

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a lush green forest scene. A monarch butterfly is perched on a tree trunk in the upper left. At the bottom of this strip, a green frog is visible on a rock.

Carolinian Canada 2113 – Towards a Sustainable Future?

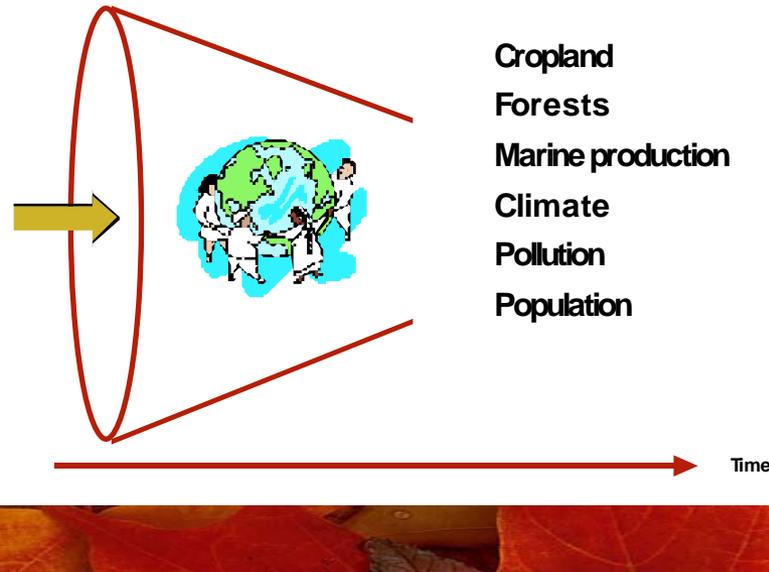
Steve Hounsell



Outline

- State of Biodiversity and Imperative for Action
- Response - What is being done
- What's Needed

State of the Ecosphere



- We are inside a bottleneck of overpopulation and wasteful consumption.....A global land ethic is urgently needed”E.O. Wilson 2002. The Future of Life

State of Ontario's Biodiversity

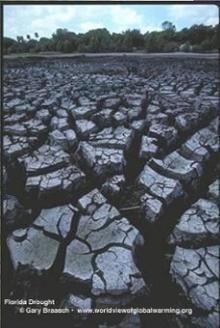
- No indicators of biodiversity response showing consistent improvement.
- Forests have remained stable, although still a concern in southwestern Ontario.
- Some indicators showing clear deterioration:
 - wetlands (72% loss);
 - native grasslands and savannas (3% of historic supply);
 - Great Lakes shoreline hardening and habitat loss.

Threats to Biodiversity

- H – Habitat loss
- I – Invasive species
- P – Pollution
- P – Population growth
- O – Over-harvesting
- C - Climate Change



Invasive Species



Florida Drought
© Gary Braasch • www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org

