

# Draft Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy framework

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy is being renewed to 2030 and the Ontario Biodiversity Council is seeking feedback. This is a **draft** of the updated vision, mission, goals, targets and actions.

To share your comments, you can:

- complete the online workbook: <https://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/ontarios-strategy/renewal/>
- register and attend a free webinar: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qsqfoW9tR72yGVTyQbfwXg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qsqfoW9tR72yGVTyQbfwXg)
- email us with any questions or for more information at: [info@ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca](mailto:info@ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca)

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy guides conservation targets and actions across the province. It's intended to be a 'to-do' list for all people and sectors to help prioritize actions and promote change to benefit biodiversity, improve human health, make our communities stronger and safer, and support the economy.

The first strategy was created in 2005 and was updated in 2011. It's time to renew the strategy to 2030. An online workbook has been created where you can share your suggestions on the draft vision, mission, goals, targets and actions. Your suggestions are important to help reflect as many perspectives as possible.

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy is made up of a vision, mission, goals, targets and associated actions.

The **vision**, **mission** and **goals** set the context of what the Strategy can accomplish and what we hope the future looks like in Ontario.

**Targets:** These are statements that explain what we want to achieve. They can include ways to measure our progress, and timing for when we want to achieve them.

**Actions:** These are like a 'to-do' list of activities, programs and other undertakings that must be completed to achieve the targets. Some actions are for specific groups or sectors and some are for all of us.

## Vision

A future where biodiversity loss is halted, recovery is advanced and people are living in harmony with nature. People value, protect and enhance biodiversity and the ecosystem services essential for sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for human health, well-being and prosperity.

## Mission

To take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to put Ontario on a nature positive path by conserving, restoring and sustainably managing biodiversity for the benefit of communities, nature and climate.

## Goals

**Goal 1:** Mainstream biodiversity across the province to halt its loss and become nature-positive.

**Goal 2:** Protect, restore and recover genetic, species and ecosystem diversity and related ecosystem functions, processes and services.

**Goal 3:** Manage biological assets sustainably and equitably, and scale-up nature-based solutions for biodiversity, climate and societal benefits.

**Goal 4:** Mobilize human and financial resources to scale-up actions to achieve mission and vision.

Draft Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy targets and actions

	Draft targets	Draft actions
1	By 2025, sectors have developed plans in support of OBS and by 2030 those plans have been implemented.	<div><div>1.</div><div>Develop implementation plans to incorporate biodiversity values into provincial and municipal levels of government, and across health, education, industry, not for profit, and business sectors.</div><div>2.</div><div>Enhance policy and legislative frameworks to align with Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy</div><div>3.</div><div>Enhance the integration of biodiversity into renewable resources sectors (wildlife, fisheries, forestry and agriculture) through the application of biodiversity friendly practices.</div></div>
2	By 2025, the capacity for people to conserve biodiversity is increased and by 2030 people are widely engaged in implementing biodiversity actions across society.	<div><div>4.</div><div>Expand stewardship partnerships with Indigenous peoples, local communities and landowners.</div><div>5.</div><div>Develop and share information about biodiversity's links to human health, climate change, and the economy, and increase availability of tools and training to support biodiversity actions.</div><div>6.</div><div>Continue to integrate biodiversity education into all levels and all types of curricula, such as post secondary programs in land use planning, business, engineering and health.</div></div>
3	By 2030, biodiversity conservation programs and actions are inclusive, equitable and incorporate Indigenous knowledge and local perspectives.	<div><div>7.</div><div>Encourage equitable public participation in biodiversity decision-making and conservation including engaging with youth, new Canadians, Indigenous communities and under-represented groups.</div><div>8.</div><div>Support and embrace the opportunity and capacity for Indigenous peoples and local communities to develop and implement conservation programs.</div></div>
4	By 2030 land use planning tools to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including natural heritage systems, are implemented at local, regional, and provincial levels.	<div><div>9.</div><div>Implement land use planning approaches that conserve biodiversity and enhance connectivity and ecological function that emphasizes people's connection to biodiversity.</div><div>10.</div><div>Identify Key Biodiversity Areas and improve their management and conservation.</div><div>11.</div><div>Maintain and expand natural infrastructure on municipal and private lands to increase biodiversity and enhance climate resilience within cities and communities.</div></div>
5	By 2030, efforts to manage the introduction, spread and establishment of high-risk invasive species and their pathways, are increased.	<div><div>12.</div><div>Promote partnerships with local governments, Indigenous communities and other organisations to manage invasive species.</div><div>13.</div><div>Develop and implement prevention strategies for main pathways of introduction of invasive species.</div><div>14.</div><div>Develop and implement innovative surveillance and control tools for high-risk invasive species.</div></div>
6	By 2030, the release of ecologically damaging pollutants from key sources is reduced to a level that is not harmful to biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides.	<div><div>15.</div><div>Review, strengthen and implement strategies to reduce the release of harmful pollutants including pesticides, nutrients, plastics, air, light and noise pollution.</div><div>16.</div><div>Develop and implement strategies that strengthen biodiversity's ability to reduce pollutants and improve air, water and soil quality.</div></div>
7	By 2025 capacity for nature-based solutions is increased and by 2030, these solutions are scaled up to enhance biodiversity and support climate adaptation and mitigation.	<div><div>17.</div><div>Develop and implement climate smart tools and approaches for biodiversity protection, management and restoration activities.</div><div>18.</div><div>Promote and implement nature-based solutions to enhance climate mitigation and adaptation and resilience of both biodiversity and people to climate change, e.g., protection and enhancement of green, natural infrastructure.</div><div>19.</div><div>Quantify climate benefits of nature-based solutions in Ontario.</div></div>
8	By 2030, Ontario's per-capita resource consumption and waste generation is reduced and is within Ontario's biocapacity limits.	<div><div>20.</div><div>Report on Ontario's Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity and promote the use of this information in decision-making.</div><div>21.</div><div>Promote and support access to information related to consumption and waste (e.g., food, water, plastics), including ways to reduce and reuse waste.</div><div>22.</div><div>Identify and implement priority actions to reduce Ontario's Ecological Footprint.</div></div>

