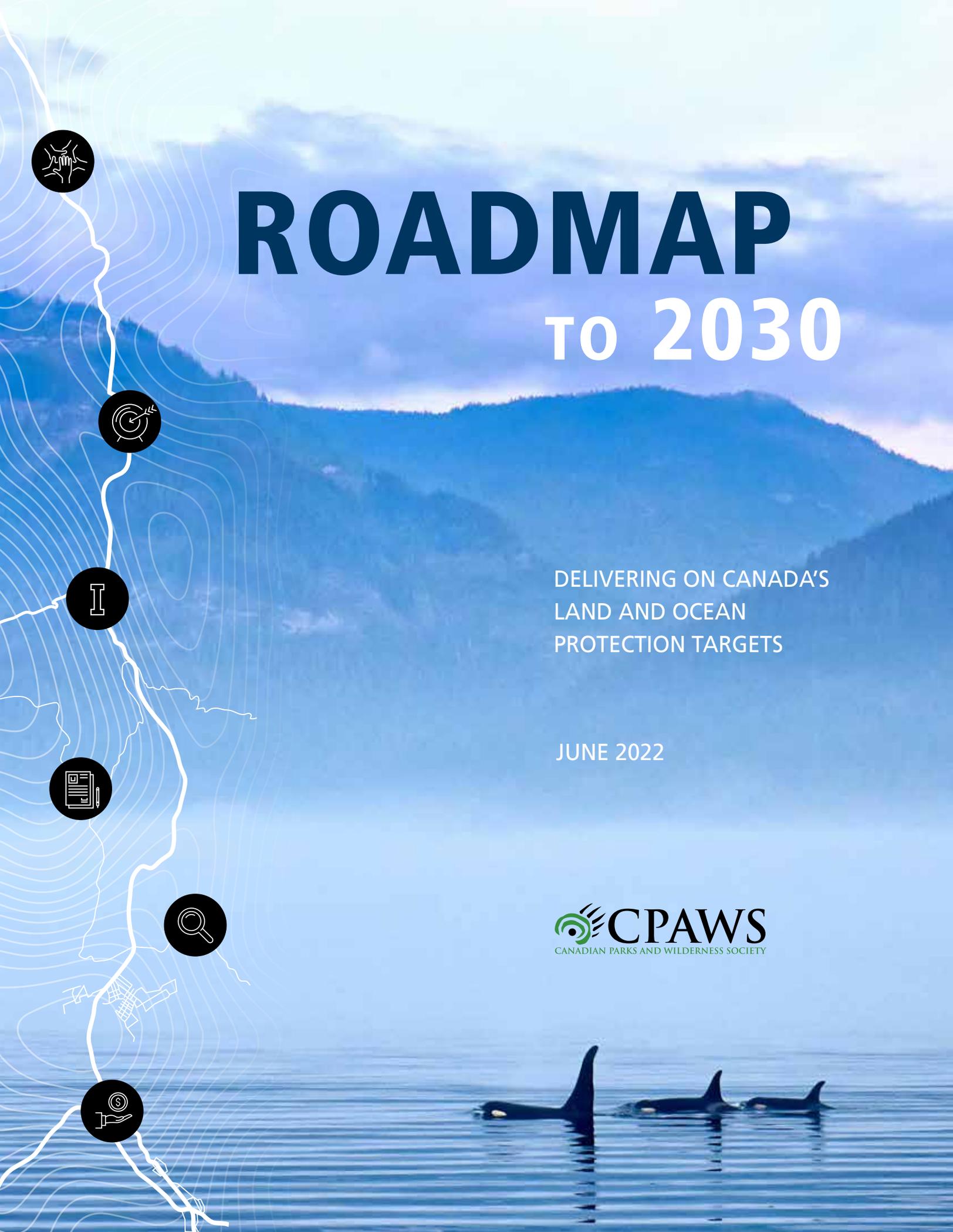


ROADMAP TO 2030

DELIVERING ON CANADA'S
LAND AND OCEAN
PROTECTION TARGETS

JUNE 2022

 **CPAWS**
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY



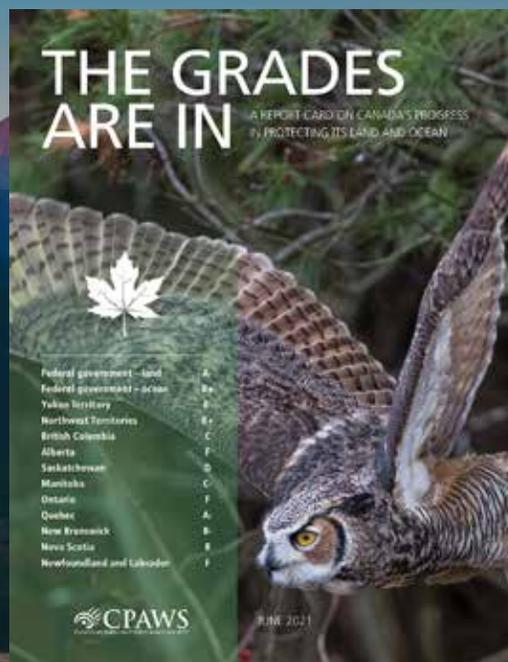
CHECK OUT CPAWS' 2021 REPORT CARD FOR CANADA!

CPAWS' 2021 Report Card is the precursor to our 2022 Roadmap, with this report's recommendations based in part on the progress assessed in the Report Card.

Our first Report Card assessed how well Canada fared in delivering on its promise to protect 17% of its land and 10% of its ocean by the end of 2020, including the degree to which federal, provincial, and territorial governments each contributed to this shared goal. Our Report Card assigns grades to each government based on its contributions and highlights key successes and shortcomings.

CPAWS is committed to helping Canada meet its targets by supporting the creation of effective protected area networks across the country. We plan to release subsequent Report Card updates to track progress made towards Canada's commitment to protect 30% of land and ocean by 2030, with a milestone target to protect 25% by 2025.

Visit www.cpaaws.org/reportcard to learn more.



ROADMAP TO 2030:

DELIVERING ON CANADA'S LAND AND OCEAN PROTECTION TARGETS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.
Photo by Ladyfern
Photos.

THIS REPORT ANALYZES how federal, provincial, and territorial governments can meet Canada's commitment to protect 30% of land and ocean by 2030. It summarizes opportunities, challenges, and actions needed in each province and territory to implement this pan-Canadian commitment. Our analysis found that more than 29% of land and over 30% of ocean in Canada can be protected by 2030 by supporting and implementing existing land and ocean protection projects and opportunities, in particular Indigenous-led conservation initiatives.

This report demonstrates that achieving Canada's land and ocean protection targets is realistic and possible if all relevant agencies and governance partners, including governments at the provincial and territorial level, demonstrate the necessary political will to deliver. The report also demonstrates the importance of focusing not only on how much land and ocean is conserved, but on which areas to protect and what measures to take to ensure they are effectively protected in the long term.

A SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS



1 COLLABORATE TO ACHIEVE CANADA'S 30% TARGETS



2 SET AMBITIOUS REGIONAL TARGETS



3 PRIORITIZE INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION



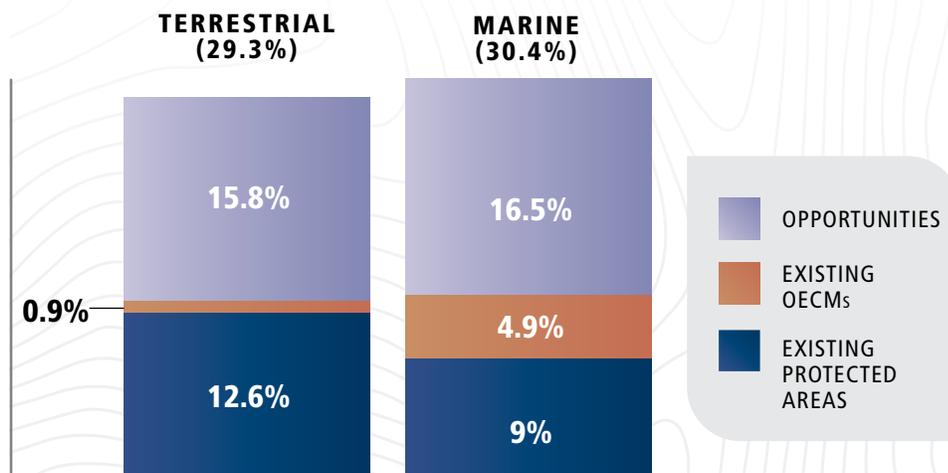
4 COMPLETE EXISTING CONSERVATION PROJECTS



5 IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL AREAS FOR PROTECTION



6 INCREASE LONG-TERM FUNDING



EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS AND OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES (OECMs) AND TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE PROTECTION OPPORTUNITIES (%). DATA SOURCE: CANADIAN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS DATABASE (CPCAD¹, 2022), CPAWS.¹



ONTARIO. Photo by Jeremy Hynes.

¹ These statistics do not reflect on the quality or effectiveness of protection measures. Marine figures include sites with interim protection and some interim measures but that are not yet permanently established. There are also outstanding concerns about whether some OECMs meet international standards and therefore whether they should be counted towards protected area targets.



HAIDA GWAII,
BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Markus
Thompson.

PROTECTED AREAS AS AN EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTION TO THE NATURE AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Habitat loss and fragmentation from human activities are the primary causes of the rapid decline of biodiversity and the resulting Nature Emergency, with climate change growing in significance. Well-designed and effectively-managed protected areas are scientifically proven to be effective in conserving nature. Protected areas also play an important role in mitigating and adapting to climate change, sustaining our well-being and the economy, making them a critical investment for ensuring a healthy and resilient future for all Canadians.

INCREASING AMBITION, BOTH IN CANADA AND AROUND THE WORLD

Over the past five years, momentum for greater nature conservation action has been building in Canada and globally, with more financial investment, more ambition, and larger area-based conservation targets on both the national and international agendas. While this offers some hope, much remains to translate this ambition into conservation action to halt and reverse nature's steep decline. The year 2022 will be critical, as countries finalize a new Global Biodiversity Framework under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Over 100 countries support a global target of protecting at least 30% of land and ocean by 2030. Canada has committed to implementing this target at the national level and has adopted an interim target of protecting 25% of land and ocean by 2025.



BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Bill Pennell.

WHERE CANADA CURRENTLY STANDS

Currently, 13.5% of land and 13.9% of ocean in Canada is protected.ⁱⁱ The percentage of land protected varies greatly by jurisdiction, ranging from 4.5% of Prince Edward Island to 19.1% of the Yukon. Provincial and territorial governments will need to step up in order to meet the 30% land target, recognizing they are the Crown governments in Canada with primary jurisdiction over land and natural resources. Indigenous governments across Canada have consistently stepped forward with leading-edge landscape and seascape-level plans and initiatives to conserve their traditional territories, bringing together western science and Indigenous knowledge. Support for Indigenous-led conservation is critical to deliver on the targets.

After a slow start, Canada has made considerable progress on marine protection – going from less than 1% of its ocean estate protected in 2015 to 13.8% in 2019.ⁱⁱⁱ In doing so, the federal government showed that ambitious conservation targets are achievable with strong political leadership, investment, and a willingness to take quick and decisive action. This effort also required strengthening legal tools to support effective and efficient conservation measures and, in some cases, developing new tools like interim protection. However, there are some questions about how well protected some of these marine sites are. A 2021 assessment by CPAWS found that the majority of Canada's federally designated marine protected areas are weakly protected.^{iv}

THE PATH FORWARD TO MEETING CANADA'S PROTECTION TARGETS

This report identifies many opportunities in each province and territory that, if implemented, will put Canada on the path to achieving its terrestrial conservation targets. Although the federal government has limited jurisdiction to establish terrestrial protected areas, and can only do so in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples, a federal terrestrial section is included listing opportunities and recommendations that are within the mandate of the federal government.



BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Ali Kazal.

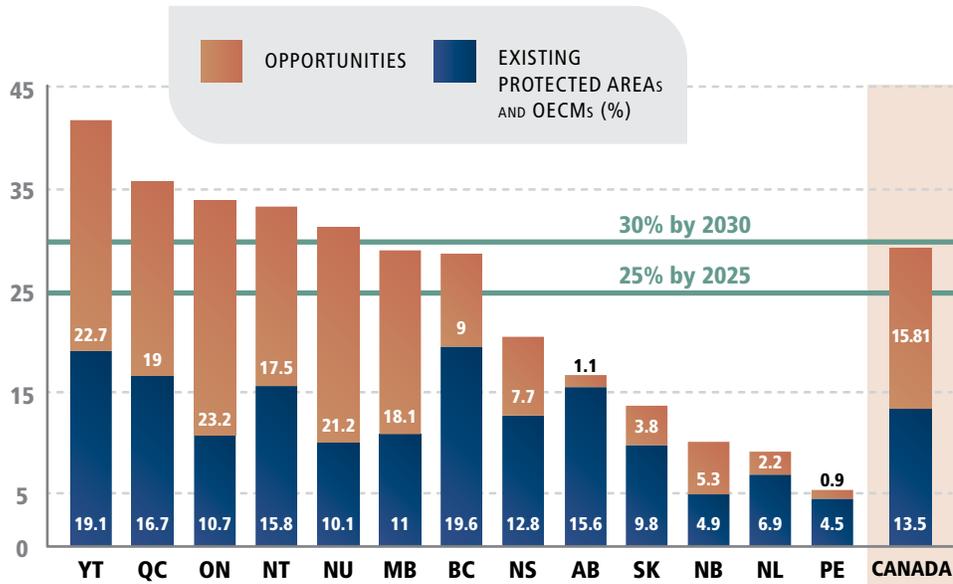
The report also highlights ocean conservation opportunities. Canada has already demonstrated that it can act quickly on ocean protection, and while the 30% target represents another considerable leap, the 2021 federal budget commitment of \$977M means that Canada is now starting with far more resources and capacity than it has ever had before. Opportunities for conservation exist across Canada's Arctic, Atlantic, and Pacific coasts. At present, very large proposed and interim protected areas in the Arctic contribute over 8% to Canada's protected area targets.^v Looking forward, particular focus should be paid to areas that are experiencing the greatest loss of biodiversity, including ecologically important and carbon-rich coastal and nearshore areas.

In seven provinces and territories (the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia) existing terrestrial opportunities have been identified that could get them close to, or, in some cases, even exceed 30% protection. These opportunities include ongoing or already committed-to land use and/or conservation planning processes, as well as Indigenous-led conservation initiatives. Although significant potential for area-based opportunities exists in Saskatchewan and Alberta, these opportunities are currently challenged by a lack of political will.

Although small in size and limited in public land area, Nova Scotia has been at the forefront of terrestrial conservation in Atlantic Canada, and in 2021 committed to a new conservation target of protecting at least 20% of the province by 2030. New Brunswick has undertaken a province-wide planning process to achieve its relatively smaller target of protecting 10% of its land, but its momentum has been stalled. Newfoundland and Labrador is negotiating a Nature Agreement with the federal government, which is likely to kick-start conservation projects across the province.



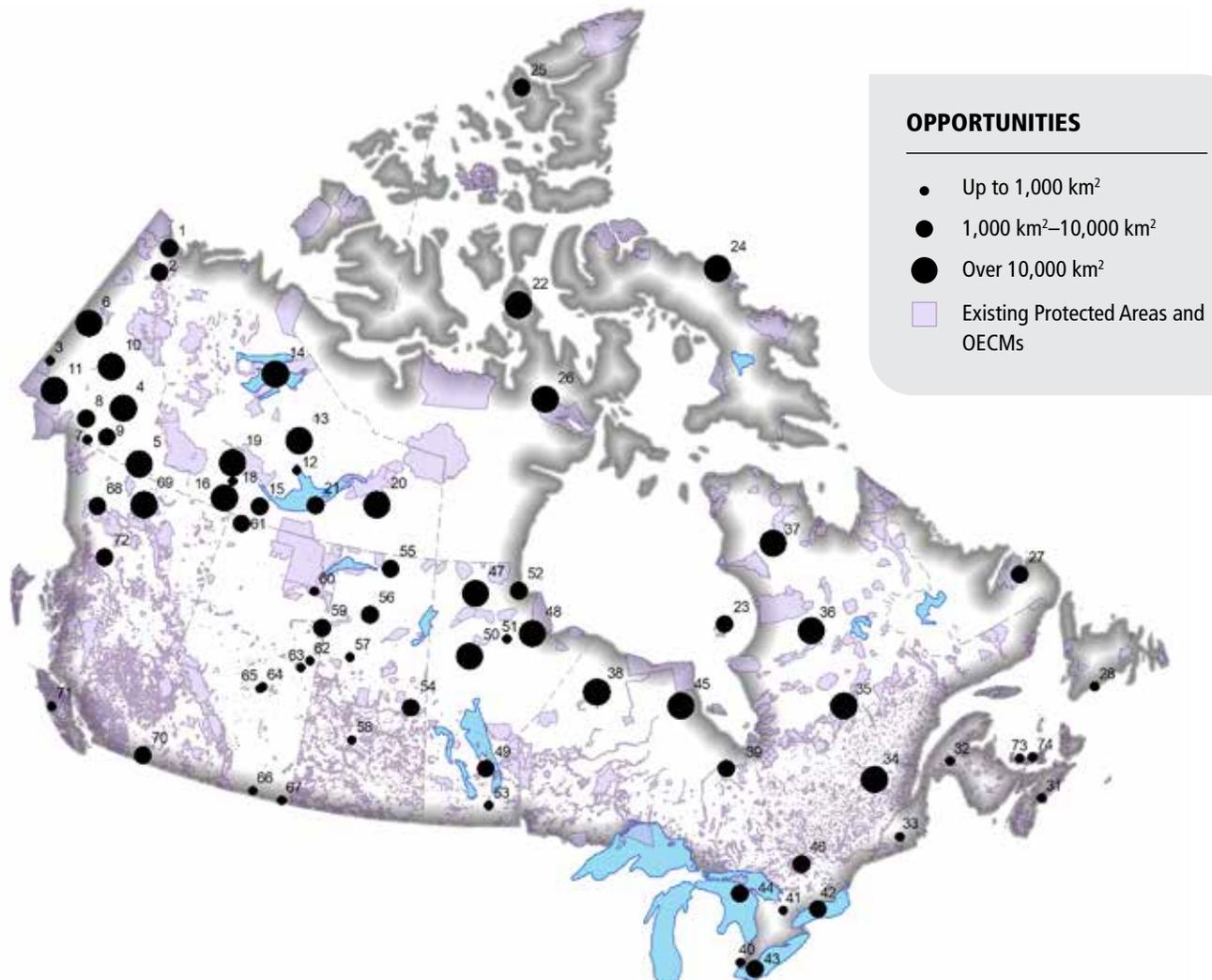
NUNAVUT. Photo by
Jennifer Latuperisa
Andresen.



TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES BY JURISDICTION (% COVERAGE). DATA SOURCE: CANADIAN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS DATABASE (CPCAD, 2022), CPAWS.

CONSERVATION TARGETS INCLUDE QUANTITY AND QUALITY

Research shows that at least 30%, and up to 70%, of land and ocean ecosystems need to be conserved to sustain a healthy planet and secure essential ecosystem services for people.^{vi, vii, viii} There is also clear evidence that focusing only on how much area should be protected is not enough to deliver conservation outcomes and other societal benefits. The quality of protected areas is just as important, as well as ensuring the areas are effectively connected as conservation networks and that land and ocean areas outside protected areas and OECMs are managed sustainably.



MAP OF EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS AND IDENTIFIED TERRESTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE YUKON

- 1 Eastern Yukon North Slope
- 2 Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park
- 3 Pickhandle Lakes
- 4 Ross River Dena Territory Unceded Territory
- 5 Liard First Nation Unceded Territory
- 6 Dawson Planning Region
- 7 Agay Mene Territorial Park
- 8 Whitehorse Planning Region
- 9 Teslin Planning Region
- 10 Northern Tutchone Planning Region
- 11 Kluane Planning Region

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

- 12 Dinàgà Wek'èhodi Indigenous and Territorial Protected Area
- 13 Tlicho Government Land Use Plan
- 14 Sahtu K'aowe Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area

- 15 Ka'a'gee Tu
- 16 Samba K'e
- 18 Lue Tue Sulai
- 19 Dehcho Land Use Plan
- 20 Akaitcho Land Use Plan
- 21 Other new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area Proposals

NUNAVUT

- 22 IPCA (Terrestrial and Marine) around the Boothia Peninsula, Proposed by the Community of Taloyoak
- 24 Territorial Park Near Clyde River, Qikiqtani Region
- 25 Napaaqtulik Proposed Territorial Park on Axel Heiberg Island, Qikiqtani Region
- 26 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

- 27 Eagle River Waterway Provincial Park
- 28 Potential National Park in Burgeo region

NOVA SCOTIA

- 31 Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes National Urban Park

NEW BRUNSWICK

- 32 Restigouche River

QUEBEC

- 33 Forests for Health Initiative
- 34 Forgotten Territories in Southern Quebec, Including Noire and Coulonge Rivers, Lac Walker and Bas Saint-Laurent sites
- 35 Indigenous-led Protected Areas, Including Pimpuakan, Pakatakan, and Mutehekau Shipu-Proposed IPCAs
- 36 Species at Risk Critical Habitat
- 37 Climate stabilization areas – contribution to 50% target in Northern QC

ONTARIO

- 38 Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Indigenous Protected Area
- 39 Moose Cree's North French First Nation Protected Area
- 40 Ojibway National Urban Park, Windsor
- 41 Greater Golden Horseshoe
- 42 Lake Ontario National Marine Conservation Area
- 43 Western Lake Erie National Marine Conservation Area
- 44 Lake Huron National Marine Conservation Area
- 45 Hudson Bay Lowlands
- 46 Protection of Algonquin Park

MANITOBA

- 47 Seal River Watershed Indigenous Protected Area
- 48 York Factory First Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area
- 49 Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative
- 50 Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area
- 51 Aski Pahminahmaswin – Tataskweyak Cree Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area
- 52 Manitoba's Caribou River Provincial Park to Wapusk Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area
- 53 Winnipeg National Urban Park

SASKATCHEWAN

- 54 Saskatchewan River Delta Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- 55 Athabasca Dënesuliné Nuhenéné Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area
- 56 Cree Lake Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (English River First Nation)
- 57 Sakitawak IPCA in Île-à-la-Crosse
- 58 Meewasin Valley National Urban Park

