

A Case for Nature-Based Climate Solutions in Canada

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- ❖ **Net-Zero Emissions by 2050**
 - **30Mt from Nature Based Climate Solutions (first every major commitment in this area)**
- ❖ **\$3 billion commitment to better conserve and restore forests, grasslands, agricultural lands, wetlands and coastal areas**
 - **Plant 2 Billion trees**
- ❖ **Conserve 25% of Canada's land and ocean respectively by 2025 and 30% by 2030**

Federal Commitments

Office of the
Prime Minister



Cabinet du
Premier ministre

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

Ministers Responsible for the Nature and Climate Commitments as per their Mandate Letters:

Minister Wilkinson - ECCC,
Minister O'Regan - Natural
Resources
Minister McKenna -
Infrastructure and
Communities
&
Minister Bains - Innovation,
Science and Industry

Net 0 Emissions by 2050

Minister Wilkinson -
ECCC
&
Minister Jordan -
DFO

**25% by 2025,
30% by 2030
of both Land & Waters**

Minister O'Regan -
Natural Resources

&

Minister Wilkinson -
ECCC

Planting 2 billion trees



NATURE-BASED

Climate Solutions Summit

www.naturebasedclimatesolutions.ca

Over 400 Participants:

Government Representatives (Municipal, Provincial and Federal), Indigenous Representation, Philanthropic Organizations, Nature and Environmental Organizations, and Business



NATURE-BASED Climate Solutions Summit

Sommet des solutions
NATURE POUR LE CLIMAT

 NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS
Canada is our stage. Le Canada est notre scène.

Graham Saul
Nature Canada

Presenting Sponsors

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



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Climate Change Canada

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Possibility grows here.



Bronze Sponsors



*Nature-Based Climate Solutions Summit
Steering Committee*



The following organizations have also been actively involved in the design and preparation of the summit:



Why Nature-Based Climate Solutions?



There is an urgent need for action.

We are facing twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.



There is huge potential.

Nature-based solutions contribute to mitigation, human resilience and adaptation to climate change



Nature-based Climate Solutions provide opportunities for
Reconciliation and Indigenous-led Conservation

Canada is well positioned to act!

We are laying the groundwork and making advancements in projects, scope and vision.



Different
Landscapes



Different Outcomes

GHG Mitigation = change **the rate at which ecosystems** are degraded and lost

Human Resilience/ Adaptation = reduce the risk of climate impacts on human communities

Nature Resilience/ Adaptation = reduce other threats to the ecosystem and restore their functionality, help ecosystems transition (?)

Biodiversity benefits depend on where, what, and how the nature-based climate solution is implemented.



Different tools and approaches

Top down or systematic policies, e.g.:

- Put a price on ecosystem carbon emissions
- Allow ecosystem carbon offset projects
- Change forest, wetland, grassland management regulations
- Change infrastructure regulations and requirements
- Municipal plans to reduce ecosystem loss and count natural assets

Bottom up approaches, e.g.:

- Natural infrastructure projects
- Restoration projects
- New protected areas and Indigenous Protected areas
- Changes in forest, grassland, wetland management practices

The balance of benefits will depend over space and time



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Canada's arts stage. Le Canada en scène.

