

The National Atlas  
of Canada



L'Atlas national  
du Canada



Wildlife Habitat Conservation  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Conservation des habitats fauniques  
Service canadien de la faune



## Memorandum of Understanding

Between

**GeoAccess Division**  
**Canada Centre for Remote Sensing**  
**Natural Resources Canada**  
(Hereunto referred to as GeoAccess Division)

**The Canadian Wildlife Service**  
**Environment Canada**  
(Hereunto referred to as the Canadian Wildlife Service)

And

**The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas**  
(Hereunto referred to as CCEA)

Acknowledging the common interests of GeoAccess Division, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas in developing a common national geospatial framework and associated database for conservation areas and protected areas;

Recognizing the importance of conservation areas for meeting numerous, regional national and international objectives concerning biodiversity, habitat, and ecosystem conservation;

Aware of numerous federal, provincial and international commitments and strategies to conserve and protect representative portions of Canadian terrestrial and aquatic (marine and freshwater) ecosystems and wildlife habitats representing critical areas;

Acknowledging that information on the status of a broad suite of protected areas and conservation areas are essential for fostering objective reporting and planning and promoting cooperation on protected areas and conservation areas;

Recognizing that the Canadian Conservation Areas Database (CCAD) has served as the basis for developing ecosystem, habitat and biodiversity indicators, tracking the status and achievements of conservation and protected area actions, and setting performance measures in Canada;

Acknowledging that the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas is a national agency with a mandate, interest and long history in encouraging the development of a comprehensive system of conservation and protected areas, and its role in fostering a national and continental ecosystem framework for Canada's landscapes and seascapes;

Acknowledging that the GeoAccess Division has critical geospatial and information base expertise in the development and delivery of national data; and

Acknowledging that the Canadian Wildlife Service has relevant expertise in ecosystem science and an interest to further develop national protected areas baseline information to support its legislative mandate regarding critical wildlife habitats, migratory birds sanctuaries and species at risk.

*It is agreed that:*

1. CCEA will be responsible for the standards and codes for CCAD entries, through consultation with its members (i.e. provincial, territorial, NGO, federal, international,) and other experts;
2. CCEA will provide the Canadian Wildlife Service with its most up to date files (polygonal and "point" listings) of protected and conservation areas in

Canada together with appropriate attributes for each area;

3. GeoAccess Division will ensure the CCAD geospatial framework meets current national cartographic standards and that data base structure will support the use of the CCAD by CCEA, GeoAccess Division, the Canadian Wildlife Service and other clients;
4. CCEA will co-ordinate the update of CCAD with its members at appropriate intervals from such sources as the CCEA jurisdictional reports and other authoritative sources;
5. CCEA and its members will advise GeoAccess Division and the Canadian Wildlife Service on the geospatial presentation of commonly requested aggregated statistics on conservation areas and protected areas;
6. GeoAccess Division will be the prime agency responsible for storing and distributing the Canadian Conservation Areas Database (CCAD);
7. GeoAccess Division will advertise the CCAD framework through GeoConnections Discovery Portal;
8. GeoAccess Division will ensure selected conservation and protected area products are downloadable through their GeoGratis site;
9. GeoAccess Division enable the creation of custom maps on conservation and protected areas through their National Atlas of Canada interactive Web mapping capabilities; the national terrestrial and marine ecosystem framework (i.e. ecozones, ecoprovinces, ecoregions, ecodistricts,) will serve as the core ecosystem reference base;
10. CCEA, the Canadian Wildlife Service and GeoAccess Division will obtain and share advice on the development, use, updating and distribution of CCAD through appropriate means such as workshops, bilateral consultations involving CCEA members and other stakeholder groups;
11. CCEA, the Canadian Wildlife Service and GeoAccess Division recognize the strategic importance of Canada's conservation and protected areas at the international levels, and will endeavour to cooperate with groups such as the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation and the World Commission on Protected Areas to share advice on the development, use, updating and distribution of CCAD information through appropriate means;
12. CCEA, the Canadian Wildlife Service and GeoAccess will formally meet at least once per calendar year to review the status of this agreement with the view to mutually beneficial improvements.

## Restrictions and acknowledgements

- i. This MOU does not effect ownership of CCAD;
- ii. All published or downloadable maps, tables, graphs, lists, statistics and metadata based on the CCAD framework will include the CCEA, Environment Canada and GeoAccess logos and an acknowledgement of the three organizations will be made.
- iii. Upon notification in writing (3 months prior to effective date) to either group, any of the three parties may withdraw from this agreement.

## Signed

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E.B. Wiken, Chairman

Canadian Council on Ecological Areas

*June 14, 2002*  
Date

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Dr. R. O'Neil

Director, GeoAccess Division  
Canada Centre for Remote Sensing Natural Resources Canada

*12 June 2002.*  
Date

Robert McLean

A/Director General  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environment Canada

*6 June 02*  
Date

Canada