



Resilient Saanich FACTSHEET #3

Biodiversity Conservation Targets



Saanich is developing an environmental policy framework (“Resilient Saanich”), including a biodiversity conservation strategy. Biodiversity loss is a global crisis and governments at all levels have targets and commitments to address this threat, including conservation and restoration. As Saanich develops a biodiversity conservation strategy, these targets will inform this work. You can read more about these targets and related documents by visiting the links in the summaries below.

International Targets

Many international agreements and initiatives are active and important for Saanich to consider. For example, Canada is a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), having ratified the agreement in 1993. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are an agreement of the Parties for the period of 2011-2020, with a post-2020 framework under development. In addition, Canada is one of the United Nations that adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which focuses on achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The table below includes some highlighted targets from the CBD and other international initiatives with specific biodiversity related targets.

Target	Protect 25% terrestrial and 25% ocean areas by 2025. 30% of each by 2030.
Source	Leaders Pledge for Nature, 2020 (in advance of the delayed update to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets) https://www.leaderspledgefornature.org/
Target	By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas will be conserved. By 2020, reduce rate of loss of all natural habitats by at least 50%, and where feasible, close to zero. Currently being updated.
Source	Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Convention on Biological Diversity (2011) https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/
Target	By 2030, protect 50% of each of the world's 836 ecoregions.
Source	Nature Needs Half (2009) https://natureneedshalf.org/

National Targets

Canada produced the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in 1995, the Strategy Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and has recently updated international commitments through 2030.

Target	By 2025, conserve 25% of land and 25% of oceans in Canada. By 2030, protect 30% of each.
Source	Canada's Biodiversity Outcomes Framework https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/canada-target-one-challenge.html
Target	Conserve 30% of the planet in a natural state by the year 2030.
Source	The Wyss Campaign for Nature https://www.wysscampaign.org/goal
Target	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
Source	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld



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Provincial Targets

BC contributes towards Canada's biodiversity commitments and targets through networks of protected areas and other conservation measures.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/biodiversity>

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/soe/indicators/land/protected-lands-and-waters.html>

Regional Targets

Planning related to biodiversity in the capital regional has included a Regional Parks Landscape Evaluation Project and conservation targets for the coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem.

Target	Two targets were used to show a range of conservation scenarios. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 % of the landscape • 30% of the landscape
Source	Landscape Evaluation Project (CRD 2018) https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/regional-parks-landscape-evaluation-project

Target	To prevent threatened species extinction, protect 60-70% of given habitat containing threatened species. Protect 70% of ecosystems to maintain a low risk threshold. Include historic range for Garry Oak and wetland ecosystems.
Source	Landscape Evaluation Project (CRD 2018) Conservation Planning and Targets for CDF Ecosystem (2007) http://www.cdfcp.ca/attachments/Conservation%20Planning%20in%20the%20CDF.pdf

Municipal (Saanich) Targets

The Urban Containment Boundary policy helps to guide development outside of rural areas, but there are no targets directly related to biodiversity conservation. The Official Community Plan contains a target for access to park land.

Target	Minimum standard of parkland in Saanich at 5 ha per 1,000 residents (excluding regional parks).
Source	Official Community Plan (2008) https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Local-Government/Documents/Corporate-and-Annual-Reports/2008%20OCP.pdf

Other Targets

There are many other quantitative targets that involve the natural environment such as:

- urban forest canopy cover
- access to green space for health and recreation
- limits to impervious cover by watershed
- habitat for rare and endangered species and ecosystems
- agricultural land protection
- wetland conservation

These types of targets are useful indicators of the various functions provided through biodiversity conservation.

Summary

As Saanich develops a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, existing conservation targets, from local to International, will help inform what we are going to conserve. In Canada, some of the biodiversity conservation commitments have come forward from international commitments. Provinces have been asked to support national targets. In addition, non-governmental organizations are actively promoting targets calling for higher levels of conservation.