22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

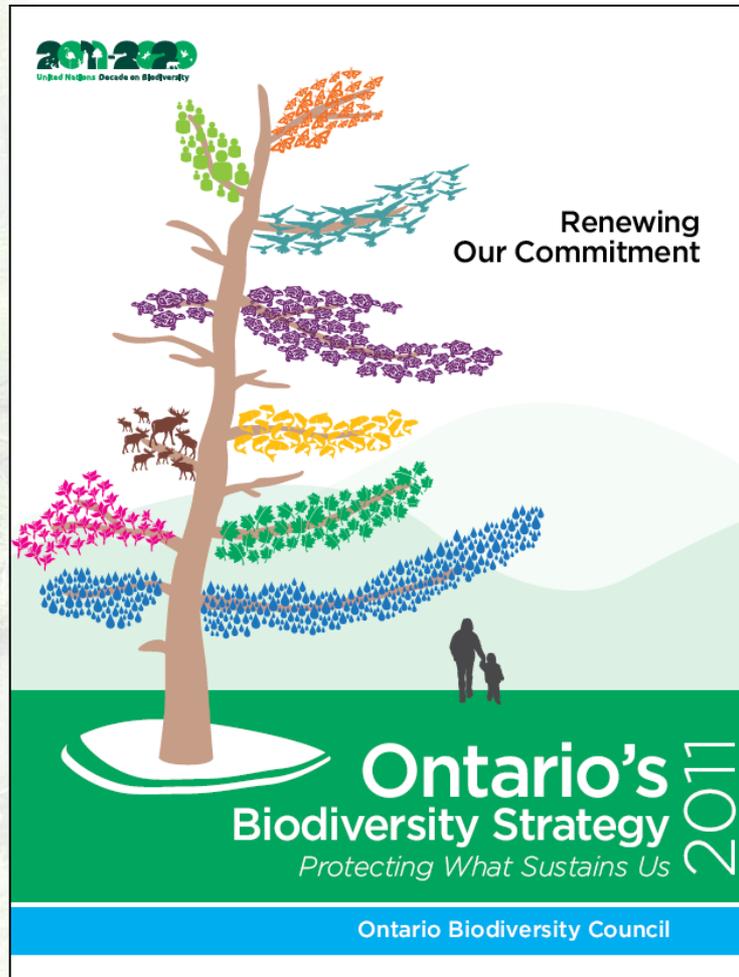


Bioclimatic Envelope for Ecoregion 7E (2041-2070)



- From: McKenney et al. 2010. CCRR-16. MNR.

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2011



- Builds on OBS, 2005
- Elevates tenet that “*protecting the diversity of life requires broad societal consensus and participation*” through a mainstreaming goal
- Establishes a guiding framework for conserving biodiversity over the next decade
- Outcome-based biodiversity conservation framework including key actions and responsibilities
 - Four strategic directions:
 - Engage People
 - Reduce Threats
 - Enhance Resilience
 - Improve Knowledge

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy 2011

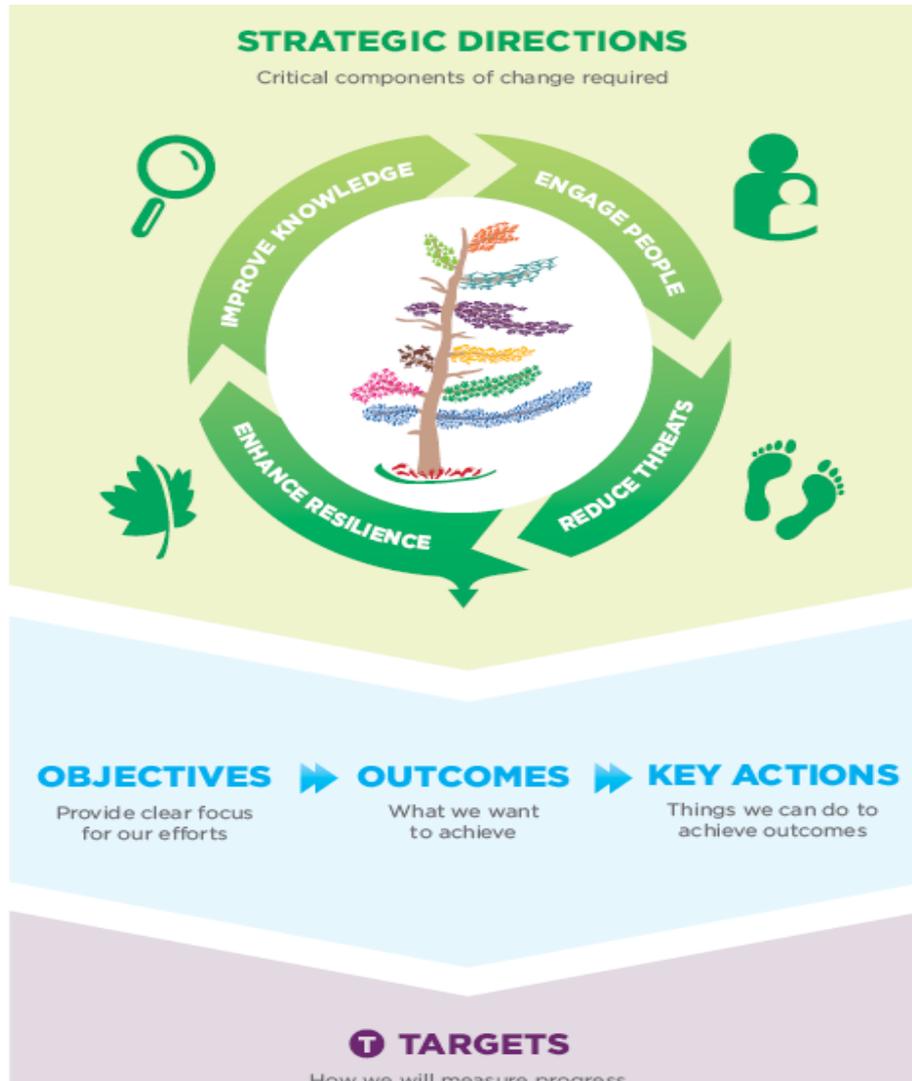
Vision

Our vision is a future where biodiversity loss is halted and recovery is advanced. People value, protect and enhance biodiversity and the ecosystem services essential for human health and well-being.

