



SNBR and OECMS





Overview

- What is a Biosphere Reserve?
- Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve
- Our current Project
- OECMs/ PA

Biosphere Reserves

are internationally recognized areas where people live in balance with nature and build a future we're proud of. They model solutions for a sustainable future and celebrate cultural and biological diversity.





  Canadian Biosphere Reserves
Réerves de la biosphère du Canada

CANADA

Clayoquot Sound
2000

Howe Sound
2021

Mount Arrowsmith
2000

Beaver Hills
2016

Waterton
1979

Redberry Lake
2000

Riding Mountain
1986

Saskatchewan

Alberta

British Columbia
Colombie-Britannique

Yukon

Northwest Territories
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Nunavut

Niagara Escarpment
1990

Georgian Bay - 2004

Charlevoix
1988

Manicouagan-Uapishka
2007

Quebec
Québec

Hudson Bay
Baie d'Hudson

Ontario

Manitoba

Labrador

Atlantic Ocean
Océan Atlantique

Southwest Nova - 2001

Mont Saint-Hilaire - 1978

Frontenac Arch - 2002

Long Point - 1986

Bras d'Or Lake
2011

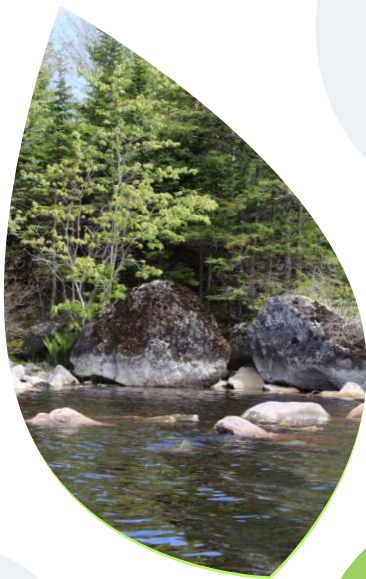
Fundy
2007

Nfld.
Terre-Neuve

Victoria Island
Ile Victoria

Baffin Island
Ile de Baffin





What is SNBR?

SNBR stands for the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve

We are a non profit organization focused on:

- sustainable development
- conservation, and
- capacity building for research and education

We hope to celebrate people and nature in balance.

UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve



Base Data Source:
Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre
Cartography by Wayne Ridger AGRG



- The Biosphere Reserve covers the 5 southern counties of Nova Scotia.
- It is recognized because of its cultural heritage, unique biodiversity and diverse industries.
- It was established in 2001, but was primarily volunteer based until recently.

Our Project

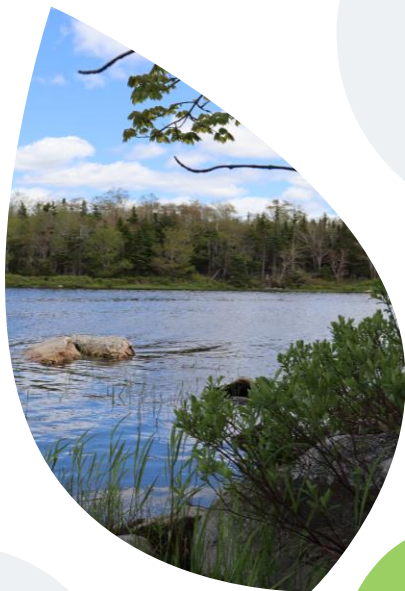
- Received funding from ECCC in 2022.
- Main focus is to contribute to Canada's conservation goals by screening potential OECMS within the biosphere.