ALBERTA

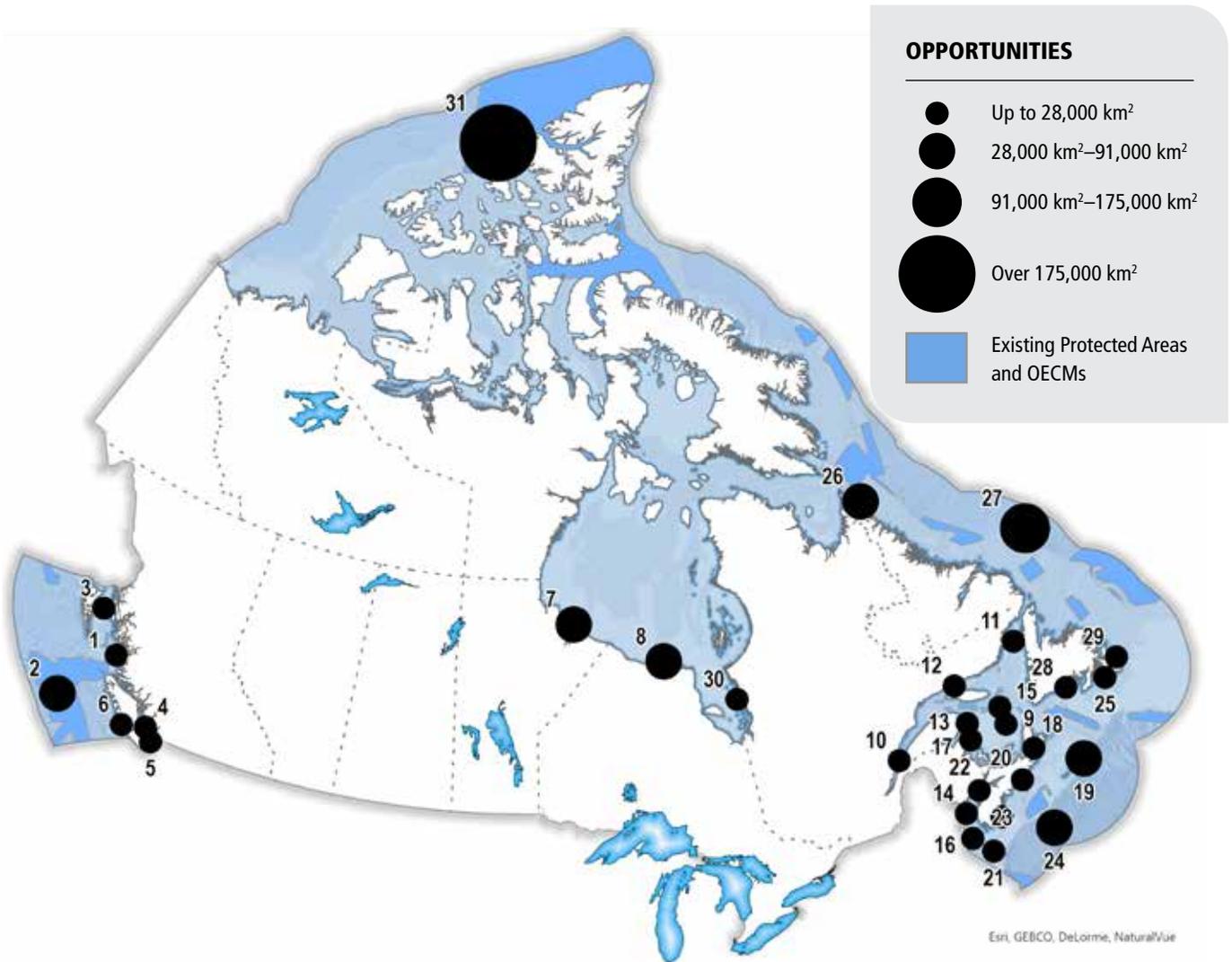
- 59 The Gipsy Gordan Wildland Provincial Park expansion
- 60 Kitaskino Nuwenéné Wildland Park - East Expansion
- 61 Bistcho Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area
- 62 Cold Lake Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area
- 63 Metis Settlements Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area
- 64 Edmonton National Urban Park
- 65 Big Island Provincial Park
- 66 Twin River Heritage Rangeland Reclassification and Expansion
- 67 OneFour Heritage Rangeland Reclassification and Expansion

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- 68 Tahltan IPCAs through the Tahltan Nation Land Use Plan
- 69 Dene K'eh Kusān (Kaska Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area)
- 70 South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Reserve and Similkameen Valley Smeqmix Conservation Areas
- 71 Nuu-chah-nulth Salmon Parks
- 72 Gwininitxw Laxyip: Indigenous Protected Area

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- 73 Pituamkek (Hog Island Sandhills) National Park Reserve
- 74 Expansion of PEI National Park



MAP OF EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS AND IDENTIFIED MARINE OPPORTUNITIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Central Coast National Marine Conservation Area Reserve 2 Large Offshore Pacific MPA 3 Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA Network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Southern BC/Salish Sea MSP Process 5 Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve 6 West Coast of Vancouver Island |
|---|--|

MANITOBA

- 7 Western Hudson Bay

ONTARIO

- 8 Southwestern Hudson Bay and Western James Bay

QUÉBEC

- 9 Îles de la Madeleine
- 10 L'Estuaire du Saint-Laurent
- 11 Nord Est du Golfe

NEW BRUNSWICK

- 14 Bay of Fundy NMCA/IPCAs
- 15 Gulf of St. Lawrence MPA Network (MSP Process)

NOVA SCOTIA

- 18 Bras D'or Lakes
- 19 Eastern Canyons
- 20 Eastern Shore Islands
- 21 Fundian Channel/Browns Bank

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

- 25 Cape St. Mary's
- 26 Imappivut MSP Process (Torngat NMCA, Oceans Act MPA)

NUNAVUT

- 30 Eastern James Bay

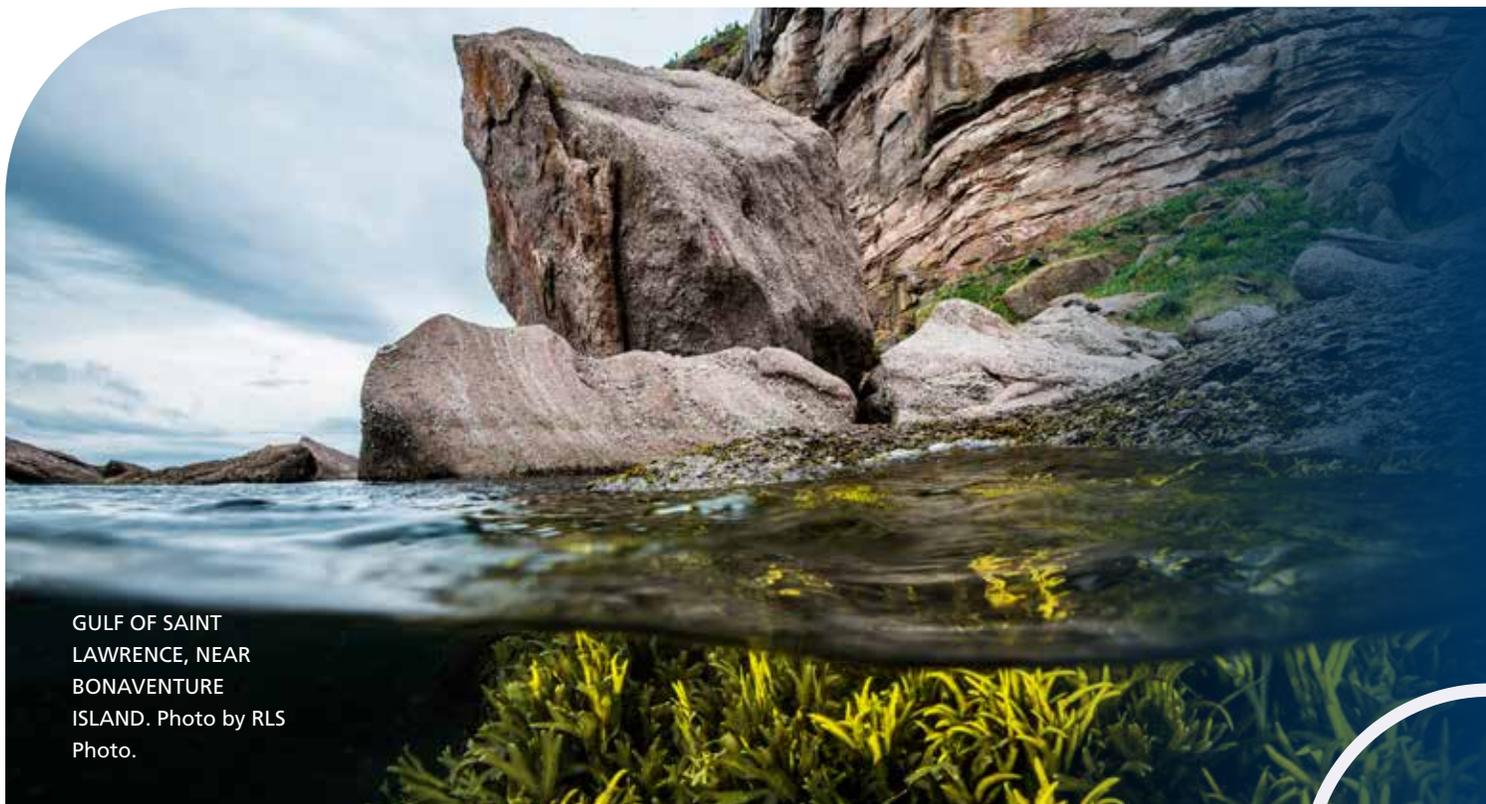
- 12 Nord Ouest du Golfe
- 13 Sud Ouest du Golfe

- 16 Maritimes MPA Network (New Brunswick)
- 17 Shediac Valley

- 22 Inner Bay of Fundy
- 23 Maritimes MPA Network (Nova Scotia Coastal Sites)
- 24 Maritimes MPA Network (Nova Scotia Offshore Sites)

- 27 NL Shelves MPA Network
- 28 South Coast Fjords
- 29 Witless Bay

- 31 Nunavut Land Use Plan, Southampton Island, Sarvarjuaq



GULF OF SAINT LAWRENCE, NEAR BONAVENTURE ISLAND. Photo by RLS Photo.

CONSERVATION TAKES TIME – GOVERNMENTS NEED TO ACT NOW

Delivering on the goal of 30% protection by 2030 requires ramping up action now, to allow enough time for planning that includes knowledge gathering and relationship-building, including in-depth engagement of communities, and other work needed to achieve successful and broadly-supported conservation outcomes.

CPAWS IS READY TO SUPPORT ALL GOVERNMENTS ON THE PATH TO PROTECTION

For nearly 60 years, CPAWS has supported hundreds of conservation initiatives and has helped establish protected areas throughout Canada. With this unwavering commitment to conservation, we endeavor to support all governments in Canada on their collective journey to protect 30% of the country's land and ocean by 2030, and beyond. This report will help guide conservation work across the country by offering a list of opportunities in each jurisdiction as a roadmap of the urgent actions needed to deliver on Canada's targets.



ALBERTA. Photo by Ali Kazal.

INTRODUCTION



There are currently two major environmental crises that the planet and humanity are facing: climate change and biodiversity loss. Habitat loss, as a result of human activities, remains the primary driver of the biodiversity crisis, which means that protecting and restoring habitat must be at the heart of any strategy to conserve nature.^{ix}

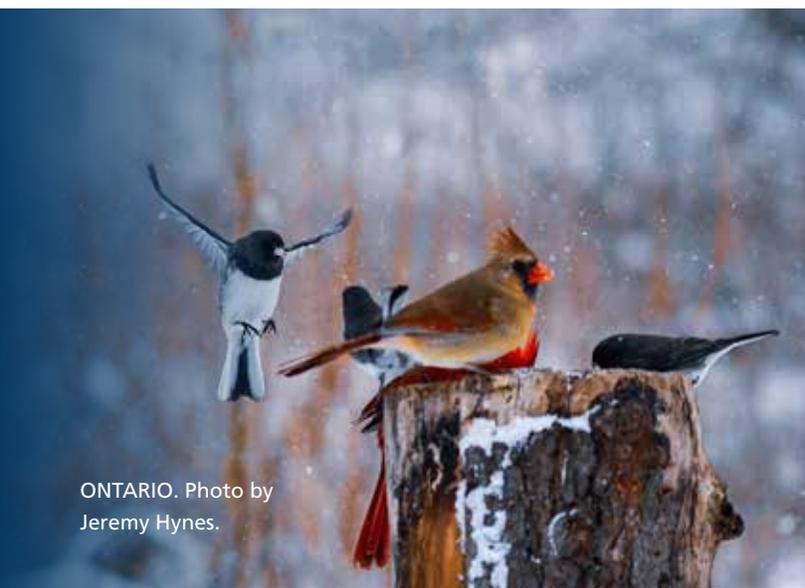
ONTARIO. Photo by Jeremy Hynes.

PROTECTED AREA NETWORKS: A LEADING STRATEGY TO TACKLE THE BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CRISES

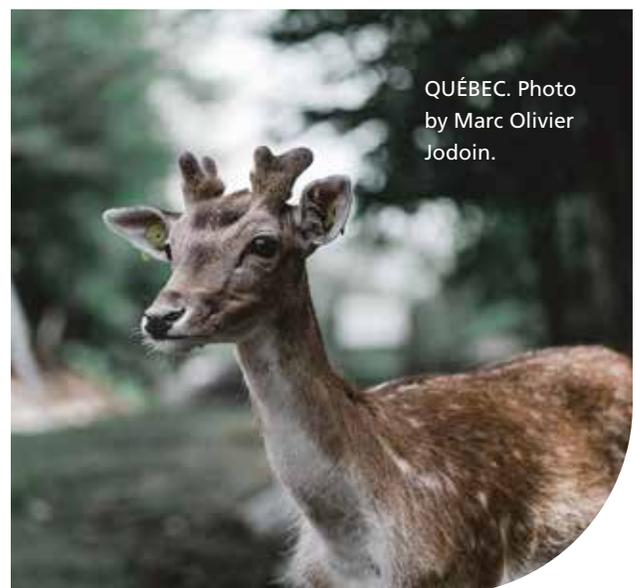
Establishing and effectively managing networks of permanently protected natural areas for land and ocean has long been recognized as a leading strategy for preventing biodiversity loss and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems provide essential services for people, including clean air, fresh water, fertile soil, food and medicine, and support for our mental and physical health. Spending time in nature is linked to lower anxiety levels, lower healthcare costs, and increased productivity.^{x, xi} Protected areas can also play an important role in tackling climate change by keeping carbon stored in ecosystems and by providing people and wildlife the opportunity to adapt to changing climatic conditions.

QUANTITY AND QUALITY GO HAND-IN-HAND

Research shows that at least 30%, and up to 70%, of land and ocean ecosystems need to be conserved to sustain a healthy planet and secure essential ecosystem services for people.^{xii, xiii, xiv} There is also clear evidence that focusing only on how much area should be protected is not enough to deliver conservation outcomes and other societal benefits. Studies of marine protected areas (MPAs) have clearly shown that strongly protected MPAs are one of the most effective tools to restore biodiversity and rebuild. Partially or weakly protected areas, in which harmful and extractive activities are allowed to continue, might at best prevent further loss of species but will not support the recovery of ecosystems.^{xv} **Protected area networks need to be designed and effectively managed based on science and Indigenous knowledge.**^{xvi, xvii}



ONTARIO. Photo by
Jeremy Hynes.



QUÉBEC. Photo
by Marc Olivier
Jodoin.

Over the past five years, momentum for greater nature conservation action has been building in Canada and globally, with more financial investment, greater ambition, and larger area-based targets on both national and international agendas. While this offers some hope, much remains to be done to halt and reverse nature's steep decline. This year will be critical, as countries will meet in the fall to decide on a new Global Biodiversity Framework under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Ninety countries have already committed to a global target of conserving at least 30% of land and ocean by 2030 in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). Canada has committed to implementing this target at the national level, and has adopted an interim target of protecting 25% of land and ocean by 2025. Canadian jurisdictions have agreed to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) definitions and guidance for protected areas and OECMs and have developed national guidance for what qualifies in each category, although Fisheries and Oceans Canada's current guidance for OECMs does not meet international standards.



ALBERTA. Photo by Gabriel (Unsplash).

WHAT IS A PROTECTED AREA?

Canada has adopted the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) definition of a protected area: “a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”^{xviii, xix}

GLOBAL BENEFITS OF PROTECTED AREAS^{xx}

- Conservation of wildlife habitat, genetic diversity, species and populations, and ecosystems
- Cultural, spiritual, and religious values
- Economic benefits: jobs, income from tourism
- Food and medicine: wild plants, wild game, fish, herbs, and sources of medicines
- Health and well-being: promoting a healthy lifestyle, source of tranquility, aesthetics, inspiration for arts
- Intrinsic value
- Investment in the future: leaving our planet in a healthy state to support future generations
- Mitigation of the impact of climate change by providing space for plants and animals to adapt; shielding against extreme weather effects; preventing natural disasters like landslides, by maintaining healthy soils, and floods, by maintaining healthy watersheds and wetlands
- Preservation and strengthening of Indigenous knowledge and cultures, support Indigenous Peoples’ livelihoods, including food security
- Storing carbon
- Purification and detoxification of water, air, and soil
- Science, research, and education
- Tourism: sightseeing, enjoying beauty, photo ops, family bonding, celebrating our natural and cultural heritage

NEWFOUNDLAND. Photo
by Erik McLean.



ALBERTA. Photo by
Christian Garcia.



WHAT ARE OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES (OECMS)?

The concept of OECMs emerged in 2010 in the wording of Aichi Target 11, which enabled countries to deliver on the target of conserving at least 17% of land and freshwater and 10% of the ocean by 2020 through protected areas and **“other effective area-based conservation measures”**.^{xxi} The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) developed a definition and guidance for OECMs, which was incorporated into the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) guidance.

Canada adopted the agreed-to international definition and, through the Pathway to Canada Target 1 process, has developed guidance and a decision support tool to assess whether terrestrial areas qualify as OECMs. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) concurrently developed its own guidance for marine OECMs, which differed from the IUCN guidance, and is now working to revise the guidance so that it aligns.^{xxii, xxiii}

The main difference between protected areas and OECMs is that protected areas must have a primary goal of conserving nature, while OECMs may be established for other purposes, but must still deliver effective conservation outcomes. **OECMs are not meant to be a “weaker” form of protection.** Both protected areas and OECMs require that incompatible activities be prohibited (including industrial activities and damaging infrastructure developments), and that other activities be effectively managed. Like protected areas, OECMs must also be permanently protected.

FEDERAL BUDGET INVESTMENTS IN NATURE

In the past five years (2018-2022) the federal government has invested over \$4.5 billion in nature conservation, including for partners to help implement conservation commitments:

BUDGET 2018:

- \$1.3 billion to protect Canada's nature legacy.

BUDGET 2021:

- \$2.3 billion over five years to address the biodiversity crisis, protect and conserve nature, and create jobs in nature conservation and management.
- \$976.8 million over five years to reach 25% protection of Canada's ocean by 2025.^{xxiv}

CANADIANS SUPPORT MORE NATURE CONSERVATION

Public polling has demonstrated that 90% of Canadians support the federal government's commitment to protect 30% of the country's land and ocean by 2030, 80% expect Canada to be a global leader in protecting land and water, and 75% support expanding funding to create more protected areas.^{xxv}

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

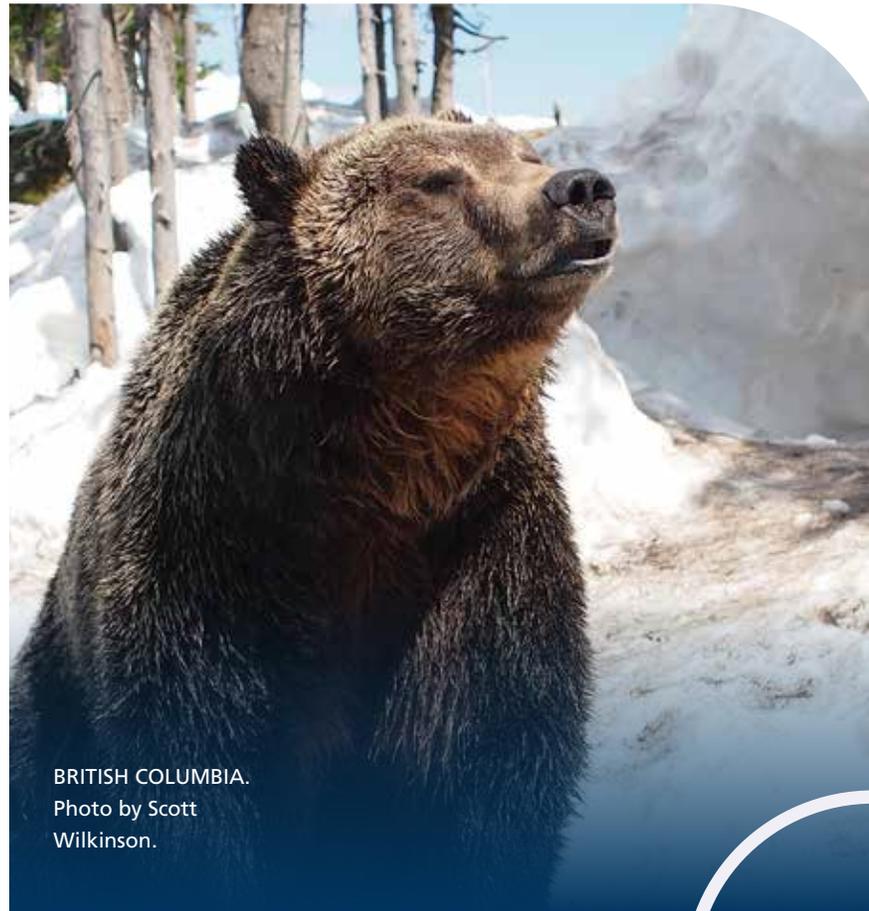
As the second-largest country in the world, Canada spans three ocean basins and stewards 20% of the Earth's wild forests, 24% of its wetlands, and almost one-third of its land-stored carbon. We have the world's longest coastline, some of the world's biggest remaining rivers and the longest remaining natural terrestrial mammal migration. Billions of birds nest in Canada's Boreal and temperate forests, tundra, wetlands, and grasslands.

So far, Canada has protected 13.5% of its land and 13.9% of its ocean (Figure 1).^{xxvi} To reach the 30% terrestrial conservation target by 2030, it will be critical for provincial and territorial governments to step up, recognizing they are the Crown governments in Canada with primary jurisdiction over land and natural resources. To meet the marine targets, Canada needs to actively engage all federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners, including by providing resources and capacity on the water. Indigenous governments across Canada have consistently stepped forward with leading-edge, landscape and seascape-level plans and initiatives to conserve their traditional territories, bringing together western science and Indigenous knowledge. Increased support and financing for Indigenous-led conservation will be critical to deliver on the targets. Across the country, a growing number of grassroots citizens groups and local governments are also mobilizing to protect important natural habitats. Environmental NGOs supporting these conservationists and partnering with Indigenous communities play a key role in delivering on the targets.

CANADA'S PROTECTION TARGETS ARE ACHIEVABLE

Numerous opportunities exist across Canada to reach the 30% land and ocean targets. These opportunities include on-going or committed-to land use/conservation planning processes as well as Indigenous-led conservation initiatives. The list of opportunities captured in this report is not exhaustive but helps to demonstrate that the 30% target is achievable. CPAWS is committed to helping deliver on Canada's conservation commitment, and to supporting the creation of effectively designed and managed networks of protected areas in all regions of the country.

For nearly 60 years, CPAWS has supported hundreds of conservation initiatives and has helped establish protected areas in nearly every Canadian jurisdiction. With this unwavering commitment to conservation, we endeavor to support all governments in Canada on their collective journey to protect 30% of the country's land and ocean by 2030, and beyond. This report will help guide conservation work by all governments by offering a list of opportunities in each jurisdiction as a roadmap to help identify the urgent actions that are needed to achieve Canada's targets.





PAN- CANADIAN OVERVIEW OF NATURE PROTECTION

At the start of 2022, 13.5% of Canada's land and 13.9% of its ocean were in protected areas and OECMs (Figure 1). It should be noted that this includes proposed and interim measures for marine sites, and these statistics do not speak to quality and effectiveness.

