



Canadian Environmental Network
Biodiversity Caucus

Réseau canadien de l'environnement
Caucus de la Biodiversité

136F Billings Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1H 5K9

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Environment and Climate Change Canada

Attn: National Biodiversity Policy Branch

Re: Feedback on Canada's 2030 National Biodiversity Strategy Milestone Document

On behalf of the Réseau Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN) Biodiversity Caucus, we are pleased to submit our comments in response to the Federal Government's Milestone document on the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Our insights are distilled from two insightful two-hour Zoom workshops organized by RCEN's national Biodiversity Caucus, featuring five distinguished guest speakers representing various stakeholder groups and partners. The sessions followed a dynamic format of concise presentations, interactive Q&A sessions, and open discussions involving all 75 participants.

We value the diversity of perspectives shared during these workshops and have taken deliberate steps to maintain anonymity, fostering an environment where individuals feel free to express their thoughts openly. The sessions were designed to capture the unique voices and contributions of each participant, actively encouraging those who hadn't spoken before to share their insights either verbally or through the chat function. Participants were encouraged to share their insights in written comments following the workshop. Guidance was provided for the submission process for those who preferred to directly submit their perspectives to the federal government.

The depth of thought and varied perspectives presented during these workshops reflect a true "wisdom of the crowd" exercise, illustrating a collective commitment to the common goal of biodiversity conservation. The challenge now lies in harnessing this early and committed energy effectively.

We have made a targeted effort to organize the comments heard from consultation participants into categories. We acknowledge the interconnectedness of the categories, recognizing that many statements could fit into multiple themes. This document was conducted by a collective of volunteers but dedicated support staff would enable deeper collaboration amongst industry experts and the public.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this crucial dialogue and eagerly anticipate further collaboration. Together, we look forward to actively participating in the ongoing efforts to shape a comprehensive Canadian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Transformative Change

As we embark on the journey toward transformative change, we must address several fundamental issues:

1. **Domination of Nature by People:** We must challenge the mindset that considers nature as solely valuable for human sustenance.
2. **Concentration of Power and Wealth:** We must take into account the concentration of power and wealth, attempting to foster a more equitable and just society.
3. **Consumption Patterns:** A shift away from instant gratification towards sustainable practices is essential for long-term well-being.

To achieve this transformation, we advocate for the following principles and commitments:

1. **Equity and Justice:** Prioritize fairness and justice in all initiatives to ensure that the benefits and burdens of change are distributed equitably.
2. **Relationship Justice Pluralism:** Recognize and respect diverse relationships with nature, acknowledging the various ways communities interact with their environments.
3. **Views Across Pathways:** Embrace a multi-dimensional perspective that considers various pathways to sustainable futures.
4. **Environment for Learning and Adaptation:** Foster an environment that encourages continuous learning and adaptation, essential for navigating complex challenges.

Levers for Transformative Change

We emphasize the need to:

1. **Embrace and Enable CBD Objectives:** Actively support and implement all objectives outlined in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Pay special attention to enhancing efforts related to access and benefit sharing, ensuring fair and just outcomes.
2. **Mainstream Biodiversity and the CBD:** Actively promote and integrate biodiversity considerations into mainstream discourse and policymaking, elevating the profile and impact of the CBD.
3. **Comprehensive Understanding of Biodiversity:** View biodiversity holistically, encompassing genes, species, and ecosystems within the three areas outlined by the CBD.
4. **Systems Approach:** Adopt a systems approach to ground transformative change, recognizing the interconnectedness of ecological, social, and economic systems.
5. **Align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Consider biodiversity as the cornerstone for addressing the SDGs, acknowledging the intimate link between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the broader goals of sustainable development.

Rights of Mother Earth/Nature

A global movement is gaining momentum, acknowledging the Rights of Mother Earth/Nature (ROMEN). This movement has the potential to profoundly transform our perspectives on human-nature relationships. As ROMEN gains broader acceptance, it challenges the conventional notion of human superiority and dominance over nature. Instead, it advocates for a paradigm shift, positioning humans as elements of nature. In this framework, both human and non-human entities are regarded as persons with inherent rights, emphasizing mutual rights and responsibilities, reciprocity, and respect. It underscores the understanding that rights come with corresponding responsibilities.

