

eco

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL ON ECOLOGICAL AREAS

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...from the CCEA Chair

The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas recognizes the importance of communicating its conservation message to a diversity of protected areas practitioners across Canada. These efforts during 2008 are reflected by:

- Publication of the Canadian Guidebook for the Application of IUCN Protected Area Categories;
- Improvements and updates to the CCEA website, including translation into a bi-lingual format;
- Progress toward publishing a document on the state of protected areas and climate change;
- Revisions to CCEA's business plan, with particular emphasis on a new set of strategic priorities for 2008-2011;
- Using contributions received from jurisdictions and agencies to offset project, publication and workshop/conference costs;
- Funding graduate student research through the Stan Rowe Home Place Memorial Scholarship;
- Pursuing collaborative partnership with other protected areas organizations such as SAMPAA, PCA, and George Wright Society; and,
- Organizing the September 2008 AGM & conference in Quebec City.

This issue of the 'eco' newsletter contains an exciting new approach for web-based application of the Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS), and articles showcasing progress on protected areas in a number of jurisdictions, including British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Quebec and Nova Scotia. The next edition will be issued later this year and will include summaries of the presentations from the Quebec City conference on protected areas in the Boreal zone.

CARTS is going live

Rob Vanderkam, Environment Canada

CARTS (the Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System) is a web-based application that was designed to provide seamless and standardized reporting and mapping for all Canadian public protected areas. As of the CCEA AGM in Québec this month, the CARTS website will be live and available via <http://ccea.org/carts>. This site will also contain detailed background information on project goals, partnerships, governance, and products.

Since March 2004, when the CCEA first secured funding through Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan's) GeoConnections Program for CARTS, progress has been slower than expected. In addition to the challenges involved in linking conservation professionals and their data to a live web map interface, sustained progress has been hampered by the inability to make the technical and programmatic leap to a fully functioning system. Now that Google's KML file format has become an Internet standard, however, a step-by-step approach is possible and is being implemented.

The fundamental challenge facing the technical team was to ensure that CARTS was a "distributed" system. That is, protected areas data that are viewed as maps or reports on the CARTS web site must be provided and managed directly and in real time by the agency/jurisdiction that is responsible for the protected area. This avoids the pitfalls of having copies of the data

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administered by a central manager, and data remain current and authoritative. However, the system requirements (i.e., standards and infrastructure) for distributed data on a web portal are complex, as those people involved in NRCan's NFIS program (National Forestry Information System) can testify, and engaging remote data providers adds a level of complexity.

The Environment Canada CARTS team has mitigated this problem by providing access to protected areas summary reports and Google Earth/Google Map files. The map files allow the protected areas information to be viewed and integrated with both high resolution satellite imagery and the vast amount of spatial and non-spatial contextual information that exists on the web. This is a basic and effective first step, and future capabilities will include the interactive querying and analysis capabilities described in the original proposal.



Ahnuhati-Bald Conservancy, Photo Credit: Hunwadi

The CARTS project is responding to a long standing need to track, visualize, and report, on Canada's protected areas in a seamless, authoritative, and standardized manner. It contributes to Canada's programme of work on protected areas (a responsibility of Environment Canada) and facilitates Canada's response to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and national reporting to the World Commission on Protected Areas (a Canadian Parks Agency responsibility). CARTS will also support the planning, design, and expansion of new protected areas for species at risk, critical habitat, and integrated conservation planning. Numerous other users, such as other government departments, environmental non-government organizations, resource managers, industry, and the Canadian public, will benefit from having a single point of access to national protected area reports and online mapping.

For further information please contact Robert Hélie, CCEA Secretariat. Contact information is available at <http://ccea.org/contact.html>.

New conservancies on the British Columbia coast

Tess Grainger, British Columbia Parks

In the spring of 2006, the government of BC designated a new class of protected area in the Central Coast and North Coast regions. The conservancy designation was legislated under the Park Act to protect the largest intact coastal temperate rainforest in the world and to recognize and protect the cultural values these areas hold to First Nations. This new designation was created with input from conservation groups, First Nations, industry and coastal communities. The legislation prohibits large scale development including commercial logging and mining and large hydro-electric projects and accommodates low impact economic development including eco-tourism and run-of-river hydro projects. The creation of BC's conservancies represents a historic land-use decision which balances environmental stewardship with economic development while considering the needs of local communities.

Twenty-four conservancies covering a total of 541,000 ha were initially established in 2006, including the 103,000 ha KITASOO Spirit Bear Conservancy on Princess Royal Island, which covers key habitat of the Spirit Bear, BC's official provincial animal. During the creation of the conservancy designation, a commitment was made by the government to engage in Collaborative Management Planning of the new conservancies with First Nations to ensure their direct involvement with the planning of these new protected areas.

