

Ecological connectivity: Renewal of Parks Canada’s Ecological Corridors program

Ecological connectivity is vitally important to ensuring effective protected area networks that conserve nature. It is also critical to tackle the top threats to biodiversity: habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and climate change.

Canada’s Nature Strategy, alongside several goals and targets of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework (Goal A, Targets 1,2,3,12,14), emphasize that ecological connectivity is fundamental to high-functioning ecosystems and healthy species populations.

Through an initial investment from Enhanced Nature Legacy, Parks Canada has developed a successful National Ecological Corridors program that has identified national priority areas for action, and

supported Indigenous partners, other jurisdictions, and NGOs in implementing on-the-ground connectivity initiatives. Renewing and expanding this support is vital to build on and increase this important work.

Recommendation:

Renewal of the Enhanced Nature Legacy program should include extending Parks Canada’s National Program for Ecological Corridors to 2030 or beyond (**\$120 million over five years**) [PC, ECCC].

See also Ecological connectivity: Nationwide fund and wildlife crossings pilot program, later in this document.

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