ROMEN also addresses the need to mend relationships between First Peoples and settlers, recognizing the profound respect and reciprocity inherent in the traditions of the First Peoples towards all life on Earth. This encompasses respect for indigenous rights, knowledge, worldviews, stewardship, kinship, and the crucial principle of free prior and informed consent.

The Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has taken a step towards supporting Mother Earth-centric actions, notably in paragraph 7(b) and target 19(f). We strongly urge the federal government to incorporate a pathway for exploring the rights of nature, Mother Earth, animal rights, and Indigenous natural law into the strategy. This shift towards eco-democracy aligns with the call for a more holistic approach.

We look to the Federal Government to provide an entry point into our Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP), incorporating robust language to facilitate comprehensive efforts on ROMEN. We are ready and willing to contribute to this endeavor. However, we express concern that these eco-centric concepts, such as rights of nature, Mother Earth, and personhood for non-human beings, are noticeably absent in the draft targets and actions. We seek collaboration to address this oversight and work towards a more inclusive and sustainable future.

[UBC Allard School of Law: Rights of Nature Legal Guide - What Are They?](#)

[UBC Allard School of Law: Rights of Nature Legal Guide - Who Holds Them?](#)

All of Society

It is imperative to establish a comprehensive mechanism for transformative action that involves the collaboration of all governments and the active participation of society. At the core of this initiative is the creation of an inclusive platform, characterized by openness, attentive listening, and unwavering support for all voices. This platform serves as a vital space to foster a connection to biodiversity, offering an opportunity to address collective trauma and rekindle our bond with the web of life. This endeavor responds to an essential yearning within our collective spirit, recognizing that societal malaise and pain often stem from a profound disconnection – both from each other and from the Earth.

Moreover, it is crucial to establish and cultivate relationships with all levels of government, moving closer to power-sharing, defining accountability structures, and embracing flexibility. Adopting a principled approach, this collaborative effort aims to build trust, reciprocity, and a culture of continuous learning. The imperative lies in creating a dynamic and responsive framework that actively involves diverse perspectives, ensuring a collective and sustainable journey toward transformative change. By addressing these elements, we pave the way for a more resilient and interconnected society that prioritizes the well-being of both its people and the planet.

Levers for All of Society

The levers of an "all of society" approach lie in the establishment of a dynamic multi-stakeholder and partner table, seamlessly integrated into the broader system. This would serve as a crucial process for actively engaging and including all voices eager to participate. By recognizing the profound connection between nature, biodiversity, and our sense of community, the initiative aims to leverage these elements to capture holistic health, encompassing the physical, mental, spiritual, and community dimensions, within the actions designed to achieve specific targets.

Other key levers include the unwavering commitment to the inclusion of all voices, actively opening and listening to diverse perspectives, and providing robust support for every participant. This approach embodies

the essence of a "whole of government" and "whole of society" framework, fostering an environment where each voice contributes to a comprehensive, sustainable vision.

Municipalities

It is imperative to acknowledge and support municipal governments in their endeavors related to biodiversity due to their role as microcosms that mirror broader environmental trends. The development of tailored tools and provision of resources are essential elements for empowering municipalities to affect meaningful changes and counter the ongoing loss of biodiversity. By enabling municipal governments to adopt an ecocentric perspective and implement adaptive management practices, even in the challenging urban context, we facilitate more responsive decision-making. Granting municipalities greater autonomy is imperative for the success of these efforts.

Establishing a partnership strategy and collaborative resource structure, with a focus on Canadian research and inclusive engagement of municipalities and all levels of post-secondary institutions, is a crucial step forward. Recognizing municipalities as frontline defenders against biodiversity challenges underscores the need for specific and targeted support, moving away from a piecemeal approach. Additionally, addressing unsustainable land-use planning practices that jeopardize ecosystem function and habitat for diverse life forms beyond human needs is paramount for creating a sustainable and resilient future.

Levers for Municipalities

To advance necessary actions for biodiversity within municipalities, an approach mirroring the collaboration between the Federal government and Indigenous communities should be developed. Consider establishing a Biodiversity Enabling Fund within the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, modeled after successful initiatives addressing climate change at the municipal level. Simultaneously, avenues such as acts or legislation, potentially integrated into a municipality's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP), should be created to empower municipalities to adopt nature-positive directions.

