

## FINANCING NATURE PROTECTION AND RECOVERY IN CANADA

program to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030 (Target 1).

**Recommended Investment:**  
**\$3 million over six years [ECCC, PC]**

### Contact

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### Endowment fund to strengthen private land conservation sector

The land trust sector plays an important role in implementing the KMGBF's goals and the protection of land in the most threatened areas of Canada. The Green Budget Coalition recommends establishing a Canada Conservation Endowment Fund, modelled on the Canada Cultural Investment Fund<sup>104</sup> or the Green Municipalities Fund, to strengthen the private land conservation sector by providing long-term financial stability for land trusts and other organizations that hold conserved private land in perpetuity. Such a fund would help meet KMGBF Targets 1, 3, and 4 and propel the acquisition and effective stewardship of protected lands.<sup>105</sup>

**Recommended Investment:**  
**\$300 million over three years, that would be matched 1:1 by private sources. [ECCC]**

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<sup>104</sup> The Canada Cultural Investment Fund (CCIF) encourages private sector investment, partnership, and sound business practices to help arts and heritage organizations be better rooted and recognized in their communities through Endowment Incentives.

<sup>105</sup> Canada's land trust sector has shown its ability to conserve and steward lands effectively. A 2019 revision of the Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices has seen renewed support and endorsement to build the sector's long-term success and capacity. Similar to the culture sector, the land trust community must exist organizationally – it must have long-term offices, legal expertise, communications, education, and outreach to successfully steward protected lands and acquire more lands while combating the impacts of climate change and the immediate threat of biodiversity loss.

### Conserving Canada's ocean

Marine protected area (MPA) network planning and marine spatial planning (MSP) are essential tools to implement Target 1 of the KMGBF for coasts and oceans. Target 1 seeks to “[e]nsure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land-and sea-use change” and aims to stop the loss of areas of high ecological importance and integrity.

If the current serious declines in ocean biodiversity are to be halted and reversed, it is critical that Marine Protected Area networks are the first priority in any spatial planning initiatives. MSP can enhance the performance of MPA networks by ensuring that the management of any marine uses outside of MPAs is complementary to the conservation objectives, thereby supporting connectivity between MPAs and providing for buffer zones around MPAs.

### Marine protected area network planning

The Government of Canada has committed to completing marine protected area (MPA) networks in five priority marine bioregions though none have yet been completed. By ensuring ecological connectivity between protected areas, MPA networks amplify conservation benefits and more effectively address climate impacts by allowing species to move between sites while remaining protected. MPA network planning processes in BC's Northern Shelf Bioregion and the Scotian Shelf-Bay of Fundy region are furthest ahead, but there remains considerable work to do and significant funding will be needed to support successful implementation. MPA network planning is an integrated and inclusive process that requires considerable investment to ensure effective stakeholder engagement, science support, and capacity building and engagement of partner organizations, including other federal agencies, Indigenous, provincial and territorial governments.

**Recommended Investment:**  
**\$160 million over five years to complete MPA network planning processes already underway and to start MPA network planning in four additional bioregions by 2030. [DFO, PC, ECCC]**

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**Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)**

Marine Spatial Planning is an inclusive, comprehensive, and strategic approach to the use and management of ocean space and marine resources with a view to protecting ecosystems, ensuring sustainability, and reducing overlap and conflicts between uses. MSP optimizes societal benefits from human activities while at the same time providing long-term protection of nature. MSP is a process that is being used by countries around the world.<sup>106</sup>

MSP requires new governance arrangements that bring together various levels of government, including Indigenous governments, and the variety of stakeholders with an interest in the ocean region. The success of MSP hinges on a participatory approach and comprehensive governance. New governance arrangements, particularly with Indigenous peoples, is a critical component of successful MSP, and will require capacity support and ongoing funding. Building relationships and ensuring effective Indigenous and stakeholder engagement requires funding certainty that cannot be met with short term budget commitments.

The Government of Canada is currently proceeding with MSP in five regions, including: Southern BC; Newfoundland and Labrador Shelves; Estuary and Gulf of Saint Lawrence; and Scotian Shelf and Bay of Fundy.<sup>107</sup> In the fifth region, the Pacific North Coast (also known as Northern Shelf Bioregion) in BC, the federal government can enhance the work by Coastal First Nations (CFN) and the provincial government in their marine spatial planning process, the Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP). DFO is already working with CFN and the province on co-developing an MPA network as a priority output of the MSP process.<sup>108</sup> Initial plans for the five regions are to be completed in 2024, but ongoing funding is required to continue collaborative processes, support implementation and consultation, and to begin MSP in other regions.

The original investment for MSP was made in 2018 with a one-year extension in 2023.

**Recommended Investment:**  
**\$75 million over five years, then \$15 million per year, ongoing** [DFO, ECCC, PC, NRCan, TC]

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Photo: K. Makagonova

106 UNESCO-IOC/European Commission. 2021. MSP Global International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning. Paris, UNESCO. (IOC Manuals and Guides no 89). <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379196>

107 Fisheries and Oceans Canada. “Marine Spatial Planning”,- <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/planning-planification/index-eng.html>

108 MaPP <http://mappocean.org>