891	17,944	3.2
Quebec	1,096	7,522,120	1,817,200	9,339,320	6.2 <sup>8</sup>
Saskatchewan	4,608	5,337,477	601,983	5,939,460	9.1
Yukon	24	5,234,779	1,185,149	6,419,928	13.3
<b>Canada (All Prov. &amp; Ter.)</b>	<b>8,475</b>	<b>85,597,154</b>	<b>12,662,819</b>	<b>98,259,973</b>	<b>9.9<sup>7</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes protected areas administered federally, provincially and territorially, as well as Aboriginal or privately held conservation lands that are recognized by protected area agencies as being part of their network.

<sup>2</sup> Interim protected areas receive effective legal or regulatory protection, temporarily or otherwise, while negotiations and legal issues are resolved. Note that these land withdrawals are subject to feasibility studies, consultations, and/or the negotiation of agreements. The various interim protected areas, or portions thereof, may or may not eventually be established as protected areas.

<sup>3</sup> Note that these figures include a number of terrestrial protected areas that have a marine component totalling 2,899,532 ha.

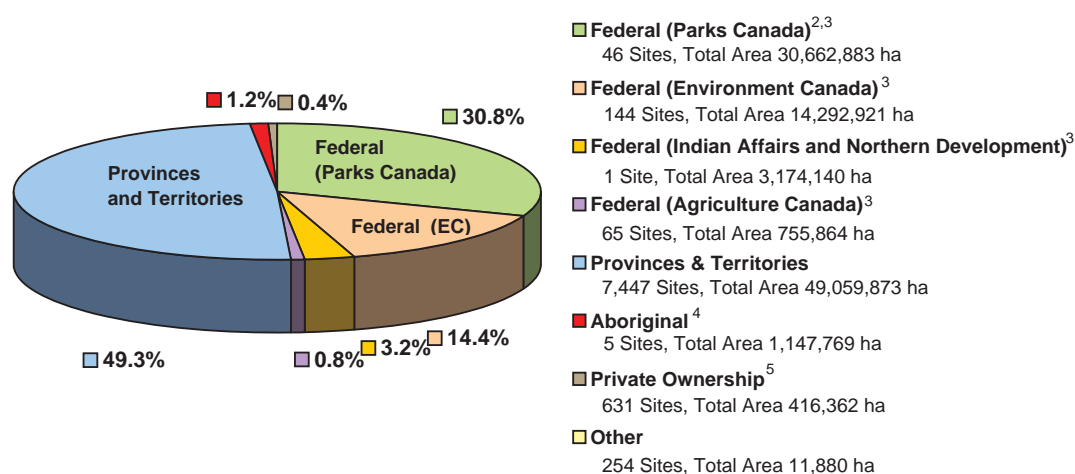
<sup>4</sup> Total land of each jurisdiction based on 2005 Natural Resources Canada statistics (includes both land and freshwater), or on figures provided by relevant provincial or territorial protected areas agencies.

<sup>5</sup> IUCN Categorizing is still under review; Categories V & VI have not been finalized. Note that MB does not currently recognize EC administered National Wildlife Areas (IUCN IV) as part of their protected areas network. Excluded are 168,197 ha of Agriculture Canada administered PFRA pastures. These lands will be reviewed in the near future for possible inclusion in MB's Protected Areas Initiative. The total lands that MB currently accounts for within its protected areas network is 5.4 million ha, or 8.4% of the province.

<sup>6</sup> Until such time as a PAS is developed, Nunavut differentiates between lands that have surface and sub-surface rights withdrawn (National Parks, National Wildlife Areas, and the Thelon Game Sanctuary, totalling 6.5%), Territorial Park lands that include withdrawal of surface rights only (0.07%), and lands that include withdrawal of seasonal surface rights only, including Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, Territorial Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Territorial Critical Wildlife Areas (4.27%).

<sup>7</sup> ON totals include provincial parks, conservation reserves, wilderness areas and national parks. Excluded are 32,183 ha of National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs) that are located in ON and administered by Environment Canada. These NWAs and MBSs are, however, included in the totals calculated for Canada.

<sup>8</sup> Includes the terrestrial portion of Environment Canada's 28 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries that are found in QC, but excludes the marine portion of these Sanctuaries (43,078 ha).

Who Manages Canada's Terrestrial Protected Areas?<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Total includes both existing protected areas and interim protected areas.