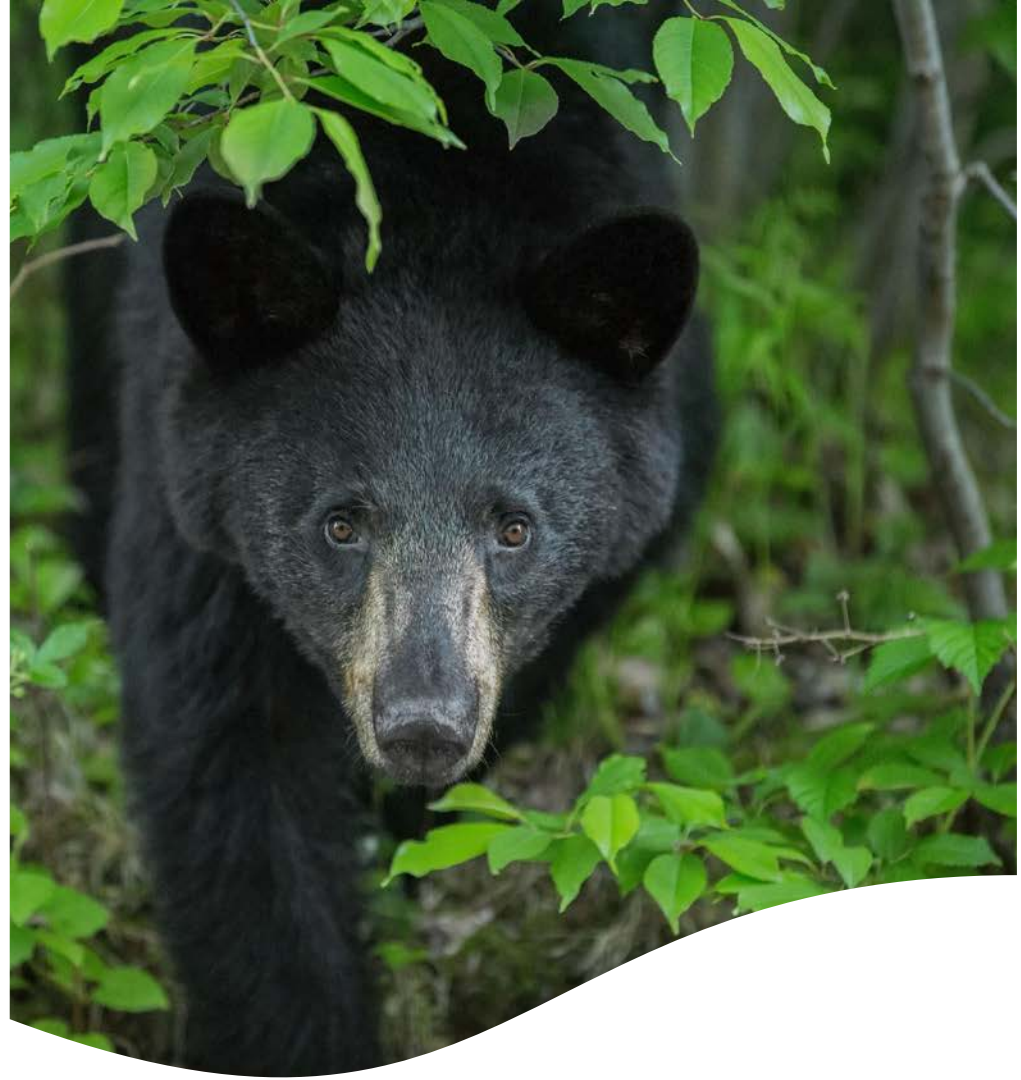
Indigenous Stewardship

GHG mitigation-focused approaches

Discussions:

- What are they?
- When do they work?
 - For what ecosystems?
 - For what types of activities?
- Who could use them?
 - Land owners
 - Tenure holders
- How does biodiversity fit?

Federal Links: Development of an Offset Mechanism, Expansion of the GHG Pollution Act in 2022



Natural Infrastructure

The natural vegetative systems and green technologies that help increase the resilience to and mitigate the impacts of climate change for communities.



Benefits:

- High returns on investment
- Job rich
- Saves money for municipalities
- Green spaces in urban areas

Discussion: How to mainstream?

- Readiness/ Capacity for Municipalities
- Funding for project catalyzation and implementation
- Rules/ criteria/ standardization that recognizes the values/ difference of NI
- Monitoring & Evaluation to prove the value of the investment

Federal Links: Disaster and Mitigation Fund, Green Infrastructure Fund, Tree Planting and Urban Tree Commitments

Protected Areas

How does the federal Protected Area targets of 25% land and ocean protected respectively by 2025, and 30% by 2030 link to the climate discussions?

