



# Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy Renewal Workbook

*This is a PDF version of the online public engagement workbook for the renewal of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy. Please share your comments online at: <https://forms.gle/YGXvB75Cr621BFvk7>*

*If you have questions about the Ontario Biodiversity Council, Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, or this workbook, or if you need more information, please email us at: [onbiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:onbiodiversity@gmail.com)*

## Introduction

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy (OBS) 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 Ontario Biodiversity Council leads the implementation of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy. It's a group of 40+ conservation, academic, indigenous and industry organizations and government that work together on common biodiversity goals.

The first strategy was created in 2005, and it was updated in 2011. It's time to renew the strategy to 2030.

Your suggestions are important to help reflect as many perspectives as possible.

Completing the workbook should take you between 5-20 minutes, depending on the level of detail in your answers.

*If you have questions about the Ontario Biodiversity Council, Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, or this workbook, or if you need more information, please email us at: [onbiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:onbiodiversity@gmail.com)*

## About the workbook

This workbook is divided in to 10 sections.

1. Introduction
2. Instructions
3. Demographic information
4. Vision, mission and goals
5. Empower people (*Targets 1 to 3 and actions*)
6. Reduce threats (*Targets 4 to 8 and actions*)
7. Enhance resilience (*Targets 9 to 11 and actions*)
8. Improve knowledge (*Target 12 and actions*)
9. Transform investments (*Target 13 and actions*)
10. Conclusion & resources

There is space to share your comments after each target. You do not need to provide an answer for every question to advance through the workbook.

We want the strategy to reflect the best information available and are using several sources including the State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2020 report, the Global Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, priority actions identified during the 2021 Ontario Biodiversity Summit, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and others. A full list of resources with links is included at the end of this workbook.

*\*Please note\** You need to select the **Submit** button on the last page of this workbook to record your responses.

## What is biodiversity?

*Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy includes the following definition of biodiversity.*

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It includes all living things and the ways in which they interact with one another and their environment. Simply put, biodiversity is life.

There are three levels of biodiversity:

- genetic diversity—the variety of genetic information contained in individual plants, animals and micro-organisms
- species diversity—the variety of species
- ecosystem diversity—the variety of habitats, ecological communities and ecological processes

Conserving Ontario's biodiversity is very important because healthy ecosystems sustain healthy people and a healthy economy. Biodiversity also has inherent value and deserves to be recognized, appreciated and conserved for its own sake.

## Section 2: Instructions

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

**Vision, mission and goals:** These set the context of what the OBS 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.

There is space after each section or target to share your comments.

### During your review, please consider:

- Do you see yourself or your organization (and the work that you do or wish to do) represented in the strategy? If not, please indicate where you could see yourself fitting in or contributing to the targets or actions and provide any suggestions.
- Are the key threats to biodiversity in Ontario addressed?
- Will the targets help to achieve the mission and goals?
- Will the actions help achieve the targets?
- Are there gaps? Are there any targets or actions missing?

### Please note:

1. **Focus on the content.** All comments are welcome, however, the wording and grammar might change in subsequent versions so the most beneficial edits or suggestions will be focused on the content of the targets and actions.
2. **Look at all or only a few.** Feel free to provide comments on one, some, or all the draft targets and actions. **\*\*Please note that while you don't need to respond to all questions, you do need to advance to the final page to **Submit** your responses\*\*.**
3. **Be concise.** Please note that space is limited to a maximum of 1,000 characters for each response (about 200 words). If you wish to share longer comments please email [onbiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:onbiodiversity@gmail.com).
4. **Share this workbook!** We want to hear from as many people and groups as possible. Please share the workbook widely, post it to your social media accounts, and tell your colleagues.

Thank you for your participation. All input will be considered. We will share a report back of what we heard after the public engagement is complete.

## Section 3: Demographic Information

We want to ensure the updated Strategy reflects as many perspectives as possible. The following demographic information will help us to know if the feedback we receive is representative of sectors and society in Ontario.

**Name** *(leave this blank if you'd prefer to remain anonymous)*

**What is your email address?**

### Do you want to receive emails from us?

We will never share or sell your contact information. You can opt out of receiving communications from us at any time.

- Yes! I want to get emails updates about the renewal of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy.
- No. Please do not send me any emails.

**Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of a group or organization?**

- Individual
- Group
- Organization
- Other...