Collaborative efforts with municipalities, community members, and academics should focus on creating practical resources and tools tailored for municipal settings. Emphasizing better sharing of practices and approaches is crucial to prevent the loss of institutional knowledge during staff turnovers. Setting baseline standards for all ecosystem types and species requirements, alongside a mechanism for mediating conflicting land uses, can facilitate a harmonized approach. Allowing for the conversion of urban lands back to ecological use, recognizing the fiscal value of ecological function, and exploring provincial legislations relevant to biodiversity, such as natural asset management, are integral components. Standardizing natural asset management terms and approaches, potentially in collaboration with academia, should be a priority. Addressing key drivers of biodiversity loss within municipalities, including habitat loss, invasive species, population, pollution, overconsumption, and climate change, should be funded comprehensively as part of municipal-level efforts.

BIOFIN: Biodiversity Financing Exercise

Two-Eyed Seeing and Indigenous Shared Governance

It is imperative to build upon the foundation established by the 2015 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for several compelling reasons. This initiative offers a wealth of paths and insights that can significantly advance our current efforts. Essential manuals for moving forward can be found in Canada's Conservation Vision and the Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE) We Rise Together. These documents provide valuable guidance, with particular emphasis on Recommendation 1 from Canada's Conservation Vision¹. This

recommendation underscores the critical need for all governments to adopt a shared conservation vision that not only recognizes Canada's significant natural and cultural values but also embraces Indigenous worldviews. The imperative lies in fostering reconciliation, creating ethical space, and acknowledging our interconnectedness with the rest of life on Earth. The core strategy of establishing an interconnected network of protected areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) is pivotal, positioning Canada as a global leader in harmonious coexistence with nature. Additionally, the ICE report's section on Ethical Space² (pgs. 6-7) provides profound insights into creating an inclusive and ethical framework for biodiversity conservation. Incorporating these elements into our ongoing strategies is imperative to enrich and strengthen our collective commitment to biodiversity preservation, ensuring a sustainable and harmonious future.

“ETHICAL SPACE With opportunity comes risk. Indigenous Peoples are understandably hesitant to (re)build or establish relationships of trust with non-Indigenous governments. The usurpation and dispossession of lands, territories and waters still resonates in the lived realities of Indigenous Peoples across Canada. In addition, Indigenous systems of knowledge, language, laws, customs, protocols and practices have never been respected as such. There have been countless instances of rights violations. Indigenous land stewards and defenders have been criminalized along with their traditional and contemporary relationships with lands and waters. Nonetheless, with guidance from Elders, ICE came to understand that the newly evolving framework has the potential to enable an “ethical space” that respects the integrity of all knowledge systems. This ethical space provides a venue for collaboration and advice, sharing and cross-validation (where one side validates the other’s decisions). Its methodology applies Indigenous knowledge in the context of the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative as well as more broadly in conservation and protection measures going forward. In ethical space as ICE understands it, relationships should be nurtured on multiple levels—not just on a political level—and founded on the principles that define our understanding of ethical space. This should be done by implementing Indigenous knowledge, the recommendations of this report, and Indigenous protocols. Relationships require all parties to contribute and decide which areas they want to advise on, or which issues they believe require cross-validation. Best practices and protocols may be developed as the relationships evolve. For a better understanding of what ethical space is and is not, here are additional principles to consider:

- The focus of ethical space is on creating a place for knowledge systems to interact with mutual respect, kindness, generosity and other basic values and principles. All knowledge systems are equal; no single system has more weight or legitimacy than another.*
- One system does not need the other to “corroborate” it to achieve internal validity. For example, the written system does not always need archaeological evidence to provide sound “proof” of an Indigenous practice or story.*
- While agreeing to formally enter ethical space may be straightforward for most parties, actually being within that space together requires flexibility. Parties may frequently need to adjust to change, surprise, and other factors that cannot be envisioned at the initial stage.*
- While engaged in ethical space, no party can claim to have achieved (or even entered into) processes of consultation or accommodation as defined under existing or previous provincial or federal legislation or policies. That is not the purpose of ethical space. ICE hopes that by adopting the ethical space approach, federal, provincial and territorial governments can move toward achieving the numeric goals of Pathway to Canada Target 1 while ensuring that the qualitative elements of the goals are retained and strengthened.”*

As well as the Territorial, Provincial and Federal Response, One With Nature¹ are all germane and need to be embraced in our work on the Canadian NBSAP.”