THE YUKON. Photo by
Malkolm Boothroyd.

QUÉBEC. Photo by Yannick Menard.

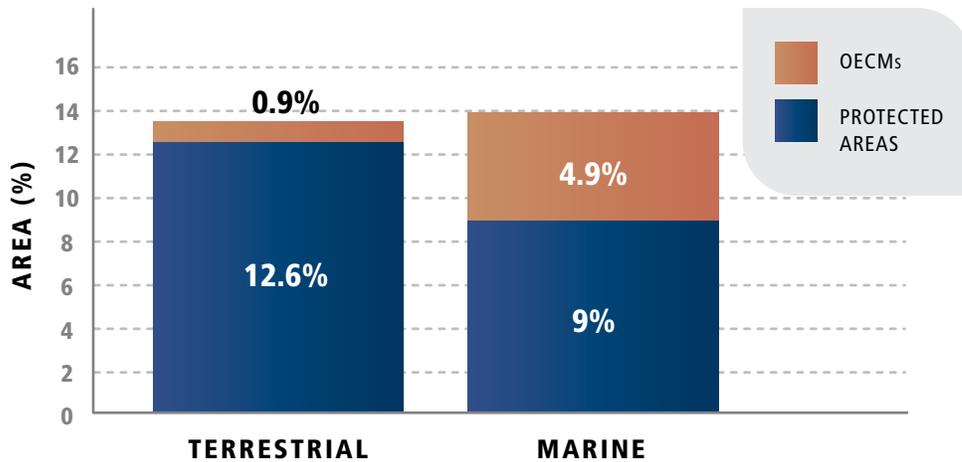


FIGURE 1. TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS IN CANADA AS OF DECEMBER 2021. DATA SOURCE: CANADIAN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS DATABASE (CPCAD, 2022).

The existing protection levels vary greatly by jurisdiction, ranging from 4.5% in Prince Edward Island to 19.1% in the Yukon (Figure 2). Quebec, Canada’s largest province, has protected the largest area of land, with 253,160 km² (16.8% of the region) currently in protected areas (Figures 2,3).

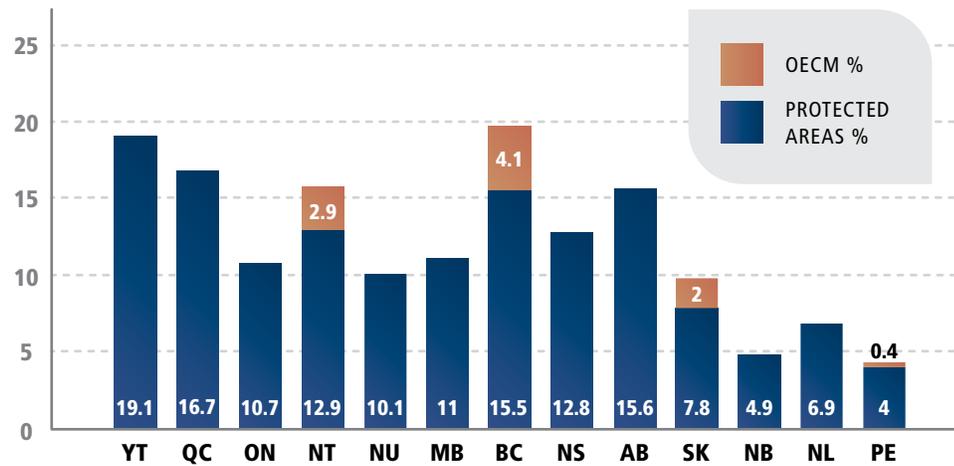


FIGURE 2. PROPORTION OF LAND IN EXISTING TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS IN CANADA, BY JURISDICTION (% COVERAGE). DATA SOURCE: CANADIAN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS DATABASE (CPCAD, 2022).

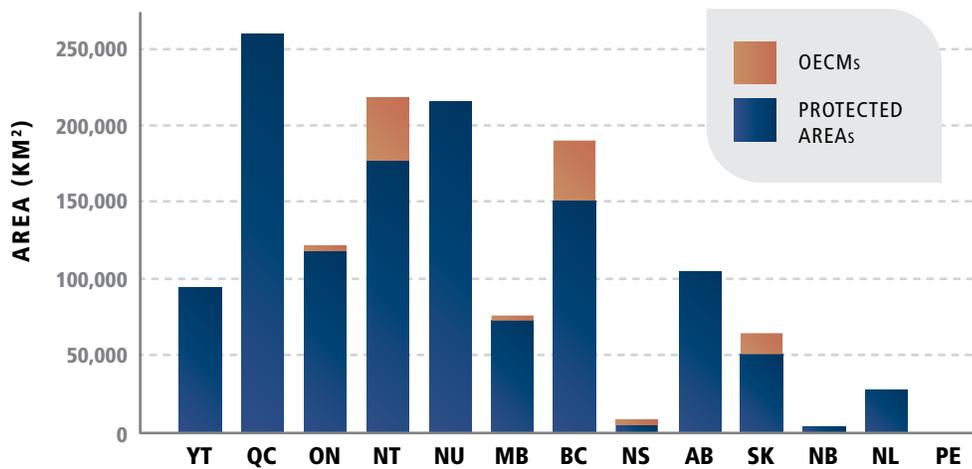


FIGURE 3. AREA OF LAND (KM²) IN EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS IN CANADA, BY JURISDICTION. DATA SOURCE: CANADIAN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS DATABASE (CPCAD, 2022).

CANADA MUST INCREASE LAND AND OCEAN PROTECTION BY JUST OVER 15% IN THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS

To meet the land conservation commitments of protecting 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030, Canada will need to protect an additional 11.5% of its land and freshwater by 2025, and an additional 5% by 2030. Similarly, to meet ocean conservation commitments, Canada will need to protect an additional 11.1% of ocean by 2025, and an additional 5% by 2030. The path to protecting 30% of Canada by 2030 requires an integrated, two-pronged approach: implementing existing conservation opportunities while identifying new opportunities to ensure we fill the gap to 30% by 2030 and go beyond to what is necessary to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

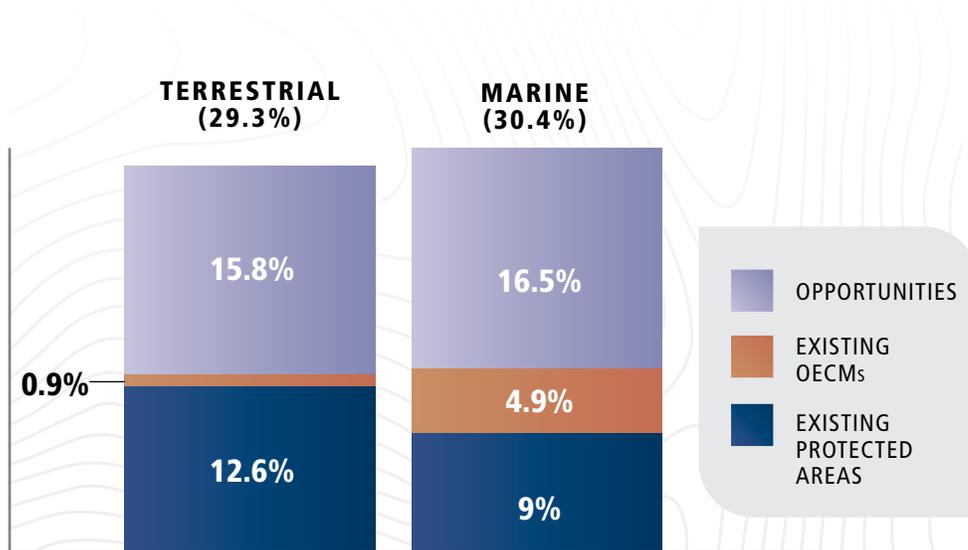


FIGURE 4. EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS AND IDENTIFIED TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE OPPORTUNITIES (%). DATA SOURCE: CANADIAN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS DATABASE (CPCAD, 2022), CPAWS.

TOOLS AND CONSIDERATIONS TO SUPPORT TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION PLANNING

Conservation planning should be done through a transparent and collaborative approach and grounded in western science and Indigenous knowledge. Implementing conservation targets in regionally-appropriate ways is critical to success.

- **UTILIZING ANALYTICAL TOOLS AND DATASETS**

Various analytical tools and datasets are available to aid in conservation planning and mapping. These include global terrestrial human footprint maps^{xxvii}, the Resilient Land mapping tool^{xxviii}, Key Biodiversity Areas^{xxix}, Global Forest Watch Canada^{xxx}, and numerous others. It is important to remember that most of these tools represent just one layer of assessment and should only be used to supplement, not replace, regionally-appropriate conservation planning processes.

- **REMEMBERING THAT PROTECTED AREAS ARE NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

Protected areas are a natural solution for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Protected areas can act as climate refugia, providing people and wildlife the space to adapt to a shifting climate. Many protected areas also capture and store carbon, acting as carbon sinks and absorbing CO2 emissions.

- **APPLYING THE “THREE GLOBAL CONDITIONS FRAMEWORK”**

Given Canada’s size and diverse land use history, reaching conservation targets requires different approaches in the south, middle and north of the country. The “Three Global Conditions Framework” offers a conceptual model to support delivery of Canada’s commitment in regionally appropriate ways.^{xxxi}



MANITOBA. Photo by Joban Khangura.

This report identifies opportunities and offers recommendations for how each province and territory can help deliver on Canada’s terrestrial conservation targets (Figures 5, 6). A section that identifies how the federal government can support implementation of the terrestrial target is also included. The ocean section of the report identifies opportunities focused on the federal government departments and agencies, given their responsibilities for ocean management, including Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada, and Environment and Climate Change Canada. However, collaboration with Indigenous, provincial and territorial governments and other federal agencies, such as Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada, is paramount to successful planning and management of effective MPAs.

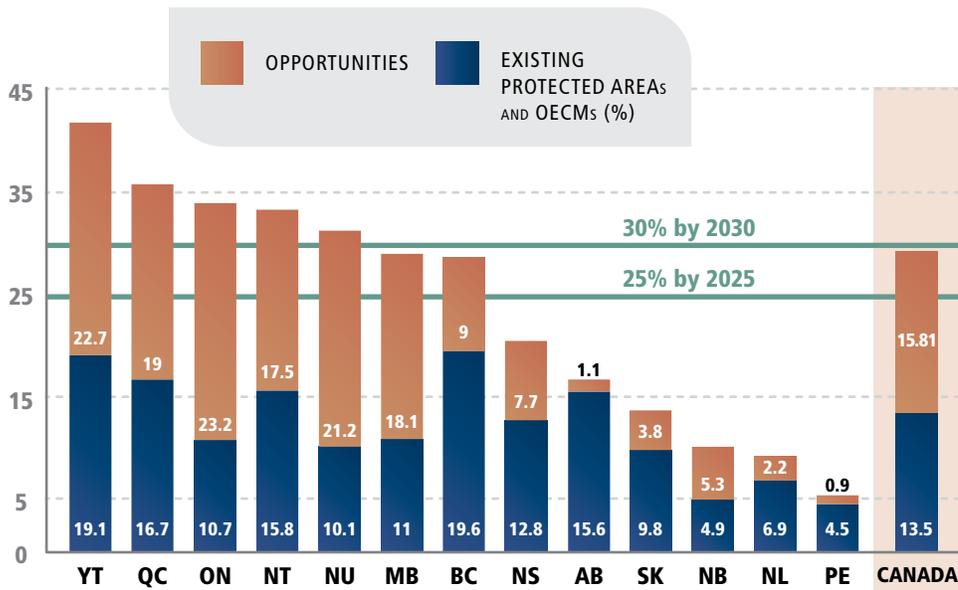


FIGURE 5. TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES BY JURISDICTION (% COVERAGE). DATA SOURCE: CANADIAN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS DATABASE (CPCAD, 2022), CPAWS.

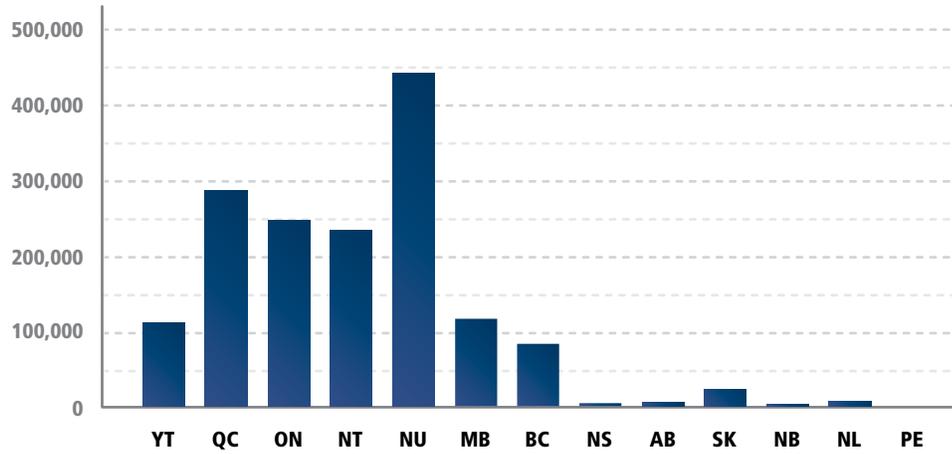


FIGURE 6. TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES BY JURISDICTION (KM²).²



BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Jan Kronies.

² This includes opportunities identified in each of the 13 provinces and territories. This list is not exhaustive nor prescriptive and is meant to demonstrate the potential extent of existing opportunities.

QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF PROTECTED AREAS IS IMPORTANT

The Government of Canada's commitment to protect 30% of land and ocean by 2030 is now part of a new broader commitment to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieve full recovery by 2050.

To achieve this goal identifying the right areas for protection through collaborative and transparent engagement processes, and ensuring protected areas are effectively connected as conservation networks and that land and ocean areas outside protected areas and OECMs are managed sustainably, will be essential.

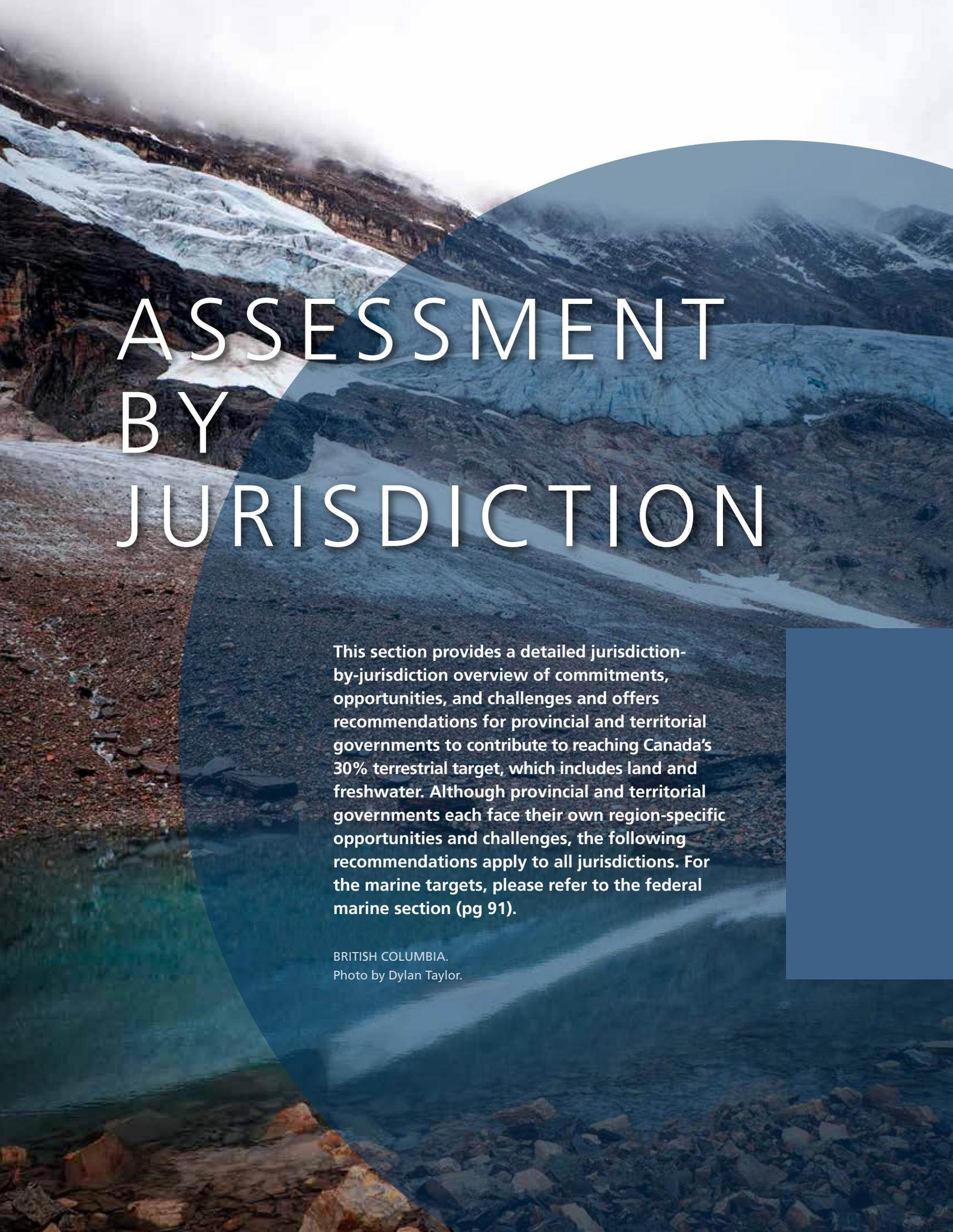
KEY QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR DELIVERING ON THE 30% BY 2030 TARGET INCLUDE:

- Equitable governance (or co-governance) and management (or co-management);
- Adhering to international and national standards for protected areas and OECMs;
- Effective management, including through ongoing permanent funding;
- A focus on areas of importance to biodiversity and ecosystem services (including climate change mitigation and adaptation);
- Establishment of well-connected networks of protected and conserved areas to contribute to landscape and seascape connectivity.

These key quality measures are reflected in Canada's international conservation commitments, including the CBD (new commitments expected September 2022), the Leader's Pledge for Nature, and the G7 2030 Nature Compact, to all of which Canada is a signatory. For example, Pillar 3A of the G7 2030 Nature Compact advocates for "... improved quality, effectiveness and connectivity of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), and recognise Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities as full partners in the implementation of these targets."^{xxxii} Quality and effectiveness considerations are also the foundation of national quality standards for protected areas and OECMs (through the Pathway to Target 1^{xxxiii, xxxiv}). In response to longstanding concerns about the quality of MPAs, Canada announced minimum protection standards for all new federal MPAs, which would prohibit dumping, bottom trawling, oil and gas, and mining.^{xxxv} These standards have yet to be operationalized and formally implemented.



BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Lesly Derksen.



ASSESSMENT BY JURISDICTION

This section provides a detailed jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction overview of commitments, opportunities, and challenges and offers recommendations for provincial and territorial governments to contribute to reaching Canada's 30% terrestrial target, which includes land and freshwater. Although provincial and territorial governments each face their own region-specific opportunities and challenges, the following recommendations apply to all jurisdictions. For the marine targets, please refer to the federal marine section (pg 91).

BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Dylan Taylor.



OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS

- 1** Formally commit to work with the federal government and other provinces and territories to implement Canada's commitment to protect at least 30% of land and freshwater by 2030, with a milestone of 25% by 2025.³
- 2** Set an ambitious provincial/territorial target and embed this as an objective in regional land planning initiatives.
- 3** Prioritize Indigenous-led conservation initiatives and ensure Indigenous rights and interests are respected.
- 4** Complete and implement existing protected area proposals, as well as conservation and land use planning processes.
- 5** Where necessary, identify additional areas for protection through transparent and collaborative landscape-scale planning processes that:
 - are based on science and Indigenous knowledge;
 - prioritize Indigenous-led initiatives;
 - enhance landscape connectivity;
 - identify carbon-rich ecosystems for protection;
 - protect habitat for species at risk, including meeting critical habitat requirements under the federal Species at Risk Act.
- 6** Increase provincial/territorial funding to establish and manage protected areas, including for Indigenous partners and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), and leverage additional federal funding by negotiating bilateral Nature Agreements with the federal government.

³ Quebec has already committed to protecting 30% of the province by 2030.

THE YUKON

THE YUKON.
Photo by T Fe
(Unsplash).

CURRENT STATUS

19.1%

IN PROTECTED
AREAS

N/A

IN OECMs

CHANGE

+7.3%

INCREASE FROM
2021 CPCAD
UPDATE

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

+22.7%

=42%

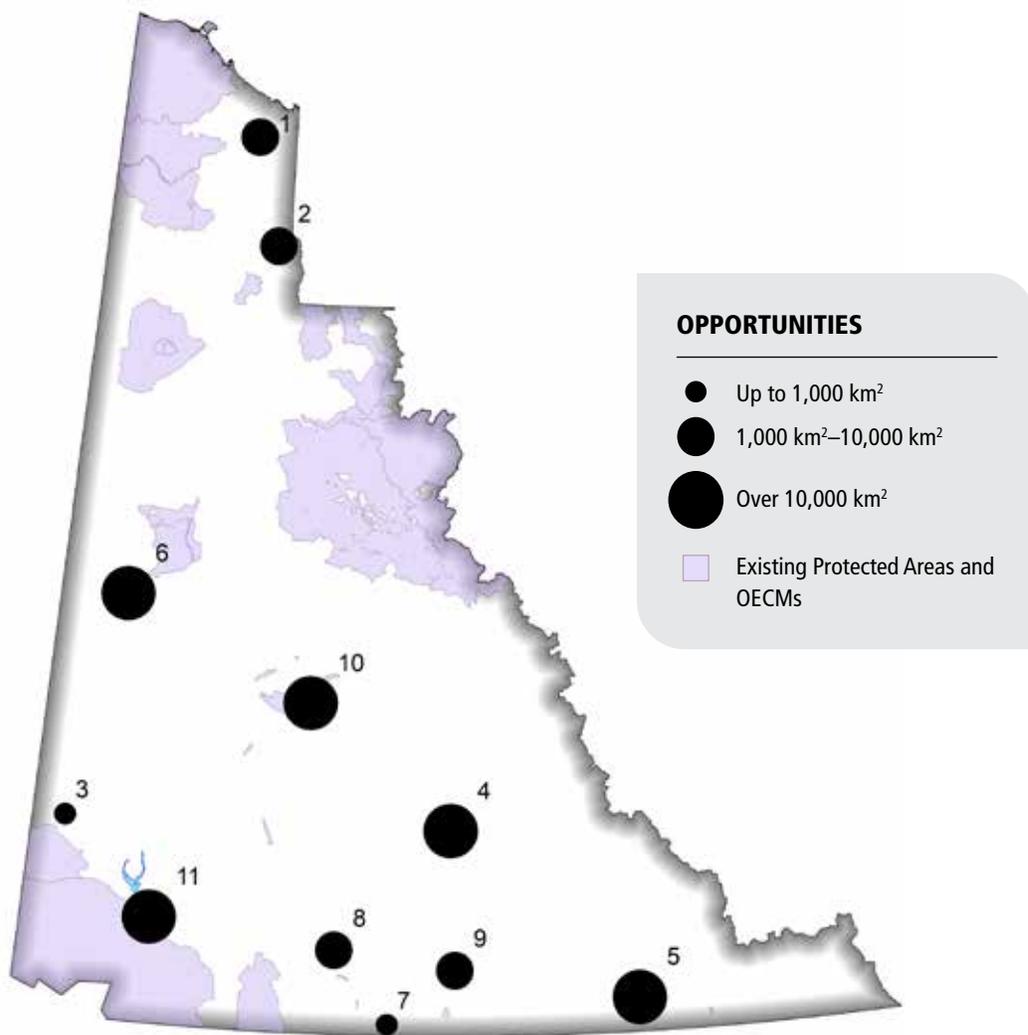
POTENTIAL TOTAL
PROTECTION
OF THE
TERRITORY

THE YUKON IS LEADING THE WAY FOR CONSERVATION IN CANADA

As of February 2022, the Yukon is now a conservation leader in Canada. With the addition of 37,000 km² of the Peel River Watershed to Canada's protected areas system, the territory now has a greater proportion of its land and water protected than any other jurisdiction in the country.⁴

Final Agreements (modern treaties) signed by many Yukon First Nations outline a land use planning process which, together with other existing processes, provides a clear path to achieving large-scale protection throughout the territory. While the Government of Yukon has not formally adopted conservation targets, the Territory is nonetheless on track to achieve 30% protection by 2030.

