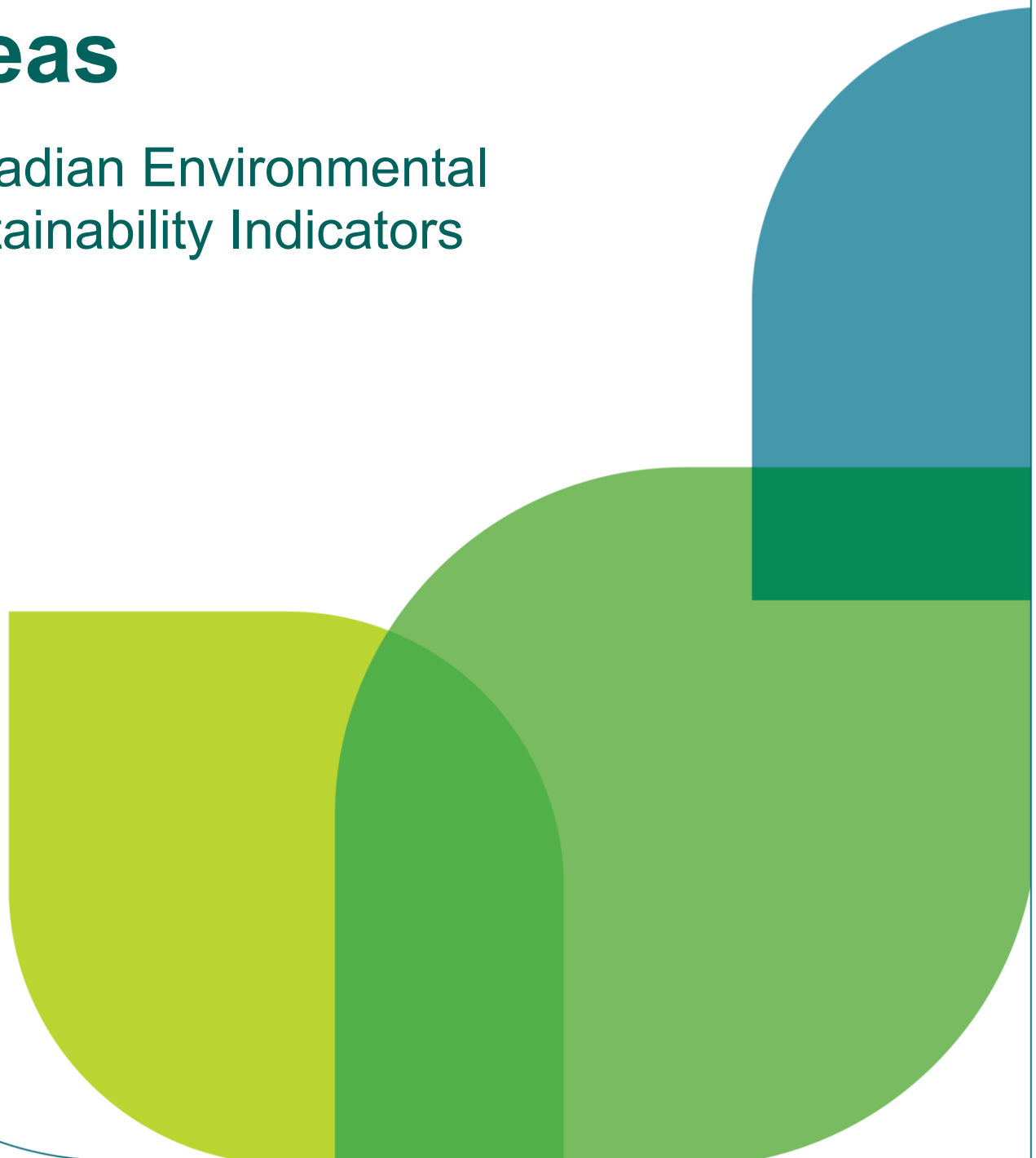


Canada's conserved areas

Canadian Environmental
Sustainability Indicators



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

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Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators

Canada's conserved areas

July 2026

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Canada's conserved areas

Conserved areas safeguard biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services for present and future generations by reducing stresses from human activities. They also provide opportunities for people to connect with nature. Canada has set a target to [conserve 25% of its lands and 25% of its oceans by 2025, and 30% of each by 2030](#).

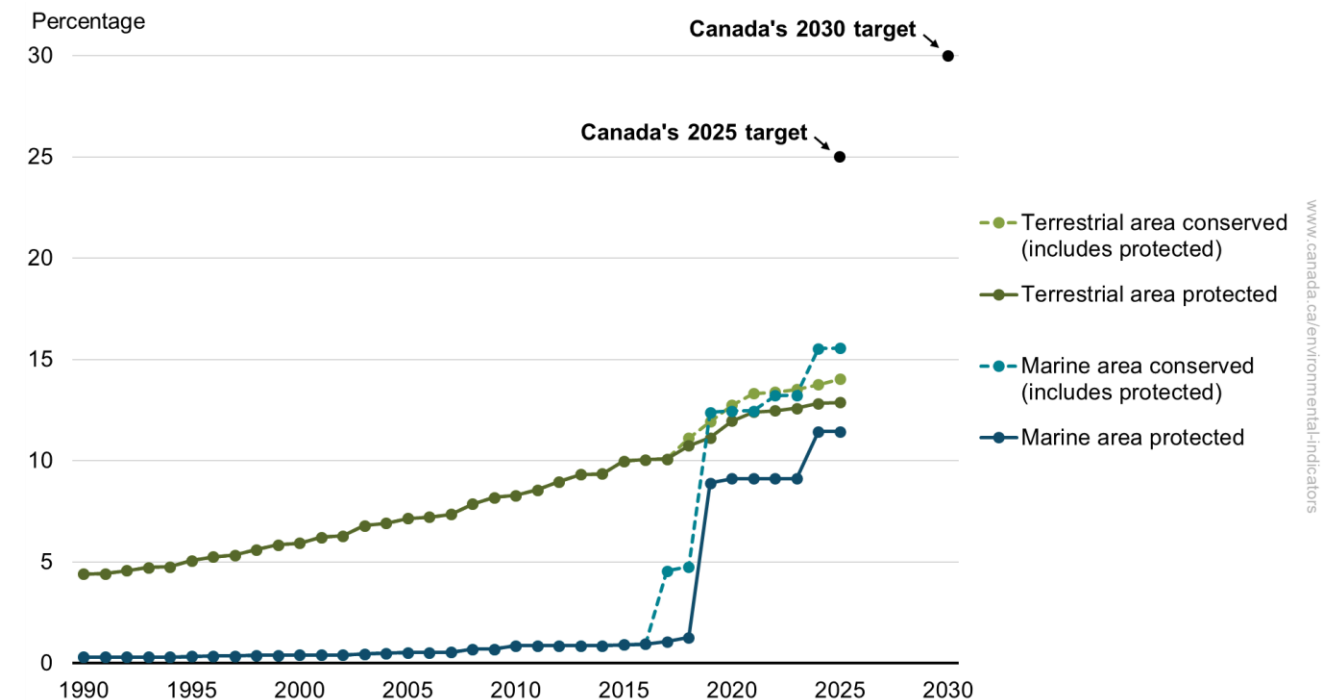
Conserved areas include protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). Protected areas include national, provincial and territorial parks, Indigenous protected areas, national wildlife areas, migratory bird sanctuaries and marine protected areas. OECMs are areas that conserve biodiversity over the long term and achieve the same outcomes of a protected area, but do not meet the formal definition of a protected area. Examples of OECMs can include: watersheds protected to conserve drinking water supply, fishery area closures, and areas with restricted access, such as those used by the military. These indicators track the amount and proportion of area recognized as conserved in Canada.

National conserved areas

Key results

- At the end of 2025, Canada had conserved
 - 14.0% of its terrestrial area (land and freshwater), including 12.9% in protected areas
 - 15.5% of its marine territory, including 11.4% in protected areas
- Terrestrial area conserved has increased by 10% in the last 5 years, and by almost 2% in the last year¹
- Marine area conserved has increased by almost 25% in the last 5 years, and by less than 0.1% in the last year¹

Figure 1. Proportion of area conserved, Canada, 1990 to 2025



[Data for Figure 1](#)

¹ When boundaries of a conserved area change, the reported establishment date can also change. For this reason, the year over year analysis should be made with caution.

Note: Terrestrial area includes both land and freshwater. Area conserved includes area protected as well as other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). In Canada, marine and terrestrial OECMs were formally recognized as a policy approach in 2017 and 2018, respectively, and added to the [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#) (CPCAD), even though the measure(s) may have been established in previous years. Trends are estimated based on the date a site was reported and recognized as a protected area or OECM in the CPCAD. As the database is updated, when boundaries of a conserved area change, the reported date the area is recognized as conserved can also change. For this reason, comparisons with previous reports should be made with caution. For more information on the recent changes and the definition of protected areas and OECMs, please refer to the [Data sources and methods](#). Canada's terrestrial territory is 9,984,670 square kilometres (km²) and its marine territory is approximately 5,750,000 km². Overlaps among protected areas and among OECMs were accounted for. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

In 2019, Canada added about 319,000 km² of marine protected area (MPA) with the addition of the [Tuvaijuittug Marine Protected Area](#). Then in 2022, the [Eastern Canyons Marine Refuge](#) was added, contributing approximately an additional 44,000 km² of marine area conserved. In 2023, the first marine refuge within the [Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA Network](#), [Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala \(Lull/Hoeya\)](#) marine refuge in Knight Inlet on the coast of British Columbia, also known as Lull Bay and Hoeya Sound, was announced. In 2024, the [Tang.gwan – hačxwīgak – Tsigis MPA](#) was added, contributing 133,017 km².