- They can move human activities that cause degradation to less carbon dense lands or waters (GHG mitigation) or that have less natural infrastructure values (adaptation)
- they protect the sequestration from restoration/ tree planting investments
- they can help “lighten the footprint” and support “just transition” solutions (alone and cumulatively), for example through the creation of IPCA or increased Indigenous stewardship
- they can protect climate refugia and places that will be key to maintaining biodiversity in a changing climate.



Restoration,

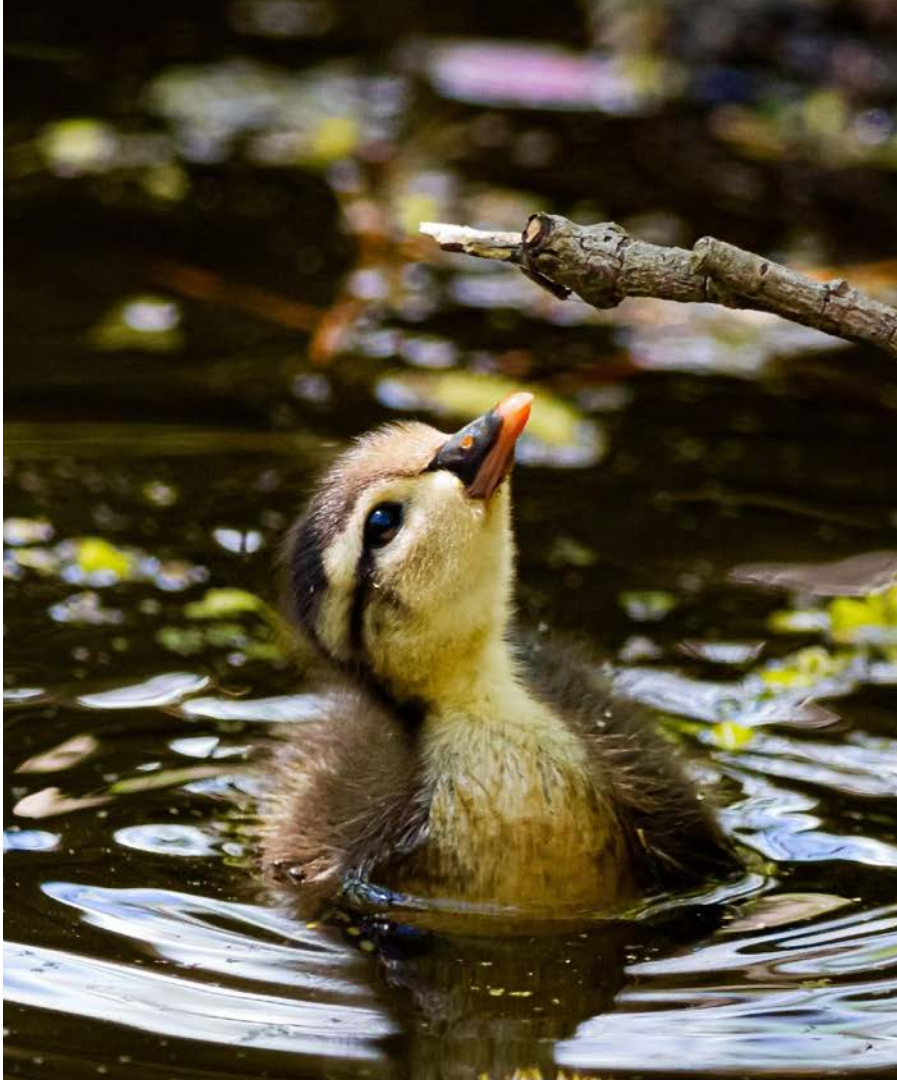
influences degraded lands towards a reference native ecosystem, or simply to recover functional ecosystem services.

Discussion: What do restoration projects need to achieve?

- Species and Biodiversity
- Whole ecosystems
- Connectivity
- Urban landscapes
- Reconciliation

What is needed to achieve these?