⁴ These areas have been recognized as having "interim protection" in Canada's protected area database, meaning the decision has been made, and measures are in place, to protect the areas, but work to complete the final legal designations is still ongoing.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Up to 1,000 km²
- 1,000 km²–10,000 km²
- Over 10,000 km²
- Existing Protected Areas and OECMs

MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF TERRITORY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	TOTAL % OF TERRITORY IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
1	Eastern Yukon North Slope	~110,000 km ²	~23%	~42%
2	Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park			
3	Pickhandle Lakes			
4	Ross River Dena Territory Unceded Territory			
5	Liard First Nation Unceded Territory			
6	Dawson Planning Region			
7	Agay Mene Territorial Park			
8	Whitehorse Planning Region			
9	Teslin Planning Region			
10	Northern Tutchone Planning Region			
11	Kluane Planning Region			



KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Dawson Land Use Plan (in progress) - at least 15,000 km².
- Eastern Yukon North Slope conservation project - 8,400 km².

TOP CHALLENGES

- Lack of adequate federal funding, including long-term funding, to complete land use planning processes and implement outcomes.
- The prioritization of extractive industries, particularly mining, above ecological and cultural values.



THE YUKON. Photo by Greg Sellentin.



THE YUKON. Photo by
Malkolm Boothroyd.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF YUKON

- 1** Formally adopt target of protecting at least 30% of the territory by 2030, with a milestone of 25% by 2025.
- 2** Provide funding to First Nations, in advance, for land use planning preparation.
- 3** Commence new land use planning processes as soon as is practical, and run multiple land use planning processes concurrently.
- 4** Work with unceded First Nations to support the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) in their territories.
- 5** Incorporate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) principles and Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in all new legislation.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.
Photo by Alan Emery.

CURRENT STATUS

12.9%

IN PROTECTED AREAS

2.9%

IN OECS

CHANGE

0%

NO INCREASE FROM 2021 CPCAD UPDATE

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

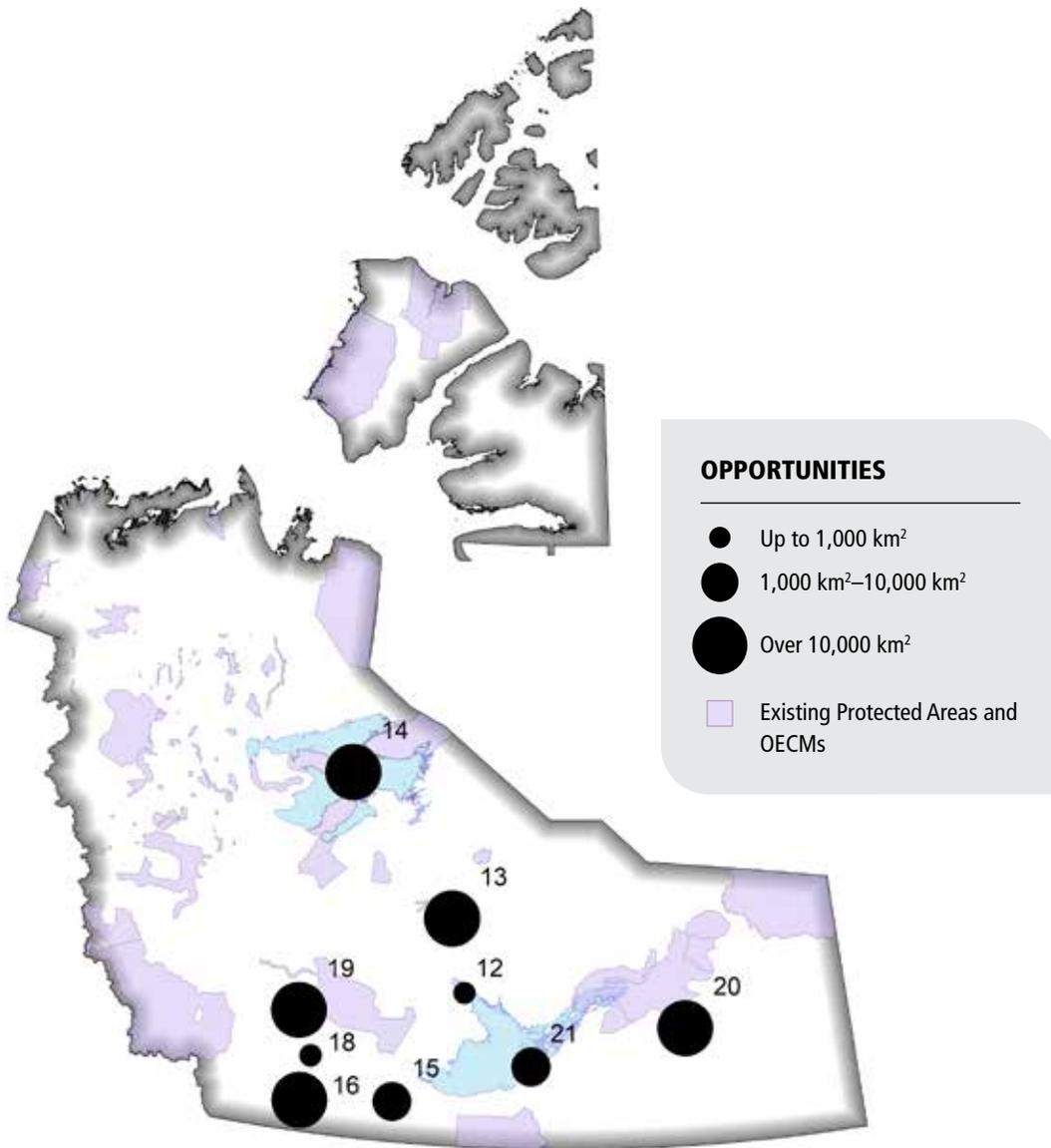
+17.5%

=33.3%

POTENTIAL TOTAL PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORY

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CAN OFFER STRONG SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION

With a strong legal framework in place that supports Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area partnerships, the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) is well positioned to facilitate Indigenous-led conservation. Regional land use plans in the Dehcho and Akaitcho regions can contribute substantially to regional and national conservation goals as well.



MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF TERRITORY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF TERRITORY IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
12	Dinàgà Wek'èhodi Indigenous and Territorial Protected Area	~236,048 km ²	~17.5%	~33.3%
13	Tlìcho Government Land Use Plan			
14	Sahtu K'aowe Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
15	Ka'a'gee Tu			
16	Sambaa K'e			
18	Lue Tue Sulai			
19	Dehcho Land Use Plan			
20	Akai'tcho Land Use Plan			
21	Other new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area Proposals			



HERD OF BARREN-
GROUND CARIBOU,
NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES.
Photo by Streamside
Adventures.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Dehcho Land Use Plan candidate protected areas and conservation zones (OECMs).
- Akaitcho Land Use Plan and potential regional Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
- Indigenous-led conservation interests put forward by the Governments of settled claim regions.

TOP CHALLENGES

- Lack of adequate and long-term funding for protected area establishment and management, including for IPCAs and Indigenous Guardians programs.
- Reluctance from territorial government to accept large-scale conservation in First Nation-led land use plans.
- Prioritization of extractive industry interests above ecological and cultural values.
- Lack of recognition of economic opportunities from IPCAs and/or carbon sequestration-focused projects.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

- 1** Formally adopt a target of protecting at least 30% of the territory by 2030, with a milestone of 25% by 2025. Include these targets in the territorial government's Healthy Land Healthy People strategy for 2022-2027.
- 2** Prioritize adequate budget dollars for operating protected areas established through the NWT Protected Areas Act and negotiate with the federal government to secure additional funding for IPCA establishment and co-development of management plans with Indigenous governments.
- 3** Champion the conservation-focused draft Dehcho Land Use Plan (DLUP) as an opportunity for the GNWT to support the Land Use Plan as a natural solution for mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- 4** Support other land use planning processes in the Akaitcho and Tłı̨chó regions, new IPCA proposals and Indigenous Guardians programs, recognizing their key roles in protecting the land and addressing climate change, as well as their economic, social, and cultural benefits.



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.
Photo by USGS (Unsplash).

BRITISH COLUMBIA

SPOTTED LAKE,
OKANAGAN B.C.

CURRENT STATUS

15.5%

IN PROTECTED
AREAS

4.1%

IN OECMs*

CHANGE

+0.1%

INCREASE FROM
2021 CPCAD
UPDATE

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

+9%

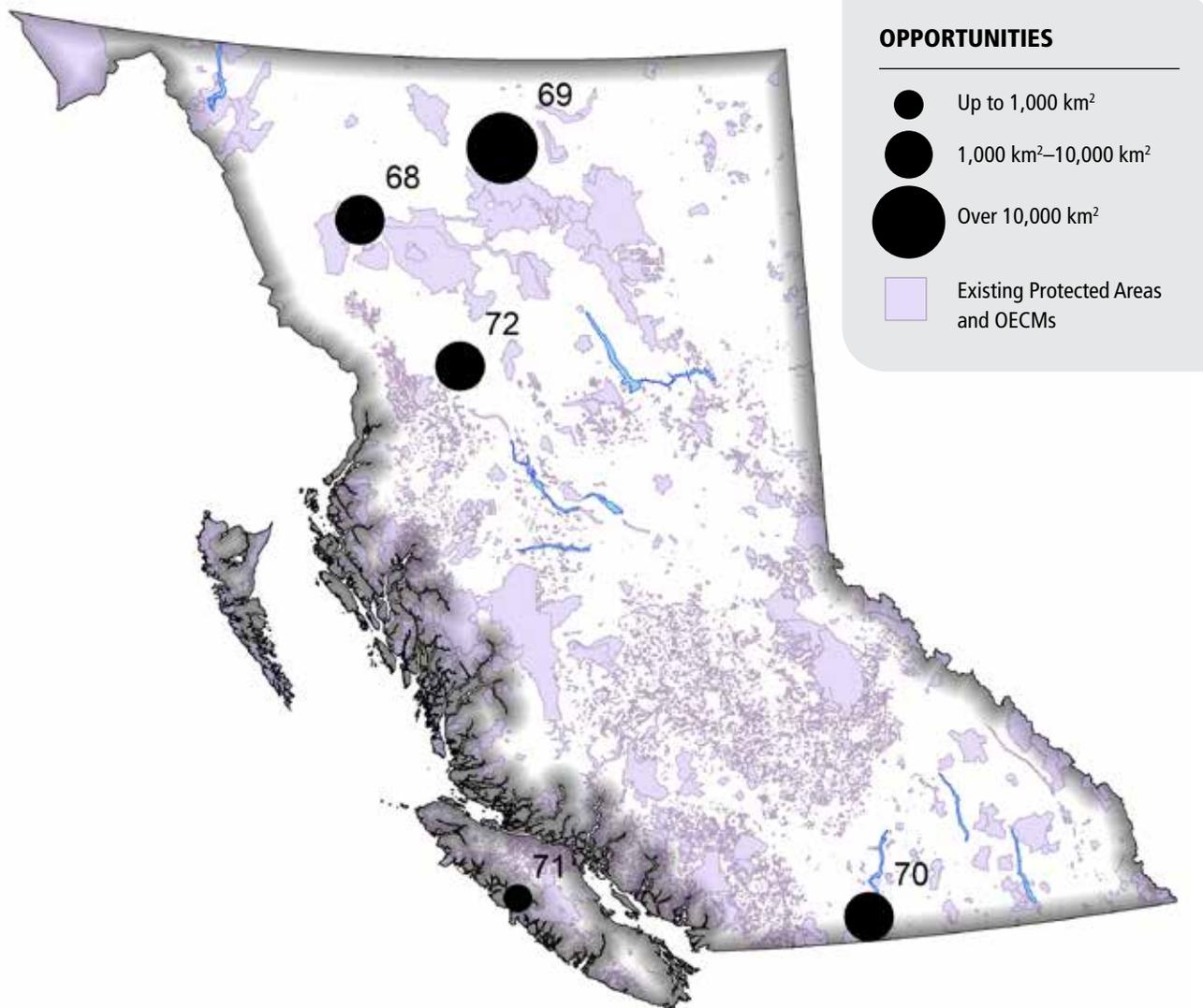
=28.6%

POTENTIAL TOTAL
PROTECTION
OF THE PROVINCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA HAS EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IPCAS, BUT ITS OECMS MUST MEET QUALITY STANDARDS

The Government of British Columbia has no standing commitments to land protection targets, and has made limited progress in recent years on area-based conservation. In 2021, British Columbia was the first province to begin negotiating a Nature Agreement with the federal government (this agreement is the precursor to receiving new federal funding for nature conservation). British Columbia has claimed 4.1% of the province as protected under other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). This is the highest percentage of area counted as OECMs in Canada. Unfortunately, B.C.'s claimed OECM areas do not meet international or Canadian quality standards.^{xxxvi}

* BC's claimed OECMs do not presently meet international or Canadian quality standards.



MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
68	Tahltan IPCAs through the Tahltan Nation Land Use Plan	~85,000 km ²	~9%	~29%
69	Dene K'eh Kusān (Kaska Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area)			
70	South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Reserve and Similkameen Valley Smeqmix Conservation Areas			
71	Nuu-chah-nulth Salmon Parks			
72	Gwininitxw Laxyip: Indigenous Protected Area			
N/A	Other Indigenous-Led Conservation Initiatives			

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- **Multiple Indigenous-led conservation initiatives, with the estimated total area for all initiatives equal to 85,000 km², including:**
 - Dene K'éh Kusān IPCA, proposed by the Kaska Dena - 39,136 km²^{xxxvii}
 - Gwinitxw Laxyip Indigenous Protected Area - 6,450 km²
 - Nuuchahnulth Salmon Parks^{xxxviii} - TBD
 - Tahltan IPCAs (identified through the Tahltan Nation Land Use Planning Process) - 10,000 km²
 - South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Reserve^{5xxxix} and Similkameen Valley sməłqmíx Conservation Areas^{xl} - 2,682 km²

TOP CHALLENGES

- **Lack of provincial commitment to create new protected areas.**
- **Existing claimed OECMs do not meet Canadian and international standards for biodiversity conservation.**
- **Reluctance to accept that high-quality conservation and responsible industry development can occur in tandem.**

5 Although the South Okanagan- Similkameen National Park Reserve establishment process is led by the federal government, it will not be established without the support of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

- 1** Commit to protecting 30% of land and ocean by 2030, with a milestone target of protecting 25% by 2025.
- 2** Expand engagement with First Nations and Indigenous groups that are moving forward with proposals for new conservation initiatives in B.C.
- 3** Take advantage of federal funding to build capacity and implement new protected areas initiatives, with priority given to Indigenous-led conservation projects.
- 4** Upgrade the level of protection for B.C.'s OECMs to ensure they meet Canadian and international standards, including permanent protection and prohibiting all industrial development.
- 5** Work with B.C. First Nations to co-develop a legal framework for recognizing and supporting IPCAs and Indigenous Guardians in B.C.^{xii}



BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Garth Lenz.

ALBERTA

ALBERTA. Photo
by Ali Kazal.

CURRENT STATUS

15.6%

IN PROTECTED
AREAS

N/A

IN OECMs

CHANGE

+0.2%

INCREASE FROM
2021 CPCAD
UPDATE*

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

+1.1%

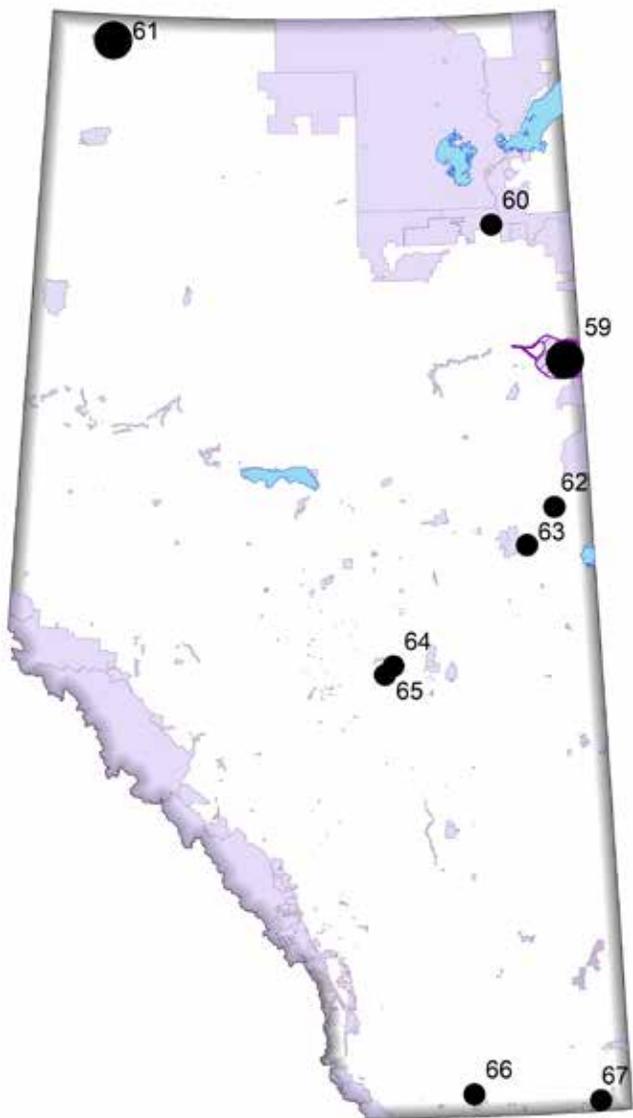
=16.6%

POTENTIAL TOTAL
PROTECTION
OF THE PROVINCE

ALBERTA MUST ALSO PRIORITIZE CONSERVATION – NOT ONLY RESOURCE EXTRACTION

The Government of Alberta has no active commitments to conservation targets, and has been, until recently, exploring and promoting policies and actions that diminish protections of protected areas and threaten natural ecosystems. In February 2022, thanks to continued pressure from the Mikisew Cree First Nation and its partners, Alberta's Kitaskino Nuwenéné Wildland Provincial Park was expanded by 1,525 km², bringing its total area protected to 15.6% of the province. In addition to existing area-specific opportunities identified below, Alberta has vast ecologically and culturally important areas that have high potential for protection if political will exists. Polling indicates that the majority of the Albertans support increasing protections and government working with Indigenous governments and communities on new protected areas.^{xlii}

* Kitaskino Nuwenéné Wildland Provincial Park expansion has added 0.2% and will be counted in the next CPCAD update.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Up to 1,000 km²
- 1,000 km²–10,000 km²
- Over 10,000 km²
- Existing Protected Areas and OECMs

MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
59	The Gypsy Gordan Wildland Provincial Park expansion	~7,100 km ²	~1.1%	~16.6%
60	Kitaskino Nuwenēné Wildland Park - East Expansion			
61	Bistcho Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
62	Cold Lake Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
63	Metis Settlements Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
64	Edmonton National Urban Park			
65	Big Island Provincial Park			
66	Twin River Heritage Rangeland Reclassification and Expansion			
67	OneFour Heritage Rangeland Reclassification and Expansion			

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- The Gypsy Gordan Wildland Provincial Park expansion, included in the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan nearly 10 years ago, could add 1,585 km² to the park.
- Bistcho Lake IPCA, led by the Dene Tha' First Nation and proposed during the Bistcho Subregional planning process (boundaries not yet proposed).
- Cold Lake IPCA, proposed by Cold Lake First Nation, with a potential area of 1,000 km².

CHALLENGES

- Lack of political will from the Alberta government. Many other opportunities, particularly for IPCAs exist, but the lack of interest from the Government of Alberta in creating new protected areas has stifled identification of areas and formal proposals from communities.
- Opposition related to loss of opportunities for resource extraction and other high-impact land-uses.



ALBERTA.
Photo by Todd Steitle.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

- 1** Commit to protecting 30% by 2030, with a milestone target of 25% by 2025.
- 2** Commit to a permanent prohibition on new coal mining and exploration on the Eastern Slopes to prevent irreversible harm to this important wildlife habitat and the irreplaceable ecological services it provides for communities, including access to water and recreational values.
- 3** Uphold provincial responsibilities under the Species at Risk Act and commitments made in the Section 11 agreement with Canada on boreal caribou and implement Critical Habitat protection requirements for caribou, wood bison, native trout, and other at-risk species.
- 4** Ensure effective and equitable management of current and future protected areas, in line with international standards. Ensure protections for existing protected areas are maintained or increased.
- 5** Continue to develop co-stewardship relationships with Indigenous Peoples to advance protected area establishment and management on their territories.
- 6** Support the development of a legislative framework for IPCAs and a clear process for communities to identify potential areas for protection.
- 7** Include the creation of new protected areas that will benefit species at risk and are areas of interest for Indigenous communities in all sub-regional and regional land use plans.

SASKATCHEWAN

SASKATCHEWAN RIVER DELTA.
Photo by Prairie Rising.