**What type of group or organization do you represent?**

- Private sector
- Non Governmental Organization (NGO or ENGO)
- Government
- Academia
- Other...

**We hope to receive input from a wide geographic area to help understand the priorities of different regions. If you are responding on behalf of an organization, please identify which area(s) you work in. If you are responding as an individual, please identify the area(s) where you live. Please select all that apply.**

- Southwestern Ontario
- Greater Toronto Hamilton area
- Central Ontario
- Eastern Ontario
- Northern Ontario
- My organization operates across the province
- I'm responding from outside of Ontario
- Other

**It's important that Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy represents and reflects Indigenous perspectives and knowledge systems.**

Are you First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit)?

- Yes, First Nations (North American Indian)
- Yes, Métis
- Yes, Inuk
- No
- Don't know / prefer not to answer

**Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy should include multiple perspectives to allow for equitable public participation in biodiversity decision making. Please select if you identify as a member of any of the following groups.**

- Youth (aged between 15 and 24)
- New Canadians (immigrated to Canada within the past 10 years)
- Senior Citizens (over the age of 65)
- Children (under the age of 15)
- Francophone (your primary language spoken is French)
- None of the above
- Another under-represented group

## Section 4: Vision, mission and goals

The vision, mission and goals help to set the context and direction for the Strategy.

### 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.

Do you agree or disagree with the vision?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

What do you like about the vision? What do you not like?

Your answer

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### 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.

Do you agree or disagree with the mission?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree

What do you like about the mission? What do you not like?

Your answer

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## 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.

...

Do you agree or disagree with the goals?

1      2      3      4      5

Strongly disagree                                    Strongly agree

What do you like about the goals? What do you not like?

Your answer

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Do you have any other suggestions or comments about the draft vision, mission or goals?

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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## Section 5: Empower people

Individually and collectively, our decisions and actions are crucial to the conservation of biodiversity. For this strategy to succeed, our attitudes and actions must change so that we better value biodiversity and consider it in our decision making. The following targets and actions are intended to improve education, encourage progress, and integrate biodiversity into all sectors.

**Target 1:** By 2025, sectors have developed plans in support of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy and by 2030 those plans have been implemented.



**Actions:**

1. Develop action plans to incorporate biodiversity strategies into provincial and municipal levels of government, and across health, education, industry, not for profit, and business sectors.
2. Enhance policy and legislative frameworks to align with Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy.
3. Enhance the integration of biodiversity into renewable resources sectors (wildlife, fisheries, forestry and agriculture) through the application of biodiversity friendly practices.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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**Target 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.

**Actions:**

4. Expand stewardship partnerships with Indigenous peoples, local communities and landowners.
5. 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.
6. 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.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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**Target 3:** By 2030, biodiversity conservation programs and actions are inclusive, equitable and incorporate Indigenous knowledge and local perspectives.

**Actions:**

7. Encourage equitable public participation in biodiversity decision-making and conservation including engaging with youth, new Canadians, Indigenous communities and under-represented groups.
8. Support and embrace the opportunity and capacity for Indigenous peoples and local communities to develop and implement conservation programs.

Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).

Your answer

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## Section 6: Reduce threats

To conserve biodiversity, we must reduce and manage what harms it. Reducing the threats to biodiversity will improve the health and resiliency of ecosystems and species and protect the ecosystem services that we all need to live. The following targets and actions are intended to reduce direct and indirect pressures on biodiversity and support the sustainable use of natural resources.

**Target 4:** By 2030 land use planning tools to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including natural heritage systems, are implemented at local, regional and provincial levels.

### Actions:

9. Implement land use planning approaches that conserve biodiversity and enhance connectivity and ecological function that emphasizes people's connection to biodiversity.
10. Identify Key Biodiversity Areas and improve their management and conservation.
11. Maintain and expand natural infrastructure on municipal and private lands to increase biodiversity and enhance climate resilience within cities and communities.

Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).

Your answer

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**Target 5:** By 2030, efforts to manage the introduction, spread and establishment of high-risk invasive species and their pathways, are increased.

### Actions:

12. Promote partnerships with local governments, Indigenous communities and other organizations to manage invasive species.
13. Develop and implement prevention strategies for main pathways of introduction of invasive species.
14. Develop and implement innovative surveillance and control tools for high-risk invasive species.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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**Target 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.

