

range of economic and social activities in the Great Lakes Basin in order to address both point and nonpoint sources of pollution.

What began as an endeavour to address pollution led to a large action plan designed to restore and protect an ecosystem. Work under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement provided a model for subsequent ecosystem-based action plans, which now include the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative, the Northern Rivers Ecosystem Initiative, Great Lakes 2020, St. Lawrence Vision 2000, the Atlantic Coastal Action Program, and the Northern Ecosystem Initiative (the most recent). Covering over 40 percent of Canada, from Yukon in the west to Labrador in the east, the Northern Ecosystem Initiative is taking a partnership-based approach to address ecosystem priorities related to biodiversity, contaminants and toxic substances, the impacts of major developments, and atmospheric change.

The St. Lawrence Action Plan was the result of a decision by the federal government and the Government of Quebec in 1988 to jointly remediate and protect the St. Lawrence River. This plan was renewed

Ecosystem Initiatives

