

A fluffy, light-brown lynx cub with dark spots and tufted ears is perched on a weathered, moss-covered tree branch. The cub is looking slightly to the right. The background is a soft-focus green forest. The image is framed with a dark green border that has a white triangular cutout in the top-left corner.

CANADA'S  
**BIODIVERSITY**  
OUTCOMES  
FRAMEWORK AND  
2020 GOALS &  
TARGETS

Cat. No.: CW66-525/2016E-PDF  
ISBN: 978-0-660-04250-3

Unless otherwise specified, you may not reproduce materials in this publication, in whole or in part, for the purposes of commercial redistribution without prior written permission from Environment and Climate Change Canada's copyright administrator. To obtain permission to reproduce Government of Canada materials for commercial purposes, apply for Crown Copyright Clearance by contacting:

Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Public Inquiries Centre  
7th Floor, Fontaine Building  
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3  
Telephone: 819-997-2800  
Toll Free: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only)  
Email: [ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca)

Photos: © Thinkstock (pages 1, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 16)  
© Tyler Lillico (pages 4 and 11)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, 2016

Aussi disponible en français

Canada 



**A BIODIVERSITY  
OUTCOMES  
FRAMEWORK  
FOR CANADA**

## BIODIVERSITY — THE INSURANCE POLICY FOR LIFE ITSELF

Canada's natural wealth is the envy of many nations and is supported by a strong tradition of conservation and sustainable use. An important component of this wealth is Canada's biodiversity – the variety of genes, species and ecosystems and the ecological processes that allow them to evolve and adapt to a changing world.

Canadians care about biodiversity because it touches their lives, and their livelihoods, in very direct and personal ways.

- + Canadians have rallied to support their special places and species at risk because they instinctively understand the aesthetic, recreational, spiritual and cultural importance of biodiversity.
- + They also understand how biological resources meet their basic needs for food and shelter and create jobs for thousands of people who work in fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism.

Canadians may not make the connection, however, between biodiversity conservation and many of the things they take for granted:

- + Clean air, clean water and fertile soil
- + Climate regulation and control of floods and other natural hazards
- + Protection from pest and disease outbreaks
- + Prescription drugs and traditional medicines
- + Food security
- + Ecological and economic resilience

It is only when these begin to disappear that the connections become obvious. Biological diversity and everything it provides is in reality our natural insurance policy in a world that is continually changing, often in dramatic and unpredictable ways.

### The Biodiversity Outcomes Framework: Building on Decades of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Cooperation

Federal, provincial and territorial governments have a long history of working together to sustain Canada's biodiversity. Together they designed a blueprint for the conservation and sustainable use of Canada's living resources called the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. Some provinces and territories also have their own biodiversity strategies.

The biodiversity outcomes framework complements and builds on that work. It will be used to identify and link current and future priorities, to engage Canadians in planning and implementation and to report on progress.