¹ [One With Nature: A Report of Canada’s Federal, Provincial and Territorial Departments Responsible for Parks, Protected Areas, Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity](#)

² [We Rise Together: Achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 through the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the spirit and practice of reconciliation](#)

The Biodiversity Caucus fully acknowledges the significance of values embedded in Recommendation 1, and this recognition will serve as a guiding principle for our work. Moreover, we are increasingly grasping the profound importance of ceremony and its ability to engage the heart, spirit, rights, and relationships with the natural world. We advocate for and support the practice and broader adoption of ceremonies that, when integrated into decision-making processes impacting all forms of life, have the potential to propel us toward a harmonious oneness with nature. We firmly believe that this transformative approach is crucial for rebuilding and strengthening our relationships with life on Earth.

So much more...

Additional Considerations

- It's essential to remember that co-creating our Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) is framed through the lens of a convention on life, representing a strategy in Canada for all living beings.
- Mainstreaming should not only apply to biodiversity efforts but also extend to the Convention on Biodiversity, aligning with the overarching theme of the convention on life.
- Biodiversity must transcend partisan politics and become a unifying issue that spans across party lines.
- The concept of interconnectedness should be conveyed, using the analogy of a complex spider's web. Understanding that removing one tiny string can lead to systemic breakdown emphasizes the fragility and importance of interconnected ecosystems.
- Consideration should be given to the impact of government initiatives on neurodivergent individuals living in poverty, representing the 8% of Canada in impoverished conditions.
- Recognition of ecological land use as a critical function is imperative, and natural capital assessment should be mainstreamed into decision-making processes.
- The actions under the targets hold significant relevance and importance, with particular attention to priorities in grasslands and migration patterns.
- In urban settings, there is a need for a specific target addressing non-forest ecosystems.
- The role of assisted migration in mitigating climate change impacts on restoration should be a focal point for consideration.
- A national plan for a native seed strategy is essential, emphasizing the need for widespread engagement in addressing various ecological needs and issues, such as the preservation of herbaceous flowering plants.

Protecting and preserving land and wilderness

The loss of native habitat stands as a primary threat to biodiversity. It is crucial to advocate for the protection of land that remains uncompromised, even when there are alternative uses proposed. The priority should not shift towards expanded land use at the expense of protected areas. Presently, there is a gap in protection, particularly outside of the federal and provincial species-at-risk designations. This protection needs to be broadened to operate at an ecosystem level, considering the interconnectedness of various species and habitats. Additionally, addressing the impacts of agriculture on biodiversity is imperative for a more holistic approach to conservation.

Cooperation

A primary challenge we face is the imperative for enhanced cooperation. A siloed approach proves ineffective, necessitating collaborative efforts among federal, provincial, and municipal governments. It is crucial to foster collaboration across all levels of government, creating sustainable green jobs, protecting the environment, and enhancing overall quality of life. This collaborative spirit should extend beyond government to encompass various sectors, including environmental groups, funders, industry, corporate entities, and agriculture.

Active participation from all these stakeholders is vital in devising strategies to support biodiversity. Emphasizing cost-sharing on programs wherever feasible ensures a more efficient and equitable distribution of resources. Additionally, public engagement with the Environment Minister should actively incorporate and amplify youth perspectives. Recognizing that youth will be instrumental in driving many of the initiatives discussed, collaboration with this demographic becomes imperative for fostering innovation and long-term success.

Accountability

We aspire to witness tangible efforts that are proven to work towards achieving our targets. Observing the government taking concrete steps not only instills hope in youth regarding their futures but also generates actual positivity in addressing the fundamental issue of biodiversity loss. To establish effective accountability, we must create a framework that not only reinforces the government's responsibility but ensures transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. Establishing a central clearinghouse mechanism with ongoing evaluation accessible to all of society ensures transparency and collective input.

Equitable decision-making is a paramount goal, aiming to enhance inclusiveness and accountability in the decision-making process. Improving poorly defined classification documents and refining the definition of consequences and classifications are important steps in this regard. Accuracy holds particular importance, and the process must be transparent to ensure accountability and liability for actions, preventing the jeopardizing of equitable access to ecological benefits.