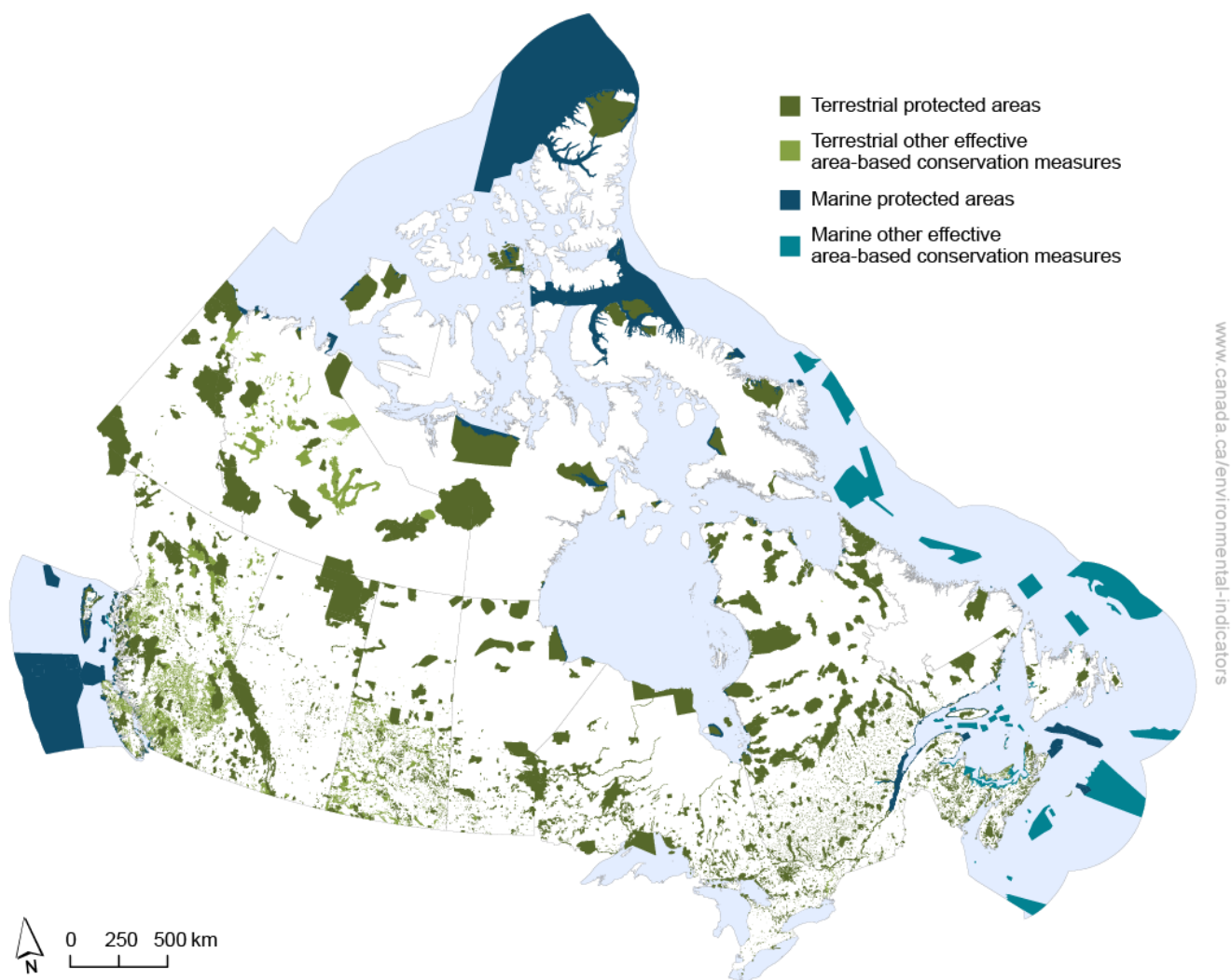
Canada made some progress toward its target of conserving 25% of Canada's lands and oceans by 2025. As the federal government only owns 6% of Canada's lands, collaboration with provincial, territorial, Indigenous and other partners are essential. Establishing or recognizing conserved areas can take many years due to land transfers, private land purchases and consultations. In many cases, organizations had identified areas but were still consulting, negotiating, or completing legal processes. Although important groundwork was completed, such as planning new sites, supporting Indigenous-led conservation and providing funding, the pace of progress was not fast enough to reach the 2025 target. This work has helped lay the foundation for continued progress toward Canada's goal to conserve 30% of land and waters by 2030.^{2,3}

The distribution and size of conserved areas in Canada varies. Larger terrestrial conserved areas tend to be located in northern Canada, where there is less intensive use of land for agriculture, settlements, and road networks. Larger marine conserved areas tend to be located in offshore areas or in northern Canada, where human uses are often less intensive. In landscapes and seascapes with competing uses, conserved areas tend to be smaller but more numerous. Detailed distribution of conserved areas across Canada are available through an [interactive map](#).

² Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (2025) [Establishing Terrestrial Protected Areas](#). Retrieved April 30, 2026.

³ Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (2025) [Establishing Marine Protected Areas](#). Retrieved April 30, 2026.

Figure 2. Conserved areas, Canada, 2025



Navigate data using the [interactive map](#)

Note: Terrestrial area includes land and freshwater. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

In Canada, over 66% of all terrestrial areas conserved are reported by provincial and territorial governments. Federal departments report 34% of all terrestrial areas, primarily by Parks Canada (25%) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (9%) (see [Table 1](#)). New data providers are being added annually, highlighting that protected and conserved areas are a pan-Canadian collaboration.⁴

Over 98% of Canada's marine conserved areas are reported almost entirely by 3 federal departments: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (82%), Parks Canada (14%) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (3%).⁵ About 3% of the areas are reported by provinces and territories (see [Table 2](#)).

⁴ New data providers in 2025 consisted of: Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation, and Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society. For the full list of data providers, refer to [Table 1](#).

⁵ Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Conserved areas, by ecological area

Canada's territory can be divided into 31 terrestrial and marine ecozones. Terrestrial ecozones are further divided into 216 terrestrial ecoregions. A representative conserved areas network should conserve biodiversity across all of Canada's ecological areas.

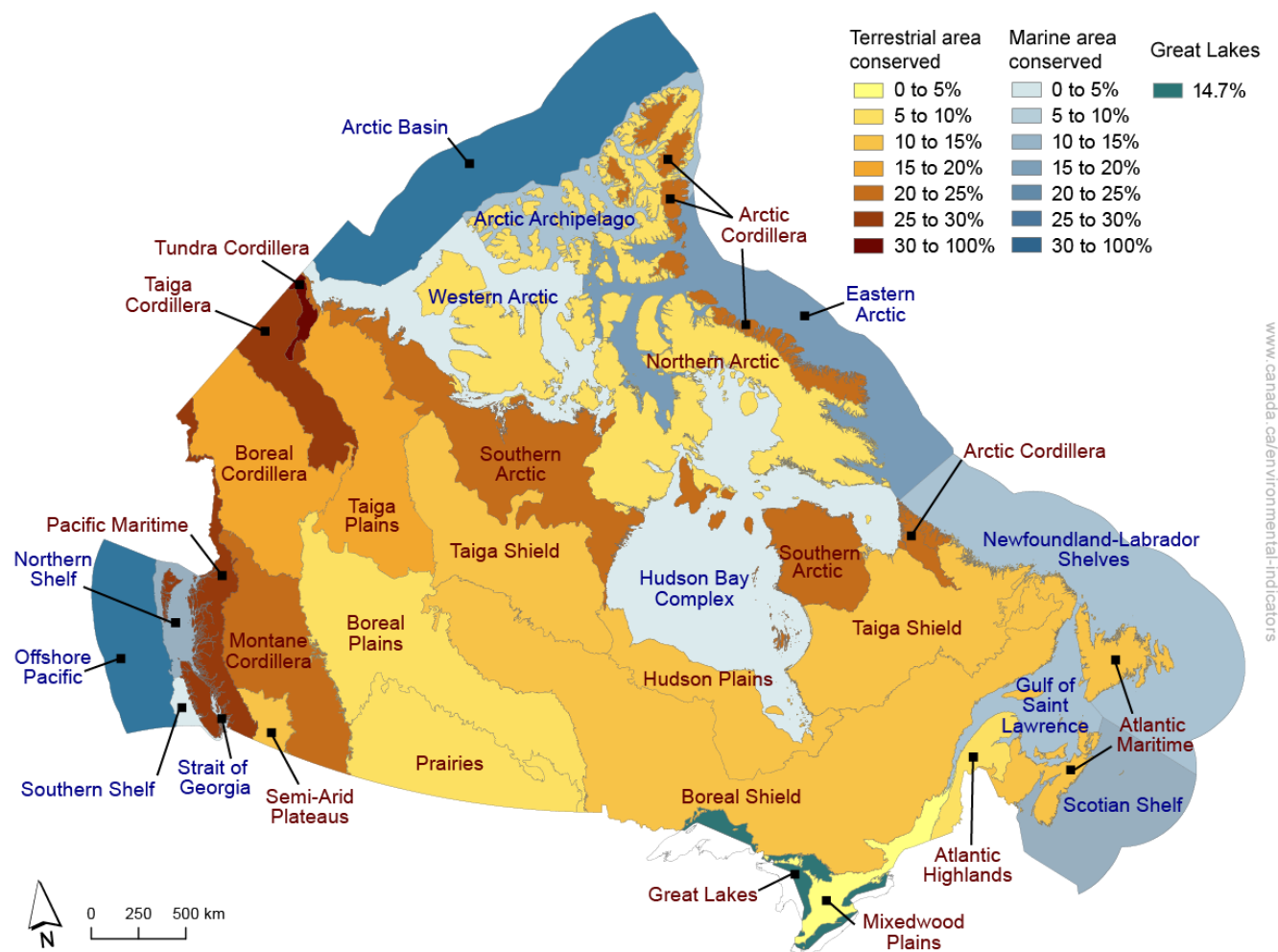
Conserved areas, by ecozone

An ecozone is a broad area of the Earth's surface that has a distinct climate and biodiversity.

