



# CCEA Workshop on Subsurface Rights

## Minto Suite Hotel - Ottawa

### CCEA's Mission

The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) was incorporated in 1982 as a national, non-profit organization with a mission "to facilitate and assist Canadians with the establishment and management of a comprehensive network of protected areas representative of Canada's terrestrial and aquatic ecological natural diversity".

### CCEA's Objectives

CCEA's objectives for establishing, protecting and managing a representative and scientifically sound system of protected ecological areas are (objectives most relevant to this workshop are **bolded**):

- to inform and to educate Canadians about the importance and roles of protected areas;
- to guide the design and completion of a network of Canadian protected areas including the full range of terrestrial and aquatic environments;
- **to determine the ecological requirements and institutional arrangements needed to secure the integrity of protected area networks;**
- **to advance sound stewardship, management, monitoring and reporting of protected areas**
- to promote the environmental, social and economic values of protected areas in an ecosystem context; and,
- **to facilitate the exchange of relevant information among interested partners through regional and national forums.**

### Proposed Workshop Principles

**1** CCEA develops advice, guidance, recommendations, etc. primarily on the basis of science.

**2** Many of our members and collaborators work in protected areas agencies or organizations. When helping CCEA to develop guidance, members are asked to give their best, science-based advice. Organizational experience is an important part of that, but organizational positions per se are to be left at the door.

**3** CCEA does not represent the views of any one jurisdiction. It attempts to develop sound, objective, science-based, consensus-based advice by harnessing the considerable collective scientific expertise and experience of its members.

**4** CARTS is a tool which all jurisdictions have collaborated in the establishment of.

**5** The value of CARTS, and of any protected area reporting tool, lies in its standardization.

**6** Standardization is necessary to enable useful comparisons across jurisdictions and among countries.

**7** For countries such as Canada that are signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the IUCN protected area definition and categories are the standardized framework for reporting.

**8** CCEA has adopted the IUCN framework for use in CARTS. Canada is a signatory to the Aichi biodiversity targets and needs to be systematic and thorough in identifying and reporting protected lands and waters to the CBD.

**9** CCEA provides a forum where Canadian protected area jurisdictions and organizations can discuss ways to provide consistency within Canada in the interpretation of the IUCN guidance. In 2008, CCEA published the first version of the Canadian Guidebook to the Application of the IUCN Protected Area Categories.

**10** The sub-surface rights workshop is part of a larger review and updating of the Canadian Guidebook. The Guidebook needs to be brought up to date in several other areas, including marine classification and governance, but this workshop is focused primarily on sub-surface rights.

**11** There is ever-present and intense political pressure to report as "protected" as much area of land and water as possible in jurisdictions, and Canada as a whole.

**12** Consistent with IUCN's guidance, CCEA's approach is to focus on the lands and waters where the main objective is conserving nature. This can include areas with other goals, but in the case of conflict, nature conservation must be the priority.

**13** This approach is not intended to diminish or discount the significance of other kinds of measures, spatial or otherwise, which have either intended or incidental conservation value. All are important. However, for the purpose of CBD reporting and cross-jurisdictional comparisons, it is CCEA's view that a standardized approach is essential, and that the IUCN framework is the best available.

### Workshop Implications

The total area reported as "protected" may change, as a result of:

- **changes in guidance from IUCN;**
- **changes in how IUCN guidance is interpreted in the Canadian context;**
- **more accurate application of IUCN guidance; and**
- **establishment or de-listing of protected areas.**