



# WORLD WILDLIFE



Canada is a vast country. Within our borders lie 9,215,300 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) of land and another 755,300 km<sup>2</sup> of water surface. This means we are stewards of nearly 10 million km<sup>2</sup> of the Earth's surface. Far from the image of a cold, barren country, these lands and waters support an impressive diversity of habitats and wildlife species. Globally, Canada has a significant portion of the world's boreal and Arctic ecosystems within its boundaries. Major components of the continent's eastern mixed forests, west coast rainforests and prairies also fall within our jurisdiction. Northern reaches of southern deciduous forests and western deserts further add to the biological wealth of Canada. Great Lakes waters and extensive shorelines on three oceans embrace and influence the adjacent terrestrial habitats.

It is therefore alarming to discover that Canada's natural landscapes and the biodiversity that forms the cornerstone of this habitat matrix is rapidly being degraded. Already, some habitats in southern Canada have largely disappeared, reduced to a fraction of their former geographic spread. Wildlife species that are a part of these natural systems have already been lost or are teetering on the brink of extinction. Clearly, if Canada is going to continue as a country wealthy in its natural resources, then we are faced with an URGENT need to protect viable, representative samples of our nation's lands and waters. Unfortunately, our options to protect natural areas diminish daily.

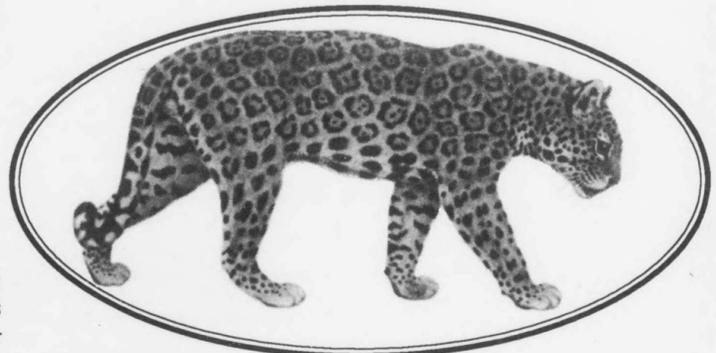
To this end, Canada recently joined other nations in calling for immediate action on establishing a global network of protected areas. Participants of the Fourth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, held in Caracas, Venezuela in February 1992, adopted a declaration which read in part,

"...We strongly urge all governments and appropriate national and international bodies: To take urgent action to consolidate and enlarge national systems of well-managed protected areas with buffer zones and corridors, so that by the year 2000 they safeguard the full representative range of land, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems of each country and allow these ecosystems space to adapt to climate change."

Subsequently, at the Earth Summit in June 1992, Canada was a signatory to the treaty calling for the preservation of the world's animal and plant species. In announcing this support, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney indicated that such responsibilities were on the top of Canada's agenda and pledged to ratify the biodiversity agreement by the end of 1992. He further emphasized that protection of Canada's biodiversity would "require urgent and constructive follow-up".

With a country of nearly 10 million km<sup>2</sup>, it is hard to imagine that we could be running out of sites to protect examples of this country's wilderness heritage. Unfortunately, when one examines the extent to which other interests have staked their claim on Canada's landscape and the natural resources it contains, it becomes apparent that the need is indeed urgent to complete, by the year 2000, a representative network of protected areas - the principle goal of the Endangered Spaces campaign. With more than 90% of Canada held as public lands, Canadians are

in a position of strength to request that a balance of designations, including protected areas, be included in land use planning. Unless a balance is soon struck between sustainable resource use and representative protected areas in Canada, our governments will not succeed in protecting the rich biological diversity to which they have committed action.



important natural features. A provisional first This provisional map d Compilation of natural regions; prelimi Ongoing work to natural regions to be co The Provincial R mended re-direction of

Action Planned for 19 Complete revisio 1992 fiscal year. Adopt final draf

Budget Highlights 19 Although prepa specifically allocated f approved.

### National Report Card

Jurisdiction	Final Grade	Remarks
Federal - Terrestrial	A-	Moving steadily ahead
Federal - Marine	C-	In the doldrums
Yukon	C	Stuck but shows promise
Northwest Territories	B-	Encouraging progress
British Columbia	B-	Still missing low elevation forests
Alberta	D	Still uncommitted
Saskatchewan	C	Slowly moving ahead
Manitoba	D	Unfulfilled expectations
Ontario	C+	Hoping process brings results
Quebec	C+	Most improved; complete turnaround
<b>New Brunswick</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>Still laying the foundation</b>
Nova Scotia	C	Plodding onward
Prince Edward Island	A-	Big strides - good work!
Newfoundland	C	Good intentions but no action

Funding for the ecological reserves program was not renewed for redirected within the significant expansion

Progress on Selected Fundy region: The Ba range of habitats whic life. To date, the en Currently, however, western portion of the Called West Isles, this of the provincial gover government should co

### New Brunswick: Action Needed by Summer 1993

- 1) Government commitment to the Endangered Species goals.
- 2) Identify the natural regions of New Brunswick by the end of 1992.
- 3) Develop representation criteria and identify gaps within each natural region to set priorities for the establishment of a network of protected areas.
- 4) Secure protection for a significant wilderness area west of Fundy National Park.
- 5) Promote and facilitate the designation of West Isles National Marine Park.

#### Government Progress:

- 1) New Sites:  
No new protected areas were added in 1991-92. Several private nature reserves were created in 1991-92.

#### Systems Planning Progress:

Recommendation from the Premier's Round Table on Environment and economy in the document: Towards Sustainable Development in New Brunswick, A Plan for Action "by 1995, establish a system of protected areas ...representing the