**Actions:**

15. Review, strengthen and implement strategies to reduce the release of harmful pollutants including pesticides, nutrients, plastics, air, light and noise pollution.

16. Develop and implement strategies that strengthen biodiversity's ability to reduce pollutants and improve air, water and soil quality.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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**Target 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.

**Actions:**

17. Develop and implement climate smart tools and approaches for biodiversity protection, management and restoration activities.

18. 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.

19. Quantify climate benefits of nature-based solutions in Ontario.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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**Target 8:** By 2030, Ontario's per-capita resource consumption and waste generation is reduced and is within Ontario's biocapacity limits.

**Actions:**

20. Report on Ontario's Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity and promote the use of this information in decision-making.

21. Promote and support access to information related to consumption and waste (e.g., food, water, plastics), including ways to reduce and reuse waste.

22. Identify and implement priority actions to reduce Ontario's Ecological Footprint.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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## Section 7: Enhance resilience

One of the best ways we can conserve biodiversity is to enhance its ability to cope with change. A resilient ecosystem is able to withstand and recover from stresses such as climate change, invasive species and pollution. The following targets and actions are intended to maintain, restore, recover, and protect the diversity of ecosystems and species.

**Target 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.

**Actions:**

23. Increase availability of genetically appropriate native species capable of surviving future climate scenarios for restoration projects.

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.

25. Investigate, develop and implement rewilding programs to help achieve restoration targets.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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**Target 10:** By 2030 at least 30% of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are conserved through well-connected networks of protected areas and conservation lands.

**Actions:**

26. Increase land protection and conservation opportunities (e.g. Other effective area-based conservation measures [OECMs]) on Crown and private land.

27. Collaborate and coordinate with Indigenous communities and organizations to advance Indigenous-led conservation (e.g. Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas [IPCAs]).
28. Identify, protect and develop management plans for climate refugia in Ontario.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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**Target 11:** By 2030, the status of species and ecosystems in Ontario is improved.

**Actions:**

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.
30. Develop and implement a genetic resource management strategy for wild species
31. Maintain and restore habitat supply and connectivity to support healthy populations and natural and climate-driven movement of species.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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## Section 8: Improve knowledge

Decades of scientific inquiry and study have improved our understanding of Ontario's biodiversity, but there is still much to learn. Biodiversity information must be expanded to reflect different perspectives and knowledge systems and communicated clearly to a wider audience. Everyone must understand how their actions and choices have an impact on biodiversity. The following target and actions are intended to improve quality of and access to information to support better decision making at all levels of society.

**Target 12:** By 2030, Ontario's biodiversity research, monitoring and reporting system is improved, accessible and integrates local and Indigenous knowledge.

**Actions:**

32. Invest in the preservation and integration of traditional ecological knowledge and community-based monitoring programs.

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
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.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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## Section 9: Transform investments

While our understanding of the importance of biodiversity has increased, a fundamental shift in how we value it is long overdue. Biodiversity has to be included in balance sheets and the cost of inaction must be calculated so that we better understand and manage biodiversity and its role as the foundation for our economy and our communities. We must work to eliminate, phase out or reform subsidies which are harmful for biodiversity, while scaling-up financial resources to become nature positive. The following target and actions are intended to modernize our financial systems to achieve biodiversity conservation goals.

**Target 13:** By 2030, biodiversity considerations are integrated into funding, investments, and financial disclosures.

### Actions:

35. Review and strengthen economic tools, such as incentives, that encourage conservation and increase private investments like green bonds.
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.
37. Work with banking institutions to create positive biodiversity and climate resilient outcomes as a condition for financing land developers and resource extraction.

*Please provide your comments below. Note there is a limit of 1000 characters (about 200 words).*

Your answer

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## **Section 10: Conclusion & resources**

Thank you for participating in the online workbook for the renewal of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy.

We appreciate your contributions to help make the strategy a document that represents all of the individuals and groups living and working in Ontario.

If you want any further information, please reach out to us at: [onbiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:onbiodiversity@gmail.com)

**Want to know more? Here's a list of resource material.**

[Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020](#)

[State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2020 report](#)

[2021 Ontario Biodiversity Summit: Key takeaways and priority actions](#)

[United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

[United Nations Global Biodiversity Framework draft decision](#)