Key results

- All of Canada's ecozones have some level of protection, ranging from less than 1% to almost 59% of the ecozone being conserved
- Six (6) terrestrial ecozones, the Tundra Cordillera, the Taiga Cordillera, the Pacific Maritime, the Montane Cordillera, the Arctic Cordillera and the Southern Arctic, have more than 20% of their area conserved
- Three (3) marine ecozones, the Offshore Pacific, the Arctic Basin and the Eastern Arctic, have more than 20% of their area conserved
- 14.7% of the Canadian area of the Great Lakes is conserved

Figure 3. Proportion of area conserved, by ecozone, Canada, 2025



Data for Figure 3

Note: Area conserved includes area protected as well as area conserved with other measures. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

Terrestrial ecozones with high levels of urbanization and development or widespread agriculture tend to have small proportions of conserved area. For example, the Mixedwood Plains (in southern Ontario and along the St. Lawrence River) has only 3% of its area conserved and the Prairies has 6%. On the other hand, terrestrial ecozones that are in remote areas or have a high recreation value tend to have a high proportion of conserved area. For example, ecozones in the western mountain ranges have 19% or more of their area conserved.

Recent efforts have rapidly increased the amount of area conserved in some marine ecozones. For example, the [Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area](#) in the Arctic Basin is the largest marine protected area in Canada. It was first designated as a protected area under the *Oceans Act* in 2019 and protections were extended in 2024. Upon establishment, it has increased the proportion of the ecozone protected from less than 1% to 37.8%. Marine refuges,⁶ a type of marine OECM, have helped to conserve more than 5% of the Scotian Shelf, Newfoundland-Labrador Shelves and Eastern Arctic ecozones. However, the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, Northern Shelf and Strait of Georgia ecozones have less than 5% of their area conserved.

Each ecozone is unique, and conservation involves the inclusion of areas that are representative of different parts of the ecozone and sites of special value. Challenges to establishing conserved areas include competition from other uses, such as agriculture, industry or urban development, and limitations on the extent of ecologically intact areas available within the ecozone.

Conserved areas, by ecoregion

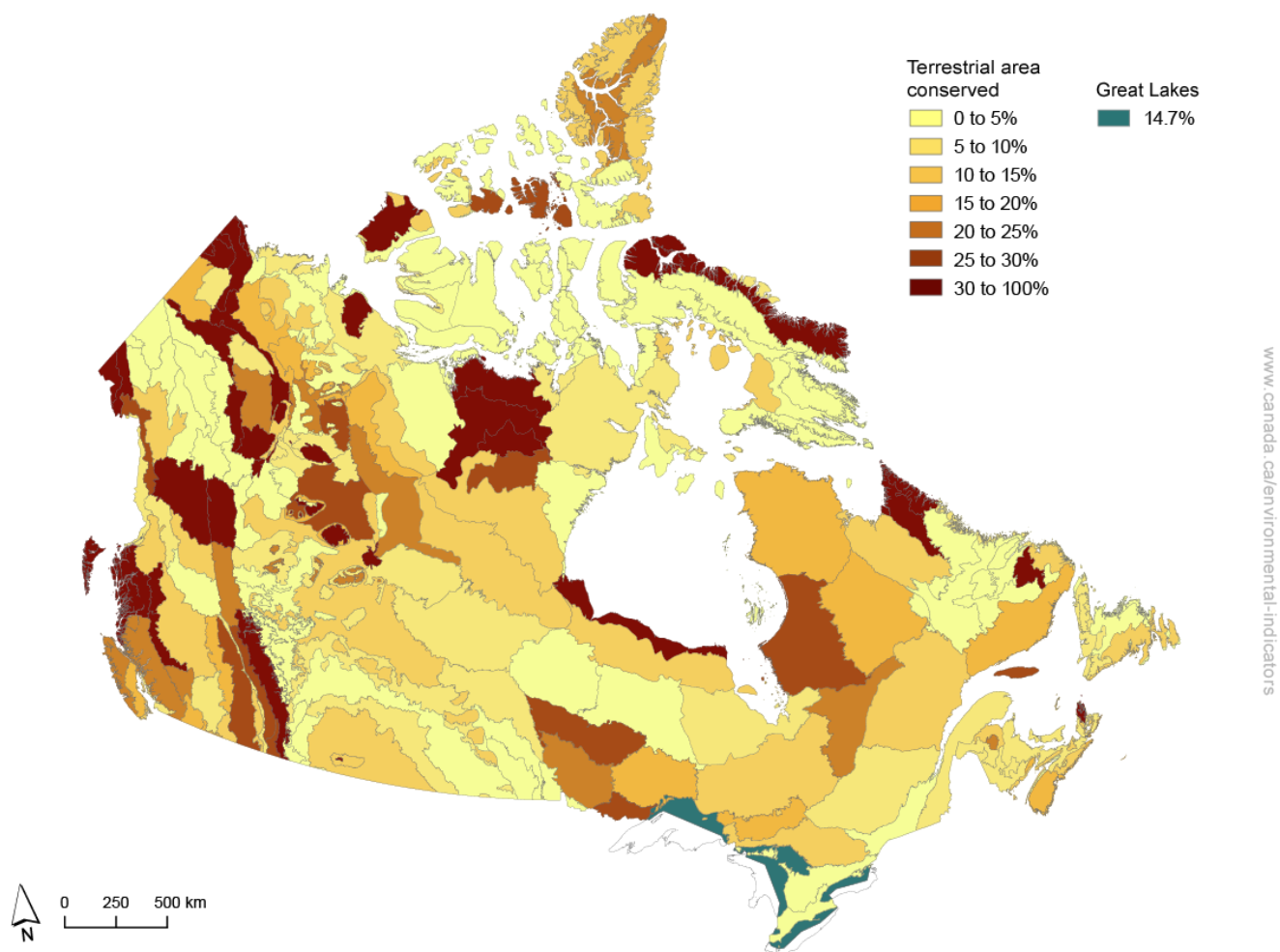
Ecoregions are subdivisions of ecozones characterized by distinctive regional attributes. These include climate, landforms, vegetation, soil, flora and fauna.

Key results

- 94% of Canada's ecoregions have some level of protection, ranging from less than 1% to 100% of the ecoregion being conserved
- Of the 216 ecoregions in Canada,
 - 68% (147 ecoregions) have less than 17% of their area conserved
 - 16% (34 ecoregions) have between 17% and 30% of their area conserved
 - 16% (35 ecoregions) have more than 30% of their area conserved

⁶ [Marine refuges](#) are long-term fisheries area closures that have been assessed as meeting Canada's criteria for marine OECMs.

Figure 4. Proportion of area conserved, by ecoregion, Canada, 2025



[Data for Figure 4](#)

Note: Area conserved includes area protected as well as area conserved with other measures. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

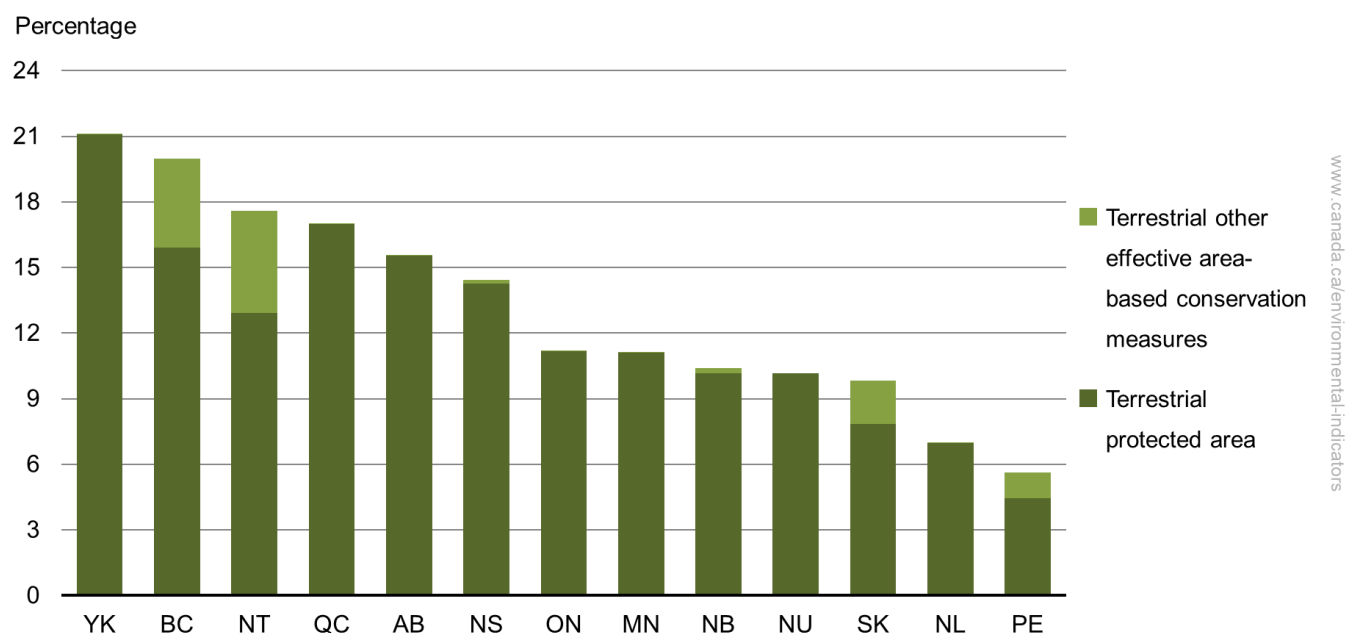
The area conserved varies greatly among ecoregions. Ecoregions that have the highest proportion of area conserved are associated with large, protected areas. For example, the Peace-Athabasca Delta ecoregion has 94.4% of its area conserved ([Wood Buffalo National Park](#)) and the Mount Logan ecoregion has just under 100% of its area conserved ([Kluane National Park and Reserve](#)). On the other hand, ecoregions in urban or agricultural landscapes have the lowest proportion of area conserved. For example, the Lake Simcoe and the Lake Erie – Lake Ontario ecoregions each have 3% or less of their area conserved.

