

Government
Biological Diversity
Guidelines
2013

SUMMARY

*Conserving Québec's biological diversity
for our collective future!*

Background: the Aichi Targets

The new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, identifies twenty concrete objectives that are collectively known as the Aichi Targets. The plan and the Aichi Targets form the background for Québec's renewed efforts toward conserving biological diversity on its territory.

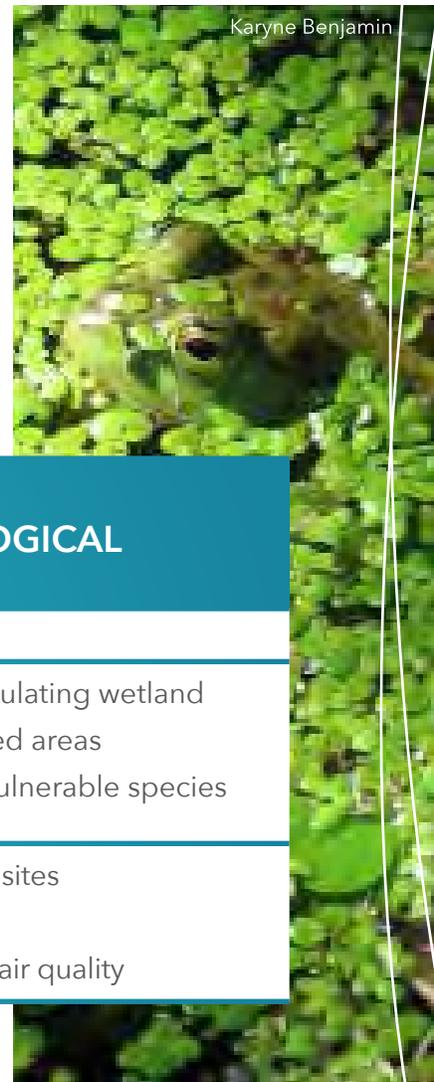
These government guidelines were adopted in June 2013, and directly involve several Government of Québec ministries and organisations. They are expected to exert positive influence on the way civil society participates in the determination and implementation of actions that help reach the Aichi and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 targets.

They also serve to facilitate the use of certain principles set out in the *Sustainable Development Act*, such as those that pertain to preserving biodiversity, respecting ecosystem support capacity, and cost internalization.

Three fundamental issues Seven government guidelines

Conserving biodiversity means sustainably protecting, restoring, developing and promoting Québec's genetic, species and ecosystem diversity.

The proposed approach is founded on three fundamental issues that are captured under the three inseparable dimensions of sustainable development: living environments (environmental), ways of life (social) and living standards (economic). These three issues can be subdivided into the following seven major government guidelines.



Karyne Benjamin

Issue I

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY AND MAINTAINING ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (environmental dimension)

Guideline	Examples
1. Protect ecosystems in order to maintain the production of essential ecological services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of purifying and regulating wetland • Establishing a network of protected areas • Protection of threatened and/or vulnerable species and their habitats
2. Restore and develop ecosystems in order to optimize the ecological services they provide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological restoration of industrial sites • Ecological corridors • Improve urban forests to enhance air quality



Jocelyne Hébert

Issue II DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT IRREMIABLE PREJUDICE TO BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (economic dimension)

Guideline	Examples
3. Develop economic tools that support biodiversity conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As needed, assess and revise high impact public incentives to maintain biodiversity Adopt residual impact ecological compensation standards
4. Encourage taking account of biodiversity in corporate decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detect and control invasive exotic species Revise regulations Develop environmental measures that are adapted to Northern ecosystems
5. Foster the sustainable use of biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of measures to conserve biological diversity at the local level Encourage the use of indigenous plant species for ecological restoration

Issue III ACQUISITION AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (social dimension)

Guideline	Examples
6. Acquire knowledge to support informed decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify biodiversity hot spots Develop a biodiversity monitoring network Improve knowledge of the value of ecological services
7. Sensitize, inform and educate about the importance of conserving biological diversity and the value of ecological services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proposals to increase access to protected areas by children and families Encourage organizations that foster contact between young people and nature

Shared responsibilities

In accordance with their individual areas of competence, the Government of Québec ministries and organisations concerned by these guidelines are responsible for the activities they intend to undertake to help conserve biodiversity.

However, some emerging or multi-sector issues will require additional collaboration and dialogue among the ministries and organisations, particularly with regard to knowledge acquisition, ecosystem conservation and public awareness.

Biological Diversity Steering Committee

The ministries with specific biodiversity responsibilities will be represented on the Biological Diversity Steering Committee, which will be composed of Assistant Deputy or Associate Deputy Ministers under the coordination of the *ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs (MDDEFP)*.

In particular, the steering committee will be responsible of ensuring that the government guidelines will be taken into account and incorporated into ministries and organisations activities. As well, it will facilitate inter-ministerial collaboration, dialogue and participation.

Cover photos

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7375-13-06 Cette publication est également disponible en français.

 Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled fiber paper

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