<sup>2</sup> 42 National Parks and National Park Reserves and four areas that have been given interim protection formally by means of Order in Council, pursuant to legislation.

<sup>3</sup> Omitted from these totals is the 363 km<sup>2</sup> Gatineau Park. This park is administered by the National Capital Commission, a federal agency that was not involved in this study.

<sup>4</sup> Aboriginal protected areas are set aside for conservation by an Aboriginal community through a land claim agreement or other legal instrument. They have no federal, provincial or territorial protected area designation, but are recognized as protected areas by government protected areas agencies.

<sup>5</sup> Private protected areas are privately administered conservation lands (other than those held by Aboriginal communities), formally recognized by a protected areas agency as being part of their protected areas network. Most of these lands are under management by private land trust organizations.

## - EXTENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS -

Canada has set aside 0.5% of its oceans as protected areas.

- Canada's marine protected areas network includes a total of 3,278,362 ha.
- Environment Canada administers 47.9% of Canada's marine protected areas, Parks Canada 32.4%, Fisheries and Oceans Canada 7.7%, and provinces and territories 12%.
- Parks Canada reported its intent to establish an additional 3 million ha of marine protected areas over the next two years.

### Summary of Marine Protected Areas in Canada

Administrator	Type of Marine Protected Area	No. of Marine Areas	Marine Area Protected (ha)	% of Canada's MPAs
Parks Canada	National Marine Conservation Area	1	11,500	32.4%
Parks Canada	National Park (Marine Portion)	11	938,000	
Parks Canada & Quebec	Saguenay - St. Lawrence Marine Park	1	113,800	
Environment Canada	National Wildlife Area (Marine Portion)	13	152,317	47.9%
Environment Canada	Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Marine Portion)	51	1,417,145	
Fisheries and Oceans	Marine Protected Area	5	253,530	7.7%
Newfoundland & Labrador	Ecological Reserve (Marine Portion)	6	15,200	0.5%
Prince Edward Island	Terrestrial Protected Area (Marine Portion)	1	87	0.003%
Quebec	Waterfowl Gathering Areas	352	195,333	6.0%
British Columbia	Terrestrial Protected Area (Marine Portion)	114	181,450	5.5%
Total		555	3,278,362	

## - EXTENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN CANADA'S VARIOUS NATURAL REGIONS -

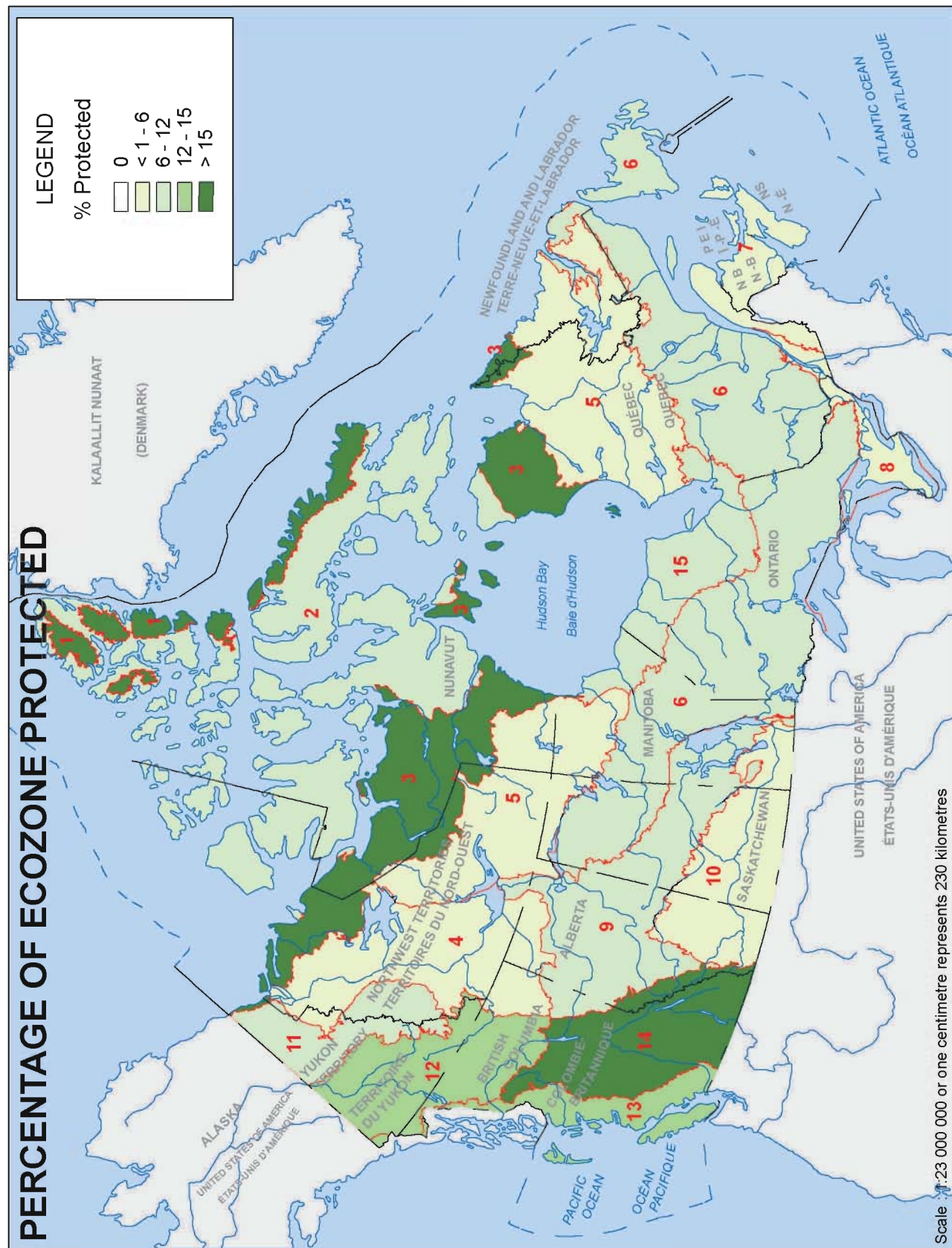
The extent of protected areas in Canada varies considerably between different ecological regions of the country – from the 22.6% of the Arctic Cordillera ecozone that is found within protected areas, to 7.4% of the Boreal Shield ecozone, to 0.4% of the Mixedwood Plain ecozone (Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Valley).

### Percent of Protected Areas in Canada's 15 Ecozones

Ecozone No.	Ecozone	Percent Protected
1	Arctic Cordillera	22.58%
2	Northern Arctic	7.42%
3	Southern Arctic	15.94%
4	Taiga Plain	4.87%
5	Taiga Shield	3.95%
6	Boreal Shield	7.37%
7	Atlantic Maritime	4.33%
8	Mixed Wood Plain	0.42%
9	Boreal Plain	8.14%
10	Prairie	3.54%
11	Taiga Cordillera	10.26%
12	Boreal Cordillera	14.29%
13	Pacific Maritime	12.38%
14	Montane Cordillera	16.49%
15	Hudson Plain	10.43%

### Ecozones and Ecoregions – Part of Canada's Ecosystem Framework

A land-based ecological classification system has been developed to help Canadians understand the ecological diversity of the country. Across the country, there are 177 ecoregions, which nest into 15 broad ecozones. Each of these unique ecological units is based on physiography and soils, and their expression with respect to vegetation under the influence of Canada's diverse climatic regimes. Developed in the 1980s, the system has been used as a common tool to assess and report nationally on the state of Canada's environment and forests as well as by many jurisdictions as the basis of their representative protected area systems planning. A complementary system has been developed for Canada's marine ecosystems.





## - CANADA'S DIVERSITY OF PROTECTED AREAS -

**Canadian jurisdictions administer a diverse range of protected areas, with about half of the land in all terrestrial networks found in national, provincial, or territorial parks.**

- Most protected areas agencies use a range of protected area types, including pristine wilderness areas, parks that provide for both conservation and public enjoyment, and wildlife areas that protect valuable habitat for specific wildlife species.
- 95% of lands within Canada's terrestrial protected areas are classified within IUCN Management Categories I-IV, which largely prohibit industrial activities such as forestry, mining and hydro development<sup>1</sup>.
- Many jurisdictions are just beginning to evaluate lands which might fall into Category V and VI protected areas. In many cases these areas may be owned and managed outside of traditional park and protected area agencies. For example, a number of jurisdictions are beginning to assess the extent to which privately administered conservation lands within their province or territory meet the IUCN protected areas classifications.