Terrestrial conserved areas, within each province and territory

Key results

- The proportion of terrestrial area (land and freshwater) conserved varies by province and territory. It ranges from 5.6% in Prince Edward Island to 21.1% in Yukon
- Additions in 2025 include:
 - Over 22,700 km² added from Tłıchq Wenek'e Cultural Heritage Zone, Tłıchq Wenek'e Traditional Use Zone, and Tłıchq Wenek'e Habitat Management Zone in Northwest Territories
 - Over 800 km² added from North Channel Islands – La Cloche Provincial Park in Ontario
 - Over 660 km² from over 140 privately protected area added by Nature Conservancy Canada across Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan

Figure 5. Proportion of terrestrial area conserved, by province and territory, Canada, 2025



[Data for Figure 5](#)

Note: Terrestrial area includes land and freshwater. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

Each province and territory has set aside areas for conservation. Compared to the previous year, the following provinces and territories increased terrestrial areas conserved:

- Northwest Territories, from 15.9% to 17.6%
- Nova Scotia, from 13.7% to 14.4%
- Ontario 10.9% to 11.2%
- Prince Edward Island, from 5.4% to 5.6%
- New Brunswick 10.3% to 10.4%
- British Columbia, from 19.9% to 20.0%

An increasing number of Indigenous-led areas, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA), have been established. Recent examples include:

- Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq IPCA, Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission IPCA, and Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources IPCA (2025) in Nova Scotia
- Métis Crossing Ranch (2025) and Muskoseya ispikaa'pawew (2024) in Alberta

- [Pituamkek National Park Reserve](#) (2025) in Prince Edward Island
- [Tłjchq Wenek'e Cultural Heritage Zone, Tłjchq Wenek'e Traditional Use Zone, and Tłjchq Wenek'e Habitat Management Zone](#) (2025) in the Northwest Territories
- [Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala \(Lull/Hoeya\) Marine Refuge](#) (2023) in the Northern Shelf Bioregion of British Columbia

IPCAs are lands and waters where Indigenous Peoples have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems.⁷

About the indicators

What the indicators measure

These indicators report the amount and proportion of Canada's terrestrial (land and freshwater) and marine area that is recognized as conserved. Conserved areas are lands and waters which are managed in ways that achieve positive long-term outcomes for the conservation of biodiversity. They include protected areas as well as other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). Canada recognizes the international definitions of protected areas and OECMs ([One with Nature](#) and [Guidance for recognizing marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures](#)) and implements the [Marine Protected Areas Protection Standard](#) and [Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures \(OECM\) Protection Standard](#).

Land and/or water access and use within protected areas are controlled primarily for the purpose of conserving nature (for example, a park, a conservation area or a wildlife reserve). OECMs are likewise managed over the long term in ways that result in the effective conservation of biodiversity, but they are not protected areas.

Why these indicators are important

Well-managed conserved areas are one way to ensure the long-term persistence of populations of wild species and their habitats. Habitat conservation is a response to the loss of biodiversity and natural habitat. As the area conserved in Canada increases, more lands and waters are withdrawn from direct land development, thereby contributing to biodiversity conservation and improving the health of ecosystems. In turn, healthy ecosystems provide benefits such as clean water, mitigation of climate change, pollination and improved human health.

Related initiatives

These indicators are used for reporting on the following [2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy](#) targets:

- Conserve 25% of marine and coastal areas by 2025, and 30% by 2030, in support of the commitment to work to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 in Canada, and achieve a full recovery for nature by 2050. The most recent data available shows that, as of the end of 2025, 15.5% of Canada's coastal and marine areas was recognized as conserved through marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including 11.4% in protected areas
- Conserve 25% of Canada's land and inland waters by 2025, working toward 30% by 2030, from 12.7% recognized as conserved as of the end of 2020, in support of the commitment to work to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 in Canada, and achieve a full recovery for nature by 2050. The most recent data available shows that, as of the end of 2025, 14.0% of Canada's terrestrial areas and inland water was recognized as conserved through a network of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including 12.9% in protected areas

The indicators are also used for reporting on Target 3 of [Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy](#): "Protected and conserved areas (30x30)." This target is related to the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) Target 3: "Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of

⁷ Pathway to Canada Target 1 Initiative (2018) [One with Nature. A Renewed Approach to Land and Freshwater Conservation in Canada](#).

protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing Indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities including over their traditional territories."

In addition, the indicators contribute to the [Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). They are linked to Goal 14, Life Below Water and Target 14.5, "By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information." They are also linked to Goal 15, Life on Land and Target 15.1, "By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements."

Related indicators

The [Ability of the agricultural landscape to support wildlife](#) indicator provides a measure of the suitability of agricultural land as habitat for terrestrial vertebrates.

The [Ecological integrity of national parks](#) indicator reports on the condition of ecosystems within national parks, an important element of Canada's conserved area network.

The [Extent of Canada's wetlands](#) indicator reports the current known extent or area of land in Canada covered by wetlands at the national level, as well as by ecozones and ecoregions.

The [Global trends in conserved areas](#) indicator compares Canada's conserved area to a peer group of countries.

Data sources and methods

Data sources

Data are taken from the [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#) (CPCAD). Data from federal, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous governments, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners, are compiled by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

More information

Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

Conserved areas are comprised of protected areas and other area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

Protected areas are areas recognized as meeting the [international definition](#) for a protected area as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature: "a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values."

Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are areas recognized as meeting the Convention on Biodiversity definition: "a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity."⁸ Canada implements the Convention on Biodiversity's OECM definition in a manner that reflects national circumstances. Guidance for assessing sites as Protected Areas or OECMs in Canada is provided through the Pathway to Canada Target 1 Decision Support Tool.⁹ Guidance for assessing federal marine OECMs is provided through the [Marine OECM guidance](#).

In Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada each have specific but complementary mandates for establishing marine protected areas:

⁸ Convention on Biological Diversity (2018) [Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Decision 14/8](#).

⁹ Pathway to Canada Target 1 Initiative (2018) [One with Nature. A Renewed Approach to Land and Freshwater Conservation in Canada. Appendix 2 Pan-Canadian Definition for Recognizing and Reporting on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures](#).

- [Oceans Act Marine Protected Areas](#) (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) are parts of the ocean that are legally protected and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature. This can include protecting species that are fished, endangered or threatened marine species, as well as unique habitats and areas of high biological productivity or biodiversity
- [National marine conservation areas](#) (Parks Canada) are established to conserve representative examples of Canada's natural and cultural marine heritage and to provide opportunities for public education and enjoyment
- [National wildlife areas](#) (Environment and Climate Change Canada) are established and managed to conserve habitat for the recovery of species at risk and the conservation of migratory birds. Similarly, [migratory bird sanctuaries](#) are managed to support the conservation of migratory birds through the regulation of hunting and activities that might affect habitat

The areas established by these departments, along with provincially and terrestrially established areas, contribute to the [conservation network](#). The primary goal of this network is to provide long-term conservation of marine biodiversity, ecosystem function and special natural features.

Different organizations conserve areas for different purposes,¹⁰ and control the amount of human activity (such as transportation, fishing or recreation) that is allowed. Marine conservation efforts include a wide range of management and stewardship activities. Examples include support for the recovery of species at risk, prevention and mitigation of the impact of aquatic invasive species, and strengthening of Canada's response to ship-source marine pollution.

Data description

CPCAD contains data consolidated from various reporting authorities including federal, provincial, and territorial governments, Indigenous governments, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners. Once each year, these data providers submit geospatial and ancillary data for conserved areas under their administrative control. Data is current as of December 31, 2025.

The data include the name of the area, its geospatial location, boundaries, official area, biome (terrestrial/marine), International Union for Conservation of Nature management category, managing jurisdiction, and protection date,¹¹ among other information.

In cases where the same attribute information does not apply to the entire conserved area, the area is divided into zones for reporting. For example, a single protected area that crosses a provincial border is divided into zones corresponding to the different provinces. Similarly, a protected area that is later expanded is treated as several zones, each with its own protection date. Terrestrial and marine sections are treated as separate zones; freshwater is included in the terrestrial zone. Supporting data are maintained independently for each zone. Conserved areas that are undivided are treated as a single zone.

Work is ongoing to capture and incorporate data on additional privately held protected areas and on areas being conserved through means other than formal [protection](#).

Jurisdictional area

- For Canada and for all provinces and territories except Quebec: Natural Resources Canada (2005) [Canada Centre for Remote Sensing](#) and Statistics Canada (2012) [Land and freshwater area, by province and territory](#)
- For Québec: Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques
- Canada's marine territory: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2013) departmental analysis based on National Resources Canada (2009) [Atlas of Canada 1:1,000,000 National Frameworks Data](#), Administrative Boundaries

¹⁰ [The Role of the Canadian Government in the Oceans Sector](#) (PDF; 460 kB) and [The Role of the Provincial and Territorial Governments in the Oceans Sector](#) (PDF; 934 kB).