CURRENT STATUS

7.8%

IN PROTECTED AREAS

2%

IN OECS

CHANGE

0%

NO INCREASE FROM 2021 CPCAD UPDATE

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

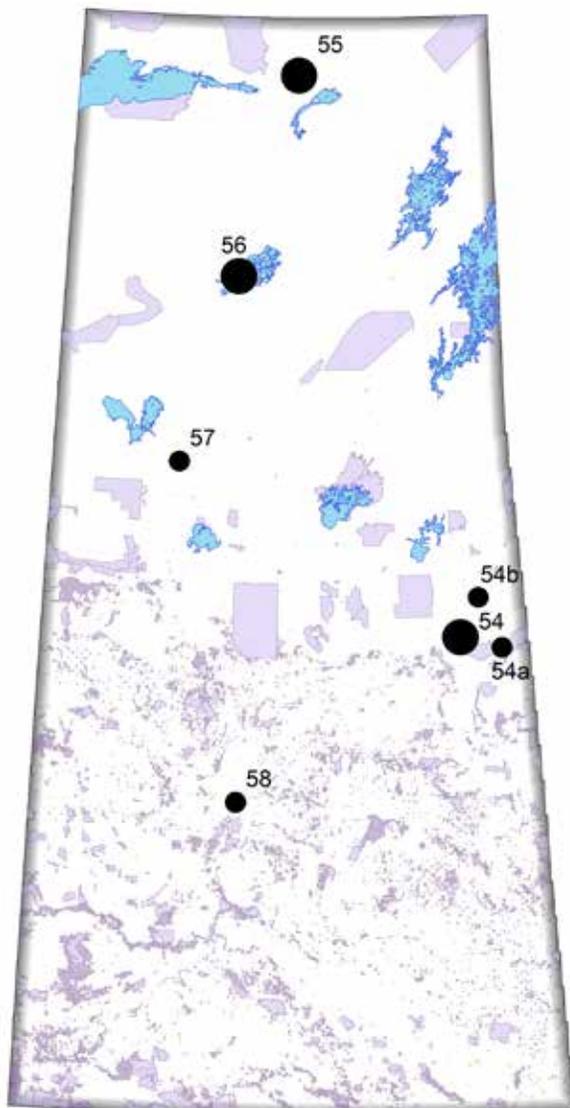
+3.8%

= 13.6%

POTENTIAL TOTAL PROTECTION OF THE PROVINCE

SASKATCHEWAN MUST UPDATE ITS PROTECTION TARGET AND APPROACH TO INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

The Government of Saskatchewan has no recent conservation commitments beyond a 30-year-old target of protecting 12% of the province. Furthermore, while the provincial government has signalled its interest in IPCAs, its approach to date is out of step with the fundamental principle that IPCA establishment and management should be Indigenous-led, with Indigenous Peoples having the primary role in determining objectives, boundaries, and governance structures.^{xliii}



OPPORTUNITIES

- Up to 1,000 km²
- 1,000 km²–10,000 km²
- Over 10,000 km²
- Existing Protected Areas and OECMs

MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
54	Saskatchewan River Delta Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas	~25,000 km ²	~3.8%	~13.6%
54a	Lobstick Lake Ecological Reserve			
54b	Rare Alvar Sites			
55	Athabasca Dēnesuliné Nuhenéné Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
56	Cree Lake Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (English River First Nation)			
57	Sakitawak IPCA in Île-à-la-Crosse			
58	Meewasin Valley National Urban Park			
N/A	Dedicated Conservation Initiatives to Support Remaining Ecologically-Significant Grassland Habitat			

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Protect the Saskatchewan River Delta – ~3,000 km².
- Four Athabasca Dënesuliné Nuhenéné IPCAs, with potential land coverage of over 10,000 km².
- Cree Lake IPCA with English River First Nation.
- Sakitawak IPCA in Île-à-la-Crosse.
- Dedicated conservation initiatives to support remaining ecologically-significant grassland habitat.

CHALLENGES

- Low conservation ambition from provincial government.
- Reluctance by the provincial government to fully embrace the spirit and potential of Indigenous-led conservation.



SASKATCHEWAN.
Photo by Tandem X Visuals.



SASKATCHEWAN: ATHABASCA
 NUHENENE REGION.
 Photo by Prairie Rising.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

- 1 Formally adopt target of protecting at least 30% of the province by 2030, with a milestone of 25% by 2025.
- 2 Develop a transparent and collaborative plan to reach the 30% target, prioritizing and supporting the establishment of IPCAs proposed by First Nations and Métis governments.
- 3 Help develop and support a dedicated grassland conservation initiative to protect and restore remaining ecologically-significant grassland habitat.
- 4 Build relationships with Cumberland House Cree Nation and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation in developing IPCAs, including the Lobstick Lake Ecological Reserve and planned protection of rare Alvar sites.
- 5 Support the full suite of conservation and management proposals by Cumberland House Cree Nation.
- 6 Finalize negotiations for four Athabasca Dēnesuliné Nuhenéné IPCAs.
- 7 Fulfill requirements for habitat protection and species recovery for boreal caribou, including through the Species at Risk Act Section 11 agreement signed by the provincial and federal governments.
- 8 Work with Parks Canada and Meewasin Valley Authority to create a National Urban Park in Saskatoon.

MANITOBA

POLAR BEAR
PROVINCIAL
PARK, MANITOBA.
Photo by Harry
Pherson.

CURRENT STATUS

11%

IN PROTECTED
AREAS*

N/A

IN OECMs

CHANGE

0%

NO INCREASE
FROM 2021 CPCAD
UPDATE

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

+18.1%

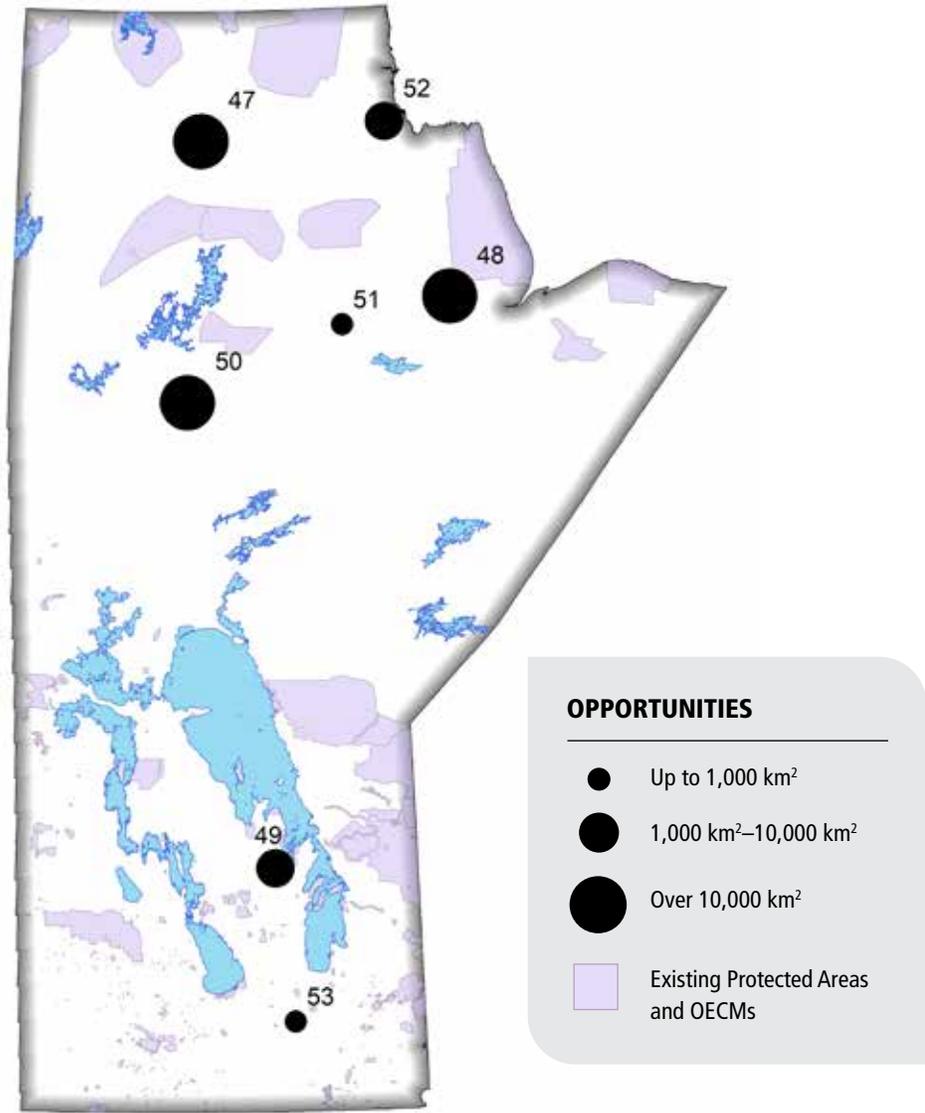
=29.1%

POTENTIAL TOTAL
PROTECTION
OF THE PROVINCE

MANITOBA MUST REASSESS THE VALUE OF MAINTAINING PUBLIC PROTECTED AREAS

The Manitoba government has no current conservation targets. Furthermore, it has signalled an interest in decommissioning some provincial protected areas and exploring new financial models, including the privatization of management or ownership by third-party entities. The campground in St. Ambrose provincial park was recently privatized, which resulted in tripling the cost of camp fees.

* Although Manitoba has one OECM, its area (211 km²) is too small to show up in percentage totals.



MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
47	Seal River Watershed Indigenous Protected Area	~117,000 km ²	~18.1%	~29.1%
48	York Factory First Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
49	Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative			
50	Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
51	Aski Pahminahmaswin – Tataskweyak Cree Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
52	Manitoba’s Caribou River Provincial Park to Wapusk Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
53	Winnipeg National Urban Park			



BARREN GROUND CARIBOU IN THE SEAL RIVER WATERSHED.
Photo by Josh Pearlman.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Seal River Watershed IPCA – 50,000 km².
- York Factory First Nation IPCA – study area over 46,000 km².
- Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative – 9,341 km².

CHALLENGES

- Establishing new protected areas considered a low priority.
- Parks and Protected Spaces branch is short staffed and insufficiently resourced.
- No conservation targets in place.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

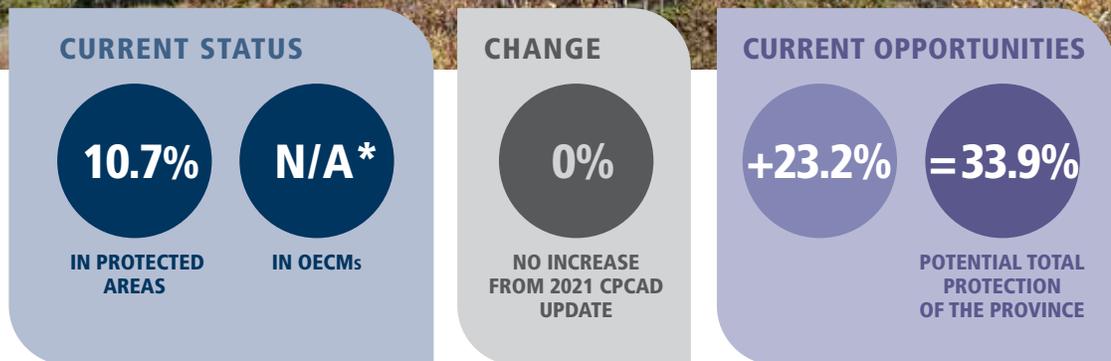
- 1** Formally adopt target of protecting at least 30% of the province by 2030, with a milestone of 25% by 2025.
- 2** Formally develop and implement open and transparent processes to identify additional conservation priorities and opportunities.
- 3** Prioritize and support establishment and management of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas proposed by Indigenous Nations, including by supporting First Nations to complete and implement land use plans in resource management areas.
- 4** Work on developing shared responsibilities with Indigenous Nations on establishing and managing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
- 5** Map and protect critical habitat for woodland caribou.



SEAL RIVER ESTUARY TERN
CHICK, MANITOBA.
Photo by Ron Thiessen.

ONTARIO

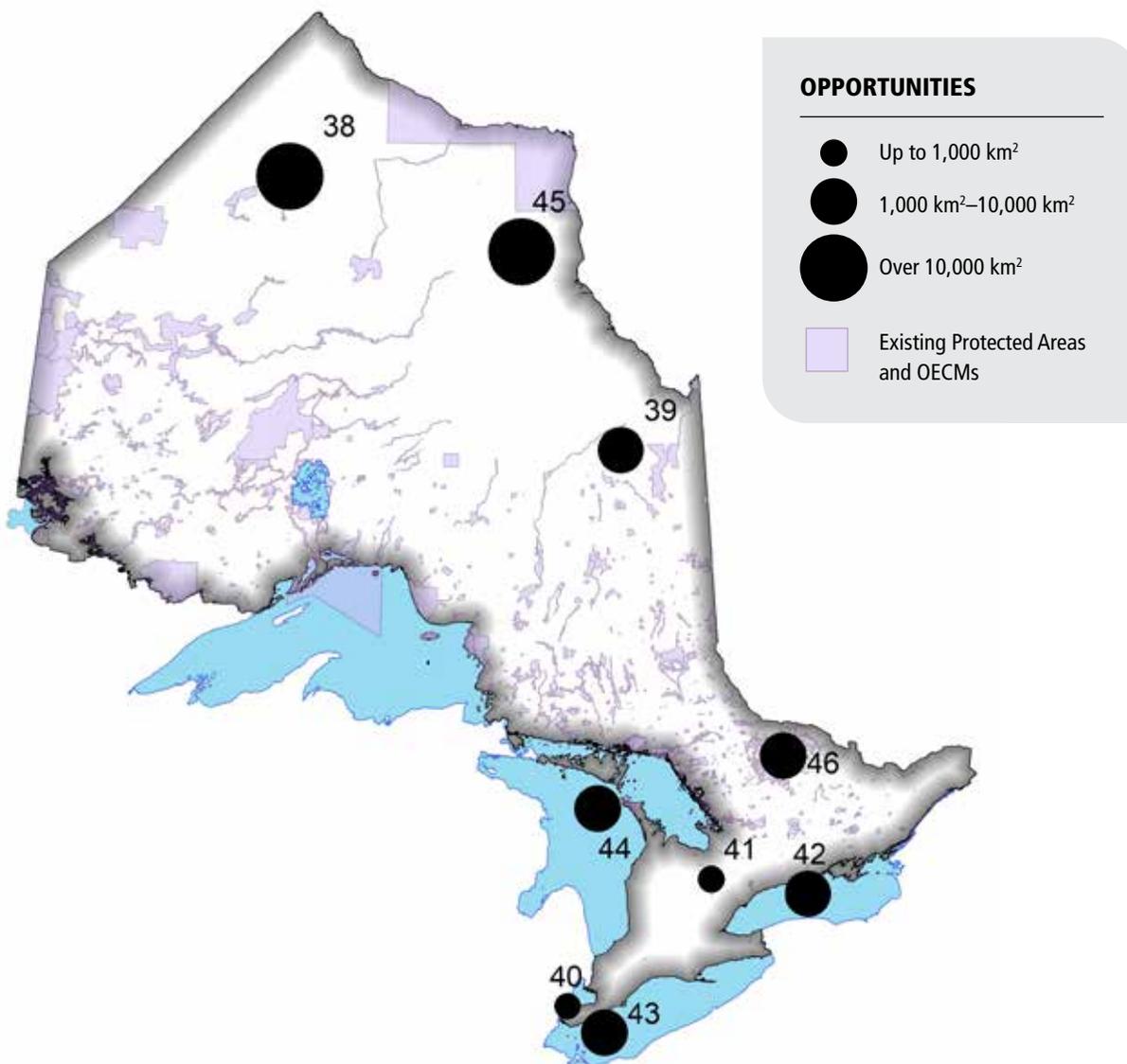
ONTARIO. Photo by Jamie Dantas.



LACK OF POLITICAL WILL IS BLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTED AREAS IN ONTARIO

The Government of Ontario has not committed to meeting international conservation targets. In recent years, Ontario has rolled back environmental safeguards to facilitate development, including by weakening the Endangered Species Act and Environmental Assessment Act.

* Although ON reports three OECCMs, their area (38 km²) is too small to show in the percentage measure.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Up to 1,000 km²
- 1,000 km²–10,000 km²
- Over 10,000 km²
- Existing Protected Areas and OECMs

MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
38	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig Indigenous Protected Area	~250,000 km ²	~23.2%	~33.9%
39	Moose Cree's North French First Nation Protected Area			
40	Ojibway National Urban Park, Windsor			
41	Greater Golden Horseshoe			
42	Lake Ontario National Marine Conservation Area			
43	Western Lake Erie National Marine Conservation Area			
44	Lake Huron National Marine Conservation Area			
45	Hudson Bay Lowlands			
46	Complete Protection of Algonquin Park			

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Indigenous-led protection in the Boreal Forest and Hudson Bay Lowlands, including Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Indigenous Protected Area and Moose Cree's North French First Nation Protected Area. The peatlands of the Hudson Bay Lowlands are globally significant for their carbon stores and have been helping to cool the planet for thousands of years.^{xliv}
- Mushkegowuk National Marine Conservation Area (mostly marine, but will likely also include large terrestrial and freshwater components).
- Halting logging throughout Algonquin Park, thereby expanding the protected area.
- A connected network of protected land in central Ontario, the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and Southwestern Ontario, including an expansion of Rouge National Urban Park and a new National Urban Park in Windsor. This region is an extinction hotspot and needs more protection to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.
- Three new National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs) in the Great Lakes.

CHALLENGES

- Prioritization by the Government of Ontario of development over nature protection, and resistance to calls to take action to address the biodiversity crisis.
- Lack of recognition of job and social benefits of protecting nature.
- Pressure from industry groups to exploit nature and natural areas for short-term profit.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

- 1** Implement a new collaborative and ambitious vision for Ontario, as suggested by participants of the Peoples' Summit.^{xlv} This would exceed 30% protection of Ontario's land by 2030, protect Ontario's forests and peatlands, provide jobs and areas for people to connect to nature, and serve as an example for other jurisdictions across Canada.
- 2** Partner with the federal government and Indigenous Nations to support Indigenous-led conservation in northern watersheds and the Hudson Bay Lowlands.
- 3** Work with the federal government to establish the Mushkegowuk NMCA as well as three NMCAs in Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario.
- 4** Work with the federal government to restore and expand protected areas and ecological corridors in central and southern Ontario.



ONTARIO.
Photo by Simone Wessels Bloom.

QUEBEC

CARIBOU,
QUEBEC. Photo by
JC Lemay.

CURRENT STATUS

16.7%

IN PROTECTED
AREAS

N/A

IN OECMS

CHANGE

+0.02%

INCREASE FROM
2021 CPCAD
UPDATE*

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

+19.2%

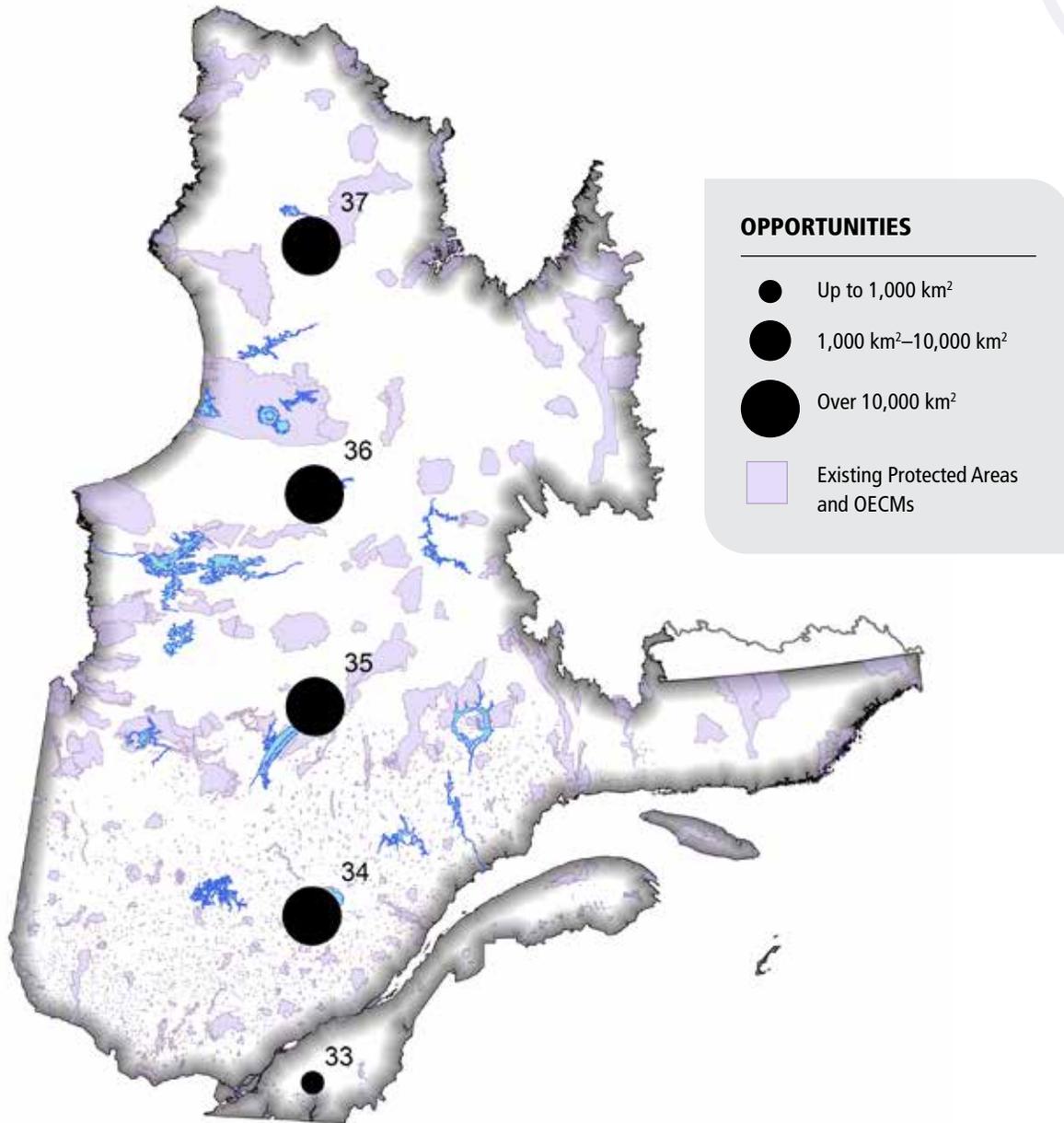
=35.8%

POTENTIAL TOTAL
PROTECTION
OF THE PROVINCE

QUEBEC RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY FOR SETTING AND MEETING PROTECTION COMMITMENTS

The Government of Quebec has been hailed as a leader both in Canada and internationally for largely fulfilling its commitment to protect 17% of the province's land base and 10% of ocean area by 2020, and then committing to the target of protecting 30% of land and ocean by 2030. Since 2021, the Government of Quebec has protected an additional 300 km² in southern Quebec and supported conservation efforts of municipalities and local groups.

* For reference, here we compare the data to the CPAWS [ReportCard](#), published in June 2021.



MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
33	Forests for Health Initiative	~288,000 km ²	~19.24%	~35.8%
34	Forgotten Territories in Southern Quebec, Including Noire and Coulonge Rivers, Lac Walker and Bas Saint-Laurent sites			
35	Indigenous-led Protected Areas, Including Pimpuakan, Pakatakan, and Mutehekau Shipu-Proposed IPCAs			
36	Species at Risk Critical Habitat			
37	Climate stabilization areas – contribution to 50% target in Northern QC			

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- In southern Quebec, around 70 important forest areas (named the “Forgotten Territories”) are ready for protection, including the Noire and Coulonge River Watersheds, Lac Walker, and Bas-Saint-Laurent sites. These areas have been identified for protection but were omitted from the 2020 expansion of Quebec’s protected areas system.
- Proposed Indigenous-led protected areas initiatives, including Pimpuakan, Pakatakan, and Mutehekau Shipu IPCAs.
- Climate stabilization areas: Northern Quebec shelters important carbon stocks which could be protected as a contribution to the longstanding commitment to protect 50% of the northern region of the province from industrial activities by 2035.
- Forests for health: Quebec citizens and a growing number of stakeholders are mobilizing to protect the province’s remaining forests, such as the Sentier national project, in recognition of the health and economic benefits from conservation.
- Species at risk habitat: Protection of endangered species habitat, including calving grounds of barren-ground caribou (eastern migratory population), woodland caribou (boreal population), and western chorus frog.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of a proper action plan and sufficient financial resources to protect 30% of the province by 2030.
- Although the Government of Quebec has embedded international standards for protected areas and OECMs in law, it continues to entertain the idea of authorizing industrial activities in future conserved areas, such as the Anticosti Island or northern conservation areas.
- Counterproductive governance mechanisms, especially in the management of public forests, and ineffective tools for habitat protection for species at risk.
- Significant gaps in protection in Southern Quebec.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

- 1** Complete outstanding regional and Indigenous-led protected areas proposals, beginning with the “Forgotten Territories” in the south of the province.
- 2** Work with environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) and local partners on a regionalized conservation approach, based on science and Indigenous knowledge, to identify priority areas to achieve 30% land protection.
- 3** Invest \$50M per year to support the implementation of a 30% protection target, notably by upgrading the conservation capacity of the Ministry of Environment, launching a program on IPCAs, and increasing support for ENGOS, local groups, and local governments working on public lands.
- 4** Review governance of public land (including abolishing the Forestry ministry, so that the Fauna and Parks mandate go back to the Minister of the Environment)^{xlvi} and modernize provincial tools for habitat protection for endangered species.



