



Strategic Agenda 2016-2020

“Working together to keep
Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy
alive.”

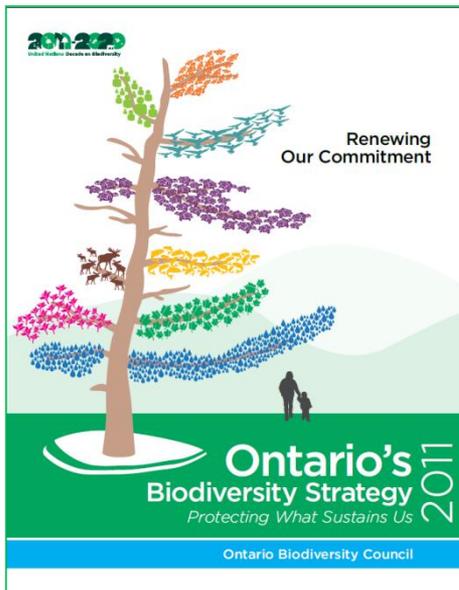
Purpose



This plan outlines the priorities and supporting activities to guide the Ontario Biodiversity Council over the planning period 2016 – 2020.

It complements broader efforts to implement OBS actions and achieve OBS targets.

Our Next
5 Years
2



BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

The diversity of life is our best defence in a world of rapidly changing climate.

COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC FOCUS, 2016-2020



ENHANCE RESILIENCE

Integrate biodiversity into provincial climate change strategies.

Value, maintain, restore and enhance ecosystem services.

Develop and implement biodiversity plans and strategies at the landscape and municipal levels.

Expand the protected areas system.



REPORT ON THE STATE OF BIODIVERSITY

Improve and share biodiversity knowledge.



ENGAGE PEOPLE

Inspire and empower people to value and protect biodiversity.



STRENGTHEN COUNCIL

Champion biodiversity and catalyze action across all sectors to achieve the goals of *Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy*.



Ontario
Biodiversity
Council

Strategic Focus



Our Next 5 Years: Biodiversity and Climate Change

Biodiversity and Climate Change - Protecting, restoring and sustainably managing the diversity of life on Earth is our best defence in a world of rapidly changing climate.

The relationship between biodiversity and climate change runs in two directions. While climate change poses a serious threat to Ontario's biodiversity, conservation of biodiversity can play an important role in mitigating climate change (reducing greenhouse gas concentrations) and in adapting to climate change (tolerating or coping with the impacts). OBS, p. 20

Council recognizes the imperative to link the two greatest global environmental issues of our time into an integrated response to achieve multiple wins for biodiversity, climate and society. Within that context, Council has identified the following four priorities to focus our activities over the planning period 2016 – 2020:

1. Enhance ecosystem resilience in a changing climate through habitat protection, restoration and stewardship;
2. Maintain and update the State of Ontario's Biodiversity Report;
3. Engage people in supporting and implementing Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy so that we may better enhance ecosystem resilience, and;
4. Promote the Ontario Biodiversity Council as a champion for biodiversity and as a trusted source for information on the state of biodiversity in Ontario.



Enhance Ecosystem Resilience

Priority 1 -

Enhance ecosystem resilience in a changing climate through habitat protection, restoration and stewardship. To achieve this priority Council, through its member organizations, will:

- a. Integrate biodiversity into provincial climate change strategies to achieve both adaptation and mitigation goals.
- b. Value, maintain, restore and enhance ecosystem services.
- c. Develop and implement plans and strategies to protect and conserve biological diversity at the landscape and municipal levels.
- d. Expand the protected areas system.



A resilient ecosystem is able to withstand and recover from stresses such as climate change, invasive species and pollution. The conservation of protected areas and other natural habitats that favour high biodiversity is especially important.