¹¹ Protected Areas and OECMs are accounted for in the year they were recognized and not in the year they were established. Please refer to the [Recent changes](#) for more information on the protection date.

National boundaries

- Natural Resources Canada (2019) [Administrative Boundaries in Canada – CanVec Series](#)

Ecozones and ecoregions

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (2019) [Canadian Terrestrial Ecological Framework](#)
- Marine ecozones are based on Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2016) [Federal Marine Bioregions](#) (Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, Science Advisory Report 2009/056)

Methods

The area conserved is estimated by means of a geographical analysis based on reported boundaries, accounting for overlaps. Separate estimates are made for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

More information

Calculating Canada's conserved area

The [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#) (CPCAD) contains information on the protection (or conservation) date for each zone. For zones that have been delisted, the records are transferred to the Delisted database.

To estimate the terrestrial protected area trend over time:

1. All polygons representing terrestrial protected areas that were protected in 1990 or earlier were selected from the database
2. The selected polygons were dissolved into a single polygon (removing overlaps), and the resulting area calculated using Albers Equal Area Conic projection
3. The process was repeated for each subsequent year (delisted areas were removed from the analysis starting in the year they were delisted)
4. Estimates were divided by the total terrestrial area of Canada to determine the proportion protected

The same steps as above were followed to estimate the marine protected area and were repeated for both terrestrial and marine OECMs. Total area conserved was calculated by summing area protected and OECM area.

Terrestrial conserved areas within each province and territory

CPCAD contains information on the province or territory in which a conserved area is located. The polygons for each terrestrial protected area within a province or territory were combined into a single polygon to calculate the area. The analysis was repeated for terrestrial OECMs.

Overlaps between provinces and territories can occur due to input from multiple stakeholders during data collection; these overlaps were accounted for in the table. In places where protected areas and OECMs overlapped, only the protected area was included in the total.

Terrestrial and marine conserved areas by data providers

CPCAD also contains information on the organizations that report each terrestrial ([Table 1](#)) and marine ([Table 2](#)) conserved area. The total area for each data provider is calculated by combining protected area polygons into a single polygon. Additional analysis was then conducted to estimate the area for OECMs. In places where protected areas and OECMs overlapped, only the protected area was included in the total. Overlaps between data providers can occur and were accounted for in the table.

Table 1. Terrestrial area conserved, by data provider, Canada, 2025

Data provider	Area protected (square kilometres)	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)
Provincial and territorial subtotal	819,520	115,030	934,550
Quebec	255,725	34	255,758
British Columbia	142,651	38,275	180,926
Northwest Territories	43,817	63,145	106,962
Ontario	104,873	49	104,922
Yukon	65,655	1	65,656
Manitoba	57,766	231	57,997
Saskatchewan	44,727	13,125	57,852
Alberta	46,586	0	46,586
Nunavut	39,029	0	39,029
New Brunswick	6,813	50	6,863
Nova Scotia	6,320	24	6,344
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,341	31	5,372
Prince Edward Island	217	66	282
Federal subtotal	473,533	451	473,984
Parks Canada	353,090	433	353,523
Environment and Climate Change Canada	120,005	2	120,007
National Capital Commission	439	5	443
Natural Resources Canada	0	6	6
Transport Canada	0	3	3
National Research Council	0	1	1
Canadian Border Services Agency	0	<1	<1
Nature Conservancy of Canada	4,226	131	4,357
Ducks Unlimited Canada	1,588	0	1,588
Capital Regional District of British Columbia	133	206	339
Miistakis Institute	140	5	145
J.D. Irving, Limited	0	111	111
BC Nature	104	4	108
Regional District of Central Okanagan	19	2	21
Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area	19	0	19
Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation	0	18	18
Manitoba Habitat Conservancy	10	0	10

Data provider	Area protected (square kilometres)	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)
Otipemisiwak Métis Government	5	0	5
Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society	1	0	1
Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute	<1	0	<1
Northern Biomes LTD	0	<1	<1
Correction for overlaps among data providers	-14,138	-340	-14,478
Grand total	1,285,161	115,618	1,400,780

Note: Terrestrial area includes land and freshwater. Area conserved includes area protected as well as other effective area-based conservation measures. The totals may not add up due to rounding. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

Table 2. Marine area conserved, by data provider, Canada, 2025

Data providers	Area protected (square kilometres)	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)
Provincial subtotal	23,919	0	23,919
Quebec	19,000	0	19,000
British Columbia	4,666	0	4,666
Atlantic provinces	173	0	173
Manitoba	80	0	80
Federal subtotal	637,679	244,781	882,461
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	484,437	244,781	729,219
Parks Canada	122,117	0	122,117
Environment and Climate Change Canada	31,125	0	31,125
Correction for overlaps among data providers	-4,202	-8,215	-12,417
Grand total	657,396	236,566	893,963

Note: Area conserved includes area protected as well as other effective area-based conservation measures. The totals may not add up due to rounding. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

Conserved areas, by ecological area

CPCAD does not contain information on ecological areas. To generate an estimate of conserved area within each ecozone and ecoregion, a geospatial analysis was conducted. However, national ecozone and ecoregion boundaries are more generalized than local conserved areas boundaries, and this has the potential to affect estimates in coastal areas. To avoid this problem, marine conserved area that mapped outside a marine ecozone were assigned to the nearest marine ecozone. Similarly, terrestrial conserved areas that mapped outside a terrestrial ecozone were assigned to the nearest terrestrial ecozone.

To be consistent with the projection used in CPCAD, the ecozone layer was re-projected to Albers Equal Area Conic. The total area of each ecozone was then calculated from its geospatial boundaries. The

Newfoundland-Labrador Shelves ecozone area was corrected for the territorial area of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

The same methodology was used to calculate the conserved area within ecoregions.

Recent changes

Since 2021, CPCAD accounts protected areas and OECMs in the year they were recognized, rather than the year they were established, as was previously the case.

Caveats and limitations

In 2018, the Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System was converted to the [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#) (CPCAD) and brought formally within Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Data are regularly reviewed and updated. The completeness of CPCAD is continuously being improved as existing conserved areas are reviewed and added to CPCAD if appropriate. Information on the protection date for sites with previously unreported dates may influence trend calculations.

Trends are estimated based on the date a site qualified as a protected area or OECM. The totals for a previous year may change as data are updated.

Comparisons with previous reports should be made with caution, as data quality and completeness continue to improve. Privately protected land and OECMs contribute to achievement of Canada's targets, but many are not yet captured within CPCAD.

More information

The area protected or conserved calculated using polygon boundaries may differ from the "official area" reported in the [CPCAD](#).

Responsibility for source data accuracy and completeness lies with the data providers. Jurisdictional work in terrestrial and marine areas is guided by the federal, provincial and territorial report [One with Nature](#). In these areas, guidance material and [decision support tools](#) were adapted from, and in collaboration with, the [Canadian Council on Ecological Areas](#). Nonetheless, some differences in the approach organizations take in recognizing protected areas and OECMs can be expected.

Areas that are no longer recognized as protected or conserved ("decommissioned" or "delisted") are not captured comprehensively and may be missing from CPCAD. Decommissioned or delisted areas are counted from their establishment date until their delisting date.

Complex boundaries, such as coastlines and ecological areas, must be generalized for mapping purposes. In nature, ecozones or ecoregions do not have sharp boundaries. Due to the uncertainty of such boundaries, results should be seen as estimates rather than precise measurements. The mismatch in scale between conserved areas, mapped with fine detail, and national-scale geographic frameworks, mapped at a broad scale, may lead to minor differences across the various summaries because of the measurement uncertainty inherent in this type of analysis. Differences in the delineation of coastlines may result in a small amount of overlap between terrestrial and marine conserved area polygon boundaries; these overlaps have not been addressed.

Ecozones and ecoregions are ecologically based frameworks and should not be considered an expression of sovereignty. The 2019 updates to the ecozone and ecoregion frameworks have been completed for the purpose of reporting on ecological representation for the [Pathway to Canada Target 1](#) initiative, and do not represent an official update of the 1995 National Ecological Framework. While the 2019 framework contains the most up-to-date information from data providers, it should be noted that a different methodology was used by each data provider to determine the boundaries of the ecozones and ecoregions and that this national layer may differ from the provincial and territorial layers.

Protection is a designation, and the indicators do not provide information on the effectiveness of protection, the degree to which the ecological functioning of the area is intact, or the degree to which pressures outside a conserved area might affect the biodiversity within it.

Resources

References

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- Stolton S, Shadie P and Dudley N (2013) [Guidelines for applying protected area management categories including IUCN WCPA best practice guidance on recognising protected areas and assigning management categories and governance types](#) (combined volume). Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 21, Gland, Switzerland, section 2.