In April 2007, an additional 41 new conservancies covering 165,000 ha were created in the Central and North Coast regions. The creation of these new conservancies has brought the province closer to its goal of protecting 1.8 million hectares in the North Coast and Central Coast regions. Highlights of the newly created conservancies include:

- Lady Douglas-Don Peninsula Conservancy - protects 11200 ha including important habitat for the red-listed marbled murrelet.
- K'wall Conservancy - protects 3300 ha of land which is of social and cultural importance to the Gitxala and Gitga'at First Nations including wetland and estuary habitat supporting the blue-listed squaw and trumpeter swan.
- Owikeno Conservancy - protects 70600 ha including several tributaries and the largest fjord lake on the coast of British Columbia. Covers areas of extensive cultural heritage values for the Wuikinuxv First Nation.

Land-use decisions regarding the management of the conservancies continue to be made collaboratively by members of the government and First Nations, in consultation with local communities and industry representatives.

The addition of the new conservancies added in 2007 brings the total protected area in BC to 13.8%, giving BC the highest proportion of protected land of any province. An additional 45 or so conservancies are expected to be established by June 2008.

Case studies on aboriginal peoples and Canada's parks and protected areas

Marc Johnson, Parks Canada Agency

Canada's Parks Ministers have released a series of case studies profiling the leading collaborative work between Aboriginal peoples and park agencies. The case studies illustrate "best practices" in the broad participation of Aboriginal people in diverse areas of parks and protected areas planning and management across the country.

The 25 case studies have been prepared by the Canadian Parks Council. They address six themes, each representing an area where leading work is being done cooperatively between park agencies and Aboriginal communities:

- Co-operative involvement in park planning and management
- Participation in landscape planning and protected areas network planning initiatives
- Park interpretation activities and tourism ventures
- The role of culture and traditional knowledge in park planning
- Parks as cultural learning opportunities for Aboriginal youth
- Capacity-building

English and French copies of the compendium of 25 case studies can be found at <http://www.parks-parcs.ca/english/cpc/aboriginal.php>. Aboriginal translations of select case studies are also being prepared.

Études de cas sur les peuples autochtones et les parcs et aires protégées du Canada

Marc Johnson, Parks Canada Agency

Les ministres responsables des parcs ont rendu publique une série d'études de cas mettant en évidence la collaboration entre les peuples autochtones et les organismes responsables des parcs au Canada. Ces études de cas illustrent les « pratiques exemplaires » en ce qui concerne la participation élargie des peuples autochtones à diverses activités liées aux parcs ainsi qu'à la gestion et à la planification des aires protégées partout au pays.

Ces 25 études de cas ont été préparées par le Conseil Canadien des parcs. Ils portent sur six thèmes : chacun représente un secteur où des travaux majeurs ont été effectués en collaboration par les organismes responsables des parcs et les collectivités autochtones :

- Participation coopérative à la planification et à la gestion des parcs
- Participation aux initiatives de planification du paysage et du réseau des aires protégées
- Activités d'interprétation offertes dans les parcs et initiatives touristiques
- Rôle de la culture et du savoir traditionnel dans la planification des parcs

- Les parcs comme occasions d'apprentissage culturel pour les jeunes Autochtones
- Renforcement des capacités

Le recueil des études de cas est disponible en version anglaise et française sur le site suivant : <http://www.parks-parcs.ca/french/cpc/aboriginal.php>. Certaines études de cas font également l'objet d'une traduction en langue autochtone.

Interim protected areas under the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy

Bas Oosenbrug and Joanna Wilson, Government of the Northwest Territories

The Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy (NWT-PAS) was established in 1999 as a framework and criteria for identifying and establishing protected areas in the NWT. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the federal department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) share responsibility for implementing the NWT-PAS, working in partnership with Aboriginal communities, regional organizations, land claim organizations, industry and environmental non-government organizations. These groups work in partnership so that communities lead the process and are able to benefit from both development and conservation. The goals of the NWT-PAS are to protect special natural and cultural areas, and to protect representative core areas within each ecoregion of the NWT.

In response to the increasing pace and scale of development within the NWT, and especially the Mackenzie Valley, NWT-PAS partners in 2005 developed the Mackenzie Valley Five-Year Action Plan to significantly enhance implementation of the NWT-PAS in the Mackenzie Valley. The Action Plan aims to increase capacity of communities to help meet their long-term conservation goals such as those identified in land claims and interim measures, land use and community conservation plans, and to ensure that culturally significant and ecologically representative protected areas are reserved prior to pipeline development. More than \$16 million has been provided by INAC, GNWT and environmental non-government organizations for the implementation of the Action Plan from 2005 to 2010; an additional \$10 million was committed in March 2007 by the federal government to create or expand protected areas in the NWT over the next two years. Currently 16 communities are involved in identifying and advancing 20 candidate areas throughout the NWT.