- Funding
- Stronger supporting policy
- Stronger supporting infrastructure
- Greater public engagement



The COVID Crisis & Maintaining Momentum

Green Recovery
Build Back Better

Civilian Conservation Corps

The Problem:

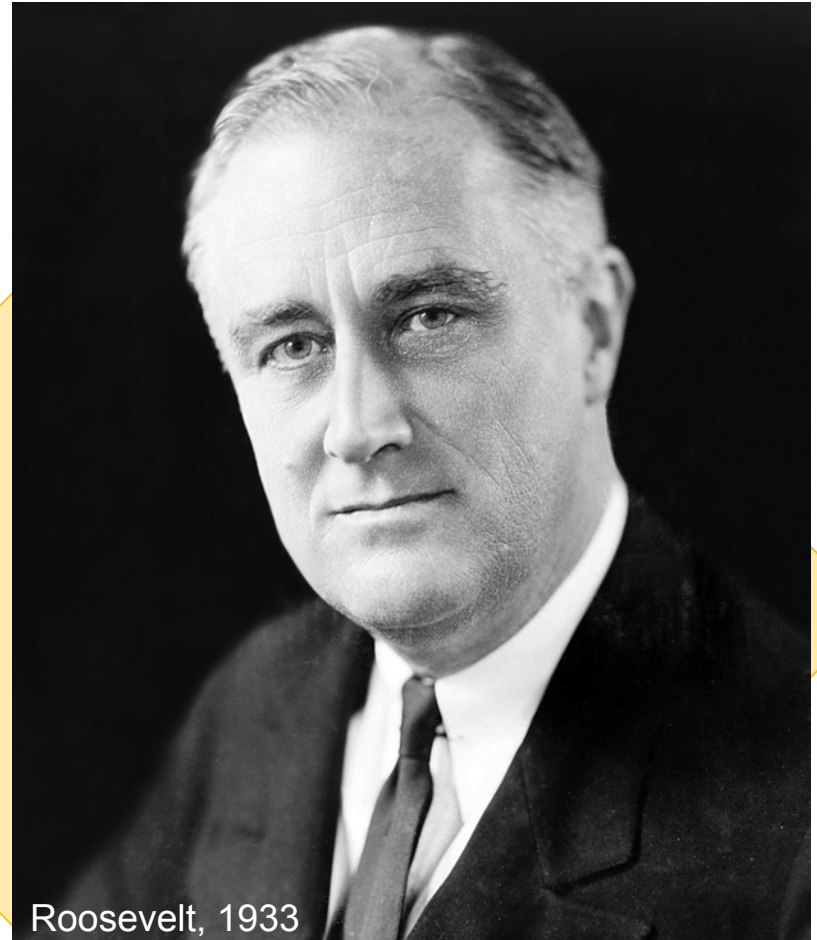
The Great Depression

The Proposal:

An employment program focused on nature conservation.

The Results:

3 Million people employed,
2 Billion trees planted,
800 new state parks established,
4,000 historic sites restored, campgrounds,
visitor centres, picnic areas and hiking trails
built, education for workers, etc...



Roosevelt, 1933



Canadian Nature Corps: A Lasting Legacy

Canada's recent federal commitments demonstrate a commendable ambition to protect and conserve nature.

Unfortunately, these goals will not be realized unless **nature is incorporated into the government's social and economic pandemic recovery process.**

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/05/04/opinion/canada-should-copy-president-roosevelt-and-create-nature-corps>