### Management Classification of Canada's Terrestrial Protected Areas (IUCN Categories)<sup>1,2</sup>

IUCN Category	IUCN Protected Area Managed for	No. of Protected Areas	Total Area Protected (ha)
Ia	Science or wilderness protection	570	1,555,222
Ib	Wilderness protection	143	30,552,847
II	Ecosystem protection & recreation	1,192	40,454,877
III	Conservation of specific natural features	795	3,033,612
IV	Conservation through management intervention	1,724	998,057
V	Landscape/seascape conservation or recreation	171	218,154
VI	Sustainable use of natural resources	2,483	3,785,698
Unclassified		437	3,997,564
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,515</b>	<b>84,596,031</b>

<sup>1</sup> Does not include interim protected areas, as the majority of these lands have not yet been classified. It similarly does not include protected areas established by Aboriginal communities or private organizations.

<sup>2</sup> This IUCN data should be viewed as preliminary and subject to change, as jurisdictions compare their rankings to others in Canada and begin a discussion to arrive at a more common understanding on how to apply the CCEA's Application of IUCN Management Categories – A Guidebook for Canadian Protected Areas Agencies (February 2005).

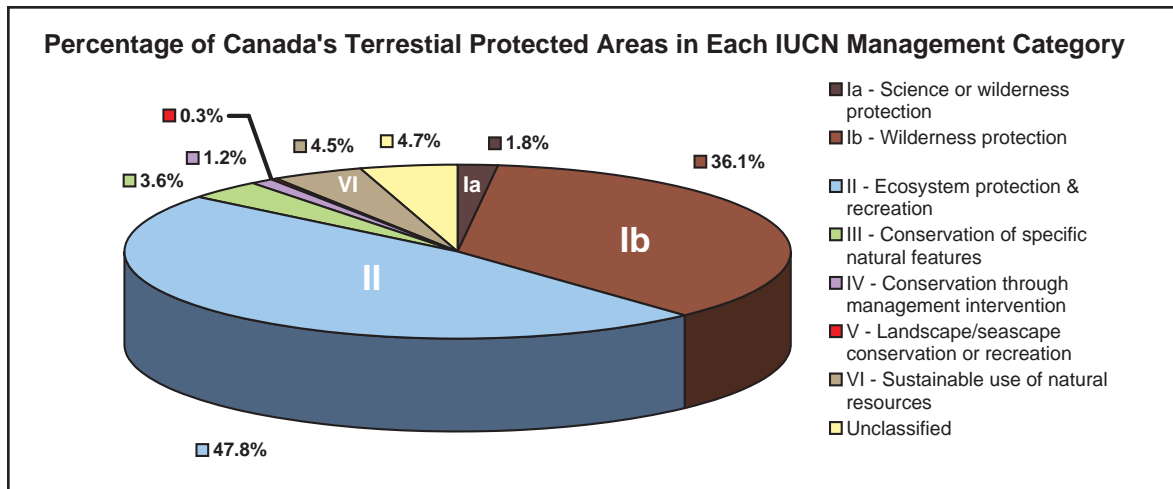
### Classifying Canada's Protected Areas

Globally and within Canada, protected areas are classified according to a series of six management categories, depending upon their management objective. These categories, developed by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), are summarized as follows:

- Category Ia - Protected area managed mainly for science or wilderness protection
- Category Ib - Protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- Category II - Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- Category III - Protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- Category IV - Protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- Category V - Protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation or recreation
- Category VI - Protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural resources

Over the last year, protected areas agencies have begun to review and reassess the IUCN categories of their various protected areas using a guidance document prepared by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, in order to help ensure national consistency in the classification of Canada's protected areas. This is a work in progress; protected areas agencies continue to work with the CCEA to further refine and ensure consistency in the evaluation and reporting of these categories for Canada's protected areas.

