

Manitoba developed its strategy and action plan for protected areas and is now pursuing implementation. Over the past two years, British Columbia has developed the Protected Areas Strategy, which has led to the protection of the Tatshenshini, Khutzeymateen, Kitlope, and Ts'yl-os areas. Some of these protected areas have been created through co-operative efforts of the provincial government, Aboriginal people, industry, and public conservation groups.

Monitoring of Biodiversity Change

The national Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) is providing the opportunity at the ecological science co-operatives for inventory and long-term biodiversity monitoring in protected sites. Where feasible, biodiversity monitoring on matching sites under active management (e.g., forestry, agriculture) will also be undertaken. Terrestrial biodiversity monitoring, using international methods and standards recommended by UNESCO, has begun in arctic tundra and forest ecosystems. Work is under way to select standards and methods for freshwater and marine aquatic ecosystems.

Other activities complement the work of EMAN. One example is the growing network of conservation data centres, which now operate in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. The data centres are co-operative ventures among governments, industry, and conservation organizations to monitor the status of species and habitats at risk. They use procedures that facilitate information exchange across a large network, which includes all U.S. states and more than a dozen countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Research on Temperate Rainforests

Many research initiatives related to biological diversity are under way across the country. They involve all orders of government, industry, universities, conservation groups, and others. An example of these co-operative efforts is the research into the biodiversity of canopies of temperate rainforests on Canada's west coast. The government of British Columbia has provided funding to the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and the University of Victoria to conduct this research. Its results are leading researchers to revise estimates of insect diversity in Canada and are improving our understanding of the complexity of these ecosystems. The facilities are also being used for long-term research on and monitoring of the status of the marbled murrelet, a threatened species in Canada.

Other research activities in this region include studies of amphibians and of bird use of forest communities and a long-term study on impacts of logging on hydrology and fish. Research is taking place to study how natural factors shape the forest landscape and to compile plant and wildlife inventories in a variety of coastal watersheds.