SENTIER NATIONAL, QUEBEC.
Photo by Dominique Caron.

NEW BRUNSWICK

NEW BRUNSWICK.
Photo by Emily
Ruttan.

CURRENT STATUS

(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021)

4.9%

IN PROTECTED
AREAS

N/A

IN OECSs

CHANGE

0%

NO INCREASE
FROM 2021 CPCAD
UPDATE

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

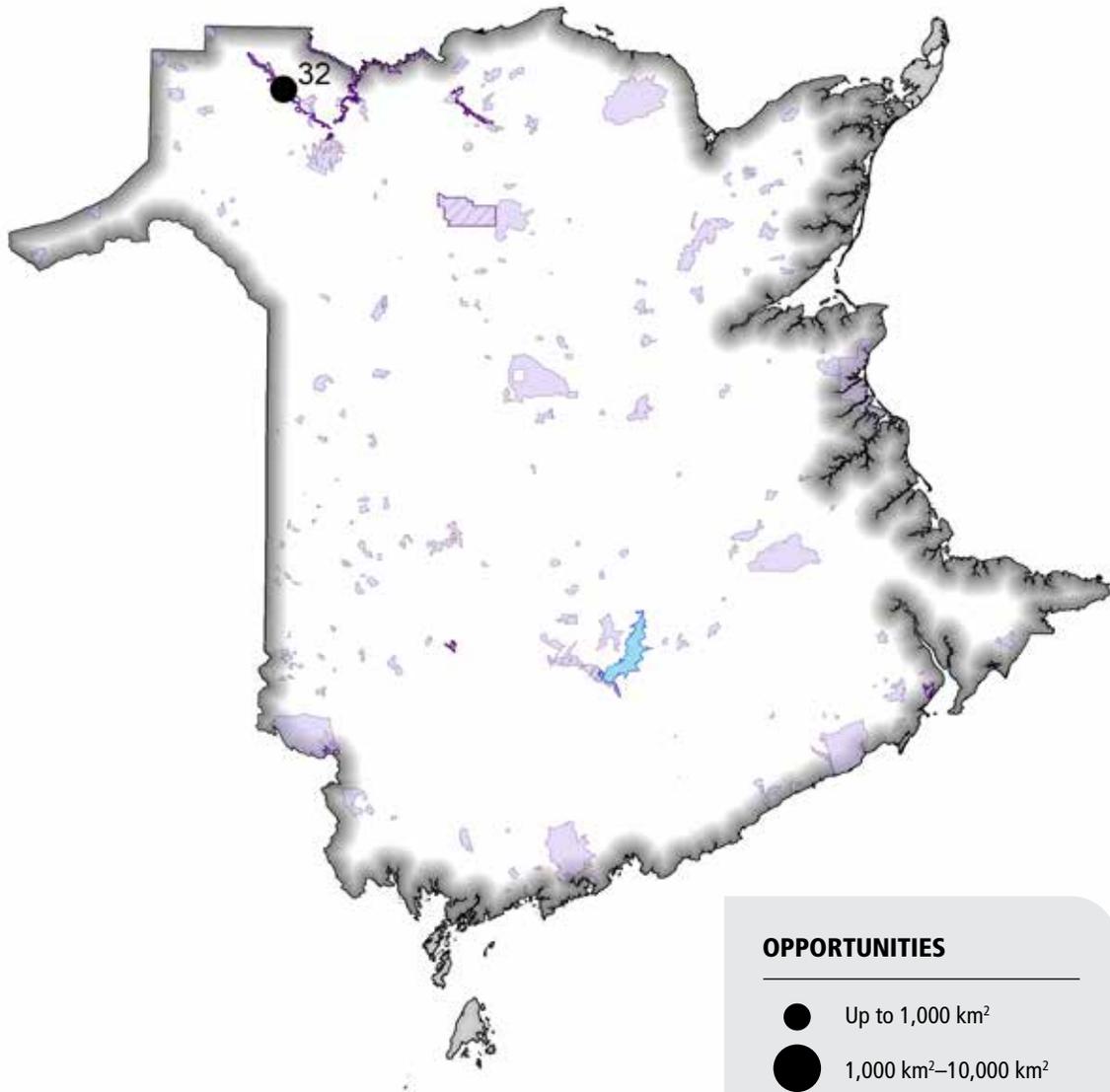
+5.3%

=10.2%

POTENTIAL TOTAL
PROTECTION
OF THE PROVINCE

NEW BRUNSWICK CAN PROTECT 10%, AND MORE, OF ITS LAND AND FRESHWATER

In 2019, the Government of New Brunswick committed to doubling its protected areas system to cover 10% of the province's land and freshwater by 2020 through the Nature Legacy Initiative. The Government of New Brunswick has made no formal commitments or plans to move beyond the 10% target.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Up to 1,000 km²
- 1,000 km²–10,000 km²
- Over 10,000 km²
- Existing Protected Areas and OECS

MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
32	Restigouche River	~3,900 km ²	~5.3%	~10.2%
N/A	Nature Legacy Initiative			

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Implementation of the Nature Legacy Initiative (3,900 km²).
- Protection of wild forests, wetlands, and streams along the Restigouche River, which is a 235 km long corridor of exceptional riparian habitat.
- Negotiating a Nature Agreement with the federal government to secure additional funding to protect coastal areas.

CHALLENGES

- Opposition from some sectors related to potential loss of resource extraction opportunities due to conservation efforts.
- Need for the Government of New Brunswick to focus more on the potential for conservation through reconciliation, through dedicated relationship-building with Indigenous Nations.



RESTIGOUCHE, NEW BRUNSWICK.
Photo by Justin Dutcher.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK

- 1** Legally designate protected area proposals to achieve the 10% target.
- 2** Develop a “beyond 10%” plan that includes additional areas proposed by Indigenous Peoples, citizens, and organizations through the Nature Legacy Initiative consultations (e.g., including coastal zone, wetlands, conservation peat lands).
- 3** Focus on developing shared governance models and tools with Indigenous Nations to support co-governance and co-management of protected areas, including IPCAs.
- 4** Engage communities in stewardship, monitoring, and management of protected areas, and support jobs in these areas of the conservation economy.
- 5** Work on a plan to adopt more ecologically-friendly industrial practices across the province, to ensure habitats between protected areas are well-connected and resilient.

BAY OF FUNDY, NEW BRUNSWICK.
Photo by John O'Driscoll.



NOVA SCOTIA

BLUE MOUNTAIN-
BIRCH COVE
LAKES, NOVA
SCOTIA. Photo
by CPAWS Nova
Scotia.

CURRENT STATUS

12.8%

IN PROTECTED
AREAS

N/A

IN OECSs

CHANGE

+0.2%

INCREASE FROM
2021 CPCAD
UPDATE

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

+7.7%

=20%

POTENTIAL TOTAL
PROTECTION
OF THE PROVINCE

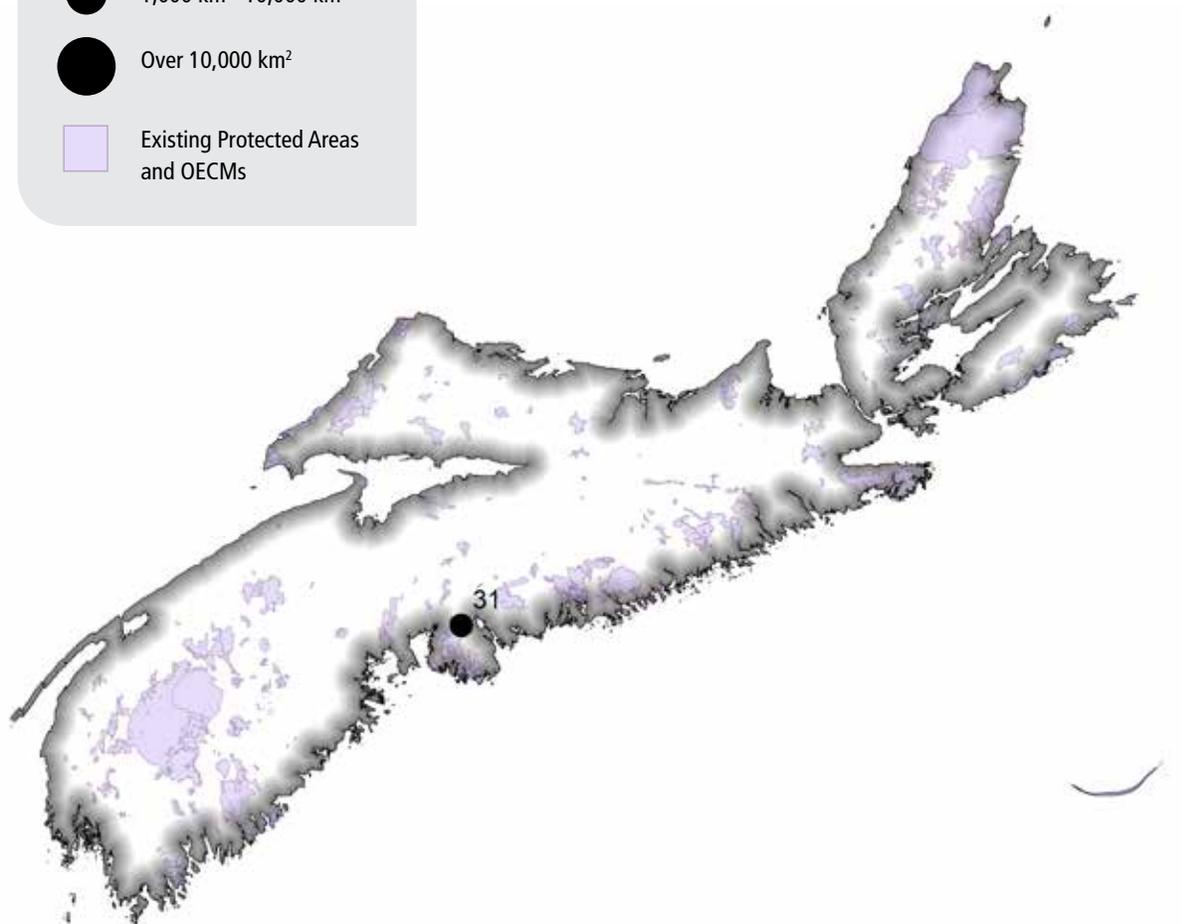
NOVA SCOTIA WORKS TOWARDS PROTECTING AT LEAST 20% OF ITS LAND

In November 2021, the Nova Scotia government passed new environmental legislation which increased its protected areas target to at least 20% of the provincial landmass by 2030, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and consistent with national reporting criteria. The new law also commits the province to publicly release a new, collaborative protected areas strategy by the end of 2023.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Up to 1,000 km²
- 1,000 km²–10,000 km²
- Over 10,000 km²
- Existing Protected Areas and OECMs



MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
31	Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes National Urban Park	~4,275 km ²	~7.7%	~20% ⁶
N/A	Designation of 83 Protected Areas Announced in 2021			
N/A	Full implementation of <i>Nova Scotia Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan</i>			
N/A	New Target Commitment of at Least 20% of Provincial Landmass			

6 The Nova Scotia government has indicated its willingness to align with national conservation targets.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Full implementation of the existing *Nova Scotia Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan*, to create approximately 150 new protected areas.
- Create a National Urban Park in Halifax at Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes.
- Identify new protected areas across Nova Scotia to achieve at least 20% land protection by 2030.

CHALLENGES

- Large industrial footprint in Nova Scotia.
- Slow implementation of existing protected area commitments.
- Lack of public land – only about one-third of Nova Scotia is publicly owned.



WETLAND SACKVILLE RIVER
WILDERNESS AREA, NOVA SCOTIA.
Photo by CPAWS NS.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA

- 1** Prioritize Indigenous-led conservation in all planning processes and provide capacity for the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
- 2** Fully implement the *Nova Scotia Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan* in 2022.
- 3** Publicly release a new collaborative protected areas strategy by the end of 2023 to achieve the “at least 20%” land protection target.
- 4** Apply interim protections immediately to new candidate protected areas on public lands.
- 5** Seek federal funding to establish new protected areas and support implementation of the “at least 20%” land protection target.
- 6** Work with Parks Canada and Halifax Regional Municipality to create a National Urban Park at Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes.
- 7** Allocate funding to expand Nova Scotia’s public land base through strategic land purchases for conservation.
- 8** Set up an advisory table with independent experts to oversee the protected areas process, provide expert advice, and ensure objectives and timelines are being met.



NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

NEWFOUNDLAND.
Photo by
JP Valery.

CURRENT STATUS

6.9%

IN PROTECTED
AREAS

N/A

IN OECMs

CHANGE

0%

NO INCREASE
FROM 2021 CPCAD
UPDATE

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

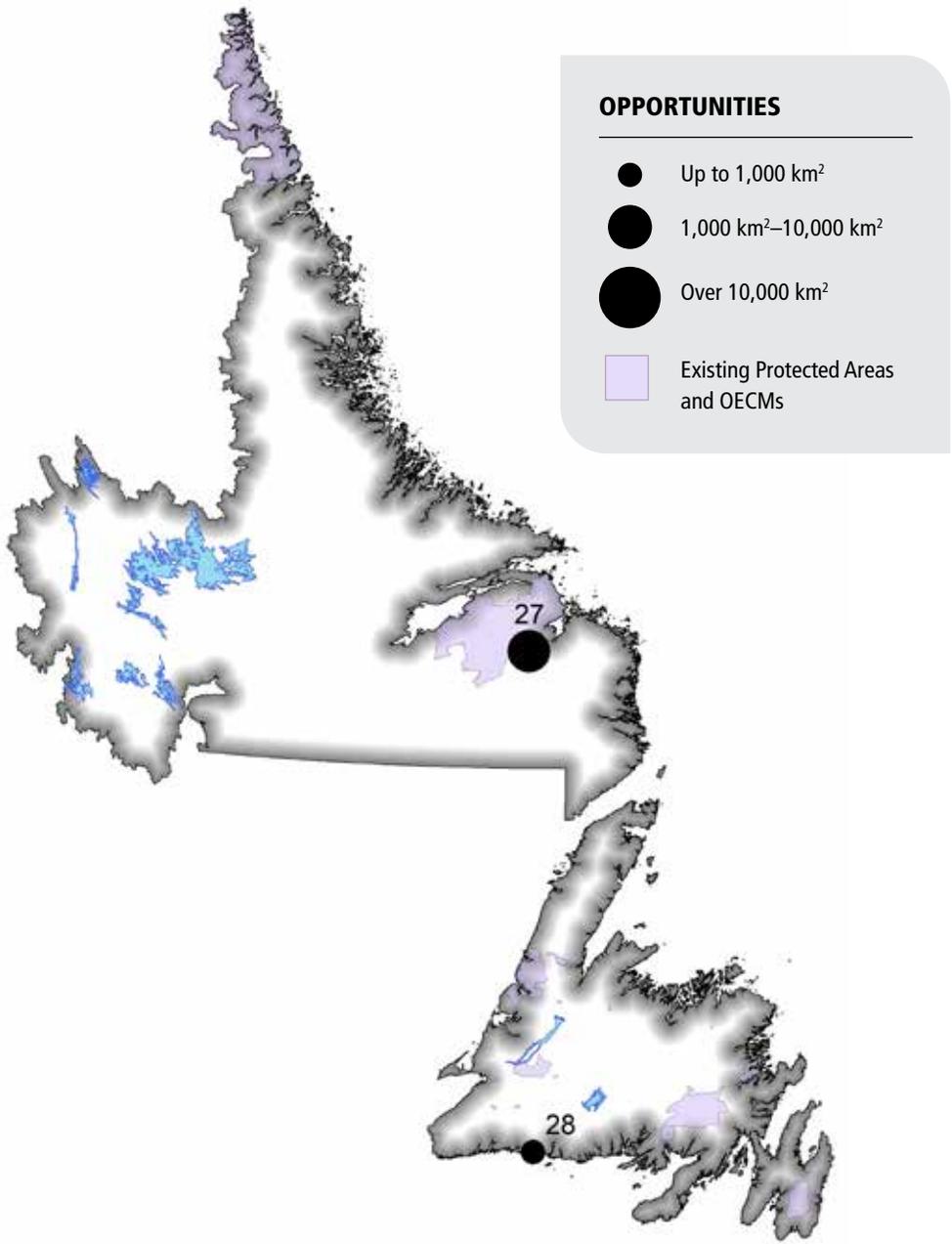
+2.2%

=9.2%

POTENTIAL TOTAL
PROTECTION
OF THE PROVINCE

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR IN NEGOTIATION FOR A NATURE AGREEMENT

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has not committed to a specific conservation target or set timelines to advance protected areas within the province. However, in the spring of 2022, the federal government initiated the process of negotiating a Nature Agreement between the two governments, which should facilitate nature-related discussions, including on new protected areas and habitat protection for species at risk and migratory birds. The agreement could also help advance consultations on the Protected Areas Plan for the island of Newfoundland, which is currently stalled.



MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
27	Eagle River Waterway Provincial Park	~9,000 km ²	~2.2%	~9.2%
28	Potential National Park in Burgeo region			
N/A	Other Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area Opportunities			
N/A	Protected Areas Plan			

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- April 2022 federal-provincial commitment to accelerate the creation of protected areas in Newfoundland and Labrador, including:
 - Completing the Eagle River Waterway Provincial Park protected area with Indigenous Peoples (3,000 km²)
 - Feasibility study for a national park in the Burgeo Region (in addition to the South Coast Fjords NMCA, which will likely have a terrestrial component)
 - Investigating other potential National Parks, National Wildlife Areas, and NMCAs
- Implementation of Protected Areas Plan for the island of Newfoundland.

CHALLENGES

- Historical lack of political support and resources from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Lack of early engagement with local communities in planning new protected areas.
- Increased pressure from industrial sectors who see protected areas as direct threats.
- Lack of public education and outreach on extensive benefits of protected areas.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

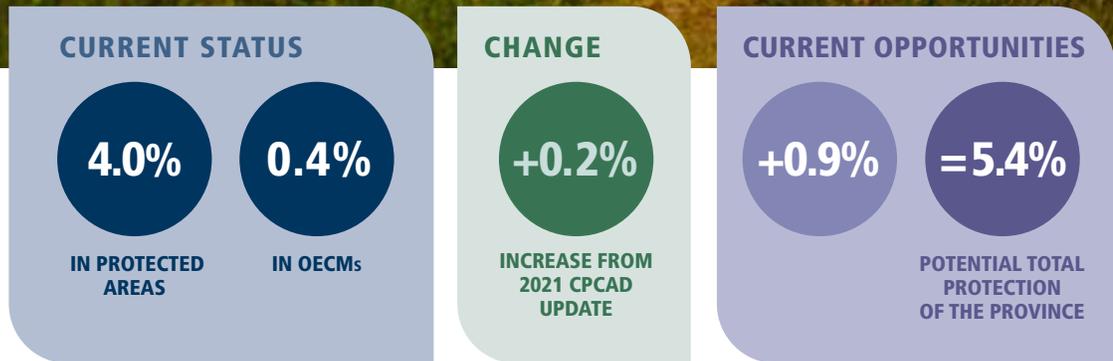
- 1** Publicly commit to increase protected areas both in Newfoundland and Labrador and provide capacity and funding.
- 2** Sign a Nature Agreement with the federal government, which should include, in addition to potential protected areas identified in the April 2022 announcement, federal funding to advance the Protected Areas Plan and protection of sites identified in this plan.
- 3** Publicly commit to a community-based conservation planning process for the province, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, beyond the existing Protected Areas Plan.

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR.
Photo by Pei Yu.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND⁷

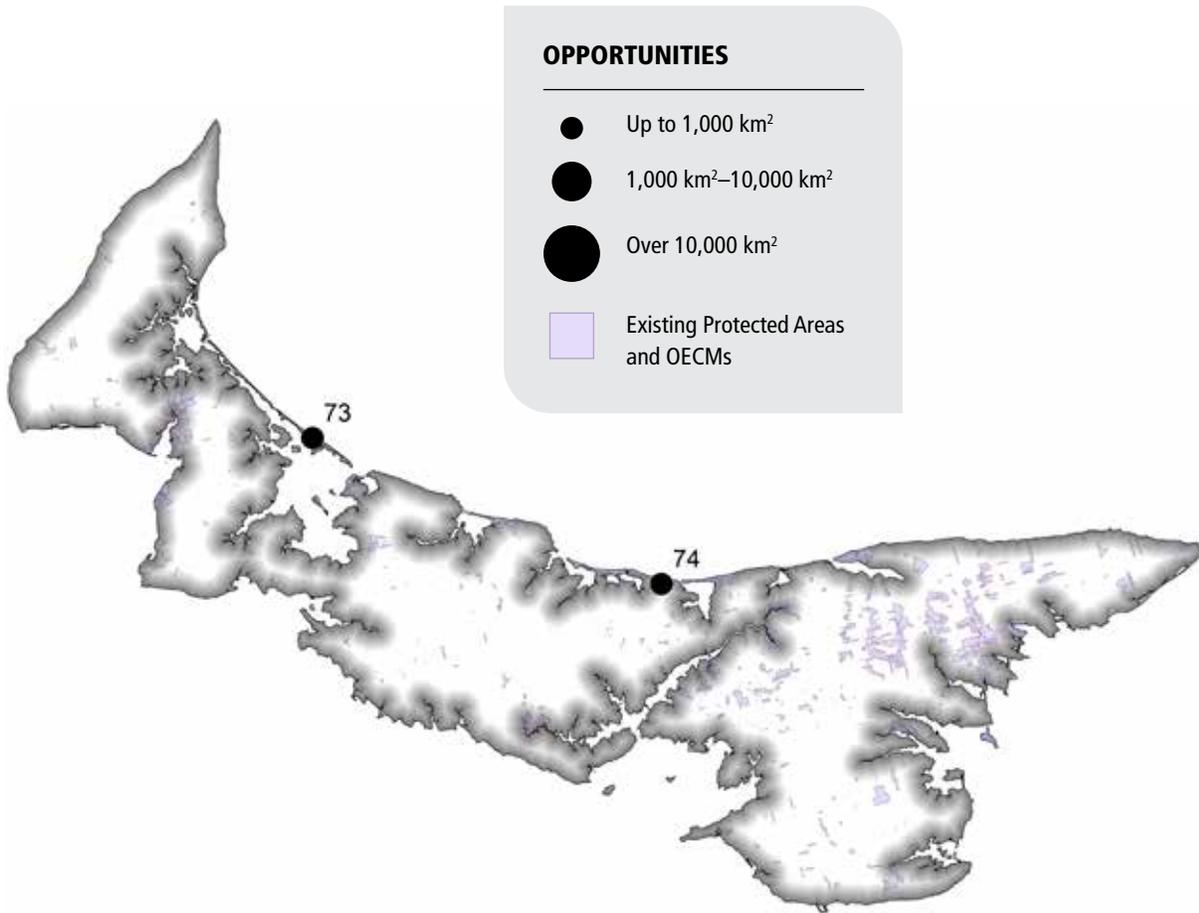
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. Photo by Donovan Wall.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MUST NEGOTIATE PROTECTION OF PRIVATE LANDS

Prince Edward Island has the smallest proportion of land area protected of all Canadian jurisdictions. Private land protection and non-governmental land trust organizations continue to play a pivotal role in establishing protected areas on the island, and Indigenous-led initiatives are helping to drive progress.