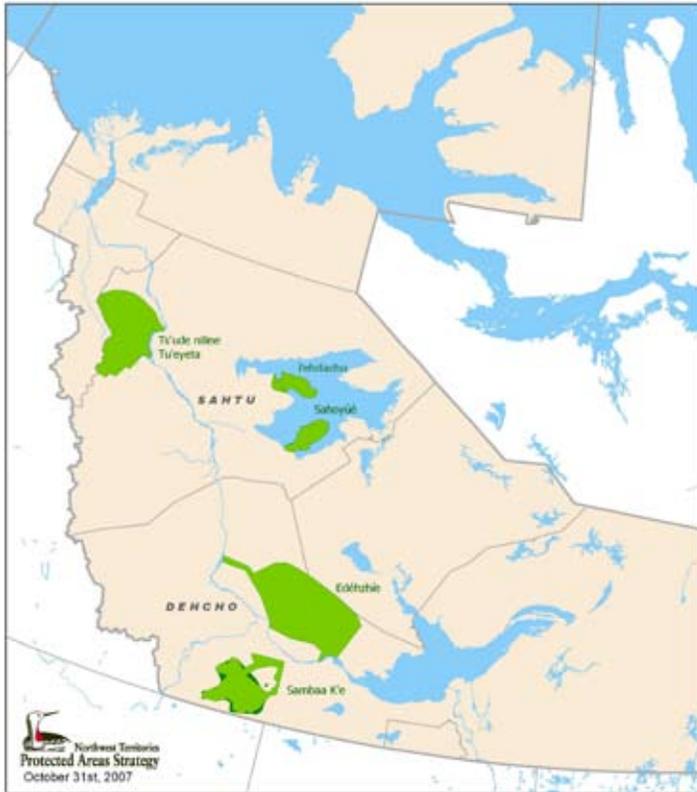
Through the NWT-PAS process, four areas in the Dehcho and Sahtu regions currently have interim protection under federal legislation.

Edézhzié (Horn Plateau)

- Edézhzié is a 25,000-km² area in the Mackenzie Valley that includes the Horn Plateau, Mills Lake and the Horn, Rabbitskin and Willowlake Rivers. This area is a cultural and spiritual gathering place for

the Tâichô and Dehcho First Nations (DFN) and a source of fresh water for three drainages in the Dehcho Region - the Willowlake, Horn and Rabbitskin Rivers.

- Edézhzié supports several 'species at risk', as listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) including boreal woodland caribou, wood bison, wolverine, Peregrine Falcon, and Short-eared Owl.



Interim protected areas under the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy

Edézhzié contains three International Biological Program Sites (Mills Lake, Horn Plateau, Horn River). These sites were identified because of their characteristic geomorphology, rare or 'at risk' flora and fauna, and important wildlife habitat. Mills Lake commonly supports over one percent of the national populations of a number of migratory bird populations.

- The area's ecological, cultural and economic values are being documented and will be used to recommend the designation, boundaries and management of Edézhzié. In 2007 the sponsoring agency, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), was granted an extension of the interim land withdrawal until October 2008. CWS has submitted an application for another extension past 2008.

- The Edézhzié Working Group (EWG) has representatives from Wrigley, Jean Marie River, Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, Whatí, and Behchoko. The EWG is currently discussing recommendations on boundary and management objectives following the review of non-renewable resource assessments and socio-economic work.

Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake)

- Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake) includes 10,600 km² in the south-central Dehcho region.
- Sambaa K'e is rich in wildlife and fish and is important for subsistence harvesting. In addition, a number species at risk are found in Sambaa K'e, including boreal caribou and Rusty Blackbird. Moose, wolverine, and many species of waterfowl are also found throughout Sambaa K'e.
- The majority of this area is already withdrawn through the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement and is currently identified as a conservation zone under the 2005 Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan.
- The area's ecological, cultural and economic values are being documented and will be used to recommend the designation, boundaries and management of Sambaa K'e. CWS agreed to be the sponsoring agency in July 2006.
- The community has established a Working Group that includes representatives from Sambaa K'e, DFN, CWS (the sponsoring agency), GNWT, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and British Petroleum Canada (BP). The working group is discussing minerals and ecological fieldwork and beginning work on the management plan.

Sahoyúé-?ehdacho (Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills)

- Sahoyúé-?ehdacho encompasses the two western peninsulas of Great Bear Lake and represents the cultural and spiritual history of the Sahtu (Sahtugot'ine) Dene in a pristine landscape.
- This site was designated as a National Historic Site in 1997. In March 2007 Parks Canada announced funding for the long-term protection of these two peninsulas as a National Historic Site of Canada. Déline Land Corporation, Déline First Nation and Parks Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) towards permanently protecting and cooperatively managing Sahoyúé-?ehdacho.
- The funding for the site will be \$5 million over five years for initial development costs and \$700,000 annually for ongoing operational costs.
- All assessments have been completed. The final Working Group report and a management framework are complete.
- The co-operative management agreement has been negotiated and recognizes the parties' shared ownership of the site, and also their common interests in its permanent protection that respect the values

of the site. The site will be managed in a way that enables the Sahtugot'ine to continue their traditional use of the land and provides opportunities for Canadians to experience and appreciate the land and its heritage values.

Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts River and Wetlands)

- Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta includes 15,000 km² of northern boreal forest and critical wetland habitat for migratory birds. It is a sacred place and harvesting area of the Fort Good Hope Dene. Its value is reflected as a conservation area in the draft Sahtu Land Use Plan.
- The Yamoga Land Corporation (YLC) in Fort Good Hope is the local lead agency and Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is the sponsoring agency. In June 2006, CWS applied to INAC for a five-year land withdrawal to allow for further assessment of the area. A four-year interim land withdrawal was announced jointly by INAC and Environment Canada in November 2007.
- Preliminary ecological, renewable resource, non-renewable resource, and cultural assessment overviews are complete. Further non-renewable resource assessments are taking place and additional fieldwork was conducted in summer 2008.

Québec adds over 1 % of its territory in protected areas

Jacques Perron et al, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs Service des aires protégées

In May 2008, Québec added 23 new regions to its network of protected areas. These new regions cover an area of 18,220 km², equivalent to over 1% of the province of Québec. Protected areas now account for 6% of the total size for Québec, extending a total area more than 100,000 km². Québec is now one of the Canadian provinces with the largest portion of its total size devoted to protected areas.

The new protected regions will bolster Québec's track record in the protection of biodiversity, particularly in the boreal zone, which now has over 4,000 km² in additional areas.

Significant Expansion in Four Natural Provinces

The Central Laurentides Natural Province

Natural provinces are the first ecological divisions of the territory of Québec. In 2008, 7.2% of the central Laurentides natural province is now protected areas, increasing from 0.5% in 1999. Creation of the proposed Montagnes-Blanches biodiversity reserve (959 km²), north of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, ensures protection for an exceptional biodiversity site. The territory features an irregular topography and its deep valleys generate a variety of microclimates. The region is home to one of the last great pristine forests south of the northern limit of forestry operations. The proposed biodiversity reserve is also an important part of the range of woodland caribou, today designated as a vulnerable species.

Southern Laurentides Natural Province

Québec has made enormous progress in this natural province, which touches on 8 administrative regions. A total of 18 new protected areas have been added within the territory of this natural province, creating over 3,700 km² of protected lands. The percentage of protected area in this natural province now stands at 5.9%, compared to a previous 2.4% in 1999. Two areas that require protection exemplify the diversity of the newly protected natural environments:

- The proposed Rivière Dumoine aquatic reserve protects an approximately 1,500 km² area in Témiscamingue and Outaouais. The aquatic reserve will safeguard one of the last natural rivers in southern Québec. Its shorelines are protected over a 140 km south-north gradient, where an extraordinary variety of stands of maple, white pine, black spruce, cedar and other species thrive.
- The proposed Lac-Némiscachingue biodiversity reserve, covering an area of 253 km². Its largest lake (bearing the same name) is 35 km² and drains a large part of the proposed reserve. The territory protects ecosystems representative of the transition zone between the balsam fir-yellow birch stand domain and balsam fir-white birch stand domain. The reserve also protects cultural sites of importance to the Atikamekw community of Manawan.

The Abitibi and James Bay Lowlands Natural Province

Québec is progressing towards maximum protection within this natural province by adding two proposed biodiversity reserves, namely the Lac-Dana and Tourbières-Boisées-du-Chiwakamu biodiversity reserves. The reserves span an area of 506 km², boosting the proportion of protected areas in this natural province to 7.2%, up from 0.4% in 1999. Both proposed biodiversity reserves preserve rare and pristine ecosystems around Lac Evans. Since the range of woodland caribou is contained within the area, these proposed biodiversity reserves will provide further protection for this vulnerable species in this sector of the boreal forest.

Low Hills of the Grande Rivière Natural Province

The proportion of protected areas in this natural province now stands at 13.8%, increasing from 0% in 1999. Québec is creating a land reserve for purposes of a protected area covering 8,750 km² in the sector of Pointe Louis-XIV, Rivière Roggan and Lac Burton. The special status of this territory will better protect sites of interest, including Pointe Louis XIV, which contains weather, plant and wildlife features unique at this latitude.

Québec is also creating the proposed Paakumshumwaa-Maatuskaau biodiversity reserve, covering an area of 4,259 km². The territory is of enormous ecological and cultural value, particularly to the Cree community of Wemindji. The watersheds that the reserve protects are almost all in a natural state. Archeological excavations have revealed evidence of ongoing occupation of the territory over the last 3,500 years. In fact, an innovative cooperative relationship between the community of Wemindji and McGill University is the reason behind this territory being given proposed biodiversity

reserve status. As a result of the cooperative relationship, traditional and scientific knowledge have merged to help safeguard the territory.

