



# 2013 CCEA NATIONAL WORKSHOP



## Interpreting Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in the Canadian Context: Toward Consensus on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures

**Minto Suite Hotel – Ottawa, Ontario  
February 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

### Overview of Workshop

The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) is hosting a national workshop on interpreting Aichi Target 11 in the Canadian context, with a particular focus on “*other effective area-based conservation measures*”, a term referenced in Target 11. CCEA invites its jurisdictional representatives and directors, as well as representatives of land stewardship organizations, Aboriginal organizations, environmental organizations, protected area and conservation agencies, and other experts to participate.

### Workshop Goal

To develop clear guidance on the interpretation of “*other effective area-based conservation measures*” for the purpose of tracking and reporting progress towards meeting the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity’s* Aichi Target 11.

### Context

At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2010, Parties to the CBD, including Canada, adopted a *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-2020*. The Strategic Plan includes five Strategic Goals and 20 inter-related targets - the Aichi Biodiversity Targets - aimed at halting the global loss of biodiversity. Target 11 is related to Strategic Goal C, which is “*To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity*”.

## Target 11 states:

*“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”*

CCEA is a member of IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) and maintains the national Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS), which is used by all federal, provincial, and territorial protected area and park agencies to report on protected areas systems across Canada. CARTS makes use of the IUCN protected area definition and categories as its standardized framework for reporting. Adherence to the IUCN guidelines and standards allows CARTS to be used for inter-jurisdictional comparisons and for national and global protected areas reporting. CARTS also makes protected areas data available in Google Earth and database formats, enabling anyone with a computer to visualize, explore, and analyze Canada’s systems of protected areas.

## Purpose of the Workshop

Target 11 addresses two major aspects of protected areas – coverage (which includes representativeness, connectivity, and ecological importance) and management (which includes effective management, sound governance, sustainable finance, and an enabling policy environment).

Target 11 calls for the conservation of at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas. The *target also* includes terms that help to qualify the type and location of protected areas to be created. Of particular focus for this workshop is the qualifier “**other effective area-based conservation measures**”.

Embedded within both the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas<sup>1</sup> and Target 11 is the notion that protected areas can include not only formally designated, state-owned protected areas, but also private reserves, as well as Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas. The inclusion of “other effective area-based conservation measures” acknowledges that some private reserves and Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas legitimately meet IUCN’s protected area definition and should be recognized as contributing to Target 11, but have not traditionally been reported in national reporting systems.

Beyond the specific acknowledgement in IUCN guidance and the Programme of Work on Protected Areas that Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and private reserves may qualify as protected areas in certain circumstances, there is some debate on whether and to what extent other types of area-based measures should be considered to contribute to Target 11. Specific examples that have been

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<sup>1</sup> See for example PoWPA Goal 2.1.2, emphasizing diverse governance types of protected areas, including Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and private reserves.

raised for consideration include fishery closures, municipal water supply protection areas, and watercourse setbacks.

CCEA is developing CARTS into a tool that can track Canada's progress toward Target 11. As such, there is a need for discussion and consensus-building on whether and to what extent the inclusion of "other effective area-based conservation measures" requires changes to criteria for reporting to CARTS. CCEA is concerned that without a standardized, science-based approach to reporting on Target 11, area-based measures of limited conservation value could find their way into CARTS, giving false or misleading impressions of conservation progress and undermining CARTS as a credible, independent, science-based reporting tool. CCEA is also concerned that if jurisdictions adopt different approaches to reporting, comparisons among them, as well as roll-ups to the national level, will be flawed. Finally, CCEA sees Target 11 as being intended to build upon previous targets, such the 1987 Brundtland Commission's 12%, Canada's 1992 Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas, and the 1995 Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, and is concerned that significantly broadening the scope of areas counted under Target 11 will not necessarily lead to real gains in biodiversity conservation as called for by the Strategic Plan 2010-2020.

This workshop will review guidance from the CBD Secretariat, IUCN, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) regarding the interpretation of "other effective area-based conservation measures", including standards and guidelines for helping to decide which area-based measures contribute to Target 11, and will work towards achieving national consensus on criteria for reporting to CARTS. Advice developed through the workshop will help inform forthcoming revisions to CCEA's *Canadian Guidebook for the Application of the IUCN Protected Area Categories* and the transitioning of CARTS into a tool for tracking progress toward Target 11.

As always, CCEA workshops and conferences provide the opportunity to establish and build connections among the network of protected area specialists across Canada. The final day of the workshop will be devoted to jurisdictional reporting and a roundtable, allowing practitioners to share progress, knowledge, and experiences with each other.

## Dates and Location

The conference will take place from **February 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**, at the Minto Suite Hotel in downtown Ottawa, Ontario. This event is organized by the CCEA and Environment Canada.

Please [register early](#) to take advantage of the block of 30 rooms reserved for your convenience. Please refer to the workshop registration form for more information.

## Program at a Glance

To follow.

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