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Country Update: Canada

Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management

San Diego, United States

April 16, 2015

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Management Context

- Shared Responsibility for Wildlife Management
 - Federal, Provincial, Territorial government, Aboriginal groups, individual Canadians
- Key federal departments
 - Environment Canada, Parks Canada Agency and Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Suite of federal and provincial legislation supports wildlife and ecosystem conservation
- Various international conventions/agreements

National Conservation Plan

- The National Conservation Plan (NCP), announced by Prime Minister Harper in May 2014, includes additional funding of \$252 million for conservation-related work in three priority areas:



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- **Conserving** Canada's lands and waters: safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystems through conservation and stewardship actions, including on working landscapes and seascapes
- **Restoring** Canada's ecosystems: supporting the restoration of degraded ecosystems, which, once restored, will provide habitat for wildlife and clean water, and are essential for the protection and recovery of species at risk
- **Connecting** Canadians to nature: leveraging existing successful initiatives to help foster an appreciation for nature and building a "community of stewards" among Canadians of all ages

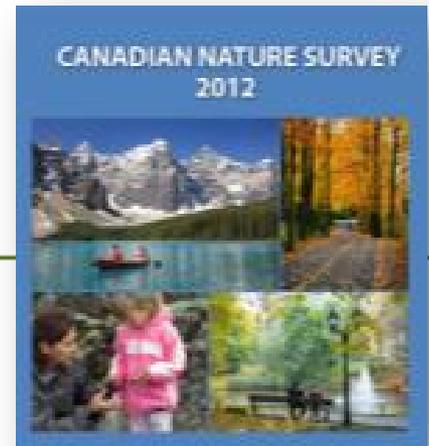
Priority Areas	Key Investments and Initiatives
<p>Conserving Canada's Lands and Waters</p>	<p>\$37 million to strengthen marine & coastal conservation & advance collaborative work to conserve Canada's oceans</p> <p>\$100 million to secure ecologically sensitive lands in Canada through the Natural Areas Conservation Program, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada</p> <p>\$3.2 million to develop a national inventory of public & private conservation lands across Canada</p>
<p>Restoring Canada's Ecosystems</p>	<p>\$50 million for a new National Wetland Conservation Fund to encourage action to restore drained, degraded or lost wetlands</p> <p>\$50 million to support voluntary actions to restore & conserve species & habitats (includes an expansion of the Habitat Stewardship Program & Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk with a new prevention stream)</p>
<p>Connecting Canadians to Nature</p>	<p>\$9.2 million to connect urban Canadians to nature by facilitating public access to National Wildlife Areas that are near cities & encouraging Canadians in urban areas to connect with nature in their communities</p> <p>\$3 million to the Earth Rangers to expand conservation programming for children & their families</p>



Biodiversity Goals and Targets

- Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets announced by the Government of Canada in February 2015
- 4 Goals, highlighting
 - planning and managing for biodiversity conservation using an ecosystem approach
 - reducing direct and indirect pressure on biodiversity
 - science and knowledge to support decision-making
 - informing and engaging Canadians
- 19 Targets
 - Examples of topics include conserving wetlands, addressing invasive alien species, sustainable forestry and aquaculture, Aboriginal traditional knowledge, and getting more Canadians out into nature
- Indicators to track progress
- Each National Conservation Plan initiative directly supports one or more targets

2012 Canadian Nature Survey



- Report on results published in June 2014
- Covered three themes:
 - Connection to Nature and Awareness
 - Nature-based Activities, Participation and Expenditures
 - Human Wildlife Conflicts
- 89% of adults (age 18+) participated in nature-based activities for non-commercial reasons during the previous 12 months
- Total direct personal expenditures: \$40.4 billion
- 76% aware of “biodiversity”; 69% of “ecosystem services”; 92% of “species at risk”
- 50% of Canadian adults reported choosing where they live partly to have access to nature
- 22% of Canadian adults reported experiencing a negative interaction with some kind of wild animal
- 15% reported having been directly affected during the previous 12 months by the loss of an ecosystem service that would normally have been provided by nature

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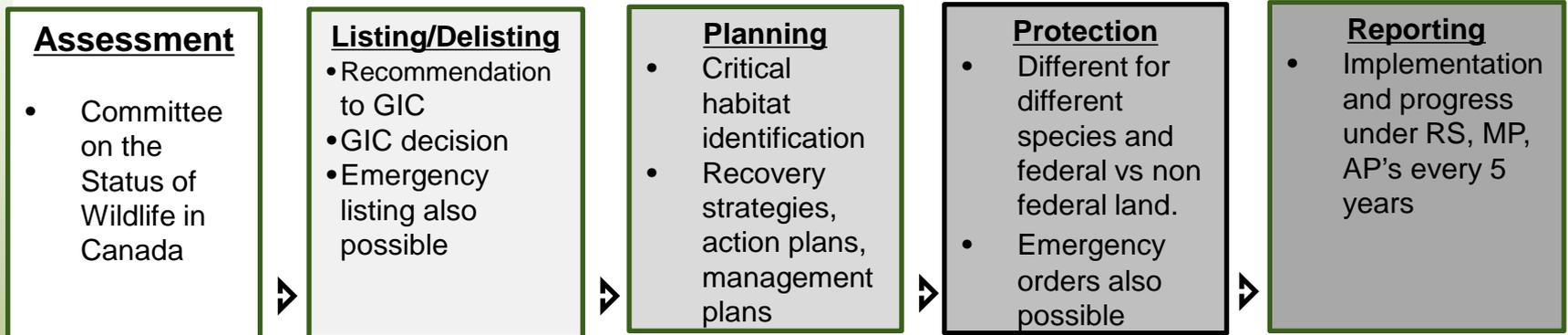
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Federal, Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Ministers Meeting