Related information

- [2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada](#)
- [A Force of Nature: Canada's Strategy to Protect Nature](#)
- [Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy](#)
- [Canada Conservation](#)
- [Canada Marine Planning Atlas](#)
- [Canadian Council on Ecological Areas](#)
- [Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
- [Interactive map of Quebec's protected areas](#) (French only)
- [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
- [Protected Planet](#)

Annex

Annex A. Data tables for the figures presented in this document

Table A.1. Data for Figure 1. Proportion of area conserved, Canada, 1990 to 2025

Year	Terrestrial area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of terrestrial area protected	Terrestrial area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of terrestrial area conserved	Marine area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of marine area protected	Marine area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of marine area conserved
1990	440,565	4.4	440,565	4.4	17,251	0.3	17,251	0.3
1991	441,093	4.4	441,093	4.4	17,272	0.3	17,272	0.3
1992	456,433	4.6	456,433	4.6	17,697	0.3	17,697	0.3
1993	471,348	4.7	471,348	4.7	17,943	0.3	17,943	0.3
1994	474,875	4.8	474,875	4.8	17,948	0.3	17,948	0.3
1995	506,085	5.1	506,085	5.1	19,716	0.3	19,716	0.3
1996	524,298	5.3	524,298	5.3	20,576	0.4	20,576	0.4
1997	532,929	5.3	532,929	5.3	20,599	0.4	20,599	0.4
1998	559,962	5.6	559,962	5.6	22,580	0.4	22,580	0.4
1999	583,134	5.8	583,134	5.8	22,813	0.4	22,813	0.4
2000	592,263	5.9	592,263	5.9	22,915	0.4	22,915	0.4
2001	620,373	6.2	620,373	6.2	22,948	0.4	22,948	0.4
2002	627,729	6.3	627,729	6.3	23,151	0.4	23,151	0.4
2003	679,081	6.8	679,081	6.8	26,283	0.5	26,283	0.5
2004	690,426	6.9	690,426	6.9	28,681	0.5	28,681	0.5
2005	713,933	7.2	713,933	7.2	30,109	0.5	30,109	0.5
2006	720,784	7.2	720,784	7.2	30,459	0.5	30,459	0.5
2007	734,763	7.4	734,763	7.4	30,653	0.5	30,653	0.5
2008	785,085	7.9	785,085	7.9	39,549	0.7	39,549	0.7
2009	816,530	8.2	816,530	8.2	40,103	0.7	40,103	0.7
2010	828,058	8.3	828,058	8.3	49,291	0.9	49,291	0.9
2011	854,029	8.6	854,029	8.6	49,377	0.9	49,377	0.9
2012	895,762	9.0	895,762	9.0	49,378	0.9	49,378	0.9
2013	930,528	9.3	930,528	9.3	50,026	0.9	50,026	0.9
2014	933,265	9.3	933,265	9.3	50,026	0.9	50,026	0.9
2015	996,913	10.0	996,913	10.0	52,576	0.9	52,576	0.9
2016	1,002,418	10.0	1,002,418	10.0	54,934	1.0	54,934	1.0
2017	1,005,944	10.1	1,005,944	10.1	61,707	1.1	261,956	4.6
2018	1,072,620	10.7	1,109,984	11.1	73,164	1.3	273,413	4.8
2019	1,111,564	11.1	1,190,773	11.9	511,815	8.9	712,067	12.4
2020	1,193,803	12.0	1,272,825	12.7	524,363	9.1	716,467	12.5
2021	1,238,627	12.4	1,330,482	13.3	524,364	9.1	716,467	12.5

Year	Terrestrial area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of terrestrial area protected	Terrestrial area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of terrestrial area conserved	Marine area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of marine area protected	Marine area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of marine area conserved
2022	1,245,095	12.5	1,337,021	13.4	524,364	9.1	760,443	13.2
2023	1,257,795	12.6	1,350,239	13.5	524,364	9.1	760,464	13.2
2024	1,280,840	12.8	1,373,389	13.8	657,382	11.4	893,483	15.5
2025	1,285,161	12.9	1,400,780	14.0	657,396	11.4	893,963	15.5

Note: Terrestrial area includes both land and freshwater. Area conserved includes area protected as well as other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). In Canada, marine and terrestrial OECMs were formally recognized as a policy approach in 2017 and 2018, respectively, and added to the [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#) (CPCAD), even though the measure(s) may have been established in previous years. Trends are estimated based on the date a site was reported and recognized as a protected area or OECM in the CPCAD. As the database is updated, when boundaries of a conserved area change, the reported date the area is recognized as conserved can also change. For this reason, comparisons with previous reports should be made with caution. For more information on the recent changes and the definition of protected areas and OECMs, please refer to the [Data sources and methods](#). Canada's terrestrial territory is 9,984,670 square kilometres (km²) and its marine territory is approximately 5,750,000 km². Overlaps among protected areas and among OECMs were accounted for. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

Table A.2. Data for Figure 3. Proportion of area conserved, by ecozone, Canada, 2025

Ecozone name	Ecozone code	Ecozone area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Arctic Cordillera	CL01	229,513	51,951	22.6	0	51,951	22.6
Northern Arctic	CL02	1,479,561	105,909	7.2	0	105,909	7.2
Southern Arctic	CL03	958,299	188,543	19.7	6,779	195,321	20.4
Taiga Plains	CL04	553,374	61,138	11.0	25,615	86,753	15.7
Taiga Shield	CL05	1,322,962	170,456	12.9	17,559	188,015	14.2
Boreal Shield	CL06	1,902,001	223,291	11.7	126	223,417	11.7
Atlantic Maritime	CL07	110,590	12,957	11.7	276	13,233	12.0
Mixedwood Plains	CL08	115,395	3,411	3.0	208	3,619	3.1
Boreal Plains	CL09	780,010	66,663	8.5	5,036	71,699	9.2
Prairies	CL10	464,422	19,213	4.1	9,821	29,034	6.3
Montane Cordillera	CL11	436,791	85,286	19.5	16,878	102,164	23.4
Pacific Maritime	CL12	217,022	53,478	24.6	7,647	61,124	28.2
Boreal Cordillera	CL13	557,860	96,654	17.3	9,804	106,458	19.1
Taiga Cordillera	CL14	231,266	56,740	24.5	10,545	67,285	29.1
Hudson Plains	CL15	348,406	50,587	14.5	0	50,587	14.5
Tundra Cordillera	CL16	28,887	13,796	47.8	3,197	16,993	58.8
Atlantic Highlands	CL17	93,012	6,453	6.9	42	6,495	7.0
Semi-Arid Plateaus	CL18	56,464	5,486	9.7	2,085	7,571	13.4
Strait of Georgia	CW19	8,969	452	5.0	32	485	5.4
Southern Shelf	CW20	28,158	787	2.8	0	787	2.8

Ecozone name	Ecozone code	Ecozone area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Offshore Pacific	CW21	315,724	143,467	45.4	0	143,467	45.4
Northern Shelf	CW22	101,663	16,680	16.4	487	17,167	16.9
Arctic Basin	CW23	752,053	284,092	37.8	0	284,092	37.8
Western Arctic	CW24	539,807	12,085	2.2	0	12,085	2.2
Arctic Archipelago	CW25	268,792	38,922	14.5	0	38,922	14.5
Eastern Arctic	CW26	782,636	115,271	14.7	58,791	174,062	22.2
Hudson Bay Complex	CW27	1,244,670	8,782	0.7	0	8,782	0.7
Newfoundland-Labrador Shelves	CW28	1,041,588	12,577	1.2	110,895	123,472	11.9
Scotian Shelf	CW29	416,296	6,000	1.4	58,648	64,648	15.5
Gulf of Saint Lawrence	CW30	246,648	18,282	7.4	7,714	25,995	10.5
Great Lakes	CW31	89,326	13,149	14.7	2	13,151	14.7

Note: Area conserved includes area protected as well as other effective area-based conservation measures. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

Table A.3. Data for Figure 4. Proportion of area conserved, by ecoregion, Canada, 2025

Ecoregion name	Ecoregion code	Ecoregion area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Ellesmere and Devon Island Ice Caps	CL01R01	113,244	14,118	12.5	0	14,118	12.5
Baffin Mountains	CL01R02	87,928	27,592	31.4	0	27,592	31.4
Baffin Islands Coastal Lowlands	CL01R03	9,159	476	5.2	0	476	5.2
Torngat Mountains	CL01R04	19,182	9,764	50.9	0	9,764	50.9
Ellesmere Mountains	CL02R01	53,112	6,199	11.7	0	6,199	11.7
Eureka Hills	CL02R02	75,769	15,492	20.4	0	15,492	20.4
Polar Islands	CL02R03	21,353	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Sverdrup Islands Lowland	CL02R04	28,971	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Lancaster Plateau	CL02R05	102,430	78	0.1	0	78	0.1
High Arctic	CL02R06	25,939	3,684	14.2	0	3,684	14.2
Central Melville Upland	CL02R07	15,210	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Ecoregion name	Ecoregion code	Ecoregion area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Parry Islands Plateau	CL02R08	43,593	12,266	28.1	0	12,266	28.1
Mid Arctic West	CL02R09	42,701	26,588	62.3	0	26,588	62.3
Mid Arctic East	CL02R10	91,488	362	0.4	0	362	0.4
Low Arctic North	CL02R11	9,859	859	8.7	0	859	8.7
Shaler Mountains	CL02R12	26,327	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Amundsen Gulf Lowlands	CL02R13	49,141	22	<0.1	0	22	<0.1
Victoria Islands Lowland	CL02R14	123,129	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Prince of Wales Island Lowland	CL02R15	17,150	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Boothia Peninsula Plateau	CL02R16	35,701	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Gulf of Boothia Plain	CL02R17	24,426	13	0.1	0	13	0.1
Borden Peninsula Plateau	CL02R18	31,473	11,822	37.6	0	11,822	37.6
Melville Peninsula Plateau	CL02R19	111,290	11	<0.1	0	11	<0.1
Baffin Island Uplands	CL02R20	79,703	1,597	2.0	0	1,597	2.0
Wager Bay Plateau	CL02R21	250,876	18,440	7.4	0	18,440	7.4
Foxe Basin Plain	CL02R22	56,549	6,914	12.2	0	6,914	12.2
Meta Incognita Peninsula	CL02R23	77,447	1,223	1.6	0	1,223	1.6
Pangnirtung Upland	CL02R24	34,271	40	0.1	0	40	0.1
Hall Peninsula Upland	CL02R25	35,389	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Baffin Upland	CL02R26	16,265	302	1.9	0	302	1.9
Yukon Coastal Plain	CL03R01	4,652	4,610	99.1	0	4,610	99.1
West Lowlands	CL03R02	24,729	1,436	5.8	0	1,436	5.8
Central Lowlands	CL03R03	14,847	337	2.3	0	337	2.3
East Lowlands	CL03R04	5,112	101	2.0	0	101	2.0
East Highlands	CL03R05	22,546	16,696	74.1	0	16,696	74.1
Coronation Hills	CL03R06	77,972	2,085	2.7	3,658	5,744	7.4
Bathurst Hills	CL03R07	8,986	1	<0.1	0	1	<0.1
Takijua Lake Upland	CL03R08	126,102	1,543	1.2	915	2,457	1.9

