

Slide 1



Biodiversity

Obligations, Issues & Actions

World Wildlife Fund Canada

Robert Rangeley
Marine Program Director, Atlantic
www.wwf.ca



World Wildlife Fund

- Largest independent conservation organization
- Active in 100 countries with 5 million supporters

WWF Canada (est. in 1967)

- Head office in Toronto with offices in Ottawa, Quebec, Nunavut, Northwest Territories and the Yukon.
- In 2001, WWF launched a new marine initiative with the opening of an Atlantic office in Halifax and a Pacific office in Prince Rupert.



WWF Canada is involved directly, and through our support of local organizations, in numerous projects on endangered species, protected areas, and the impact of toxic substances on wildlife across Canada. For example,

Endangered Spaces campaign more than doubled the land protected across Canada

It added almost 39 million hectares in over 1,000 new parks and reserves.



World Wildlife Fund Canada

Mission

- Conserve biological diversity
- Ensure the sustainable use of renewable natural resources
- Promote the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption



WWF's approach:

- is science based, we invest in research.
- establishes working partnerships with all stakeholders.
- takes action on both field and policy fronts.
- ensures programs have broad public support facilitated by high-quality communications and education.

Balancing Nature Conservation and Industrial Development

WWF advocates a two-pronged approach to conservation:

- First, a scientifically based system of protected areas, that prohibits major industrial disturbance to the environment.
- Second, sustainable management practices on the rest of the landscape, or waters.

*Conservation steps must be sequenced in **advance** of development while we still have the option, especially reserving protected areas. This is the essence of WWF's **Conservation First** principle.*

New development projects should be linked to adequate protected areas, as a regulatory requirement.

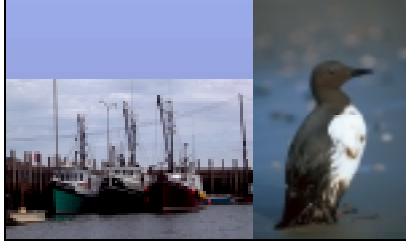
Endangered Seas Program, WWF international

Vision: Restoring the Balance

Industrial activities are the biggest threat to the marine environment.

The main challenges are:

- **insensitive development** -- e.g. aquaculture, oil & gas
- **overfishing** -- target species, food web & habitat effects
- **climate change** -- widespread ecosystem changes
- **pollution** -- land and sea based sources



Restoring the Balance

Marine conservation needs to be part of the same equation as sustainable development, food security, conflict reduction & profitable business practices.

Must restore the value of environmental priorities in the decision-making process to ensure more balanced decisions are permitted.





Our marine conservation goal is nothing less than permanent protection for the full **diversity** of Canada's marine habitats. The evidence is compelling that this will be the only sure and expedient way to conserve biological diversity and to ensure the sustainable use of renewable natural resources.



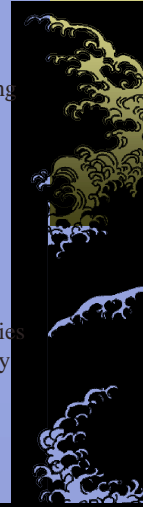
Marine Conservation

Large-scale conservation initiatives are needed to:

- Reduce scientific uncertainty – invest in knowledge-based resources and activities (e.g. CMB, CML, SEAMAP)
- Manage human activities – best practices everywhere (integrated management e.g. ESSIM)
- Implement an ecological network of Marine Protected Areas

Why protected areas?

- MPAs protect many kinds of marine habitats, including critical ones for rare and endangered species.
- MPAs can protect biodiversity if distinctive & representative habitats types are selected.
- MPAs can protect key ecological structures and processes when ecological networks are created.
- MPAs can serve as “control” areas for long-term studies and impact assessments. A valuable asset for biodiversity research.



General characteristics of MPAs

- MPA design criteria should be comprehensive, fair and based on high-quality science.
- Guidelines for locations of allowable resource extraction should be consistently applied and based on conservation priorities.
- Minimum protection standards should be clearly defined to provide certainty to all users, to be consistent.
- MPA conservation goals will work in conjunction with other standards designed for integrated oceans management.



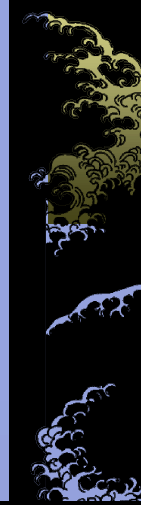
Selection of a network of MPAs

1. Define SETS of candidate MPAs based on ecological criteria (e.g. heterogeneity, spp area curves).
2. Define a functioning ecological network of candidate MPAs (e.g. connectance – larvae, fragmentation).
3. Apply selection criteria from candidate MPA's using ecological and non-ecological criteria (e.g. distribution of threats, socioeconomic factors).



How do we know if conservation targets are met?

- MPA effectiveness indicators
- National biodiversity report



WCPA MARINE/WWF INTERNATIONAL

MPA Management Effectiveness Initiative (2000-2003)

1. Biophysical Indicators

Goals

- Protection of biodiversity
- Conserving & sustaining fishery resources
- Conservation of individual species
- Conservation of individual habitats
- Restoring degraded areas

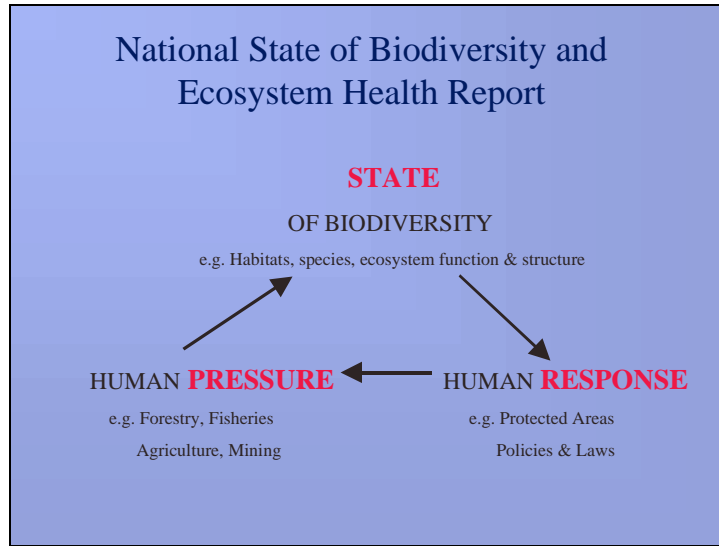
2. Socioeconomic indicators

3. Governance indicators

National State of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Report


- *Biennial Report by WWF*
- *Monitoring and evaluation of environmental indicators relevant to Canada's major conservation commitments*
- *Proposed launch: October 2002*





Canada's commitments:

- 1992 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
- 1992 Tri-Council Statement of Commitment to Completing Canada's Networks of Protected Areas
- 1995 – Federal Government Released the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy (CBS)
- 1996 Canada's Oceans Act
- 1996 Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada



Meeting our commitments

Balancing conservation with industrial development

Two-pronged approach:

- protected areas
- sustainable development

Conservation First principle

Reduce scientific uncertainty

- Biodiversity & Ecosystems
- Human Impacts
- Protected Areas Criteria

Conservation before --

- Further degradation
- Future options are lost