	Draft targets	Draft actions
9	By 2025, priority restoration areas are identified and by 2030 efforts are underway to restore biodiversity to at least 30 percent of priority areas.	<div>23. Increase availability of genetically appropriate native species capable of surviving future climate scenarios for restoration projects.</div> <div>24. Identify, prioritize and incentivize restoration of key terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, including on private land areas and areas most affected by climate change, in a broadly inclusive and equitable manner.</div> <div>25. Investigate, develop and implement rewilding programs to help achieve restoration targets.</div>
10	By 2030 at least 30% of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are conserved through well-connected networks of protected areas and conservation lands.	<div>26. Increase land protection and conservation opportunities (e.g., OECMs) on Crown and private land.</div> <div>27. Collaborate and coordinate with Indigenous communities and organizations to advance Indigenous-led conservation (e.g., IPCA's).</div> <div>28. Identify, protect and develop management plans for climate refugia in Ontario.</div>
11	By 2030, the status of species and ecosystems in Ontario is improved.	<div>29. Assess species and ecosystems vulnerabilities to threats (e.g., climate change, invasive species) and create and implement policies and management plans to reduce vulnerabilities.</div> <div>30. Develop and implement a genetic resource management strategy for wild species</div> <div>31. Maintain and restore habitat supply and connectivity to support healthy populations and natural and climate-driven movement of species.</div>
12	By 2030, Ontario's biodiversity research, monitoring and reporting system is improved, accessible and integrates local and Indigenous knowledge.	<div>32. Invest in the preservation and integration of traditional ecological knowledge and community-based monitoring programs.</div> <div>33. Regularly review the status of knowledge about Ontario's biodiversity, including revision of research questions and strategies, identification of knowledge gaps and development of strategic partnerships</div> <div>34. Continue to report on the state of Ontario's biodiversity and biodiversity targets at five-year intervals and share and expand access to biodiversity data and information.</div>
13	By 2030, biodiversity considerations are integrated into funding, investments, and financial disclosures.	<div>35. Review and strengthen economic tools, such as incentives, that encourage conservation and increase private investments like green bonds.</div> <div>36. Promote accounting and disclosure principles and make data available to integrate the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision making across all levels of government and sectors, including the financial community.</div> <div>37. Work with banking institutions to create positive biodiversity and climate resilient outcomes as a condition for financing land developers and resource extraction.</div>