- Met in Ottawa on February 13, 2015
- Ministers agreed to further collaborative work in three areas:
 - **Species at risk:**
 - Renewed commitment to collaboration on species at risk, including managing species at risk through multiple species or ecosystem planning approaches and advancing collaborative work for specific species at risk, including caribou and bats
 - **Invasive Alien Species:**
 - Renewed commitment to work towards the strategic goals of *An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada (2004)*
 - Establish a representative federal-provincial-territorial task force to address invasive alien species
 - **Biodiversity:**
 - Advance a strategic approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development

Species at Risk Act



- Key current priorities:

- Improve implementation of the *Species at Risk Act*
- Develop suite of policies related to implementation
- Commitment to clear recovery document backlog by end 2016-17

Species at Risk Program



- Currently 521 species on Schedule 1 with associated legislative requirements © CWS-EC
- “Backlogs” exist in several areas of SAR Program
- Posting plans (Environment Canada/Parks Canada) published in 2014 to address backlog
- In 2014-15, published 63 proposed recovery documents including several migratory birds
- Implementation of commitments at the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Wildlife Ministers’ Meeting for caribou and bats
- Collaboration to support recovery for several at-risk migratory birds species that breed and/or winter in Canada, the U.S. and/or Mexico
 - Current: Piping Plover, Yellow-breasted Chat
 - Potential for many species in the future
 - Common Nighthawk, Canada Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher all had recovery documents posted this past year

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Three Bat Species Listed



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- Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis and Tri-coloured Bat added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* in November 2014 as 'endangered'
- Survival is imminently threatened by White-nose Syndrome (WNS)
- Recovery strategy under development, to be followed by one or more action plan
- Government of Canada is promoting/supporting research and voluntary stewardship to prevent human-assisted spread of WNS
- Codes of practice are under development to help industry (wind, forestry, mining, pest control) and the public to avoid harming bats and their habitat
- Canada and U.S. bat experts working informally to track the spread of WNS and share new approaches on bat management
- More formal collaboration among Canada/U.S. and Mexico through the Letter of Intent



Polar Bear Management Remains A Priority

- Continued and improved national management efforts
 - Major provincial and territorial plans being updated/developped
 - National Management Plan in development
 - Continue to improve and strengthen Canadian information system (harvest, trade...)
 - Continued monitoring
 - Publication of important Western Arctic Traditional Knowledge study
 - Research focused on impacts of climate change, less invasive monitoring techniques, population delineation and integration of science and ATK
- Increased contribution to international efforts
 - Range States Human-Polar Bear Conflict Working Group
 - Range states working together to track occurrences and develop deterrence measures
 - Circumpolar Action Plan
 - To be finalized Sept 2015
 - Renewed engagement with the Convention on Migratory Species



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Migratory Bird Program



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- Modernization of regulations related to *Migratory Birds Convention Act*
- Compliance promotion tools to support mitigation of incidental take – collaboration opportunity
- Bird Conservation Region Strategies completed for all of Canada – focus on implementation
- Migratory game bird hunting e-permitting to be available in August, 2015
- Research to better understand overabundant geese populations in the Canadian Arctic, their effect on habitat and other wildlife species
- Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative
 - 2 year funding for US/Canada/Mexico from Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- Migratory bird management beyond Canada/U.S. and Mexico

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Habitat Conservation

- National Conservation Plan
 - expanded the Habitat Stewardship Program and Aboriginal Fund for Species Risk to include a new prevention stream
 - National Wetland Conservation Fund established
 - Renewal of the Natural Areas Conservation Program, \$100M invested
- Ramsar Conference of the Parties (CoP12) - June 2015
- Selected ten National Wildlife Areas where investments will be made to improve public access
- Created the Nààts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve - Canada's 44th national park
- Advanced work to create the first national urban park – Rouge National Urban Park in Toronto
- Began gathering data to develop an inventory of private conservation lands and established partnership agreements to collect additional data
- Started work to develop Canada's network of marine protected areas in five priority bioregions



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Law Enforcement

- Quarterly Trilateral Intelligence Calls to overcome the difficulties in sharing intelligence and ensure rapid response when operational needs demand it
 - Description of each country's intelligence program
 - National strategic priorities
 - Successful prosecutions
- Cooperation on Intelligence and Operations
 - Xiao Ju (Tony) Guan, owner of Bao Antiques Ltd. in Richmond, B.C., sentenced in the USA to 30 months in jail for smuggling rhino horn, ivory and red coral
 - Intelligence from the USFWS passed to EC Intel
 - Execution of a search warrant at his business in Canada was coordination with Guan's arrest in the USA
 - Search warrant uncovered evidence supporting smuggling charges, as well as commercial quantities of illicit drugs
 - Kai Xu, arrested in Detroit with 51 turtles on his person attempting to cross into Canada
 - Involved in reptile smuggling operation – an associate, Lihua Lin, also arrested. Both could face up to 10 years in prison in the USA