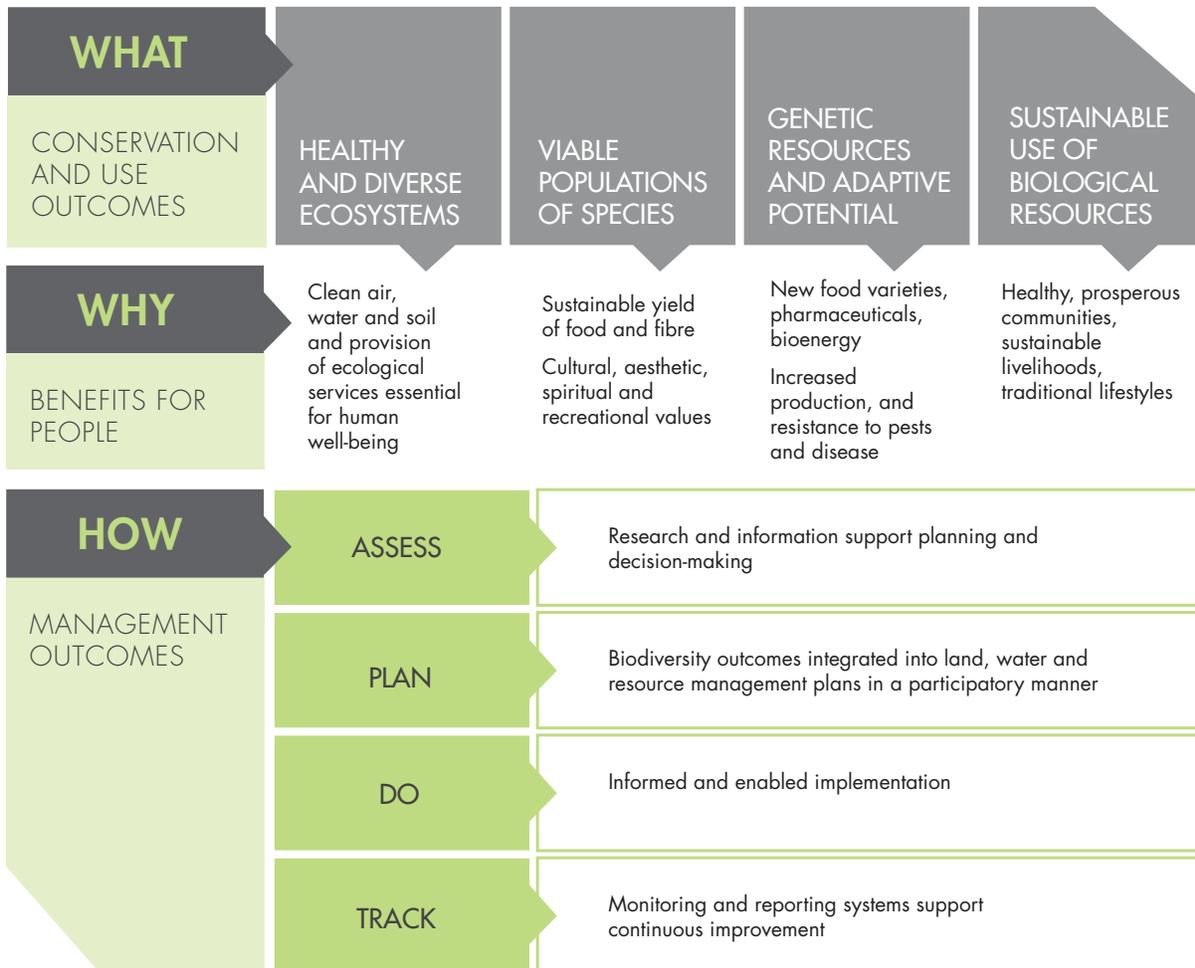
# BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK: FOCUS ON **WHY, WHAT, HOW**

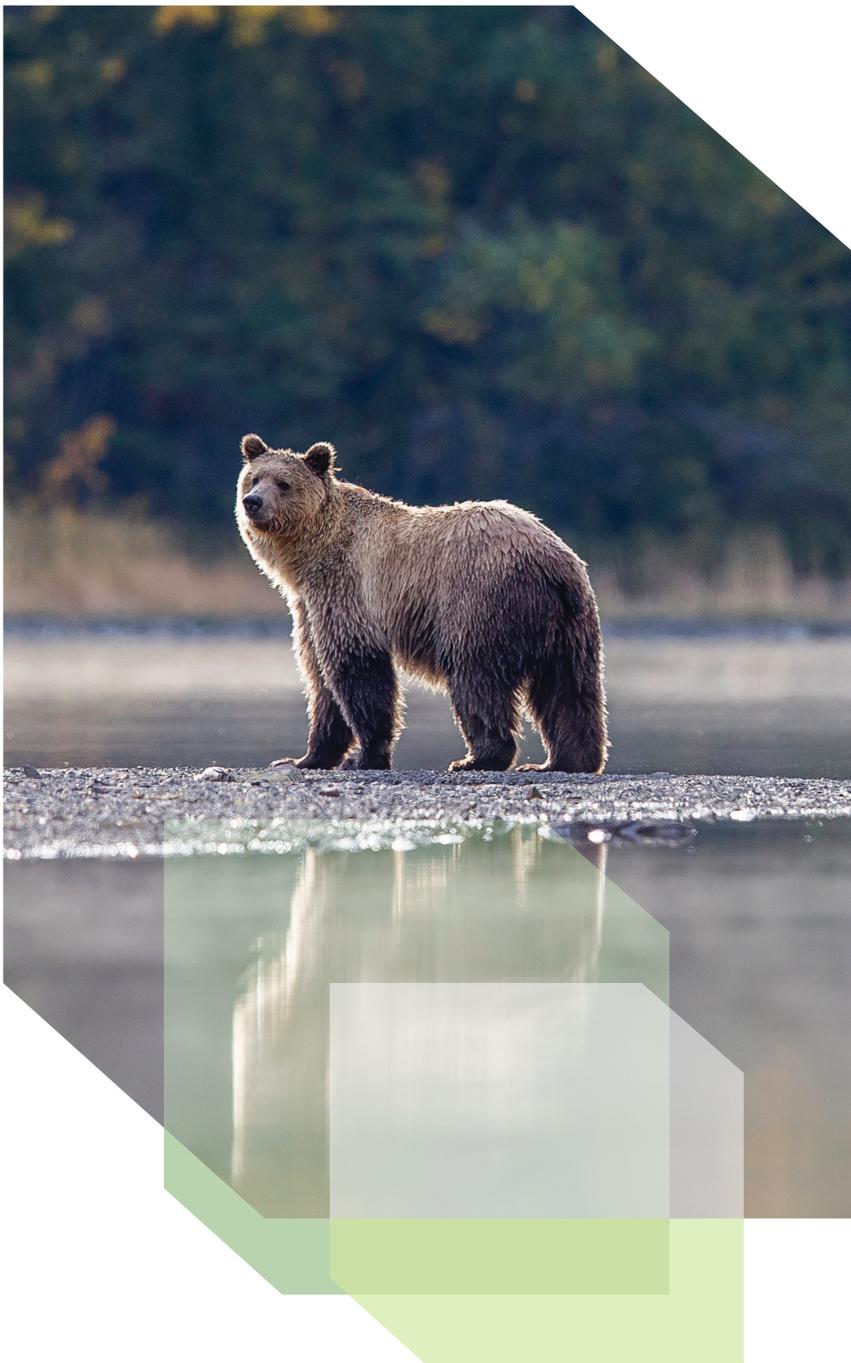
## VISION:

A society that lives and develops as part of nature, values the diversity of life, takes no more than can be replenished and leaves to future generations a nurturing and dynamic world, rich in biodiversity. (Canadian Biodiversity Strategy)

## MISSION:

Working together to sustain Canada's natural assets and enrich the lives of Canadians.





## BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES - **WHAT** WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

### **Healthy and Diverse Ecosystems:**

Reducing human impacts and restoring damaged ecosystems enhance the productivity and resilience of our ecosystems, and preserve the goods and services essential to our well-being.

### **Viable Populations of Species:**

Maintaining the structure and function of ecosystems requires the full complement of native species. Conservation at the ecosystem level sustains most species, but special efforts are needed for some.

### **Genetic Resources and Adaptive Potential Maintained:**

Genetic diversity is nature's insurance policy. It makes increased production, assures ecological resilience and creates options for future innovation.

### **Sustainable Use of Biological Resources:**

Ecologically sustainable production and consumption of natural resources assure stable jobs, traditional lifestyles, long-term food security and human health.

BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK:  
FOCUS ON THE “WHAT”

## WHAT

### CONSERVATION AND USE OUTCOMES

#### HEALTHY AND DIVERSE ECOSYSTEMS

Productive, resilient, diverse ecosystems with the capacity to recover and adapt

Damaged ecosystems restored

#### VIABLE POPULATIONS OF SPECIES

Full complement of native species, required for maintenance of ecosystem function

Improved status of species at risk

No new species extinctions due to human activity

Species assemblages maintained in their ecological regions

#### GENETIC RESOURCES AND ADAPTIVE POTENTIAL

Full complement of genetic diversity of all species in situ and ex situ (domestic and wild)

Geographic distribution of species necessary to ensure adaptive potential

#### SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Production and consumption of natural resources within ecological limits and thresholds to support economic capacity, livelihoods, local food security and human health

Availability of local and Indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices associated with ecosystems, species and genetic resources

## HOW WE WILL GET THERE: USING AN **ECOSYSTEM AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT APPROACH** TO ACHIEVE SHARED OUTCOMES

In an ecosystem approach, ecological goals are considered at the same time as economic and social goals. It places the trade-offs front and centre when decisions are being made.

**Adaptive management** is a cyclical process of taking stock, planning and decision-making, followed by implementation and tracking to see whether management responses to problems improve over time based on new knowledge and better information.

### MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES: **THE “HOW”**



## A COMMITMENT TO **ENGAGE CANADIANS** IN ACHIEVING SHARED OUTCOMES

Moving to a more outcomes-based approach that more directly engages Canadians will be an incremental process that requires input from everyone. Governments are committed to taking the lead in these efforts by providing Canadians with the opportunity to:

- + develop a deeper understanding of the value of biodiversity and the role that natural systems play in keeping our communities safe and healthy, sustaining jobs and traditional lifestyles, and creating options and opportunities for the future.
- + receive and access information on the state of Canada's forests, farmlands, oceans, inland waters and arctic ecosystems.
- + become partners in developing and achieving the long-term vision and goals for the natural communities that keep this country healthy and prosperous.



2020  
**BIODIVERSITY  
GOALS AND  
TARGETS FOR  
CANADA**

## Preamble

In order to achieve their long-term biodiversity outcomes, federal, provincial and territorial governments developed the following set of new medium-term goals and targets. These aspirational goals and targets describe results to be achieved through the collective efforts of a diversity of players both public and private whose actions and decisions have an impact on biodiversity. Governments need to do their part but cannot act alone.

Implementation of the goals and targets will rely on meaningful, full and effective participation of Aboriginal peoples, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. In this respect, while Aboriginal traditional knowledge and customary use of biological resources are specifically highlighted under targets 12 and 15, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Aboriginal communities are relevant for implementing all of Canada's biodiversity goals and targets, as is protecting and encouraging customary use of biological resources compatible with their conservation and sustainable use.

Local communities, urban and regional governments, business and industry, conservation and stewardship groups, educational and scientific institutions and citizens are also all able to contribute. Canadians are invited to commit to doing their part and to share the results of their efforts.





## GOAL A

BY 2020, CANADA'S LANDS AND WATERS ARE PLANNED AND MANAGED USING AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OUTCOMES AT LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SCALES.

### Target 1

By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, are conserved through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

### Target 2

By 2020, species that are secure remain secure, and population of species at risk listed under federal law exhibit trends that are consistent with recovery strategies and management plans.

### Target 3

By 2020, Canada's wetlands are conserved or enhanced to sustain their ecosystem services through retention, restoration and management activities.

### Target 4

By 2020, biodiversity considerations are integrated into municipal planning and activities of major municipalities across Canada.

### Target 5

By 2020, the ability of Canadian ecological systems to adapt to climate change is better understood, and priority adaptation measures are underway.

## GOAL B

BY 2020, DIRECT AND INDIRECT PRESSURES AS WELL AS CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON BIODIVERSITY ARE REDUCED, AND PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF CANADA'S BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ARE MORE SUSTAINABLE.

### Target 6

By 2020, continued progress is made on the sustainable management of Canada's forests.

### Target 7

By 2020, agricultural working landscapes provide a stable or improved level of biodiversity and habitat capacity.

### Target 8

By 2020, all aquaculture in Canada is managed under a science-based regime that promotes the sustainable use of aquatic resources (including marine, freshwater and land based) in ways that conserve biodiversity.

### Target 9

By 2020, all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches.

### Target 10

By 2020, pollution levels in Canadian waters, including pollution from excess nutrients, are reduced or maintained at levels that support healthy aquatic ecosystems.

### Target 11

By 2020, pathways of invasive alien species introductions are identified, and risk-based intervention or management plans are in place for priority pathways and species.

### Target 12

By 2020, customary use by Aboriginal peoples of biological resources is maintained, compatible with their conservation and sustainable use.

### Target 13

By 2020, innovative mechanisms for fostering the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied.





## GOAL C

BY 2020, CANADIANS HAVE ADEQUATE AND RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING.

### Target 14

By 2020, the science base for biodiversity is enhanced and knowledge of biodiversity is better integrated and more accessible.

### Target 15

By 2020, Aboriginal traditional knowledge is respected, promoted and, where made available by Aboriginal peoples, regularly, meaningfully and effectively informing biodiversity conservation and management decision-making.

### Target 16

By 2020, Canada has a comprehensive inventory of protected spaces that includes private conservation areas.

### Target 17

By 2020, measures of natural capital related to biodiversity and ecosystem services are developed on a national scale, and progress is made in integrating them into Canada's national statistical system.

## GOAL D

BY 2020, CANADIANS ARE INFORMED ABOUT THE VALUE OF NATURE AND MORE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ITS STEWARDSHIP.

### Target 18

By 2020, biodiversity is integrated into the elementary and secondary school curricula.

### Target 19

By 2020, more Canadians get out into nature and participate in biodiversity conservation activities.

