



Reporting the Latest Trends in Canada's Environment – including Protected Areas

The Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI)

Environment Canada



Background on CESI....

- In May 2003, the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy recommended that the federal government establish a key set of easily understood environmental and sustainable development indicators.
- In response, in 2005, the government began publishing the annual Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI) Initiative
- CESI is produced by Environment Canada in partnership with Health Canada and Statistics Canada, and supported by provincial and territorial contributions.
- CESI provides a national environmental indicators system of authoritative, best-available information in relation to key issues of high importance to Canadians:
 - Air Quality
 - Water Quality
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - to be added for 2009 – Protected Areas



CESI meets the following federal objectives:

- The commitment in the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999)*
 - Requires the minister publish “a periodic report on the state of the Canadian environment” [44(1)(f)ii]
- The commitment of the *Department of Environment Act*
 - Reporting on the environment
- Requirements of the new *Federal Sustainable Development Act*
 - Positions environmental indicators as a basis for reporting progress towards sustainable development
- Highlights Government of Canada’s environmental priorities and legislative agenda

Key roles of environmental indicators

- Providing reliable, long-term trend information to track progress
- Highlighting trends in a transparent and accountable manner to Canadians based on sound, consistent and scientifically-accepted methodologies
- Enabling decision-makers to understand socio-economic links to the environment, allowing them to better focus efforts and make informed decisions about programs, policies and services

What you will find in CESI's 2009 Protected Area Indicator Chapter includes:

- Progress on protecting terrestrial and marine [areas—cumulative protected areas in Canada](#)
- A national protected area indicator [summary of findings](#)
- A comparison of protected areas for [provinces and ecological regions](#)
- A comparison of Canadian progress [internationally](#)
- Information about the [pressures](#) on protected areas
- Related environmental, health and economic [impacts](#)
- [What can I do?](#) section
- A [Data, Sources and Methods](#) section.
- A [Data](#) download capability.
- Protected areas issue placed in parallel with [air, water and climate change issues](#)

CCEA data makes it possible to report a protected areas indicator...

- Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) has the most complete and up to date source
- CCEA statistics are to be used for the national, provincial and regional indicators
- Links to CCEA google-earth maps will enable CESI users to find out about protected areas in their areas
- Ongoing collaboration is needed to:
 - Provide consistency between google-earth maps (initial progress/discussions)
 - Enable mapping application functionality (initial progress/discussions)
 - Add “web services” eventually (live feed of data to mapping charting functions in CESI)
 - Serve CESI **and** CCEA clients

CESI 2009 and beyond

The screenshot shows the CESI 2009 website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with categories like 'Development Goals', 'Sustainable Development', 'Measuring Sustainability: Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators', 'SDG Highlights', 'Air Quality', 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions', 'Water Quality', 'Water Levels', 'Nature', 'Research Area', 'Key Questions', 'Highlights', and 'In Your Region'. The main content area features several indicators with charts and text: 'Measuring Sustainability: Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators', 'Air Quality' (with a line chart and link 'Discover what the air quality is like in Canada and near where you live'), 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions' (with a line chart and link 'Are GHG emissions in your area going up or down? Find out here'), 'Water Quality & Water Levels' (with a bar chart and link 'Learn about local, regional and global water issues'), 'Nature' (with a line chart and link 'Find out how Canada is doing in protected areas to conserve sensitive habitats'), and 'Research Area' (with text 'Policy analysts, practitioners, researchers and academics, here is the information behind the indicators'). The 'In Your Region' section includes a 'Step 1: Select a Map' dropdown, 'Step 2: Region' dropdown, 'Step 3: Postal Code' input, and a 'Get Map' button. A 'Key Questions' section asks 'How important is it that the Government of Canada tracks trends in air and water quality and greenhouse gas emissions?' with radio button options: 'Very Important', 'Somewhat Important', and 'Not at all Important'. A 'Scan' button is at the bottom of this section.

CESI will:

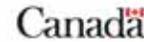
- continue to track and report on priority environmental sustainability issues to Canadians
- improve delivery through an interactive and visually appealing web site
- enhance regional and international comparisons
- improve engagement tools such as links to common social networking web sites
- track use and perform ongoing program evaluations
- provide integrated analysis of multiple issues

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How can we improve CESI and the protected area indicator....

- Environment Canada's CESI program encourages you to link to the CESI website: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/indicateurs-indicators> and;
- Share your thoughts on how CESI might evolve to better meet your needs. Please contact: Indicateurs-Indicators@ec.gc.ca
- Contact:

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