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy 2011 Goals

- Mainstream biodiversity
- Protect and restore Ontario's biodiversity
- Use Ontario's biological assets sustainably

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011



- **4 strategic directions:**
 - Engage people
 - Reduce threats
 - Enhance resilience
 - Increase knowledge
- 9 objectives
- 21 desired outcomes
- 39 actions



Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011

T ONTARIO'S BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY TARGETS

1. By 2015, biodiversity is integrated into the elementary, secondary and postsecondary school curricula, including schools of business.

2. By 2015, 50 per cent of Ontarians understand biodiversity and its role in maintaining their health and well-being.

3. By 2015, the number of Ontarians who participate in biodiversity conservation activities is increased by 25 per cent.

4. By 2015, all sectors have initiated the development of implementation plans in support of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, and by 2020, those plans are implemented.

5. By 2020, all relevant policies and programs integrate biodiversity values.

6. By 2015, plans for climate-change mitigation are developed and implemented and contribute to Ontario's target to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by 6 per cent below 1990 levels.

7. By 2015, strategic plans are in place to reduce the threats posed to biodiversity by invasive species.

8. By 2015, the release of pollutants harmful to biodiversity is reduced.

9. By 2020, the growth of Ontario's per-capita resource consumption and waste generation is halted and reversed.

10. By 2015, the status of species and ecosystems of conservation concern in Ontario is improved.

11. By 2015, the proportion of private lands in Ontario that are managed for biodiversity is increased.

12. By 2015, natural heritage-systems plans and biodiversity-conservation strategies are developed and implemented at the municipal and landscape levels.

13. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and aquatic systems are conserved through well-connected networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

14. By 2020, programs and policies are in place to maintain and enhance ecosystem services.

15. By 2015, a long-term monitoring and reporting system for assessing the state of Ontario's biodiversity is established and operating.

- Success of the Strategy to be tracked through 15 specific, measurable, time-bound targets
- These targets represent important areas of focus for biodiversity conservation in Ontario over the next 10 years



Suggested “Game Changers”

- Making the link between human health and ecosystem health
- Development of incentives for the delivery of ecosystem services.
- Promoting habitat offsets and conservation banking.
- Linking biodiversity to climate change (*mitigation and adaptation*).
- Improving habitat protection and restoration through effective land use planning and landowner stewardship.
- Improving and disseminating knowledge.

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy 2011

Targets most relevant to CCC:

10. By 2015, the status of species and ecosystems of conservation concern in Ontario is improved.

11. By 2015, the proportion of private lands in Ontario that are managed for biodiversity is increased.

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy 2011

Targets most relevant to CCC:

12. “By 2015, natural heritage system plans and biodiversity conservation strategies are developed and implemented at the municipal and landscape levels”.

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy 2011

Targets most relevant to CCC:

13. “By 2020 at least 17% of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are conserved through well-connected networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures”.

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy 2011

Target *most* relevant to CCC conference theme:

15. “By 2015, a long-term monitoring and reporting system for assessing the state of Ontario’s biodiversity is established”.

Challenges

- Provincial economic woes could adversely affect funding and resourcing of critical programs at a time when we need GREATER SUPPORT.
- Financial woes need to be placed into a larger context – the deficit spending and draw-down of global and indeed provincial “NATURAL CAPITAL”. *We need to balance our natural capital accounts.*
- *Remember, we elect the governments that serve us. **Do we have the right priorities?***
- *“First comes the values, then comes the science and technology and the public and hence political will to implement”.*

A butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a tree trunk in a lush green forest. The background is a soft-focus view of a stream and dense foliage.

What's Needed (personal views)

- A “step change” in conservation action and a societal push for ecological sustainability.
- Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy and indeed the CCC’s Big Picture vision and strategy can move us towards a sustainable future. This is not a nice to do, but an imperative.
- Bottom Line:

“Healthy ecosystems sustain healthy people and a healthy economy”.

- We MUST protect what sustains us.

Carolinian Canada 2113

- Future generations will judge us by our collective actions. We can either earn their everlasting honour, or everlasting contempt.
- Now is our last chance to get the future right.....Ronald Wright. 2004. A Short History of Progress

Questions?