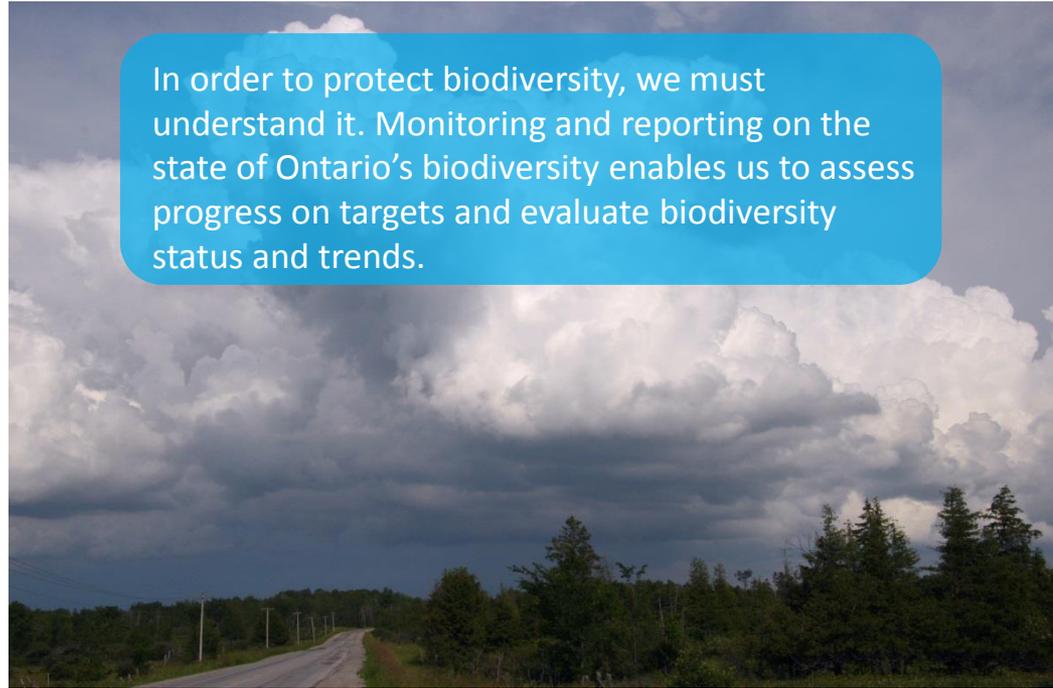
Report on the State of Biodiversity

Priority 2 -

Maintain and update the State of Ontario's Biodiversity Report. In doing so, Council will:

Improve and share biodiversity knowledge.

In order to protect biodiversity, we must understand it. Monitoring and reporting on the state of Ontario's biodiversity enables us to assess progress on targets and evaluate biodiversity status and trends.



Engage People

Priority 3 -

Engage people in supporting and implementing Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy so that we may better enhance ecosystem resilience. To achieve this priority Council will:

Inspire and empower people to value and protect biodiversity.



Individually and collectively, our decisions and actions are crucial to the conservation of biodiversity in Ontario. We need to do more to halt the decline of Ontario's biodiversity.



Strengthen the Ontario Biodiversity Council

Priority 4 -

The Ontario Biodiversity Council will position itself as a leading voice for biodiversity and a valued source for information about the state of biodiversity in Ontario. To achieve this priority Council will:

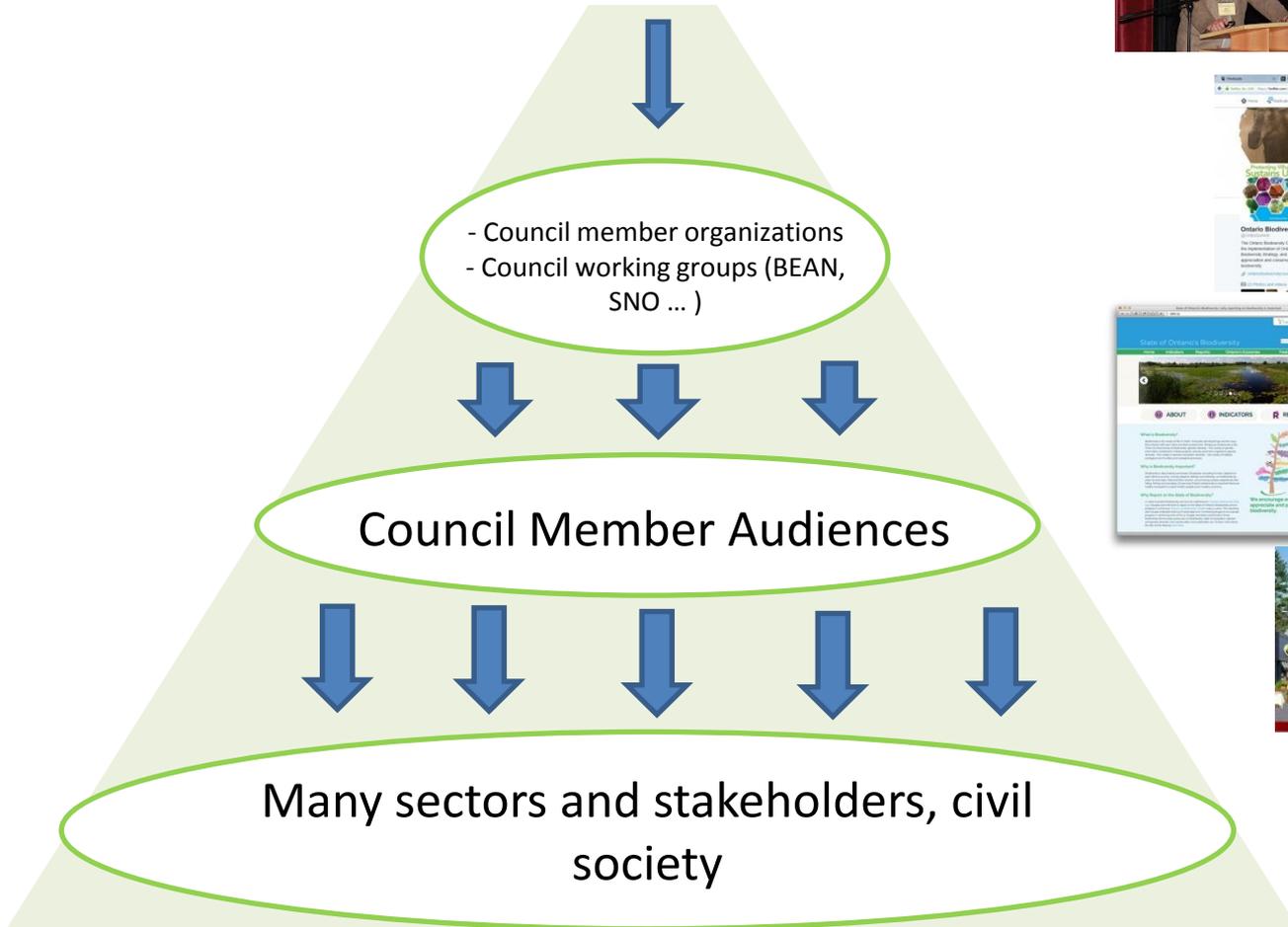
Champion biodiversity and catalyze action across all sectors to achieve the goals of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy.



The Ontario Biodiversity Council recognizes the importance of biodiversity and is taking steps to conserve it as an essential part of building a strong and prosperous future for our province.



Mainstreaming Biodiversity Through Syndication



Our Next
5 Years
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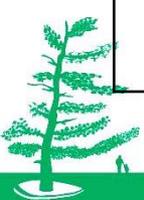


APPENDIX



Priority 1 - Enhance Ecosystem Resilience

Objective	Activity	Outcomes
<p>a. Integrate biodiversity into provincial climate change strategies to achieve both adaptation and mitigation goals.</p>	<p>Promote forest restoration and sustainable forest management as a means to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Promote forest, grassland and wetland conservation investments as carbon offsets through Ontario's cap and trade system.</p> <p>Identify and advance other no regret actions linking biodiversity and climate change action.</p>	<p>Municipalities adopt forest restoration as a means to advance climate change adaptation and mitigation goals.</p> <p>As part of cap and trade, additional lands are secured for conservation.</p> <p>Sectors link climate change and biodiversity conservation actions.</p>
<p>b. Value, maintain, restore and enhance ecosystem services.</p>	<p>Promote the protection, restoration and stewardship of natural systems for the regulatory services they provide (e.g., preventing flooding and drought):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. making community flood risk vulnerability and low water assessments a priority; b. prioritizing wetland protection and restoration and other natural infrastructure in vulnerable areas; c. identifying and using economic and other tools to protect and restore natural areas, and; d. collecting and sharing evidence showing the value of natural areas for biodiversity conservation and flood attenuation. 	<p>Municipalities protect and restore wetlands and other natural areas as part of their efforts to address a changing climate.</p> <p>Adaptation plans to cope with the effects of climate change are developed and implemented.</p> <p>Ecosystem services are maintained and have been restored and enhanced in previously degraded habitats.</p>



