

## Increasing Canada's international biodiversity assistance

Target 19 of the KMGBF commits developed country Parties to raise at least US\$20 billion annually by 2025 and US\$30 billion annually by 2030 for developing countries. Based on Canada's 2% share of global GDP, Canada's obligation would be US\$400 million annually by 2025 and US\$600 million by 2030 (approximately CAD \$540 million and CAD \$810 million, respectively). Canada's current investments in international biodiversity are approximately \$370 million annually. This includes Canada's contributions to the Global Environment Facility, the biodiversity-related portion of its climate finance, bilateral aid, and the commitment announced at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 in Montreal to spend an additional \$350 million over three years.

The Green Budget Coalition applauds Canada's increased investment and commitment to international biodiversity. However, preventing further loss and degradation of tropical ecosystems is vital for biodiversity as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation. Canada's migratory birds are being impacted by habitat loss at their wintering areas and migration stopovers in Latin America.

To immediately address threats to biodiversity, Canada should seek efficient ways for funds to directly support on-the-ground conservation efforts by local NGOs and Indigenous and local communities. Conservation organizations that partner with Indigenous people—key conservation allies in developing countries—are achieving conservation gains on a large geographic scale. Similarly, gains can be made in empowering local communities for forest management and fisheries co-management with governments.

Other actions can address policy issues impacting biodiversity, bring improvements to commodity supply chains, help create national conservation strategies, and perhaps include debt-for-nature swaps. Finally, the widespread and serious problem of "paper parks" can be addressed through contributions from Canada to finance mechanisms for public protected areas.

**Recommended Investment:  
\$1.2 billion over two years [GAC, ECCC]**

*For a more detailed recommendation, including regarding the \$1.2 billion amount, please see [https://icfcanada.org/docs/GBC\\_intl\\_biodiversity\\_Budget-2024.pdf](https://icfcanada.org/docs/GBC_intl_biodiversity_Budget-2024.pdf)*

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## Accurate data, research, information, and knowledge for improved evidence-based monitoring and decision-making

Accurate data, research, information, and knowledge is fundamental to support evidence-based monitoring and decision making to support the global mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and live in harmony with nature by 2050. Public investments in data and monitoring are critical to making informed investments in habitat, including species-at-risk recovery, biodiversity enhancements, increases in carbon sequestration, and climate change adaptation.

In October 2021, the European Union launched Biodiversa+ as part of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.<sup>123</sup> In collaboration with partners, it is a comprehensive, ambitious, and long-term plan to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030. It aims to connect science, policy, and practice for transformative change seeking to: support biodiversity research and innovation; improve monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services; deploy nature-based solutions and valuation of biodiversity in the private sector; and ensure sufficient science-based support for policy-making and implementation.

The Green Budget Coalition recommends that Canada's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan adopts a similar approach as Biodiversa+ in order to advance efforts towards achieving the KMGBF targets and goals.

**Total Recommended Investment:  
\$400 million over five years**

<sup>123</sup> European Commission, "Biodiversity strategy for 2030." [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en)

### Cataloguing, updating, and developing geospatial inventories

Cataloguing all the ecosystems in Canada will help ensure evidence-based decisions are made to protect, rehabilitate, enhance, and sustain our environment, inform nature-based climate solutions, and measure habitat conversion across Canada. Moreover, the establishment of a comprehensive baseline of geospatial data is essential for biodiversity to be accurately valued, conserved, and restored. The following should be top priorities in this effort:

- Conduct and complete audits of existing geospatial datasets to identify gaps in collaboration with subnational governments, Indigenous communities and groups, NGOs, and other federal departments and agencies. [AAFC, DFO, ECCC, NRCan, StatCan]
- Develop and update geographic and landscape-feature data to establish the following national geospatial habitat inventories: Canadian National Wetland Inventory [ECCC]; National Grasslands Inventory [AAFC]; Terrestrial Species at Risk Inventory [ECCC]; Aquatic Species at Risk Inventory with continued management and updates [DFO]; National Forest Inventory [NRCan]; and National Invasive Species Inventory [ECCC]. *See also Controlling the economic, social, and environmental impacts of invasive species, earlier in this document.*

**\$300 million over five years**  
[AAFC, DFO, ECCC, NRCan, StatCan]

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### Understanding, protecting, and restoring Canada’s coastal blue carbon ecosystems

Healthy coastal blue carbon ecosystems — such as seagrass meadows and salt marshes — provide climate, biodiversity and development benefits. Coastal wetlands provide valuable habitat for many economically and culturally important species, protect coastal communities from flooding, improve water quality, and act as carbon sinks. Rising sea levels, warming ocean temperatures, coastal

development, and invasive species threaten the resiliency of coastal wetlands, resulting in the loss of these critical ecosystems.

While efforts are ongoing to map blue carbon ecosystems nationally, we also need to understand local and regional variations in carbon sequestration, as well as the full suite of ecosystem services provided by these habitats. This work should happen alongside efforts to protect, restore, and effectively manage coastal habitats (*see Decade of Restoration: our shared pathway to Target 2, earlier in this document*), which need to recognise the interconnections between terrestrial and marine systems (*see the Protecting Land and Ocean Ecosystems sub-section, earlier in this document*) and should be led by DFO with support from PC, StatCan, and ECCC.

- Develop intergovernmental mechanisms that address the jurisdictional complexity of coastal ecosystems and strengthen efforts to steward and protect, restore and manage coastal blue carbon ecosystems;
- Mapping and monitoring of blue carbon ecosystems by coastal communities;
- Research by large-scale multidisciplinary collaborations and small-scale community groups to fill key knowledge gaps;
- Protection and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems to increase ecosystem resilience, support key coastal processes, and maintain ecosystem services; and
- Creation of a sustainable funding mechanism for monitoring and stewardship of coastal ecosystems.

**\$100 million over five years** [DFO]

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