⁷ CPAWS does not have a Chapter office in Prince Edward Island. Our overview is based on publicly available information about recent progress and opportunities to advance protection.



MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
73	Pitumkeek (Hog Island Sandhills) National Park Reserve	~52 km ²	~0.9%	~5.4%
74	Expansion of PEI National Park			



KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils to establish a new national park reserve on the Hog Island Sandhills off the North Shore of Prince Edward Island.
- Expansion of Prince Edward Island National Park.
- Working with private land trusts to protect more private land on the island.

CHALLENGES

- 90% of Prince Edward Island is private land.
- Small overall size of the province and high intensity of land use.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- 1 Work with private land trusts, such as the Island Nature Trust, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, and PEI Wildlife Federation, to protect more private land on the island.
- 2 Work with Indigenous communities to create a strategy to protect and restore more public land and improve connectivity of protected areas across the island.



NUNAVUT

CURRENT STATUS

10.1%

IN PROTECTED
AREAS

N/A

IN OECMs

CHANGE

0%

NO INCREASE
FROM 2021 CPCAD
UPDATE

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

+21.2%

=31.3%

POTENTIAL TOTAL
PROTECTION
OF THE
TERRITORY

NUNAVUT.
Photo by Isaac
Demeester.

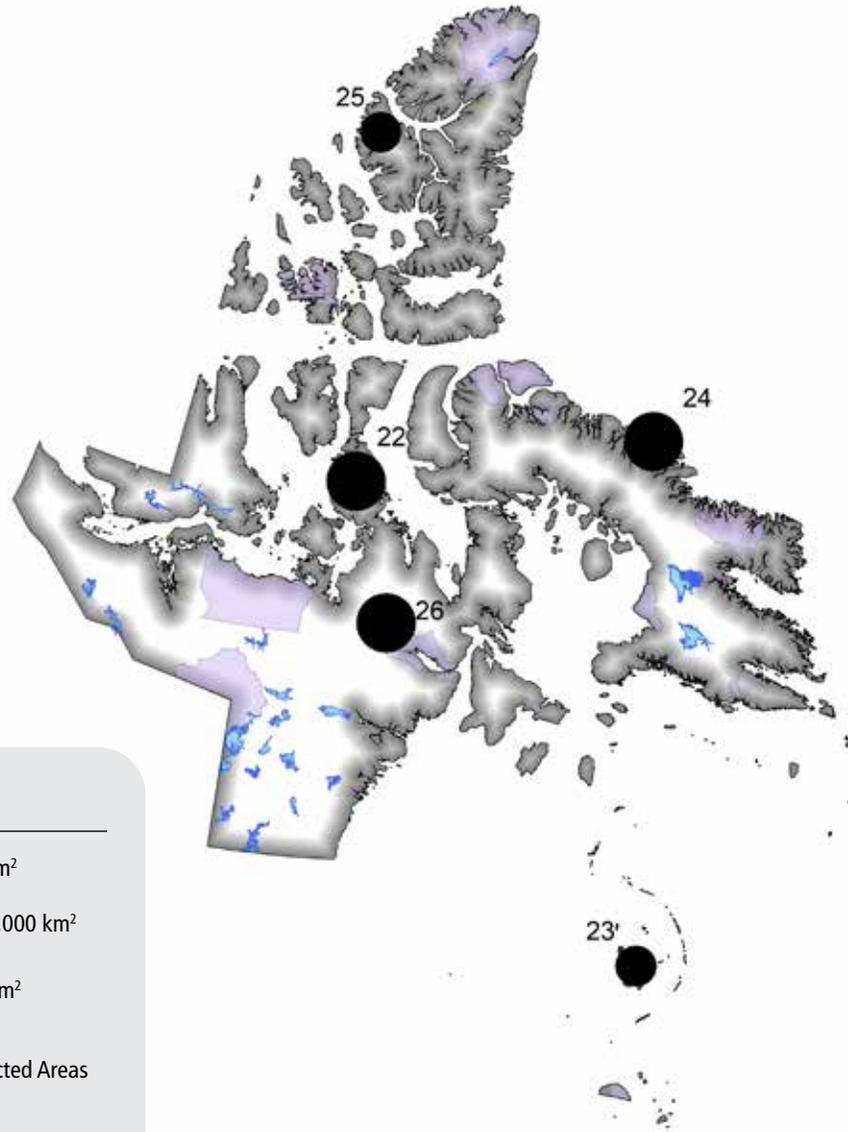
INUIT-LED INITIATIVES AND THE 2021 NUNAVUT LAND USE PLAN OFFER SIGNIFICANT CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

Two vast new marine protected areas have been created in Nunavut in recent years. Building on this progress, more than 400,000 km² of land could be added to Nunavut's conservation network by completing existing protected area proposals and approving the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan.⁸

The federal government has a particularly significant opportunity to advance conservation in Nunavut⁹ by supporting Inuit-led conservation and stewardship initiatives, approving the 2021 Nunavut Land Use Plan, and investing in associated economic opportunities for communities.

⁸ From ecological and Indigenous perspectives, land and ocean together comprise one integrated ecosystem, and many Nunavut planning processes reflect this interconnectedness. Thus, some initiatives are included in both the land and ocean sections of this report.

⁹ The federal government still has significant jurisdiction over land management in Nunavut because, unlike the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, authority over land and resources has not yet been devolved to the territorial government.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Up to 1,000 km²
- 1,000 km²–10,000 km²
- Over 10,000 km²
- Existing Protected Areas and OECMs

MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF TERRITORY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF TERRITORY IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
22	IPCA (Terrestrial and Marine) around the Boothia Peninsula, Proposed by the Community of Taloyoak	~ 443 843 km ²	~21.2%	~31.3%
23	Qikiktait Protected Area in the Belcher Islands around Sanikiluaq			
24	Territorial Park Near Clyde River, Qikiqtani Region			
25	Napaaqtulik Proposed Territorial Park on Axel Heiberg Island, Qikiqtani Region			
26	Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan			



KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- New protected area proposals¹⁰:
 - IPCA (terrestrial and marine) around the Boothia Peninsula, proposed by the community of Taloyoak (85,000 km²)¹¹
 - Qikiktait protected area in the Belcher Islands around Sanikiluaq, proposed by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (43,068 km²: ~3,000 km² terrestrial and 40,000 km² marine)^{12 xlvii}
 - Territorial Park near Clyde River, Qikiqtani Region (~16,000 km²)^{xlvi}
 - Napaaqtulik Proposed Territorial Park on Axel Heiberg Island, Qikiqtani Region (area TBD)
- The 2021 Nunavut Land Use Plan proposes 550,835 km² (443,843 km² of land and 106,992 km² of ocean)⁴ as Limited Use Areas (not overlapping with existing protected areas) where extractive industry activities would be prohibited to protect important habitat for caribou, birds, fish, marine mammals, and other wildlife critical to Inuit culture and food security.^{xlix}

CHALLENGES

- Funding needed for Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements to create conservation areas, as required by the 1993 Nunavut Agreement.
- Willingness of federal and territorial governments to enact Inuit-led governance or co-governance models for protected areas.
- Competing funding priorities as Nunavut continues to have urgent needs for sustained employment and services, including diversifying local economies beyond extractive industries.

10 Some of these proposed protected areas overlap with NLUP Limited Use Areas.

11 Project was supported by a federal Nature Fund grant

12 Project was supported by a federal Nature Fund grant



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND NUNAVUT¹³

- 1** Jointly commit to meet or exceed the 30% by 2030 land and ocean conservation targets, supporting Inuit-led conservation and stewardship initiatives.
- 2** Approve and implement the Nunavut Land Use Plan, ensuring long-term protection of Limited Use areas.
- 3** Allocate secure, sustained funding to support long-term stewardship of protected areas and to build community-based conservation economies.
- 4** Enact policy and legislative changes to promote and support Inuit-led governance models.
- 5** Commit to permanently protect wildlife habitat, particularly for barren-ground caribou, rather than relying on untested mobile protection measures.
- 6** Engage with the philanthropic sector to secure supplementary conservation funding to support community conservation-based employment.

¹³ These recommendations apply to both the Government of Nunavut and Canada, given the federal government still has significant jurisdiction over land and ocean management in Nunavut.



NUNAVUT. Photo by Isaac Demeester.

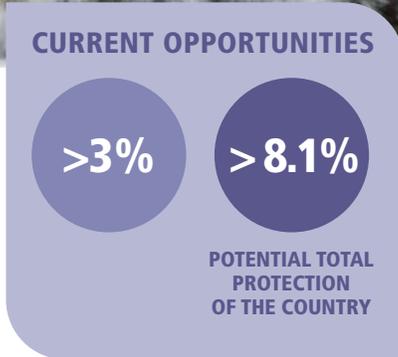
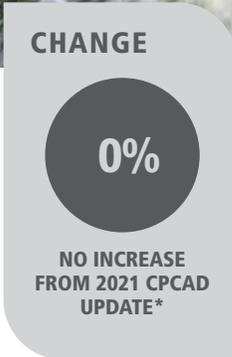
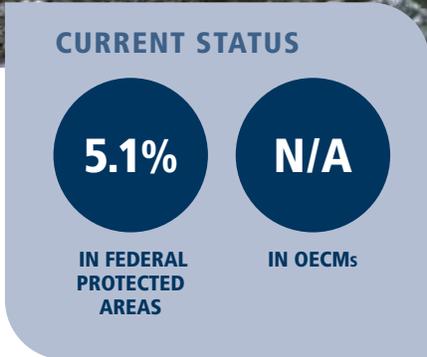
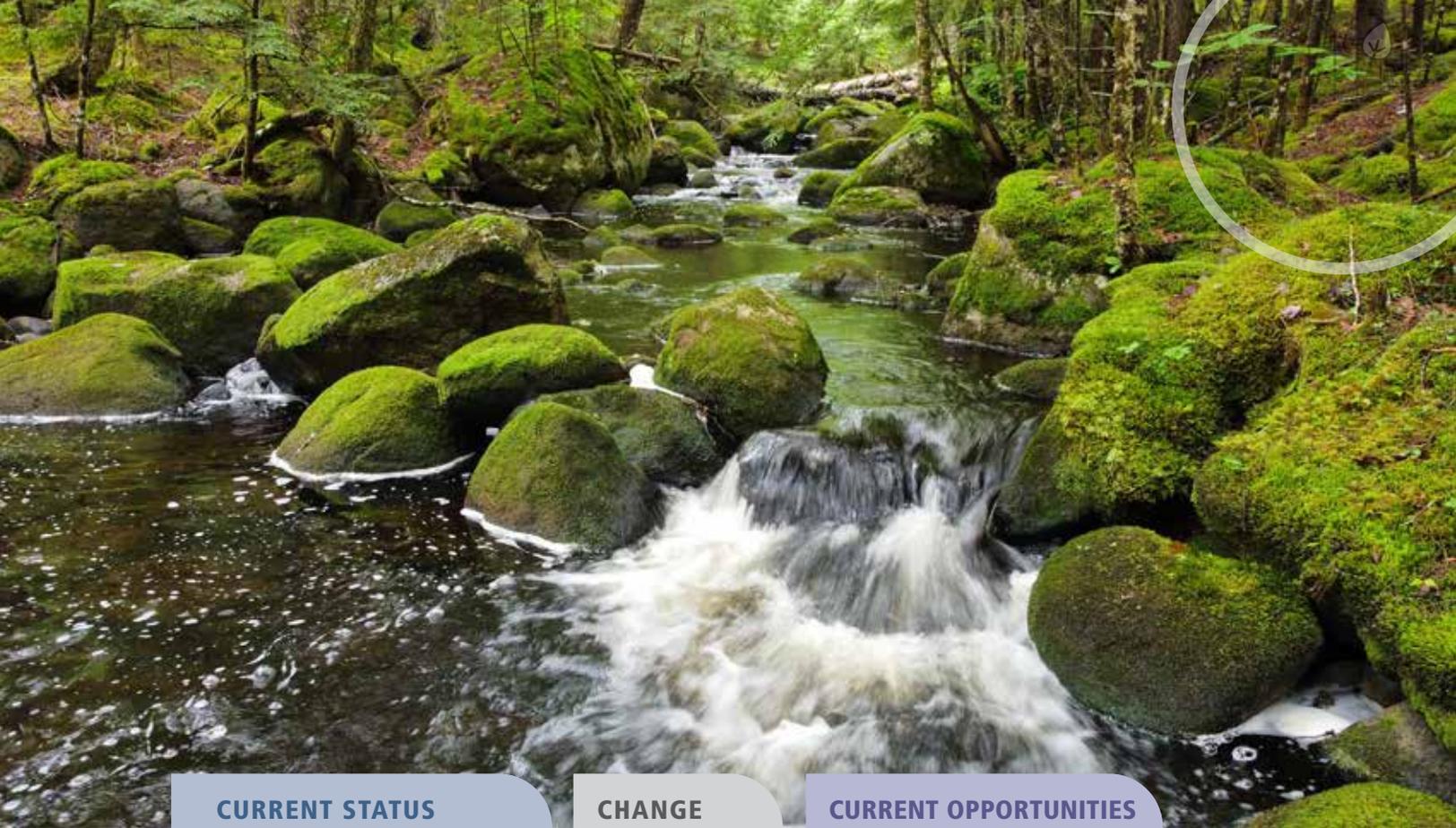


NUNAVUT. Photo by Isaac Demeester.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: TERRESTRIAL

ALBERTA.
Photo by Andy Holmes.



INGRAM RIVER, NOVA SCOTIA. Photo by CPAWS NS.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SETS, CHAMPIONS, AND WORKS TO SUPPORT AMBITIOUS PROTECTION TARGETS

The federal government continues to demonstrate leadership in conservation by committing to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, setting ambitious land and ocean protection targets for the country and championing these internationally, supporting Indigenous-led conservation, and investing significantly more funding to support implementation of these commitments. The federal government announced an additional \$2.3B in Budget 2021 for terrestrial conservation, building on an historic \$1.3B investment in Budget 2018. However, a plan for reaching the 30% target is now urgently needed.

* One new federal protected area has been announced since June 2021 – Hog Island Sandhills National Park Reserve.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS TO NATURE CONSERVATION (MANDATE LETTERS, 2021)¹

- "Continue to work with the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and partners to ensure Canada meets its goals to conserve 25 per cent of our land and water by 2025 and 30 per cent of each by 2030, working to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 in Canada, achieve a full recovery for nature by 2050 and champion this goal internationally. You will ensure that this work remains grounded in science, Indigenous knowledge and local perspectives."
- "Work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners to support new Indigenous Guardians programs and establish new Indigenous Guardians Networks, and support Indigenous communities to build capacity to establish more Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas."
- "Establish 10 new national parks and 10 new National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs) in the next five years, working with Indigenous communities on co-management agreements for these national parks and NMCAs."
- "To ensure all Canadians have access to green space, establish at least one new national urban park in every province and territory, with a target of 15 new urban parks by 2030. You will also invest in existing national parks, with more Canadians than ever before visiting these sites."
- "Work with the Minister of Natural Resources to help protect old growth forests, notably in British Columbia, by reaching a nature agreement with B.C., establishing a \$50 million B.C. Old Growth Nature Fund, and ensuring First Nations, local communities and workers are partners in shaping the path forward for nature protection."



SACKVILLE RIVER
WILDERNESS AREA,
NOVA SCOTIA.
Photo by CPAWS
Nova Scotia.



KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Federal commitment to establish new protected areas in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, including:
 - 10 new National Parks by 2026, with a goal of doubling the area of the National Park system (currently 3% of Canada)
 - 15 new National Urban Parks by 2030
 - 10 new National Marine Conservation Areas, including in the Great Lakes (freshwater protected areas will count towards the terrestrial targets)
 - A new Parks Canada-led ecological corridors program to enhance connectivity
 - New and expanded National Wildlife Areas
- Significant new federal funding to support Indigenous Nations, provincial and territorial governments, and other partners to help deliver on the targets.

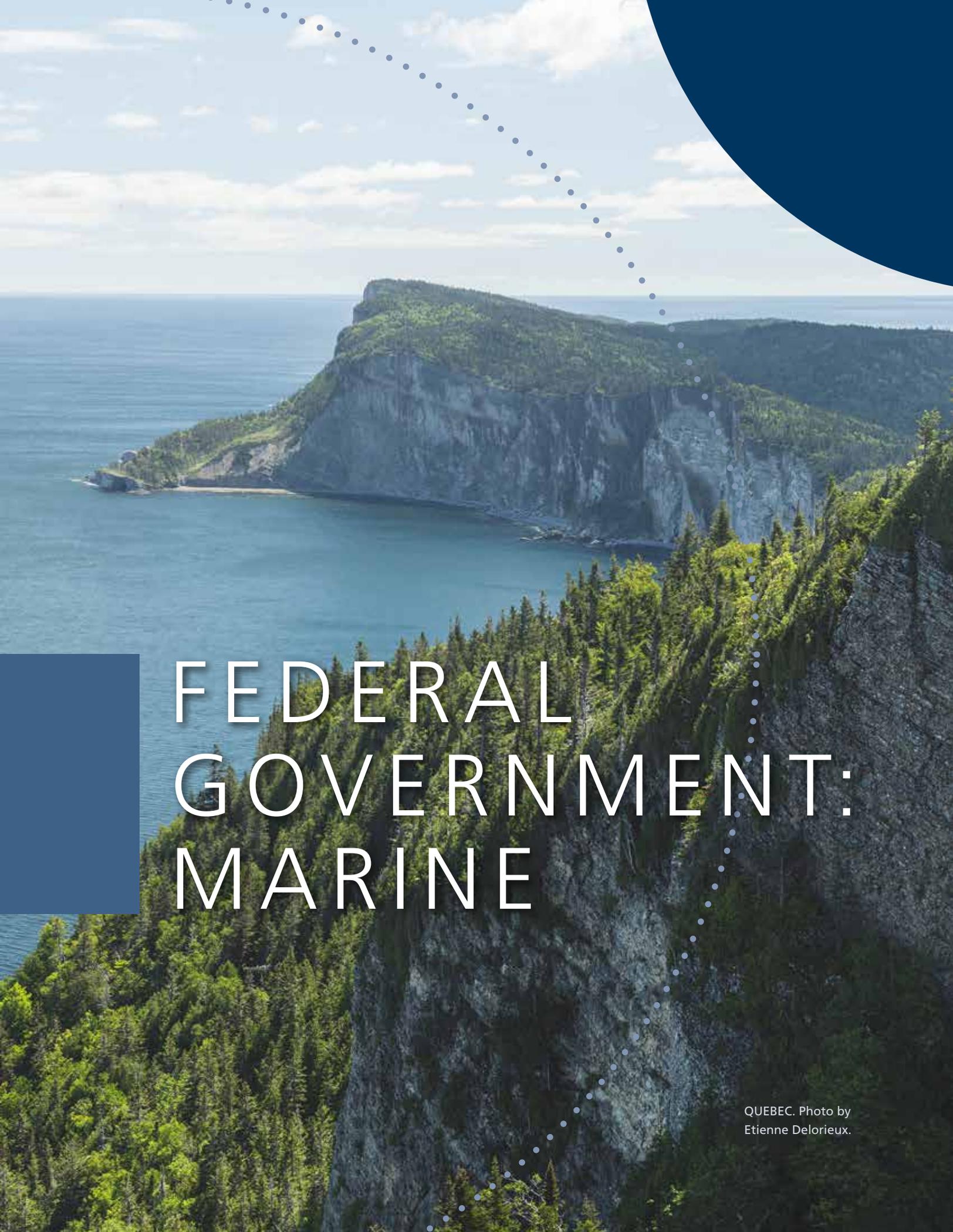
CHALLENGES

- Lack of long-term funding is a barrier to protected area establishment by partners who need assurance that long-term support will be available for management.
- Lack of implementation plan
- Lack of interest among many provinces and territories to contribute to what they see as a “federal” target.
- Gaps in the current carbon accounting rules limit incentives for provinces and territories to protect intact, carbon-rich ecosystems.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- 1** By the end of 2022, publicly release an implementation plan for achieving 30% protection by 2030 that supports Indigenous-led conservation.
- 2** Continue to champion ambitious international conservation targets in the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, including protecting at least 30% of land and ocean by 2030.
- 3** Commit permanent funding to support effective management of protected areas, including by partners, and directly funding Indigenous Nations and communities.
- 4** Negotiate Nature Agreements with provinces and territories and make them available to the public, with funding contingent on significant, measurable contributions to the 30% by 2030 target that meet agreed-to protection standards.
- 5** Provide financial support to civil society organizations to engage and mobilize Canadians to help implement the 30% by 2030 protection target.
- 6** Continue to convene all federal, provincial, and territorial government departments and agencies responsible for protected areas to encourage continued collaboration in delivering on conservation targets.
- 7** Create a standing advisory committee to support the Minister of Environment in implementing the 30% terrestrial protection commitment.
- 8** Enforce legal requirements to protect critical habitat under the Species at Risk Act.
- 9** Implement a whole-of-government approach to delivering on the 30% protection target and engage other departments to support implementation (e.g., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Agriculture, etc.).

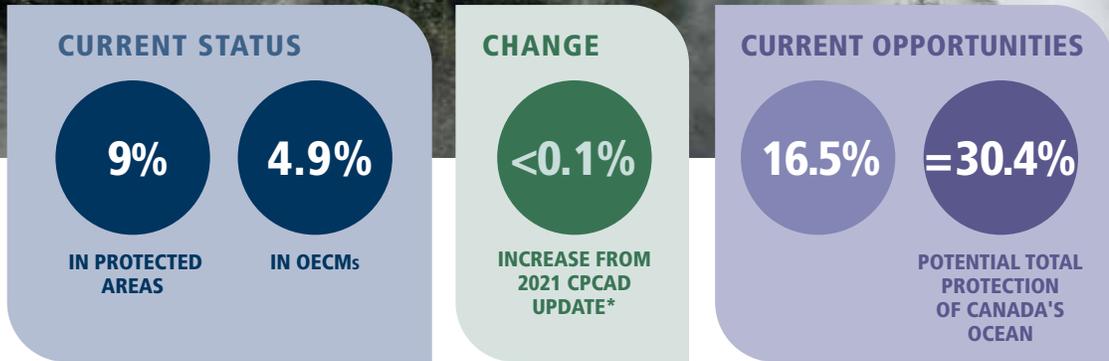


FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: MARINE

QUEBEC. Photo by
Etienne Delorieux.



BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Sergey Pesterev.



THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAKES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON MARINE PROTECTION THROUGH INVESTMENT AND COLLABORATION WITH INDIGENOUS PARTNERS

In 2019, after four years of accelerated efforts to meet its target of conserving 10% of marine and coastal territory by 2020, Canada announced it had protected over 13% of its ocean. Buoyed by this success, Canada has an ambitious new target of halting and reversing biodiversity loss and protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030, with a milestone target of 25% by 2050. Canada has shored up these commitments with an historic investment of \$977M for ocean protection in the 2021 federal budget. To galvanize its burgeoning role as a global leader on ocean protection, Canada has also joined the prestigious Global Ocean Alliance and is hosting the 5th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC5) in 2023.

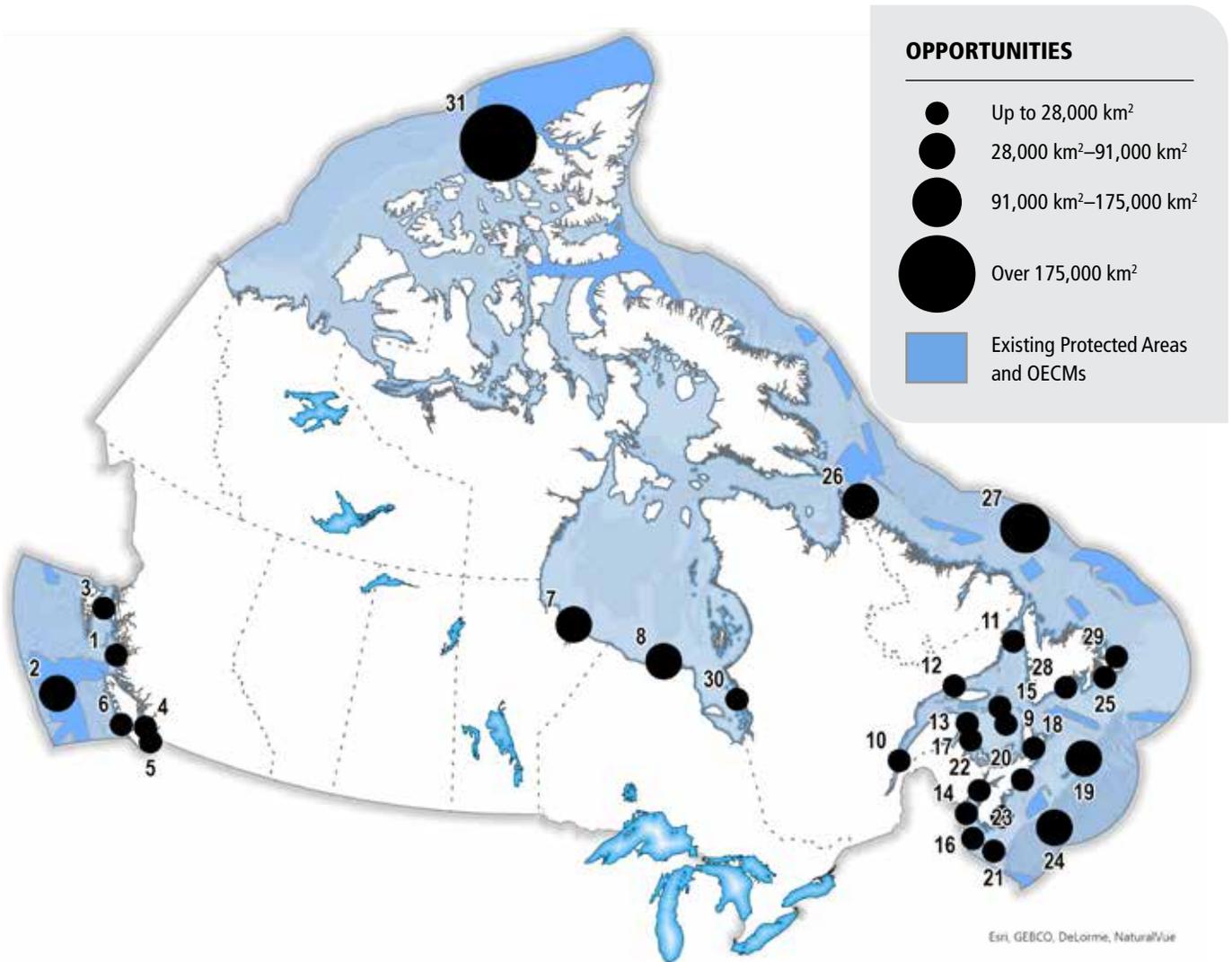
Notably, since 2019, agreements have been signed with Indigenous partners to conduct feasibility studies for three possible new national marine conservation areas. Additionally, a proposed new Marine Protected Area and new other effective area-based conservation measures are both nearing establishment in the Maritimes. Work continues on several other protected areas across Canada's ocean estate.

* National Marine accounting has increased 1,000 sq km (<0.1%) due to a number of provincially designated sites in Quebec and Prince Edward Island.



MANITOBA.
Photo by Ron
Thiessen.





MAP OF EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS AND IDENTIFIED MARINE OPPORTUNITIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Central Coast National Marine Conservation Area Reserve | 4 Southern BC/Salish Sea MSP Process |
| 2 Large Offshore Pacific MPA | 5 Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve |
| 3 Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA Network | 6 West Coast of Vancouver Island |

MANITOBA

- 7 Western Hudson Bay

ONTARIO

- 8 Southwestern Hudson Bay and Western James Bay



NOVA SCOTIA.
Photo by Ruth
Troughton.

QUÉBEC

- 9 Îles de la Madeleine
- 10 L'Estuaire du Saint-Laurent
- 11 Nord Est du Golfe
- 12 Nord Ouest du Golfe
- 13 Sud Ouest du Golfe

NEW BRUNSWICK

- 14 Bay of Fundy NMCA/PCAs
- 15 Gulf of St. Lawrence MPA Network (MSP Process)
- 16 Maritimes MPA Network (New Brunswick)
- 17 Shediac Valley

NOVA SCOTIA

- 18 Bras D'or Lakes
- 19 Eastern Canyons
- 20 Eastern Shore Islands
- 21 Fundian Channel/Browns Bank
- 22 Inner Bay of Fundy
- 23 Maritimes MPA Network (Nova Scotia Coastal Sites)
- 24 Maritimes MPA Network (Nova Scotia Offshore Sites)

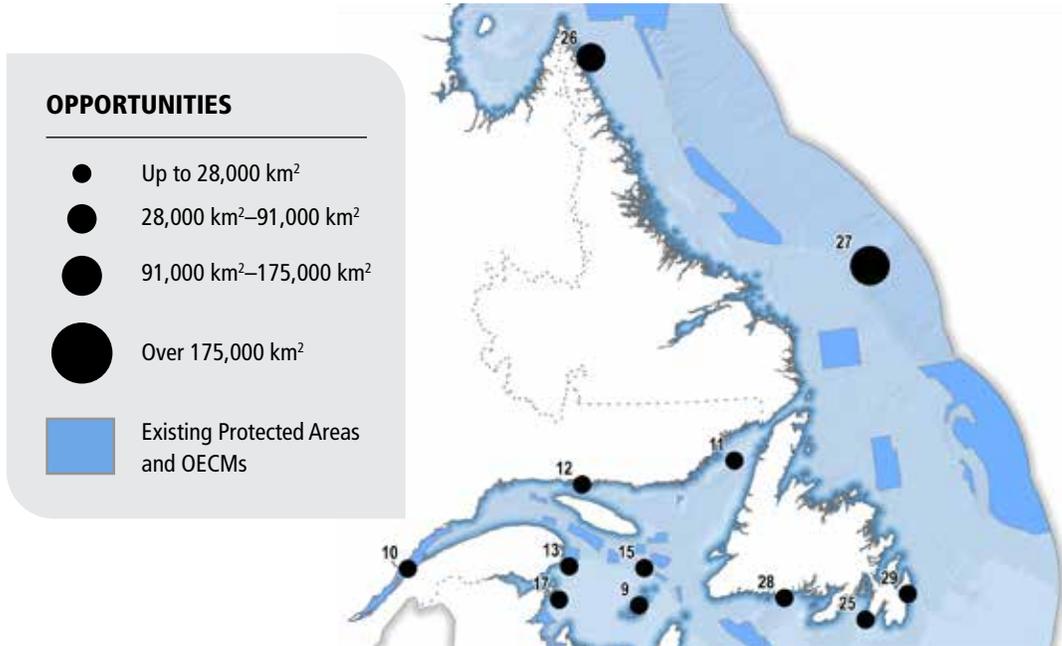
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

- 25 Cape St. Mary's
- 26 Imappivut MSP Process (Torngat NMCA, Oceans Act MPA)
- 27 NL Shelves MPA Network
- 28 South Coast Fjords
- 29 Witless Bay

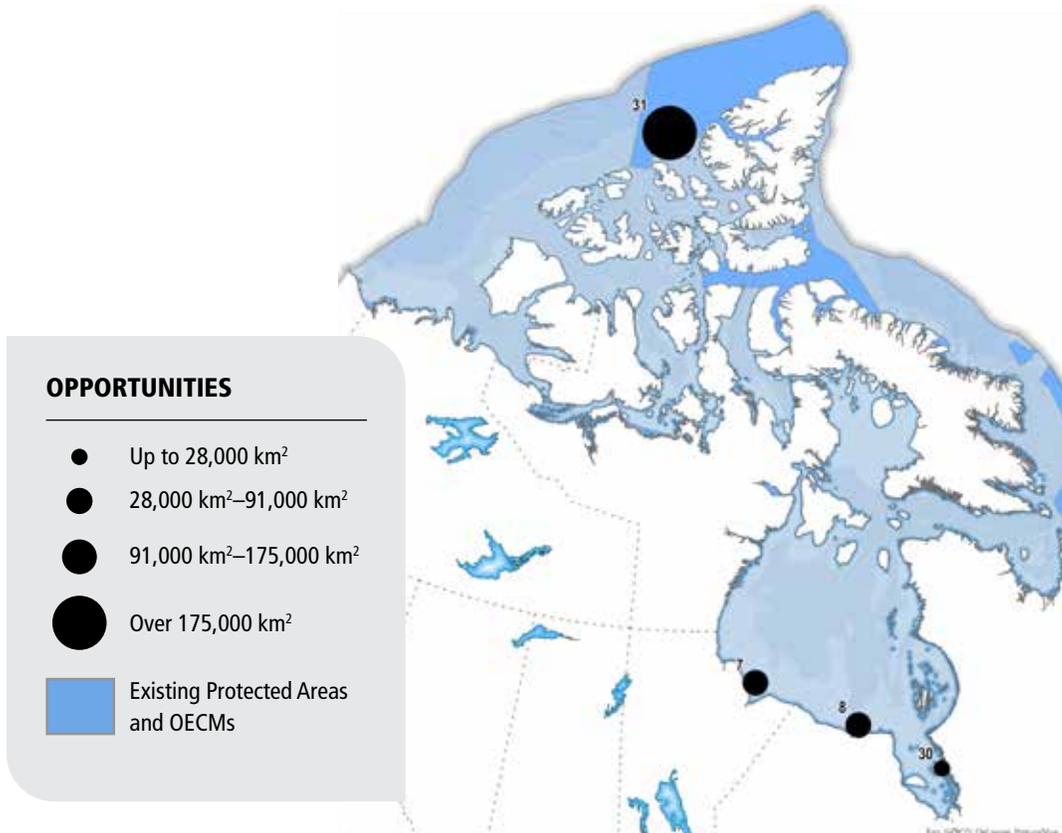
NUNAVUT

- 30 Eastern James Bay
- 31 Nunavut Land Use Plan, Southampton Island, Sarvarjuaq

ATLANTIC REGIONAL MAP INCLUDING GULF OF SAINT LAWRENCE

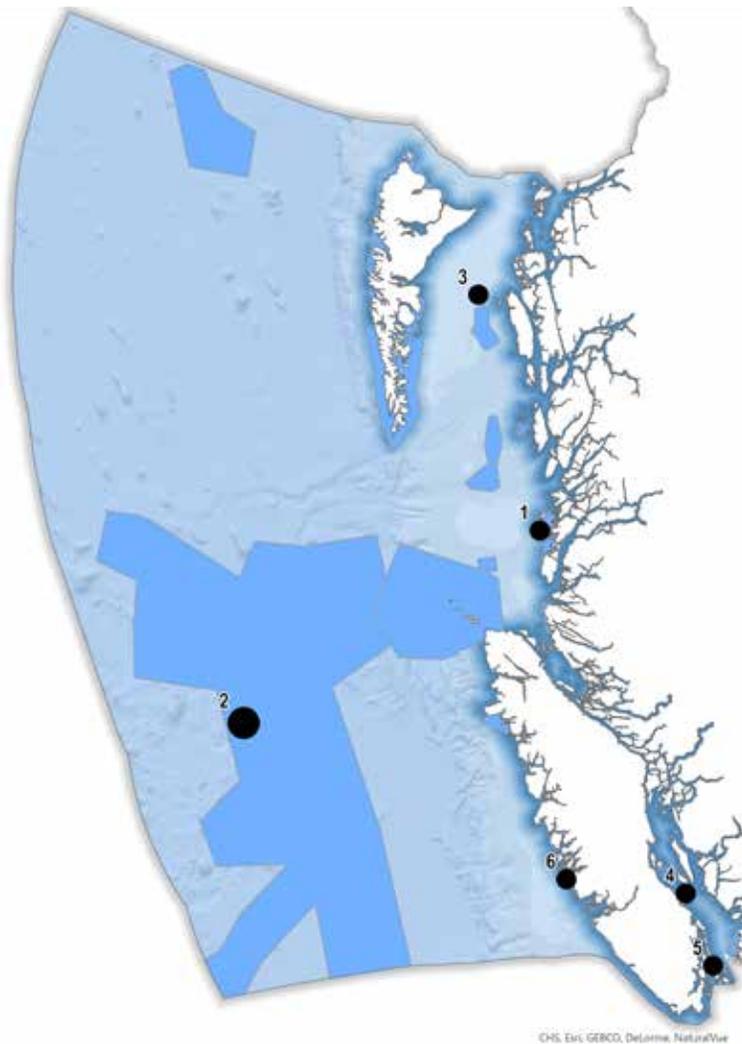


ARCTIC REGIONAL MAP INCLUDING HUDSON BAY





PACIFIC REGIONAL MAP



OPPORTUNITIES

- Up to 28,000 km²
- 28,000 km²–91,000 km²
- 91,000 km²–175,000 km²
- Over 175,000 km²
- Existing Protected Areas and OECMs

CHS, Esri, GEBCO, DeLorme, NaturalVue



BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Kaishin
(One Lush Life).

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- The federal government has made strong and clear commitments to establish new protected areas, with a particular emphasis on working with Indigenous partners, including to:
 - Protect 30% of Canada’s oceans by 2030, working to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 and achieve a full recovery by 2050, and ensure that this work is grounded in science, Indigenous knowledge, and local perspectives.
 - Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to advance their rights.
 - Work with Indigenous partners to better integrate traditional knowledge into planning and policy decisions.
 - Establish 10 new National Marine Conservation Areas and complete MPA network plans in five priority marine bioregions.
 - Recognize that Canada’s blue economy must be supported by a world-leading conservation plan.
- The landmark investment in the 2021 federal budget of \$977M over five-years significantly exceeds previous funding commitments for ocean conservation. Though specifics regarding allocation of this funding have not yet been made public, this presents a considerable opportunity to support and advance Indigenous and community-led ocean conservation initiatives.
- In 2019, Canada committed to establishing clear minimum protection standards for all federal MPAs that would prohibit bottom trawling, dumping, oil and gas, and mining, thereby ensuring a basic level of protection.
- The 5th International Marine Protected Area Congress, to be held in Vancouver in February 2023, will spotlight progress on ocean protection in Canada and provide a platform for significant announcements and commitments.



CHALLENGES

- Although there has been a significant recent investment, the lack of guaranteed permanent and adequate funding is a major reason for underperforming marine protected areas and is a barrier to establishing new protected areas, particularly Indigenous-led and community-led initiatives.
- Swift and decisive action is needed if Canada is to meet its new conservation targets. MPA establishment typically takes several years, and little progress has been made on key commitments over the past few years, including the protection of priority sites (some of which have been in development for over a decade), the development of MPA network plans for five priority bioregions, and the operationalization and implementation of minimum protection standards.
- Canada currently lacks a clear strategy or direction to support the designation of marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
- Effective protection requires coordination and engagement of multiple agencies to manage all activities within an MPA. As described in detail in CPAWS' 2021 MPA Monitor report, there are significant weaknesses in Canada's existing MPAs that set a poor precedent and are largely the result of unclear regulations and siloed management.ⁱⁱ

BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Luc Tribolet.





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- 1** Focus on protecting 30% of Canada's ocean by 2030 and reversing biodiversity loss by prioritizing the protection of areas of highest biodiversity and those that are at risk and under pressure, including ecologically important and carbon-rich coastal and nearshore areas.
- 2** Ensure permanent and adequate funding for marine protected areas to ensure effective management, investments in sustainable coastal communities, and meaningful job creation.
- 3** Issue clear federal policy guidance that directs all departments and agencies to implement the minimum protection standards and appoint an interdepartmental task force to support this and ensure additional protection measures as needed.
- 4** Take a whole-of-government approach to MPA planning and management by actively engaging all relevant agencies and governance partners (including provinces, territories, and Indigenous governments).
- 5** Advance Indigenous-led conservation by developing co-governance agreements and moving towards a more streamlined and flexible funding model (similar to Nature Agreements) that supports capacity-building and investments in Indigenous knowledge and stewardship.
- 6** Ensure that all other departmental and interdepartmental programs and priorities align with and support Canada's protection and biodiversity goals.



NEWFOUNDLAND.
Photo by Erik McLean.

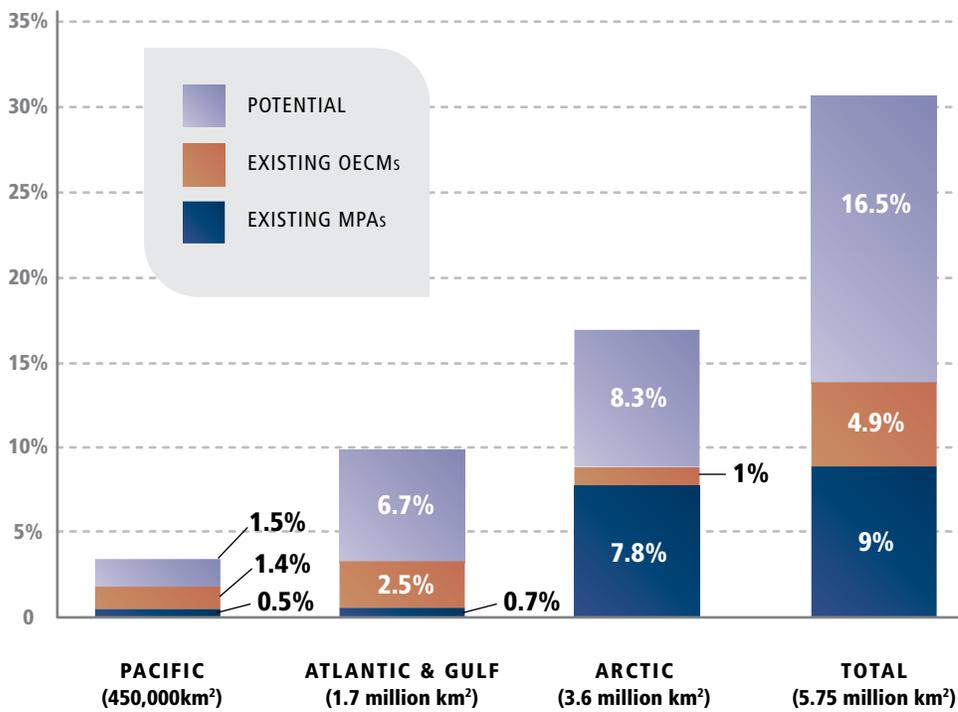


FIGURE 7. MARINE CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES BY COAST (% OF CANADA'S OCEAN ESTATE). DATA SOURCE: CANADIAN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS DATABASE (CPCAD, 2022), CPAWS.

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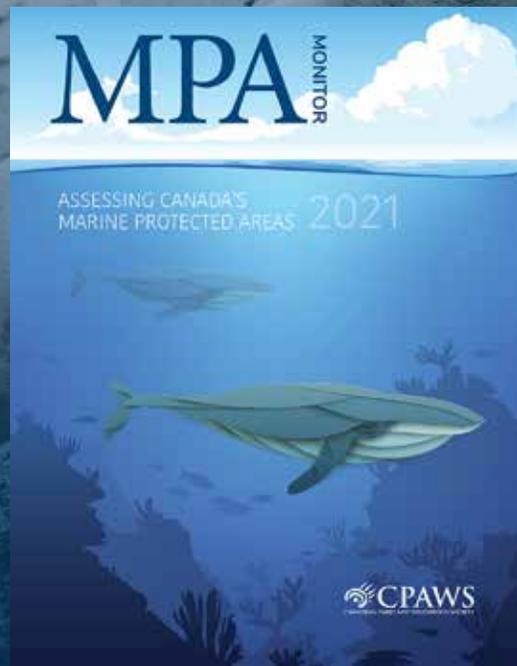


ALBERTA.
Photo by Levi Bare.

HAVE YOU READ CPAWS' 2021 OCEAN REPORT?

Take a deep dive into ocean conservation by checking out our report that investigates how well protected and well managed Canada's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) really are. CPAWS is the first organization to use a groundbreaking new MPA evaluation tool, *The MPA Guide*, to examine 18 MPAs that make up 8.3% of Canada's ocean.

Presently, almost 14% of Canada's ocean is protected and the country is committed to protecting 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030. We analysed about half of the protected areas and found that the majority is weakly protected.



While Canada has made progress on ocean protection, there is much to be done to improve the quality of protection to maximize conservation benefits. Most significantly, for an MPA to be successful, Enabling Conditions, such as equitable governance and strong conservation objectives, must be in place. Indigenous-led conservation and co-management models are critical to the future of marine conservation in Canada.

Visit www.cpaws.org/oceanreport to learn more.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Photo by Neil Cooper.



ABOUT CPAWS

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) is Canada's only charity dedicated to the protection of public land, freshwater and ocean with a strong national and regional presence across the country. Working in a way that respects the sovereignty and leadership of Indigenous nations, we are focused on conserving nature to respond to the dual crises of accelerated biodiversity loss and climate change.

With almost 60 years of success, we are Canada's leader in conservation and have played a lead role in protecting over half a million square kilometres! Our vision is that at least half of land, freshwater and ocean in Canada is permanently protected to sustain nature and people for current and future generations.

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(204) 949-0782
www.cpawsmb.org

CPAWS Wildlands League (Ontario)

371-401 Richmond St. W.
Toronto, ON M5V 3A8
416-971-WILD (9453)
1-866-510-WILD
www.wildlandsleague.org

CPAWS Ottawa Valley

331, boulevard St-Joseph, bureau 201
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(819) 778-3355
www.cpaws-ov-vo.org

CPAWS (SNAP) Quebec

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(514) 278-SNAP (7627)
www.snapquebec.org

CPAWS Nova Scotia

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