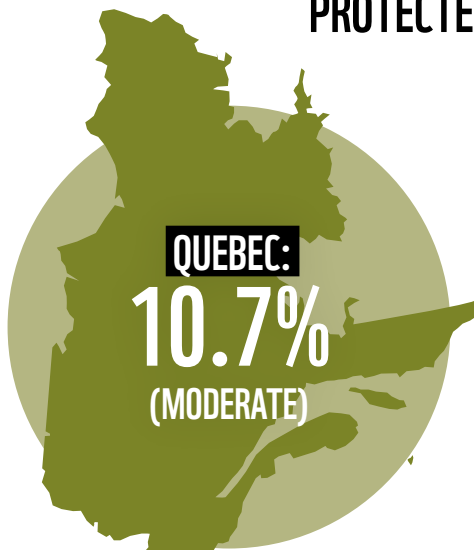




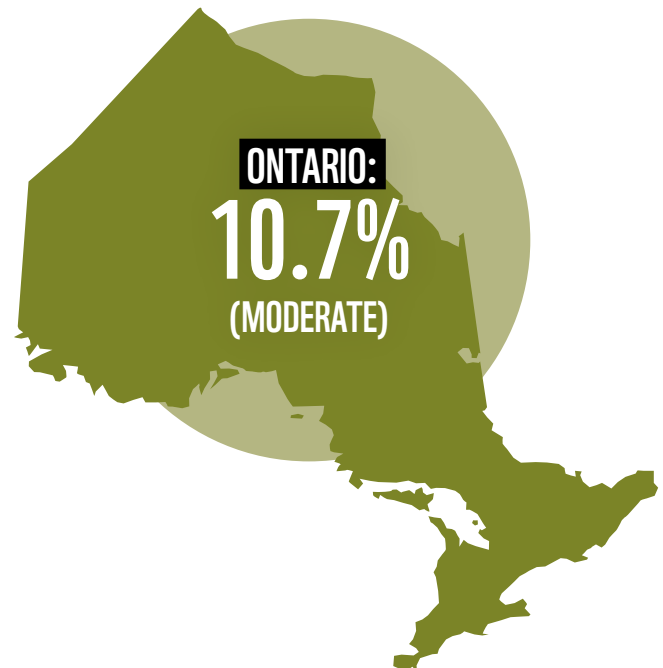
CENTRAL BRIEFING

Primary threats: Habitat loss, in combination with fragmentation, road mortality and pollution are some of the major threats to wildlife in the region.

PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS:



Though Quebec is filled with many small protected areas, there is a clear gap in connectivity. Northern Quebec has high amounts of soil carbon and climate refuges, but a large gap in the protected areas network does not allow for connectivity between different regions. In the south, areas around the St. Lawrence River are a priority given the four overlapping key considerations: high carbon storage in soils, forest biomass, climate refuges, and high numbers of at-risk species. This region is heavily stressed by agriculture and urbanization. Since land in this southern region is predominantly privately-owned, protection through other effective conservation measures is necessary to safeguard wildlife.



Habitats in southern Ontario – the area containing Canada's most at-risk species – remain either entirely unprotected or inadequately represented in the formal protected areas network.

SPECIES OF INTEREST



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PEREGRINE FALCON

IUCN Status: Least Concern
COSEWIC Status: Not at Risk

In response to environmental and human health concerns associated with the pesticide known as DDT, most uses of the chemical were restricted in North America in the mid-1970s, and DDT was entirely phased out by 1990. The phasing out of the harmful pesticide, in addition to species-specific conservation actions such as captive breeding and reintroduction allowed the peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus anatum/tundris*) to rebound since the 1970s. They're now considered Not at Risk by COSEWIC.



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WOOD TURTLE

IUCN Status: Endangered
COSEWIC Status: Threatened

Wood turtles are impacted by several threats that have cumulatively led to an overall decline in abundance. In fact, the population faces nine of the eleven threat categories listed in its COSEWIC Status Report. While some of the listed threats are considered to have an overall low impact, together they have resulted in an overall high threat level for the wood turtle within Canada.



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TRUMPETER SWAN

IUCN Status: Least Concern
COSEWIC Status: Not at Risk

In the early 1930s, trumpeter swans were considered locally extinct in Canada as a result of hunting and habitat loss. To reverse the loss, different conservationists and governments undertook swift and substantial conservation efforts to recover the population, including land acquisition, management plans, law enforcement, public education, and captive breeding and reintroductions to the wild. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan also helped conserve and restore wetlands and other key habitats for waterfowl.

NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

IUCN Status: Critically Endangered
COSEWIC Status: Endangered

The North Atlantic right whale is an example of how interacting threats — including the indirect effect of climate change — can negatively affect species abundance. Right whales are extremely dependent on copepods (tiny crustaceans) and follow them wherever they're highly concentrated — in this case, from the Bay of Fundy to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The problem is that oceanographic shifts from climate change have shifted the endangered whales to an area that, prior to 2017, did not have measures in place to reduce threats such as ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Help restore habitat. Nature-based climate solutions — like protected areas and restoration — can help to stop this wildlife loss by addressing multiple threats to biodiversity while reducing climate change by sequestering carbon in natural ecosystems.



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