Ecoregion name	Ecoregion code	Ecoregion area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Queen Maud Gulf Lowland	CL03R09	66,172	43,449	65.7	0	43,449	65.7
Chantrey Inlet Lowland	CL03R10	21,959	2,163	9.9	0	2,163	9.9
Garry Lake Lowland	CL03R11	98,928	29,030	29.3	2,206	31,236	31.6
Back River Plain	CL03R12	33,117	14,974	45.2	0	14,974	45.2
Dubawnt Lake Plain and Upland	CL03R13	54,322	14,869	27.4	0	14,869	27.4
Maguse River Upland	CL03R14	78,598	257	0.3	0	257	0.3
Southampton Island Plain	CL03R15	37,903	1,463	3.9	0	1,463	3.9
Ottawa Islands	CL03R16	410	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Belcher Islands	CL03R17	3,214	13	0.4	0	13	0.4
Ungava Peninsula	CL03R18	240,236	39,313	16.4	0	39,313	16.4
Northern Labrador Highlands	CL03R19	38,496	16,201	42.1	0	16,201	42.1
Mackenzie Delta	CL04R01	9,373	0	0.0	130	130	1.4
Low Subarctic Northern Plains	CL04R02	55,550	8,751	15.8	2,236	10,987	19.8
Northern Uplands	CL04R03	54,532	808	1.5	6,948	7,756	14.2
High Subarctic Northern Plains	CL04R04	82,597	666	0.8	1,461	2,127	2.6
Central Highlands	CL04R05	38,262	3,307	8.6	4,325	7,632	19.9
Central Uplands	CL04R06	17,973	109	0.6	16	125	0.7
Central Plains	CL04R07	20,851	1,128	5.4	3,236	4,363	20.9
Lac Grandin Plain	CL04R08	26,097	1,317	5.0	5,722	7,039	27.0
West-central Uplands	CL04R09	10,647	683	6.4	0	683	6.4
Mackenzie Plain	CL04R10	18,388	1,439	7.8	0	1,439	7.8
Bulmer Plain	CL04R11	17,255	1,370	7.9	279	1,650	9.6
Horn Plateau	CL04R12	9,404	6,946	73.9	0	6,946	73.9
Great Slave Plain	CL04R13	15,877	116	0.7	736	852	5.4
Northern Alberta Upland	CL04R14	31,212	481	1.5	527	1,008	3.2
Southern Uplands	CL04R15	15,675	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Northern Mixedwood	CL04R16	92,264	24,663	26.7	0	24,663	26.7

Ecoregion name	Ecoregion code	Ecoregion area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Lower Boreal Highlands North	CL04R17	11,745	1,926	16.4	0	1,926	16.4
Boreal Subarctic	CL04R18	14,006	5,844	41.7	0	5,844	41.7
Slave Lowlands	CL04R19	11,667	1,583	13.6	0	1,583	13.6
High Subarctic West	CL05R01	60,726	3,173	5.2	3,337	6,510	10.7
Low Subarctic North	CL05R02	58,734	4,831	8.2	6,661	11,493	19.6
High Boreal	CL05R03	111,755	15,047	13.5	7,535	22,582	20.2
Slave Plain	CL05R04	7,579	11	0.1	0	11	0.1
Selwyn Lake Upland	CL05R05	196,275	22,463	11.4	0	22,463	11.4
Kazan River Upland	CL05R06	183,946	24,007	13.1	0	24,007	13.1
La Grande Hills	CL05R07	171,951	48,760	28.4	0	48,760	28.4
Nord-du-Québec Central Plateau	CL05R08	177,618	28,918	16.3	0	28,918	16.3
McPhayden Plateau	CL05R09	9,461	7	0.1	0	7	0.1
Ungava Bay Basin	CL05R10	109,785	13,344	12.2	25	13,369	12.2
Kingurutik-Fraser	CL05R11	52,915	11	<0.1	0	11	<0.1
Coastal Barrens	CL05R12	13,520	856	6.3	0	856	6.3
Michikamau-Smallwood	CL05R13	86,549	1,531	1.8	0	1,531	1.8
Nipishish-Goose	CL05R14	23,259	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Mecatina River	CL05R15	41,289	2	0.0	0	2	0.0
Eagle Plateau – Mealy Mountains	CL05R16	17,599	7,496	42.6	0	7,496	42.6
Athabasca Plain	CL06R01	87,467	6,466	7.4	<1	6,466	7.4
Churchill River Upland	CL06R02	196,603	11,598	5.9	36	11,634	5.9
Hayes River Upland	CL06R03	131,805	4,697	3.6	0	4,697	3.6
Big Trout Lake	CL06R04	146,897	5,611	3.8	0	5,611	3.8
Lake St. Joseph	CL06R05	91,057	25,600	28.1	0	25,600	28.1
Lake Wabigoon	CL06R06	75,331	15,681	20.8	0	15,681	20.8
Lake of the Woods	CL06R07	16,390	764	4.7	0	764	4.7
Lake Nipigon	CL06R08	89,192	15,175	17.0	0	15,175	17.0
Pigeon River	CL06R09	20,468	5,184	25.3	0	5,184	25.3
Abitibi Lowlands	CL06R10	211,625	23,220	11.0	1	23,220	11.0
Lake Temagami	CL06R11	41,758	6,422	15.4	0	6,422	15.4
Georgian Bay	CL06R12	74,501	8,518	11.4	55	8,572	11.5

Ecoregion name	Ecoregion code	Ecoregion area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Mistassini Highlands	CL06R13	97,165	22,563	23.2	0	22,563	23.2
Southern Laurentides Highlands	CL06R14	158,761	15,026	9.5	3	15,029	9.5
Central Laurentides Highlands	CL06R15	205,129	27,499	13.4	<1	27,499	13.4
Lake Melville	CL06R16	17,668	461	2.6	0	461	2.6
Paradise River	CL06R17	17,160	1,901	11.1	0	1,901	11.1
Middle and Lower Côte-Nord Plateau	CL06R18	104,282	17,076	16.4	<1	17,077	16.4
Anticosti Island	CL06R19	7,937	2,293	28.9	0	2,293	28.9
Strait of Belle Isle Barrens	CL06R20	1,783	42	2.3	0	42	2.3
Northern Peninsula Forest	CL06R21	8,508	503	5.9	0	503	5.9
Long Range Barrens	CL06R22	16,589	1,599	9.6	0	1,599	9.6
Western Newfoundland Forest	CL06R23	9,874	569	5.8	0	569	5.8
Central Newfoundland Forest	CL06R24	28,731	570	2.0	0	570	2.0
North Shore Forest	CL06R25	5,483	133	2.4	31	164	3.0
Maritime Barrens	CL06R26	37,734	4,054	10.7	0	4,054	10.7
Avalon Forest	CL06R27	555	19	3.4	0	19	3.4
Eastern Hyper-Oceanic Barrens	CL06R28	1,545	47	3.0	0	47	3.0
Valley Lowlands	CL07R01	20,310	1,723	8.5	49	1,772	8.7
Eastern Lowlands	CL07R02	39,021	3,257	8.3	24	3,281	8.4
Grand Lake Lowlands	CL07R03	3,780	299	7.9	11	310	8.2
Central Uplands East	CL07R04	1,408	272	19.3	<1	272	19.3
Fundy Coast	CL07R05	3,633	423	11.6	54	477	13.1
Prince Edward Island	CL07R06	5,932	252	4.3	65	318	5.4
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	CL07R07	232	28	11.9	0	28	11.9
Avalon Uplands	CL07R08	4,793	517	10.8	13	530	11.1