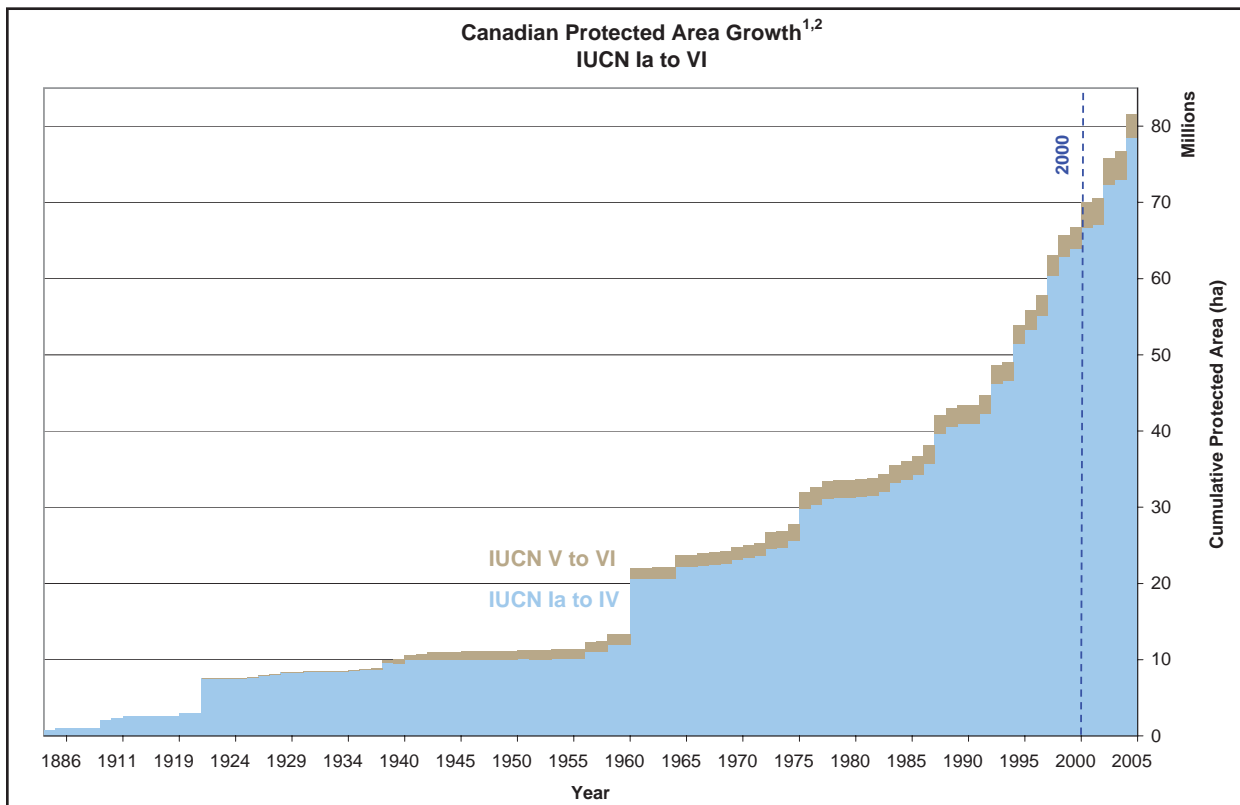
<sup>1</sup> The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas advises that in classifying Canadian protected areas according to IUCN classifications, industrial activities such as mining, forestry and hydro-development be regarded as incompatible with the objectives of protected areas in categories I-IV, but that in some cases these activities may be grandfathered until leases expire. Source – CCEA, The Application of IUCN Management Categories – A Guidebook for Canadian Protected Areas Agencies (February 2005).



#### - CANADA'S GROWING PROTECTED AREAS NETWORKS -

Canada's protected areas networks have grown by roughly 19% since 2000.

- Approximately 16 million ha of land have been added to Canada's protected areas networks since 2000.
- From 2000 to 2005, the growth rate of Canada's protected areas network has been 3.9% per year, while from 1992 to 2000 the growth rate was 4.9% per year.



<sup>1</sup> Does not include interim protected areas identified in this report.