Le Québec ajoute plus de 1 % de son territoire en aires protégées

Jacques Perron et al, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs Service des aires protégées

En mai 2008, le Québec ajoute 23 nouvelles aires protégées à son réseau. Ces nouveaux territoires couvrent 18 220 km², soit plus de 1 % de la superficie du Québec. Le pourcentage d'aires protégées atteint maintenant 6 % du territoire, soit une superficie totale supérieure à 100 000 km². Par conséquent, le Québec se classe dans le peloton de tête des provinces canadiennes ayant la plus grande superficie d'aires protégées.

Ces nouveaux territoires protégés améliorent les résultats du Québec en matière de protection de la biodiversité, notamment dans la zone boréale avec 15 territoires, totalisant plus de 4 000 km² de territoires additionnels.

Des gains considérables dans quatre provinces naturelles

Province naturelle des Laurentides centrales

Les provinces naturelles sont les premières divisions écologiques du territoire québécois. La province naturelle des Laurentides centrales compte maintenant 7,2 % de sa superficie en aires protégées, alors qu'en 1999 elle en comptait 0,5 %. La création de la réserve de biodiversité projetée des Montagnes-Blanches (959 km²), au nord du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, permet de protéger un site exceptionnel sur le plan de la biodiversité. Le territoire se démarque par son relief accidenté et ses vallées profondes qui engendrent une variété de microclimats. Il est couvert par l'une des dernières grandes forêts intactes au sud de la limite nordique de leur exploitation. Cette réserve de biodiversité projetée se superpose à une des plus importantes zones de fréquentation du caribou forestier, qui est maintenant désigné comme une espèce vulnérable.

Province naturelle des Laurentides méridionales

Le Québec fait des pas de géant dans cette province naturelle qui touche 8 régions

administratives. Il y ajoute 18 nouvelles aires protégées qui se distribuent dans l'ensemble du territoire. C'est plus de 3 700 km² de territoires protégés qui sont ainsi créés. Le pourcentage de superficie protégée dans cette province naturelle est maintenant de 5,9 % alors qu'il était de 2,4 % en 1999. Deux exemples de territoires mis en réserve marquent bien la diversité des milieux naturels nouvellement protégés :

- La réserve aquatique projetée de la Rivière-Du-Moine s'étale sur près de 1 500 km² au Témiscamingue et en Outaouais. Elle permet de protéger l'une des dernières rivières naturelles au sud du Québec. La protection de ses rives s'étale sur un gradient sud-nord de 140 km de long où se déploie une variété impressionnante d'éraблиères, de pinèdes blanches, de pessières noires, de cédrières, etc.

- La réserve de biodiversité projetée du Lac-Némiscachingue est d'une superficie de 253 km². Son principal plan d'eau, le lac Némiscachingue, couvre une superficie de 35 km² et draine une partie importante de la réserve projetée. Ce territoire protège des écosystèmes typiques de la zone de transition entre la sapinière à bouleau jaune et la sapinière à bouleau blanc. Cette réserve sauvegarde aussi des sites culturels importants pour la communauté Atikamekw de Manawan.

Province naturelle des basses-terres de l'Abitibi et de la baie James

Le Québec progresse vers le parachèvement de la protection de cette province naturelle en y ajoutant deux réserves de biodiversité projetées, soit celles du Lac-Dana et des Tourbières-Boisées-du-Chiwakamu. Elles totalisent une superficie de 506 km², ce qui fait progresser le pourcentage de superficie protégée dans cette province naturelle à 7,2 % alors qu'il était de 0,4 % en 1999. Ces deux réserves de biodiversité projetées conservent des écosystèmes rares et intacts autour du lac Evans. Le caribou forestier fréquente aussi cet endroit. Ces réserves de biodiversité projetées contribuent à une protection plus large de cette espèce vulnérable dans ce secteur de la forêt boréale.

Province naturelle des basses collines de la Grande Rivière

La proportion d'aires protégées de cette province naturelle est maintenant de 13,8 % alors qu'elle était de 0 % en 1999. Le Québec crée une réserve de territoire aux fins d'aire protégée de 8 750 km² dans le secteur de la Pointe Louis-XIV, de la rivière Roggan et du lac Burton. La désignation de ce territoire permettra de consolider la protection de sites d'intérêt dont la Pointe Louis-XIV qui présente des caractéristiques climatiques, floristiques et fauniques uniques à cette latitude.