Ecoregion name	Ecoregion code	Ecoregion area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Triassic Lowlands	CL07R09	1,367	4	0.3	0	4	0.3
Western Meguma Interior	CL07R10	17,129	3,123	18.2	<1	3,123	18.2
Eastern Meguma Interior	CL07R11	6,136	885	14.4	0	885	14.4
Cape Breton Highlands	CL07R12	2,460	1,308	53.2	0	1,308	53.2
Cape Breton Taiga	CL07R13	302	227	75.2	0	227	75.2
Atlantic Coast	CL07R14	4,088	639	15.6	59	698	17.1
St. Lawrence Lowlands	CL08R01	44,124	1,731	3.9	74	1,805	4.1
Lake Simcoe	CL08R02	49,405	1,370	2.8	132	1,501	3.0
Lake Erie - Lake Ontario	CL08R03	21,865	310	1.4	3	313	1.4
Muskwa Plateau	CL09R01	26,169	857	3.3	1	858	3.3
Mid Boreal Uplands	CL09R02	307,570	40,128	13.0	2,142	42,270	13.7
Lower Boreal Highlands South	CL09R03	69,089	3,751	5.4	559	4,309	6.2
Upper Boreal Highlands	CL09R04	11,894	2,929	24.6	0	2,929	24.6
Dry Mixedwood	CL09R05	58,592	970	1.7	180	1,149	2.0
Peace River Parkland	CL09R06	3,122	31	1.0	0	31	1.0
Lower Foothills	CL09R07	51,105	431	0.8	191	622	1.2
Upper Foothills	CL09R08	22,460	592	2.6	44	636	2.8
Peace-Athabasca Delta	CL09R09	5,539	5,227	94.4	0	5,227	94.4
Boreal Transition	CL09R10	91,799	3,485	3.8	1,631	5,116	5.6
Mid Boreal Lowland	CL09R11	92,890	6,408	6.9	284	6,692	7.2
Interlake Plain	CL09R12	39,782	1,854	4.7	5	1,859	4.7
Aspen Parkland	CL10R01	170,223	4,872	2.9	2,102	6,974	4.1
Foothills Parkland	CL10R02	3,928	347	8.8	2	349	8.9
Foothills Fescue	CL10R03	13,642	114	0.8	131	246	1.8
Moist Mixed Grassland	CL10R04	82,833	3,847	4.6	1,101	4,948	6.0
Mixedgrass	CL10R05	17,599	213	1.2	0	213	1.2
Dry Mixedgrass	CL10R06	133,416	8,719	6.5	5,647	14,366	10.8
Cypress Mixedgrass	CL10R07	7,517	276	3.7	837	1,112	14.8

Ecoregion name	Ecoregion code	Ecoregion area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Cypress Hills Montane	CL10R08	309	200	64.8	0	200	64.8
Southwest Manitoba Uplands	CL10R09	2,188	181	8.3	0	181	8.3
Lake Manitoba Plain	CL10R10	32,768	445	1.4	0	445	1.4
Skeena Mountains	CL11R01	24,427	882	3.6	524	1,406	5.8
Omineca Mountains	CL11R02	34,083	2,957	8.7	1,111	4,068	11.9
Fraser Basin	CL11R03	43,017	1,540	3.6	403	1,943	4.5
Central Canadian Rocky Mountains	CL11R04	37,273	5,749	15.4	2,290	8,039	21.6
Eastern Hazelton Mountains	CL11R05	13,535	5,993	44.3	1,098	7,091	52.4
Chilcotin Ranges	CL11R06	15,784	6,482	41.1	361	6,843	43.4
Fraser Plateau	CL11R07	82,038	5,191	6.3	6,010	11,201	13.7
Columbia Highlands	CL11R08	29,572	3,219	10.9	2,371	5,589	18.9
Selkirk-Bitterroot Foothills	CL11R09	7,646	885	11.6	56	942	12.3
Northern Columbia Mountains	CL11R10	53,493	12,642	23.6	1,142	13,784	25.8
Southern Rocky Mountain Trench	CL11R11	8,498	621	7.3	151	772	9.1
Purcell Transitional Ranges	CL11R12	8,108	1,212	14.9	4	1,216	15.0
Western Continental Ranges	CL11R13	23,382	6,519	27.9	113	6,632	28.4
Northern Continental Divide	CL11R14	5,916	762	12.9	861	1,623	27.4
Eastern Continental Ranges	CL11R15	50,020	30,631	61.2	384	31,015	62.0
Mount Logan	CL12R01	12,925	12,923	100.0	0	12,923	100.0
Chugach Mountains and Icefields	CL12R02	2,338	2,338	100.0	0	2,338	100.0
Boundary Ranges	CL12R03	21,426	1,319	6.2	10	1,329	6.2
Nass Ranges	CL12R04	27,323	1,292	4.7	1,446	2,738	10.0
Gwaii Haanas	CL12R05	10,049	4,823	48.0	8	4,831	48.1
Coastal Gap	CL12R06	45,187	16,899	37.4	630	17,530	38.8
Western Vancouver Island	CL12R07	20,165	3,578	17.7	794	4,372	21.7

Ecoregion name	Ecoregion code	Ecoregion area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Eastern Vancouver Island	CL12R08	12,333	1,626	13.2	416	2,042	16.6
Georgia-Puget Basin	CL12R09	1,668	232	13.9	3	236	14.1
Lower Mainland	CL12R10	4,290	314	7.3	51	366	8.5
Pacific Ranges	CL12R11	59,317	8,133	13.7	4,287	12,420	20.9
St. Elias Mountains	CL13R01	18,708	15,693	83.9	0	15,693	83.9
Wellesley Lake	CL13R02	3,983	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Ruby-Nisling Ranges	CL13R03	18,885	10	0.1	0	10	0.1
Klondike Plateau	CL13R04	36,520	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Yukon Plateau-Central	CL13R05	24,030	110	0.5	1	111	0.5
McQuesten Highlands	CL13R06	23,592	771	3.3	0	771	3.3
Yukon Plateau-North	CL13R07	49,503	1,770	3.6	0	1,770	3.6
Selwyn Mountains	CL13R08	35,697	1	0.0	0	1	0.0
Mid-Boreal Highlands	CL13R09	24,120	12,638	52.4	2	12,640	52.4
High Boreal Highlands	CL13R10	23,759	18,135	76.3	0	18,135	76.3
High Boreal Lowlands	CL13R11	9,561	1,042	10.9	0	1,042	10.9
Yukon-Stikine Highlands	CL13R12	23,468	6,654	28.4	128	6,782	28.9
Yukon Southern Lakes	CL13R13	50,133	5,867	11.7	0	5,867	11.7
Pelly Mountains	CL13R14	46,960	140	0.3	0	140	0.3
Boreal Mountains and Plateaus	CL13R15	79,123	20,758	26.2	4,322	25,079	31.7
Liard Basin	CL13R16	28,926	628	2.2	0	628	2.2
Hyland Highland	CL13R17	19,609	378	1.9	0	378	1.9
Northern Canadian Rocky Mountains	CL13R18	41,282	12,060	29.2	5,352	17,411	42.2
Davidson Mountains	CL14R01	5,191	3,458	66.6	0	3,458	66.6
Old Crow Basin	CL14R02	14,923	5,971	40.0	0	5,971	40.0
North Ogilvie Mountains	CL14R03	40,613	7,112	17.5	0	7,112	17.5

Ecoregion name	Ecoregion code	Ecoregion area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of region protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of region conserved
Eagle Plains	CL14R04	21,985	1,619	7.4	0	1,619	7.4
Mackenzie Mountains	CL14R05	31,568	19,347	61.3	0	19,347	61.3
Low Subarctic Lowlands	CL14R06	43,421	15,933	36.7	1,850	17,783	41.0
High Subarctic Highlands	CL14R07	24,526	154	0.6	1,676	1,831	7.5
Low Subarctic Highlands	CL14R08	49,040	3,145	6.4	7,018	10,163	20.7
Coastal Hudson Bay Lowland	CL15R01	57,236	26,573	46.4	0	26,573	46.4
Hudson Bay Lowland	CL15R02	138,825	13,959	10.1	0	13,959	10.1
James Bay Lowlands	CL15R03	152,345	10,055	6.6	0	10,055	6.6
British-Richardson Mountains	CL16R01	28,887	13,796	47.8	3,197	16,993	58.8
Appalachian Mountains	CL17R01	69,073	4,083	5.9	<1	4,084	5.9
Central Uplands West	CL17R02	12,393	586	4.7	37	622	5.0
Northern New Brunswick Uplands	CL17R03	8,724	1,195	13.7	5	1,200	13.8
New Brunswick Highlands	CL17R04	2,822	589	20.9	0	589	20.9
Interior Transition Ranges	CL18R01	14,026	2,243	16.0	1,217	3,460	24.7
Northern Cascade Ranges	CL18R02	9,479	1,659	17.5	194	1,853	19.5
Thompson-Okanagan Plateau	CL18R03	31,596	1,382	4.4	658	2,040	6.5
Okanagan Highland	CL18R04	1,363	202	14.8	15	217	15.9
Great Lakes	CW31	89,236	13,149	14.7	2	13,151	14.7

Note: Area conserved includes area protected as well as other effective area-based conservation measures. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2026) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).

Table A.4. Data for Figure 5. Proportion of terrestrial area conserved, by province and territory, Canada, 2025

Province or territory	Provincial or territorial area (square kilometres)	Area protected (square kilometres)	Percentage of province or territory protected	Other effective area-based conservation measures (square kilometres)	Area conserved (square kilometres)	Percentage of province or territory conserved
Yukon	482,443	101,760	21.1	1	101,761	21.1
British Columbia	944,735	150,266	15.9	38,596	188,862	20.0
Northwest Territories	1,346,106	173,847	12.9	63,145	236,992	17.6
Quebec	1,512,418	257,107	17.0	41	257,148	17.0
Alberta	661,848	102,879	15.5	176	103,055	15.6
Nova Scotia	55,284	7,887	14.3	84	7,972	14.4
Ontario	1,076,395	120,263	11.2	253	120,516	11.2
Manitoba	647,797	71,864	11.1	231	72,095	11.1
New Brunswick	72,908	7,410	10.2	167	7,578	10.4
Nunavut	2,093,190	213,037	10.2	0	213,037	10.2
Saskatchewan	651,036	51,110	7.9	12,830	63,940	9.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	405,212	28,203	7.0	31	28,234	7.0
Prince Edward Island	5,660	252	4.5	65	318	5.6
Correction for overlaps among provinces and territories	n/a	-725	n/a	-2	-727	n/a
Grand total	n/a	1,285,161	12.9	115,618	1,400,780	14.0

Note: n/a = not applicable. Terrestrial area includes land and freshwater. Area conserved includes area protected as well as other effective area-based conservation measures. Data are current as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2025) [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database](#).