

Pathway to Canada Target 1

In the spirit and practice of reconciliation, Canada conserves its natural diversity in interconnected networks of protected and conserved areas for the enduring benefit of nature and future generations, through collective efforts in the Pathway to Canada Target 1 and beyond.

Pathway to Canada Target 1 objectives

- To encourage efforts among governments and land management partners to contribute to achieving Canada Target 1, including conserving at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland waters of Canada by 2020 through protected areas, Indigenous protected and conserved areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures;
- To develop implementation guidance for establishing and coordinating a network of terrestrial protected areas, Indigenous protected and conserved areas, and other effective conservation measures across Canada that are effectively and equitably managed, well-connected and integrated into the wider landscape, including areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services and that together achieve ecological representation; and
- To co-ordinate annual updates on progress towards achieving Canada Target 1, including the national target of at least 17% and implementation of the guidance.

The Métis Nation is building capacity, setting conservation priorities rooted in Métis Nation knowledge, and increasing understandings to create a distinct Métis voice around Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs). The Métis Nation is seeking appropriate funding and federal/provincial relationships to allow for identifying their specific needs/priorities and vision to further support a Métis Homeland where ecosystems thrive in balance with resilient communities and Métis citizens. Inherently, the beneficiaries of this work are the future generations, all living beings, and the spirit of place found in every protected and conserved area.

When protected and conserved areas across Canada increase, more lands and waters are relieved of the stresses of unsustainable human and industrial development. The result is enhanced biodiversity conservation and healthier ecosystems, which in turn benefit all in the form of cleaner air and water, improved human health, and the mitigation of risks caused by climate change and disease.

The Métis Nation proposed four areas in which they sought protection and conservation intervention. These areas were not supported and work is being undertaken to make stronger submissions on these priorities.