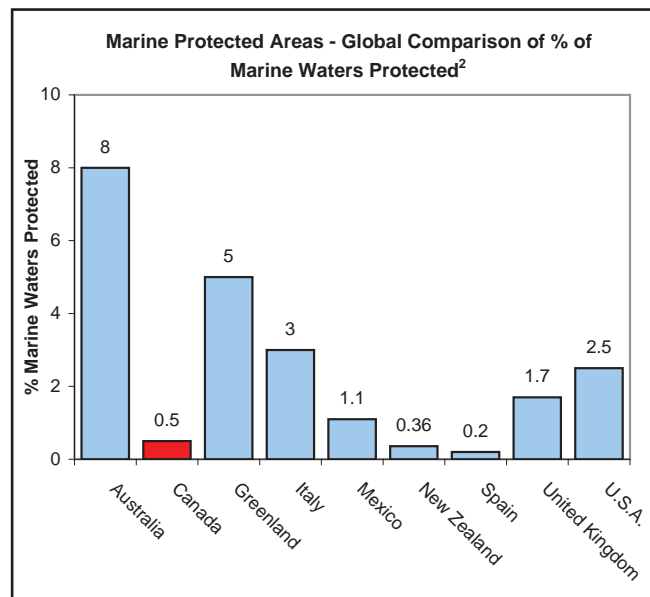
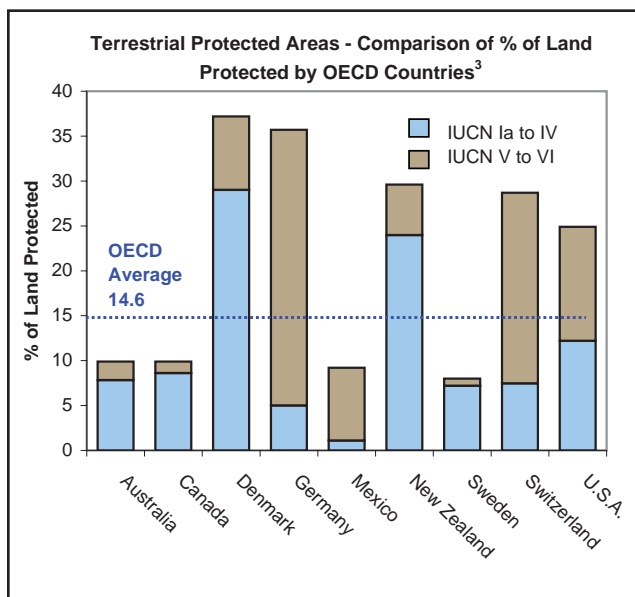
<sup>2</sup> Data used for calculating growth in protected areas across Canada is derived from the Canadian Conservation Areas Database.

## - A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE -

**Canada ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of 30 OECD countries in terms of the amount of lands in protected areas that largely prohibit industrial activities. Canada ranks 16<sup>th</sup> out of 30 OECD countries in terms of the amount of lands set aside in all terrestrial protected areas. Canada ranks 70<sup>th</sup> globally in percentage of oceans protected.**

- Canada manages 5.1%<sup>1</sup> of the world's terrestrial protected areas, and 1.4%<sup>2</sup> of the world's MPAs.
- Among OECD countries, Canada ranks 16<sup>th</sup> out of 30 in terms of the amount of lands we protect (9.9%), behind Denmark (37.2%), New Zealand (29.6%), and the United States (24.9%), but ahead of Mexico (9.2%) and Sweden (8%). However, Canada ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of 30 in terms of the amount of lands in IUCN Categories I-IV protected areas, which largely prohibit industrial activities such as forestry, mining, and hydro development.

- Canada ranks 70<sup>th</sup> globally in percentage of oceans protected—behind Australia (8%), Greenland (5%), Italy (3%), the United States (2.5%), UK (1.7%), and Mexico (1.1%), but ahead of New Zealand (0.36%) and Spain (0.2%).
- While many countries around the world have fully assessed and currently report on the full suite of IUCN protected areas categories, in Canada many jurisdictions are just beginning to evaluate lands which might fall into Category V and VI protected areas. Ongoing progress by Canada in this respect will help us to more accurately assess and report on the full extent of our protected areas networks on a national and international scale.



<sup>1</sup> Source: IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and the United Nations Environment Program – 2006 World Database on Protected Areas.

<sup>2</sup> A considerable amount of the Marine Protected Areas data used in this publication / database / map was derived from MPA Global, a global database of MPAs developed by Louisa Wood, Sea Around Us Project, University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre, as part of her (currently) ongoing PhD thesis, and in collaboration with WWF and UNEP-WCMC (2006). MPA Global was originally developed from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), maintained by UNEP-WCMC, and much of the data in MPA Global have been used to update the WPDA. Please refer to [www.mpaglobal.org](http://www.mpaglobal.org) and [www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org) for additional information on these MPAs. Any further use or publication of these data must include this acknowledgment.

<sup>3</sup> Source: OECD Environmental Data Compendium 2004 Edition, p. 142. Note that because comparisons are made using 2004 data, the percentage of land protected for Canada is slightly less than what is reported elsewhere in this chapter.