Le Québec crée aussi la réserve de biodiversité projetée de Paakumshumwaau- Maatuskaau d'une superficie de 4 259 km². Ce territoire possède de grandes valeurs écologiques et culturelles, notamment pour la communauté crie de Wemindji. Les bassins versants qu'elle protège sont presque tous à l'état naturel. Sur le plan de la culture, des fouilles archéologiques ont révélé des traces d'utilisation continue du territoire depuis 3 500 ans. Une association novatrice entre la communauté de Wemindji et l'Université McGill est à l'origine de l'identification de ce territoire à titre de réserve de biodiversité projetée. Cette association a permis de marier les connaissances traditionnelles et scientifiques en matière de protection du territoire.

Progress towards 12 % in Nova Scotia

David MacKinnon, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Canadian Council on Ecological Areas

In Spring, 2007, the Nova Scotia government passed the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. The Act contained a goal which builds on Nova Scotia's 1992 commitment to complete a representative network of terrestrial protected areas. The 2007 goal is "to ensure twelve percent of the total land mass of the Province will be legally protected

by the year 2015", up from the current 8.2%

Beside setting an areal target and a deadline, the Province established a definition of areas to be counted as "legally protected". These areas are essentially equivalent to IUCN protected area management categories I, II, and III, and include land trust lands such as those of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Land protection is particularly challenging in Nova Scotia, where 70% of land is privately owned, and 20% of provincial Crown land has already been protected.

Shortly after the passage of the Act, the Province concluded the purchase of \$27 million (10,050 ha) worth of high-conservation-value lands from Bowater Mersey Paper Company, and announced that over 91% of these lands would be designated as either nature reserves, wilderness areas, or provincial park reserves. The first of these designations is expected to occur this Fall. As well, the 320-ha Blandford Nature Reserve was designated in September, 2007.



Moose Cove Lake Ship Harbour Long Lake CWA, Photo Credit: Oliver Maass

In Fall, 2007, two new candidate wilderness areas on Crown land were announced – the 1350-ha Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Candidate Wilderness Area, located just outside of Halifax's urban core, and the 14,000-ha Ship Harbour Long Lake Candidate Wilderness Area, located about 60 km east of downtown Halifax. The opportunity to establish a wilderness area at Ship Harbour Long Lake came about through an historic agreement between environmental NGOs (Eastern Shore Forest Watch, Ecology Action Centre, and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society), Neenah Paper (which held the Crown lease), and the Province.

Together with lands from the Bowater purchase and additional nature reserve commitments, new public commitments to protected areas in 2007 and 2008 amount to nearly 26,000 ha. When the designations are completed (expected by the end of 2008), 8.7% of land in the Province will have been "legally protected".

The protection of ecologically significant features on small private ownerships is perhaps the biggest challenge in

achieving the 12% goal. As in much of southern Canada, small private lands often host the rarest, richest, and most threatened species, habitats, and ecosystems. A shortage of land securement funds has long been recognized as the single biggest barrier to owners agreeing to permanent protection of their lands.

To help address this issue, in Spring, 2008, the Province announced it would use a portion of the anticipated "Crown Share Adjustment Payment" (offshore oil royalties owed by the federal government to the Province dating back to 1986) to fund an independent Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust (CSLLT). Significantly, land conservation was one of only three priority areas identified for the investment of these funds, with university infrastructure and offshore oil and gas research being the other two. The remainder of the Crown Share Adjustment Payment will be used to pay off debt.

The \$23.4 million CSLLT will help non-governmental land trusts such as the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada protect priority private lands by providing matching funds (up to 70% of a property's value) for purchase/securement costs. It is expected that through fund-matching and use of a variety of protection mechanisms, as much as 35,000 ha of land could be protected, greatly increasing the public return on the Province's conservation investment.

The Province has also continued or renewed its cost-shared conservation land securement agreements with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and Nature Conservancy of Canada, and is examining the feasibility of a conservation property tax exemption for landowners (including land trusts) whose lands are under permanent protection.

As well, the Province is continuing to collaborate with the forestry industry and environmental NGOs through the Colin Stewart Forest Forum in the development of a proposal to achieve the 12% goal while mitigating impacts on the forestry industry. The Forest Forum is expected to deliver a proposal to the Province by December, 2008, following which departmental, stakeholder, public, and socio-economic reviews will be undertaken.

In summary, Nova Scotia expects to increase its protected land from 8.2% to 8.7% this year, and is taking major steps, with the help of its many conservation partners, to make additional significant progress on both Crown and private land in the next several years.

Activities on protected areas in Manitoba

Yvonne Beaubien, Jenny Harms, Government of Manitoba

New Protected Areas

Manitoba's network of protected areas includes all sites where logging, mining, hydroelectric development and, as appropriate, other activities that adversely and significantly affect habitat are prohibited by some legal instrument.