Ongoing Collaboration

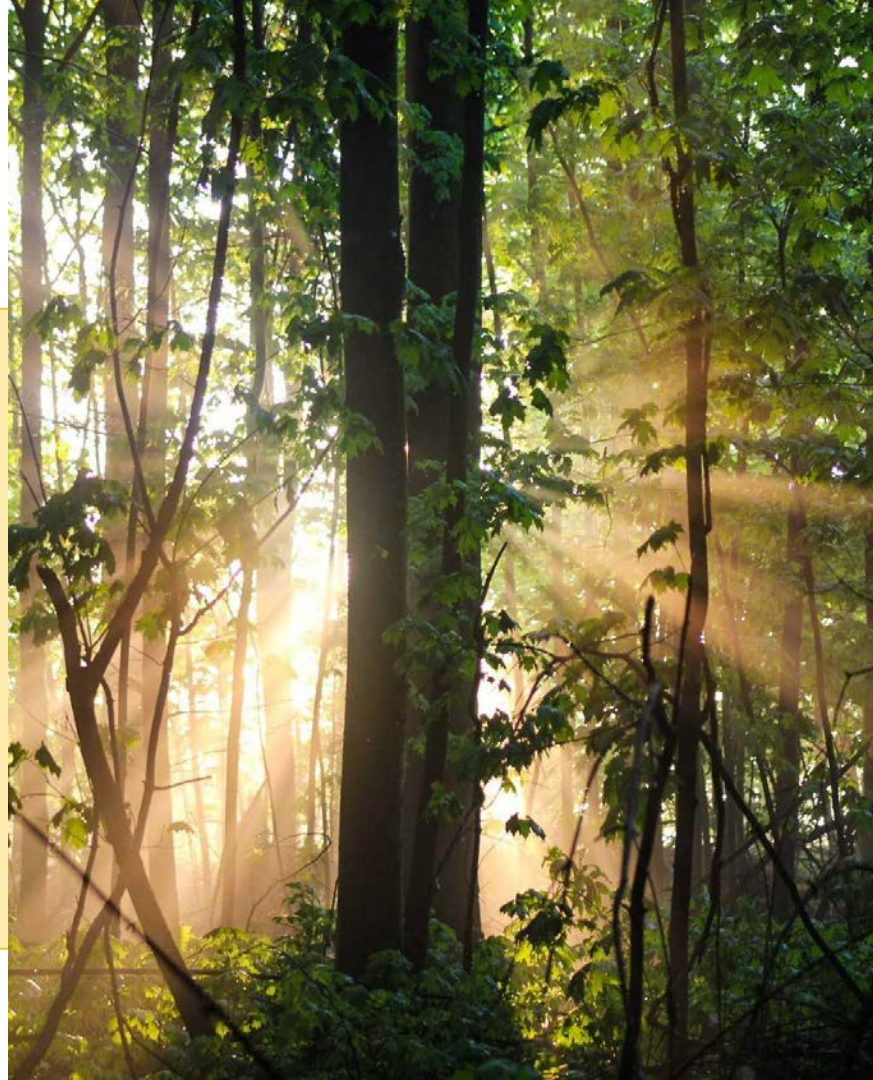
- Nature based climate solutions and job creation
- Nature organizations sign-on letter and detailed report
- Natural Infrastructure letter
- Offsets and other market approaches.
- 2 billion trees

What kinds of follow-up actions do you think would be useful?



The broader Nature and Climate Community:

- ❖ The Task Force for a Resilient Economy
- ❖ Boreal forest report
- ❖ Watershed project database
- ❖ Nature United study



How Do We Best Engage Decision Makers on Nature-based Climate Solutions?



- Online organizing & communications
- Direct engagement with decision makers - need to engage provincial and municipal decision-makers as well as federal.

Maintaining the Momentum: Regional Workshops and Webinar Series

The summit highlighted the desire for action on NBCS



We want to begin the conversation, at a more local level, about how best to implement Nature-based Climate Solutions.

What can you do in your organisation?

- ❖ Join a regional workshop or webinar series (let us know if you want to be kept in the loop).
- ❖ Pilot/share info on NBCS projects to build data and evidentiary support (solutions are very location specific)
- ❖ Outreach and Education on NBCS
- ❖ Support emerging national positions
- ❖ Communicate with MPs and government at all levels - digital and face-to-face
- ❖ Fill in the survey (or say yes in chat)



Thank you

Questions?

