

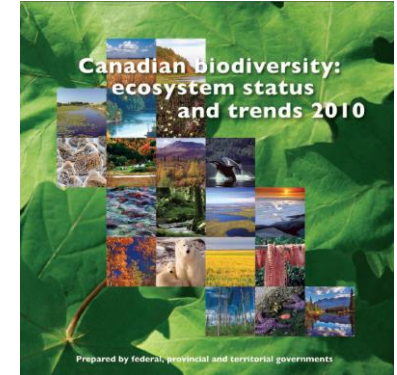
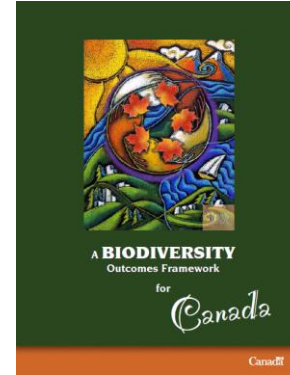
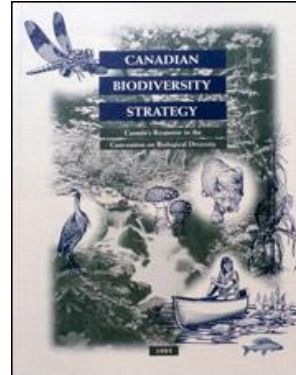


Biodiversity Act

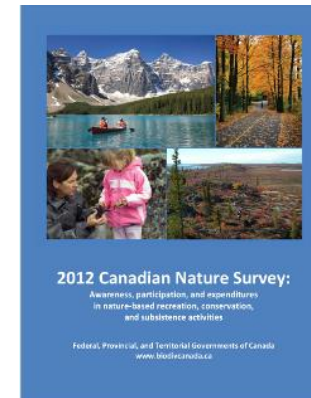
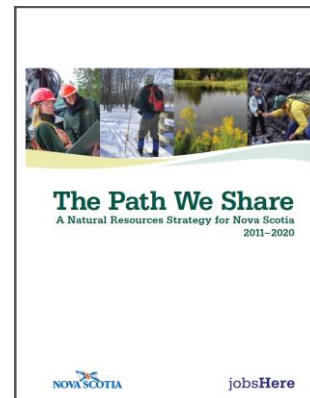
Stakeholder Meetings
January 2018

Background

- International Convention on Biological Diversity (1993)
- Canadian Biodiversity Goals and Targets (2015)
- Nova Scotia's Natural Resources Strategy (2011)



Aichi Biodiversity Targets



Alignment with Government Priorities

- Natural Resources Strategy (2011)

“Establish clear and effective leadership and governance related to biodiversity in Nova Scotia.” (Actions 13-16)
- Election commitment (2017)

“A new Biodiversity Act will modernize our current legal framework and improve protection for people, forests, lakes, animals and plants.”

“Additionally, as part of our vision to ensure a healthy environment for future generations, a Liberal Government will pass a Biodiversity Act.”

Reason for Legislation

Figure 3-1. Components of biodiversity



- Biodiversity facing serious pressures (e.g. Invasive Species)
- Gaps in authority leave risks unmanaged
- Solidify mandate to conserve and use biodiversity in legislation
- Set mandate for interdepartmental coordination and leadership
- Key component of balancing economic, environmental, and social values
- Builds on Nova Scotia's role as a leader in sustainability

Consultations and Feedback

- Broad consultation was held on the Natural Resources Strategy, leading to this legislation (2008-09)
- Initial consultations (2013) on the legislation (Industry, NGOs, Mi'kmaq, other departments)
- Additional engagement with the Mi'kmaq planned



Biodiversity Act – Key Elements

Benefits to Nova Scotians

- Close legislative gaps between departments
- Provide for cross-governmental leadership/coordination
- Enable standard enforcement tools
- Mandate state of biodiversity reporting
- Provide tools for risk management, conservation, & use
- Enable regulations for priority issues

Biodiversity Act – Key Elements

- Enable regulatory management of:
 - Harvest/utilization of other wild species
 - Introduction/release of species
 - Ecosystem and habitat loss
- Biodiversity Protection Orders for serious threats (emergencies)
- Biodiversity Management Sites (flexible tool for use and conservation)

Biodiversity Council

- Liberal Platform Commitment (2017)
 - “The council will have the power to recommend new actions that promote biodiversity”
- Currently designing draft Terms of Reference
 - Size of council
 - Types of expertise

Next Steps

- Establish Biodiversity Council
- Regulation Development

Potential topics

- Invasive Species
- Biodiversity Management Sites
- Wildlife health and disease
- Non-traditional use of biodiversity

Regulation Development Process

Invasive Species as an example

- Review other legislation
- Define invasive species
- Interdepartmental consultation/technical advice
- Identify invasive species and carriers
- Prevention measures
- Prohibitions and management
- Authorizations and agreements
- Offenses and penalties
- Actions to control or eradicate invasive species

Thank you.

Questions?