During the past year, 8,395 hectares of new protected land was added to Manitoba's network of protected areas:

- In November 2006, the province signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada to protect 3,443 hectares of some of the southwest prairie parkland's most productive pothole landscapes in North America for breeding waterfowl. Wakopa Wildlife Management Area (66 hectares) and Wellington Wildlife Management Area (65 hectares) were also added to Manitoba's network of protected areas.
- In December 2006, the protection of a number of park reserves, including Fisher Bay, Birch Island, Goose Islands, Kinwow Bay, Pelican Island, Sturgeon Bay and Grand Island Park Reserves, were renewed for a further 5 years until 2011. Grand Island Park Reserve was also increased in size by 170 hectares.
- In March 2007, the Walter Cook Caves Park Reserve was renewed until 2012.
- In July 2007, Little Limestone Lake, considered one of the finest and largest examples of a marl lake in the world, became a protected park reserve (4,095 hectares) for an initial six month period.
- In September 2007 protected areas were expanded in three provincial parks including Whitemouth Falls (355 hectares), Nopiming (186 hectares) and Beaudry (15 hectares).

As well, Manitoba's provincial park system which includes 80 parks expanded in September. The 13,985 hectare East Paint Lake Park Reserve was added to Paint Lake Provincial Park near Thompson, more than doubling its size. Unfortunately, this resulted in a 13,985 hectare loss to the protected areas program as the minerals sector did not support continuing protection of the former park reserve. Recent evaluations of the area indicated it forms part of the "Thompson Nickel Belt" which has active, producing mines.

Other Related Activities

- In June 2007, the province signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Winnipeg. The MOU formally addresses various levels of the City of Winnipeg's participation related to the conservation of biological diversity and the protection of natural ecosystems and watersheds. Moving forward under the MOU, Winnipeg could be the first community in Manitoba to have its natural areas recognized as a part of Manitoba's network of protected areas.
- Manitoba Conservation continued to work closely with conservation agencies, such as The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), to advance protection efforts in southern Manitoba where much of the land is privately-owned. A \$300,000 grant was awarded to NCC in support of their "Campaign for Conservation". Targeted areas for protection in the NCC Campaign include the Tall Grass Prairie in the R.M.

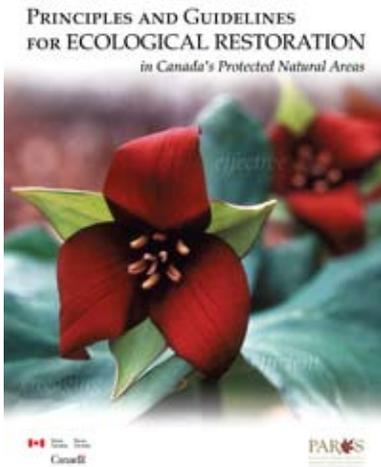
of Stuartburn in southern Manitoba and the Riding Mountain Aspen Parkland (aspen parkland lying between the Riding and Duck Mountains) in western Manitoba.

- In February 2007, the province also committed \$130,000 in funding to support ongoing efforts to have lands east of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba and in northwestern Ontario recognized as a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- Manitoba Conservation continues to work hard to meet the Green and Growing goals for protecting the province's natural areas (Delta Marsh Wildlife Management Area was created in 2006, Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve in 2007). Several significant protected areas are anticipated to be added to the growing network this year.
- Through the efforts of Manitoba Conservation staff, the Red River was also designated as a Canadian Heritage River this past summer, expanding the number of Manitoba rivers with this special status to four.
- The province added five species to Manitoba's Endangered Species Act. Ross's Gull was listed as endangered and four new species were listed as threatened: Sprague's Pipit, Hairy Prairie-clover, Buffalograss and Common Hackberry. There are now 12 endangered and 14 threatened species listed under this legislation.
- Priority areas include Natural Region 5c, Agro-Manitoba, Natural Regions 2a, 2b & 3, the Saskatchewan River Forest Section of Natural Region 5a, and a number of smaller sites proposed as ecological reserves.
- Forty-two protected area proposals have been developed in Natural Region 5c and are ready for public consultation. This includes nine proposed ecological reserves and one proposed addition to an existing ecological reserve.
- Manitoba Conservation staff are currently reviewing a number of Areas of Special Interest located along Hudson Bay with Shamattawa and York Factory First Nations.
- The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) is starting a protected areas planning exercise in the Saskatchewan River Forest Section (SFRS) in Natural Region 5a.

Implementation of Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration in Canada's Protected Natural Areas

In October 2007, the joint Parks Canada - CCEA workshop and Annual General Meeting showcased Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration in Canada's Protected Natural Areas. This ground-breaking document was formally published by Parks Canada and the Canadian Parks Council in May 2008. It is available on line at: <http://www.parks-parcs.ca/english/cpc/principles.php> or http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/resteco/index_e.asp. Printed copies can be ordered from Karen.Keenleyside@pc.gc.ca.