In an international context, there is a need to integrate both global and domestic responsibilities, acknowledging Canada's role as a Global North nation with high levels of consumption. Taking responsibility for this and increasing education and other initiatives is crucial. Moreover, efforts should extend to assisting and taking responsibility for events in the Global South, reflecting a commitment to global biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Green Economy and Funding

Volunteers and Environmental Non-Governmental Organization (ENGO) staff make significant economic contributions through their impactful environmental efforts. Recognizing this, there is a pressing need to invest in these practices given their substantial influence. However, challenges arise as strict funding guidelines hinder access to crucial financial streams, thereby impeding collaborative efforts to co-create biodiversity strategy meetings. We advocate for government support in securing funding for this vital work and honorariums, particularly for the meaningful participation of Indigenous groups.

There's a desire to shift away from financial incentives traditionally directed at the oil and gas industry, agriculture, etc. Instead, we propose redirecting these funds towards regenerative prospects such as reclamation and nature-based solutions. While acknowledging that not everyone shares this perspective, some individuals believe financial incentives could still be beneficial in specific cases. The goal is to foster a robust and inclusive dialogue that considers diverse viewpoints to inform more sustainable and impactful resource allocation.

Education and Outreach

We must actively foster and rekindle a connection with nature, a bond often eroded by numerous pressures on the school system. This imperative extends beyond young people to encompass adults, recognizing that education is a lifelong journey. To achieve this, there is a pressing need for increased investment in

multidisciplinary environmental education, spanning both formal and informal settings. This educational approach should embrace not only conventional scientific knowledge but also Indigenous ways of knowing, catering to all age groups. Instead of instructions, discussions should form the core curriculum for adults, fostering a more inclusive and participatory approach. Integral to this initiative is the incorporation of actionable steps for environmental stewardship, including a heightened understanding of and ability to manage nature-related risks in various operations.

Additionally, we must establish avenues for facilitating conversations, fostering dialogue, and facilitating knowledge transfer, emphasizing the significance of biodiversity. To truly resonate, it is essential to contextualize the impact of biodiversity loss, linking it to tangible concerns such as housing, inflation, and food costs, thereby putting the importance of biodiversity into perspective for individuals. Education, particularly in the milestone document, requires greater emphasis, especially in the diverse landscape of primary and secondary education across the country. A government-led effort to develop a comprehensive curriculum for both primary and secondary levels, akin to the Sputnik program in the 1960s, is warranted.

Cumulative Effects

It is crucial to assess impacts on a larger scale rather than solely at the level of individual projects.

Agriculture

It is important to encourage the adoption of beneficial management practices in agriculture, striving for continuous improvement in sustainable farming methods. Assist farmers in embracing practices that not only optimize productivity but also minimize environmental impact. Support farmers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving water quality, mitigating pollution from chemicals and pesticides, and fostering land regeneration. Promote carbon sequestration efforts. Cultivate a harmonious balance in land use that not only supports agricultural goals but also bolsters biodiversity for a more resilient and ecologically sound future.

Urban Agriculture

Seize the opportunity for comprehensive education and engagement, with a primary focus on mainstreaming biodiversity awareness and emphasizing its critical role in providing essential services. This initiative extends to regional economic development, emphasizing the interconnectedness of biodiversity with sustainable economies. Additionally, prioritize the examination and enhancement of food systems and commodities to ensure they align with ecological principles, promoting not only economic prosperity but also environmental resilience.

Youth

Enhancing public engagement with the Environment Minister should involve actively seeking and incorporating youth perspectives. Recognizing that youth will be instrumental in driving many of the initiatives discussed, collaboration with this demographic is essential. Working closely with youth ensures a more comprehensive understanding of their perspectives and harnesses their innovative ideas, ultimately contributing to the success and relevance of environmental initiatives.

Implementation and Monitoring Methodology

The proposed NBSAP for 2030 must transcend a generalized strategy, requiring specific goals and evidence in the 2023/24 – 2030 iteration to chart a clear and actionable path toward halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Recognizing the magnitude and urgency of this crisis, the strategy should incorporate sub-pathways and benchmarks to break down the overarching problem into manageable steps. Both the development and

implementation of the NBSAP should embrace an adaptive management approach, ensuring flexibility to make necessary corrections as needed.