Priority 1 - Enhance Ecosystem Resilience

<p>c. Develop and implement plans and strategies to protect and conserve biological diversity at the landscape and municipal levels and to achieve climate resilience.</p>	<p>Promote the consideration of biodiversity in planning to achieve multiple benefits for communities, including ecological benefits, health benefits, and climate change adaptation and resilience.</p> <p>Bring together municipalities and other organizations to advocate for the preparation and implementation of natural heritage system plans or biodiversity conservation strategies.</p> <p>Showcase best practices and leading examples of natural heritage systems plans.</p> <p>Facilitate preparation of natural heritage systems plans by smaller municipalities by providing expertise and guidance.</p> <p>Encourage municipalities to complete and implement natural heritage system plans or conservation strategies by 2020.</p>	<p>Decision makers consider and advance the protection and restoration of natural green infrastructure and natural capital in planning Ontario communities.</p> <p>The status of species and ecosystems is improved.</p> <p>Proportion of public and private lands managed for biodiversity increased.</p>
<p>d. Expand the protected areas system of ecologically representative and ecologically significant areas in Ontario.</p>	<p>Bring together key organizations that secure conservation lands to spur action toward the securement of well-connected networks of protected areas and other measures.</p>	<p>An action plan is developed and implemented.</p> <p>The province's protected areas target of conserving at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems is advanced.</p>



Objective	Activity	Outcomes
<p>a. Improve and share biodiversity knowledge.</p>	<p>Update indicators in the State of Ontario’s Biodiversity Report (SOBR) as new information becomes available and according to a schedule agreed to by Council.</p> <p>Review and, as appropriate, update the indicator set to be used in SOBR 2020.</p> <p>Work with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and other partners to prepare and release SOBR 2020.</p> <p>Promote and engage citizen science.</p>	<p>New information about the state of Ontario’s biodiversity is released in a timely manner.</p> <p>SOBR 2020 reflects best available science and information.</p> <p>Report is released publicly in 2020.</p>



Priority 3 -

Engage People

Objective	Activity	Outcomes
<p>a. Inspire and empower people to value and protect biodiversity</p>	<p>Develop and implement a communications and social media strategy aligned with OBC priorities considering both traditional and new audiences.</p> <p>With MNRF, profile Ontario’s biodiversity conservation framework at COP13.</p> <p>Council members participate in a speaker’s bureau to engage audiences in discussions about Ontario’s biodiversity.</p> <p>Use coordinated outreach across Council-member organizations to convey new information about the state of biodiversity to the public.</p> <p>Use social media to strategically link SOBR indicators and Ontario’s biodiversity stories.</p> <p>Promote and engage citizen science.</p>	<p>Communications and social media strategy guides and directs Council education, outreach and public awareness activities.</p> <p>Increased numbers of people are aware of biodiversity and Ontario actions for conservation.</p> <p>More people understand the state of biodiversity and Ontario’s progress against its 2020 targets.</p> <p>Council’s work is communicated to a larger audience.</p>



Priority 4 -

Strengthen the Ontario Biodiversity Council

Objective	Activity	Outcomes
<p>a. Champion biodiversity and catalyze action across all sectors to achieve the goals of Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>Host mini-summits for active “change-makers” to bring attention and spur action toward Council’s priorities.</p> <p>Promote Council and its outreach and activities using the communication channels of the member organizations.</p> <p>Promote collaboration and communication between Council and working groups.</p> <p>Integrate the perspective of youth and young leaders into the activities of Council.</p> <p>Review Council and working group membership periodically to ensure the diversity of organizations with an interest in conserving biodiversity is represented.</p> <p>Strategically foster new working relationships with organizations to promote the value of biodiversity to their future.</p> <p>Renew OBS for post 2020 in consideration of the State of Ontario’s Biodiversity reports and national/international direction.</p>	<p>Awareness about Council and its activities increases.</p> <p>Council becomes the “go to” organization and voice for Ontario’s biodiversity.</p> <p>Greater awareness of biodiversity and Ontario’s plans and actions to protect what sustains us.</p> <p>Council is strengthened with the active involvement of members and working groups .</p> <p>The reach of Council is extended to new sectors.</p> <p>Council membership is representative of the key interests needed to advance biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Ontario sets out a biodiversity agenda that continues to inspire and encourage action across all sectors.</p>

