



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada



2016 COUNTRY UPDATE: CANADA

**Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and
Ecosystem Conservation and
Management**

Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa, Canada

Sue Milburn-Hopwood

Canadian Wildlife Service

May 19, 2016

New Government

- Liberal Government elected in October 2015 and new Cabinet sworn in on November 2015
- New focus on
 - Climate Change
 - Green Energy
 - Collaboration
 - Meaningful engagement and constructive dialogue with Canadians, civil society, and stakeholders
 - Renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.



Key Environmental Priorities

- Overarching goal to implement a plan for a clean environment and sustainable economy
 - Environment Canada now Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Conservation priorities
 - Enhance protection of Canada's endangered species
 - Respond to the advice of scientists; complete robust species-at-risk recovery plans in a timely way
 - Review Canada's environmental assessment processes
 - Protection and careful Stewardship of Canada's freshwater
 - Increase the proportion of Canada's marine and coastal protected areas to five percent by 2017, and ten percent by 2020.



Budget 2016

- Primary focus of environmental proposals relate to addressing climate change,
 - Includes the creation of a \$2 billion Low Carbon Economy Fund
- Budget 2016 proposes a number of measures to support the advance the following priorities:
 - **Enhancing and expanding protected areas** (\$81.3 million over five years to support marine conservation activities)
 - **Improving evidence-based decision-making through increased funding for ocean and freshwater science** (\$197.1 million over five years to increase ocean and freshwater science, monitoring and research activities)
 - **Protecting the quality of water in Canada's lakes and oceans** (\$3.1 million to continue to improve nearshore water and ecosystem health by reducing phosphorus in Lake Erie; \$19.5 million over five years to enable Canada to match U.S. funding to study the issues of flooding, variable water levels and water quality)
 - **Reducing risks to human health and the environment by taking action on federal contaminated sites** (over \$200 million over two years to accelerate the assessment and remediation of federal contaminated sites.

Page 4 – June 2016



CWS – A New Branch

- In April 2016, CWS became a Branch within Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- CWS led by an Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), and supported by three Directors General.
- New Northern Region established to reflect the importance of working with northern Indigenous Peoples and to recognize the unique governance arrangements in the north.
- CWS will continue to deliver its five programs – Biodiversity Policies and Priorities, Species at Risk, Migratory Birds, Habitat Conservation Partnerships, and Protected Areas
- Work will focus on three strategic directions:
 1. Focusing on landscapes or species
 2. Enabling stewardship
 3. Meeting our responsibilities for Federal House



Biodiversity Update

- Ongoing work with provinces, territories and other partners to advance the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada
 - Implementing workplan adopted by federal/provincial/territorial Ministers responsible for conservation, wildlife and biodiversity
 - Current priorities include species at risk, invasive alien species, and strategic approaches to biodiversity conservation
 - Development of an Ecosystem Services Toolkit as final deliverable in Value of Nature to Canadians Study
 - Exploring ways to ensure strong linkages between climate change and biodiversity in context of Pan-Canadian Climate Change Framework
- Active engagement in international fora, including CBD, CITES, Ramsar
 - 20th Anniversary as host of the CBD Secretariat in Montreal



Species at Risk

- Jurisdictions actively exploring cooperative, place-based, multi-species approaches to species at risk recovery planning
- ECCC focused on addressing the backlog of overdue proposed recovery strategies and management plans under the Federal Species at Risk Act.
 - Making progress further to a Three-Year Recovery Document Posting Plan
- Bat conservation
 - Draft Best Management Practices for Wind turbines, Mines, Forestry and Buildings



Species (continued)



© CWS-EC

● Monarch

- Revised the Canadian Monarch Management Plan under the *Species at Risk Act* (final posting soon)
- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is re-assessing the status of Monarch

● Polar Bear

- Ongoing and new national management efforts
 - All jurisdictions have committed to a National Conservation Strategy
 - three-pronged National Approach to Verification and Monitoring of the Harvest (pit tagging, DNA analysis and Stable isotope analysis)

● Western Chorus Frog

- Facing an imminent threat to its recovery; commitment to collaborate with stakeholders to implement the recovery strategy

Page 8 – June-20-16



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

Migratory Bird Program



© CWS-EC

- Modernization of regulations related to *Migratory Birds Convention Act*
- Migratory game bird hunting e-permitting now available
- Compliance promotion tools to support mitigation of incidental take – collaboration opportunity
- Bird Conservation Region Strategies completed for all of Canada – focus on implementation
- Reflecting Canadian information on birds into international plans
 - E.g., Partners in Flight Implementation Plan
- Release of the State of North American Birds
- Migratory bird management within AND beyond Canada/U.S. and Mexico → expanding collaboration throughout the hemisphere
- Developing a vision for bird conservation for the next 100 years

Page 9 – June-20-16



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

Habitat Conservation



© Olaf Jensen

- \$20M invested in Stewardship and conservation projects through a range of established funding programs
 - Includes dozens of projects that will benefit Monarch or listed bat species
 - National Wetland Conservation Fund
- Ecological gifts protecting over 4,400 hectares with a cumulative fair market value almost \$30M
- Planning to establish two new ECCC protected areas in 2017
 - Scott Islands marine National Wildlife Area off the Pacific Coast – approx. 12,000 km²
 - Edéhzhíe National Wildlife Area in the Northwest Territories – nearly 15,000 km²
- Developing a roadmap to meet Canada's national target to conserve 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water by 2020
- Working with the US on a designation for the Niagara River as a transboundary Ramsar Site. Expect to completed designation in 16/17
- Negotiations on an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for all National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in Nunavut concluded

