



CANADIAN COUNCIL ON ECOLOGICAL AREAS

2020 – 2030 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) is a national leader in providing science-based guidance in the establishment and management of a comprehensive network of ecological areas to contribute to the long-term maintenance of Canada’s biodiversity. The CCEA brings together experts from across the country including federal, provincial and territorial governments, academia, non-governmental organizations, and other experts.

The purpose of this Strategic Framework is to provide the CCEA with a defined direction and measurable goals, the 2020-2030 Strategic Framework will serve as a tool to guide day-to-day decisions and evaluate the progress and changing approaches when moving forward. The CCEA Board will use this framework to develop more detailed annual work plans and other documents.

The 2019 Speech from the Throne, “Moving Forward Together”, the Government of Canada recognized a mandate among others, to fight climate change and to walk the road of reconciliation .”Canada’s children and grandchildren will judge this generation by its action - or inaction - on the defining challenge of the time: climate change.[...] The Government will also act to preserve Canada’s natural legacy, protecting 25 percent of Canada’s land and 25 percent of Canada’s oceans by 2025.”

MISSION STATEMENT

Support the establishment and management of a network of ecological areas that will represent and conserve the natural diversity of Canada’s terrestrial, marine, and freshwater ecosystems for the benefit of all Canadians.

GOALS FOR 2020 - 2030

GOAL 1: Support the Identification, Establishment, Integration, and Reporting of Ecological Areas in Canada

Ecosystems of all types provide habitat for a vast array of plants, animals and other forms of life, and have sustained human populations for thousands of years. Although we continue to derive benefits from these natural systems, the true values and significance remain poorly understood. Further too, we do not fully understand or appreciate the potential threats to these areas caused by the expanding human footprint. With the loss of component parts or processes, ecosystems or ecological areas lose their ecological resilience -- the ability to withstand and adapt to natural or human-caused disturbances. As ecosystems are complex, dynamic, and adaptive systems continuously evolving, it is paramount to the continued conservation of Canada's biodiversity, that areas of ecological value be identified, protected and effectively managed, while remaining connected to other ecological areas throughout Canada.

It is the intent of the CCEA to:

- 1.1 To support and provide guidance on the design, establishment, and maintenance of a comprehensive network ecological areas in Canada and its integration within the broader landscape and seascape.
- 1.2 To support the accurate identification and reporting of ecological areas in Canada.

Products of this work could include:

- ☞ Guidance and case studies on best practices in Canada for the establishment, identification, and integration of ecological areas,
- ☞ Guidance to support achievement of post-2020 Convention on Biological Diversity goals and targets for in-situ conservation in the Canadian context,
- ☞ White papers responding to emerging and existing issues in Canada and internationally, and
- ☞ Hosting national workshops for the community of practice provide input on guidance documents generated by CCEA.

GOAL 2: Support the Effective and Equitable Management and Monitoring of Ecological Areas in Canada

Measured trends and data analysis all point to unprecedented transformation of the global climate that will have major impacts on biodiversity. It is understood that the rate of climate change will exceed the ability of most species to migrate and adjust their ranges to new conditions. With that comes the necessity of effective monitoring based on defensible and adaptable metrics.

It is the intent of the CCEA to:

- 2.1 Advance sound science-based guidance for the effective and equitable management and monitoring of ecological areas, and
- 2.2 Support the integration of different knowledge systems in the management and monitoring of ecological areas.

Products of this work could include:

- ⌘ Metrics for assessing the effective and equitable management of ecological areas network,
- ⌘ Best Practice Guidelines and occasional papers related to effective and equitable management and monitoring of ecological areas, and,
- ⌘ Planning and hosting national workshops to have the community of practice provide input on guidance documents generated by CCEA.

GOAL 3: To promote the understanding of the importance of ecological areas in connecting Canadians to nature.

Biodiversity provides a lengthy list of services critical to supporting life on earth. These ecosystem services directly and indirectly contribute economic value and cultural values such as education, recreation, spiritual experiences, and provide opportunities for an aesthetic connection with nature. The importance for conserving biodiversity through the connectivity and thoughtful protection of ecological areas will maintain options for future generations. However, the support for these efforts and the intrinsic values of which intact ecological areas bring, cannot be accomplished without the promotion of understanding of their importance.

It is the intent of the CCEA to:

- 3.1 Support efforts to inform and educate Canadians about the importance and benefits of ecological areas; and,
- 3.2 Advancing the understanding of the role of human dimensions in ecological area establishment and management

Products of this work could include:

- ⌘ Online access to CCEA publications and work products,
- ⌘ Library of case studies, best practice documents,
- ⌘ Funding research and occasional papers through the available grants and awards (i.e. Stan Rowe Award),
- ⌘ Co-publishing with partners reports and articles that align with CCEA's goals and missions, and
- ⌘ Peer-review others reports and articles that align with CCEA's goals and missions.

GOAL 4: Collaborate with partners advancing ecological area networks in Canada and globally.

The effective and contiguous protection of ecological areas is not a unilateral task, but requires strong relationships with all levels of government, Indigenous governments, environmental non-government organizations, and national and international organizations.

It is the intent of the CCEA to:

- 4.1 Establish beneficial relationships and collaborate with international and national organizations having complementary goals; and,
- 4.2 Seek opportunities to engage and participate with the larger conservation community both nationally and internationally.

Products of this work will include:

- ⌘ Co-hosting of workshops and conferences
- ⌘ Continuing as an active and engaged member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and participating in World Conservation Congresses, Members Assemblies, and other IUCN processes and bodies, as appropriate.
- ⌘ Contributing to collaborative guidance development in national and international fora (e.g., Pathway to Canada Target 1, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and others where appropriate); and,
- ⌘ Participating in Canadian and international forums

GOAL 5: Fostering a Healthy and Progressive Organization

To adequately manage the goals of this Strategic Framework, the CCEA sees necessary changes to governance and organization structure to support greater engagement, enable growth and ensure the sustainability and modernization of the organization.

It is the intent of the CCEA to:

- 5.1 Expand CCEA capacity to achieve all such other things that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above projects,
- 5.2 Improve information-sharing to the community of practice,
- 5.3 Improve engagement of the community of practice, and,
- 5.4 Have an efficient and functional organization.

Products of this work could include:

- ⌘ Developing operational directives:
 - Business Plan
 - Governance documents
 - Work plans
 - Formal and documented governance structure
 - Defined member categories and roles
 - Corporate policies
 - Formalized process of becoming a member of CCEA
 - Formalized revenue generation policies and processes
- ⌘ Regular communication updates to membership and community of practice (i.e. e-blasts, newsletters)
- ⌘ Modernizing the website
- ⌘ Formalized organizational structure with associated position descriptions, including articulation of terms of office and succession plan
- ⌘ Structured process of engaging with membership
- ⌘ Organizational promotion as opportunities arise (event sponsorship, advertisements, joint promotion with partners / on partner sites, media releases / press releases)
- ⌘ Increased membership size and representation of community of practice
- ⌘ Digital portal allowing all members to access CCEA documents (i.e. workshop reports)

- ∞ Planning and hosting national workshops to have the community of practice provide input on guidance documents generated by CCEA.

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