In formulating the methodology and framework, high-level indicators supporting multiple targets should be considered. All targets must be time-bound to 2030, incorporating quantitative measurements where feasible. The inclusion of audit mechanisms and conversations with Statistics Canada in target and indicator identification is crucial, with opportunities for input from all actors and participants. Consider reconstituting citizen science initiatives like the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network of ECCC.

In terms of implementation, establishing optimal mechanisms is imperative. Roles and responsibilities for other Ministries and Agencies should be clearly enshrined. The consideration of synergies and co-benefits, aligning with Sustainable Development and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, is vital. Engaging in cross-departmental federal government exercises akin to the Sustainable Development Strategy is crucial, along with acknowledging and leveraging agreements with multilateral and binational environmental bodies. Collaboration with internal focal points for these conventions and engaging with international bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services should be integrated for a more comprehensive approach.

A key pillar for engaging Canadians and advancing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework involves supporting local governments through targeted resources. Addressing potential resistance from some sub-national governments necessitates exploring circumstances under which cities can become charter cities, no longer solely dependent on provincial jurisdiction.

While supporting the guiding principles of urgency, ambition, transformative change, whole-of-society and all-of-government approaches, reconciliation, and embracing diverse ways of knowing, additional guiding principles should include clarity on the engagement of all governments (First Nations/Indigenous/Métis/Inuit, Local, Provincial/Territorial) and acknowledgment of this as an all-of-citizen and society framework. Identifying gaps in policies and instruments concurrently with the development of the Biodiversity Act and strengthening existing legislation impacting genes, species, and ecosystems, such as the Species at Risk Act, are essential components for an effective and comprehensive NBSAP.

OneHealth Around The World

Considering the intricate interconnections between the health of people, animals, and the environment, it is imperative to foster a holistic approach that acknowledges and addresses these interdependencies comprehensively. Ensuring accessible information and education becomes paramount, encompassing both formal and informal channels, not only domestically but also in the Global South. This commitment to widespread education is essential for fostering a collective understanding of the interconnected well-being of all living entities and the broader ecosystems they inhabit.

Stakeholder Engagement

Establish genuine and impactful engagement through sustained face-to-face and virtual interactions with RCEN and other Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives. Enhance and extend efforts in communications, education, and public awareness initiatives, leveraging RCEN's well-established position and eagerness to contribute to these endeavors. Prioritize inclusivity by ensuring diverse voices are not only heard but actively involved in both the development and implementation stages. Seek pathways to engage with a broad

spectrum of voices, including sector groups, individuals, and various stakeholders. The strategy should provide a pathway for everyone willing to participate, ensuring inclusivity and representation. Additional efforts should be directed towards enabling and amplifying the voices of those least able to participate, fostering a sense of contribution from diverse perspectives.

Explore strategies to facilitate universal participation, drawing inspiration from the Major Group approach employed within the United Nations system. Aim for comprehensive representation, encompassing all levels of government, Indigenous hereditary leadership, faith-based perspectives, educators, funders, media, influencers, and individuals who may not typically participate. Strive to create a participatory process where everyone, regardless of background or involvement history, has a clear and accessible pathway to contribute to the outcomes. In this regard, RCEN stands ready and well-equipped to provide valuable assistance.

We sincerely thank you for the opportunity to contribute and look forward to working with you on the NBSAP and other matters. If you need clarity or have questions about this contribution, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

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RCEN Biodiversity Caucus

The Biodiversity Caucus was established in 2009 and strives to connect players from the local to the global level with the goal to mainstream and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). We strive to do this by raising awareness and urgency, building capacity, and domesticizing the international agenda in Canada. The Caucus seeks to improve society's understanding of the multiple values of Biodiversity, to help us all address the multiple drivers of biodiversity loss, and to develop and enable proactive ways of taking action to meet the challenges.

The Caucus works from the definition of biological diversity in the CBD, with an understanding that Biodiversity includes genetic diversity, species diversity - including humans - and ecosystem diversity. In doing so, the Caucus explicitly recognizes the importance of respecting and considering different belief systems and political views.