Building on the recommendations of last October's joint meeting, the Canadian Parks Council agreed in June 2008



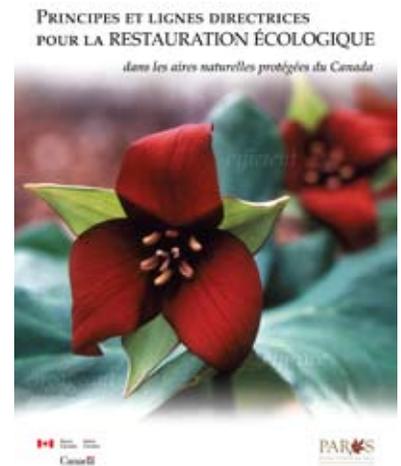
that jurisdictions should work together to share best practices in ecological restoration and contribute to the development of a web-based compendium of ecological restoration case studies. Case studies that illustrate the application of the Principles and Guidelines are currently being compiled. For additional information, or to contribute a case study, please contact Karen.Keenleyside@pc.gc.ca.

Mise en oeuvre des principes et des lignes directrices pour la restauration écologique dans les aires protégées du Canada

En octobre 2007, l'atelier conjoint Parcs Canada - CCAE et l'assemblée générale annuelle ont mis en vedette les Principes et lignes directrices pour la restauration écologique dans les aires naturelles protégées du Canada. Ce document novateur a été officiellement publié par Parcs Canada et le Conseil canadien des parcs en mai 2008. On le trouve en ligne B : <http://www.parks-parcs.ca/francais/cpc/principles.php> ou http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/resteco/index_f.asp. Des exemplaires imprimés peuvent être obtenus de Karen.Keenleyside@pc.gc.ca.

Développant les recommandations de la réunion conjointe d'octobre dernier, le Conseil canadien des parcs a convenu en juin 2008 que les compétences devraient collaborer afin de partager les pratiques exemplaires en restauration écologique et contribuer à l'élaboration d'un recueil d'études de cas de restaurations écologiques illustrant l'application des Principes et lignes directrices actuellement compilés.

Pour plus d'information ou pour nous transmettre une étude de cas, veuillez contacter Karen.Keenleyside@pc.gc.ca.



CCEA Mission Statement

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”. It became a registered, charitable organization in 1995.

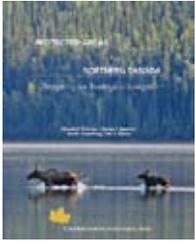
CCEA provides services to its member agencies, the Canadian people and international community by completing various projects that advance its mission, staging forums for discussion, and using a number of communication vehicles to inform and to educate the larger protected area community and general public on a variety of protected area issues. CCEA has also achieved success by providing advice and assistance to international, national, provincial/territorial and local agencies on matters dealing with protected areas and ecosystem conservation.

CCEA Objectives

CCEA’s objectives for establishing, protecting and managing a representative and scientifically sound system of protected ecological areas are:

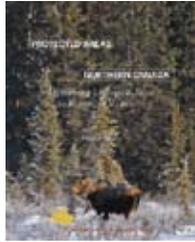
- to inform and to educate Canadians about the importance and roles of protected areas;
- to guide the design and completion of a network of Canadian protected areas including the full range of terrestrial and aquatic environments;
- to determine the ecological requirements and institutional arrangements 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.

Recent Publications Now Available...



Protected Areas in Northern Canada: Designing for Ecological Integrity (NPA 1).

This report reviews and assesses science-based approaches appropriate for the design of protected areas in northern Canada. It contains results of a pan-Canadian survey of protected area agencies and practitioners. A central thesis of this report is that large protected areas with inherent ecological integrity are cornerstones in efforts to conserve wildlife and the ecological processes necessary to sustain them. 110 pgs, CCEA 2005



Protected Areas in Northern Canada: Identifying Ecological Areas to Represent Mammals (NPA 2).

Building on the conclusions of NPA1, this report is a case study of the Western Canadian Mammalian Province, which is largely coincident with Canada's boreal ecozones east of the cordillera. The focus of this casestudy is the testing of an optimization model for representing disturbance sensitive mammalian species in protected areas large enough to maintain species diversity. This paper contains potential applications by protected area agencies and ENGOs conducting gap analyses throughout this region. 45 pgs, CCEA 2007



Canadian Guidebook for the Application of IUCN Protected Area Categories

This guidebook has been prepared by experts from protected area agencies across Canada to provide further explanation to the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Guidelines of 1994, an international system to categorize and report on protected areas at the global level. This guidebook reflects current Canadian thinking on the IUCN classification system and provides a common tool for all Canadian jurisdictions to improve consistency in classifying protected areas and encourages cooperation in protected areas assessment and reporting. 66 pgs, CCEA Occasional Paper #18 2008 (English or French)

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To donate online or by credit card please visit our website at www.ccea.org/donations



CCEA is a registered charity serving the protected areas community and has traditionally been funded through projects and the support, both financial and in-kind, from federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions. There are no membership fees. You can personally support the work of CCEA by making a donation today.