Other Goals

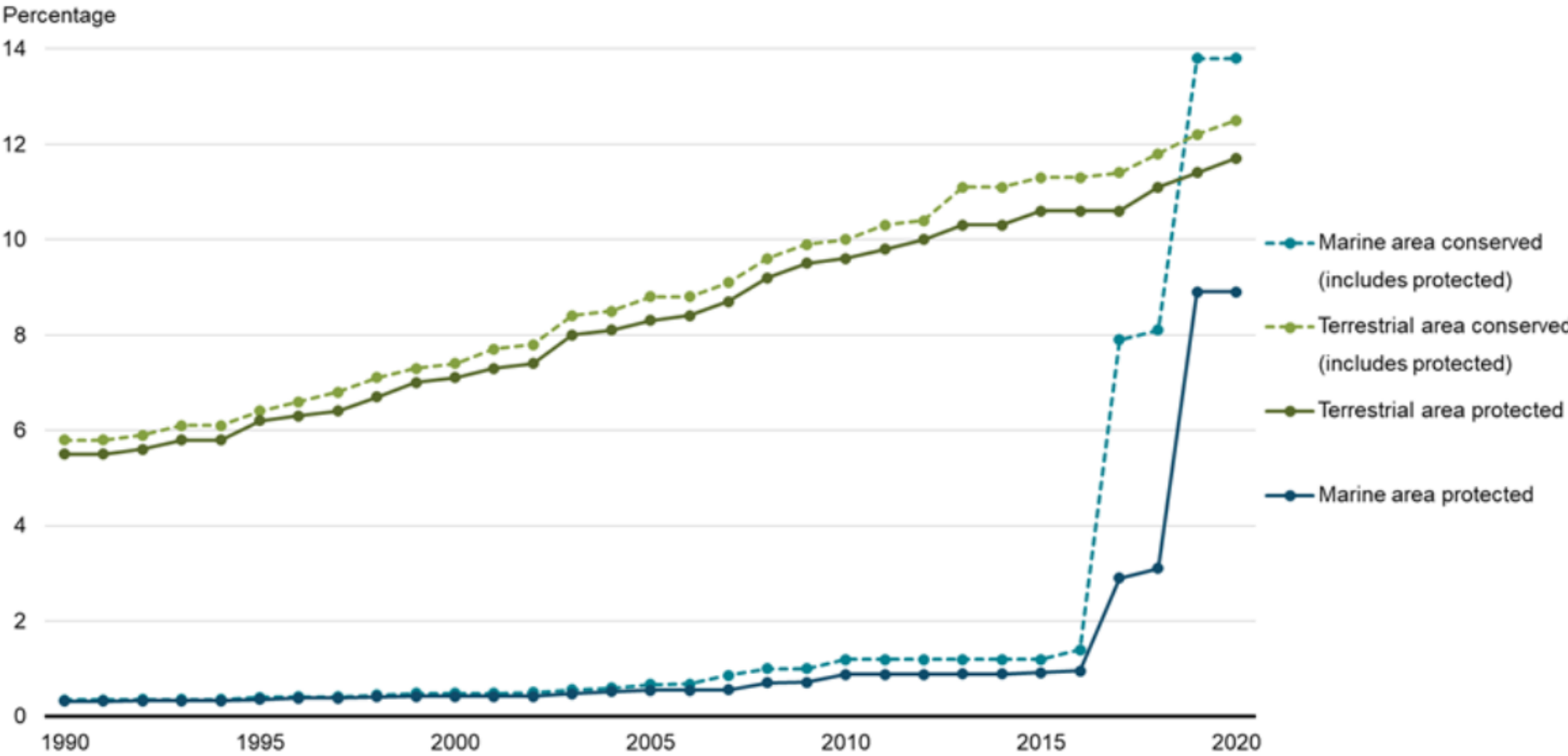
- Increase capacity and awareness of SNBR.
- Build relationships with communities within the biosphere.
- Connect with landowners.



Canada's Conservation Targets

- the Government of Canada has committed to conserve 25 % of lands and oceans by 2025.
- Nova Scotia has committed to 20% by 2030.
- We are currently at 13% in Nova Scotia and 13.5% in Canada.

Proportion of area conserved, Canada, 1990 to 2020





Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

- OECCMs are a new tool that can be used to account for lands that are providing the same level of conservation as protected areas, but haven't been counted in the **Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database.**



OECM vs PA

Protected Area

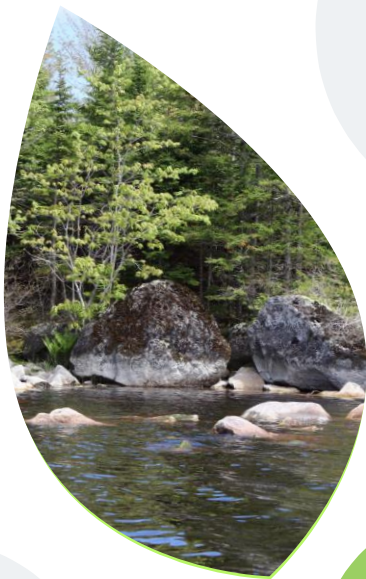
An area that provides long term conservation, with conservation being the primary goal of the site.

OECM

An area that provides long term conservation, regardless of the purpose of the site.

OECM requirements

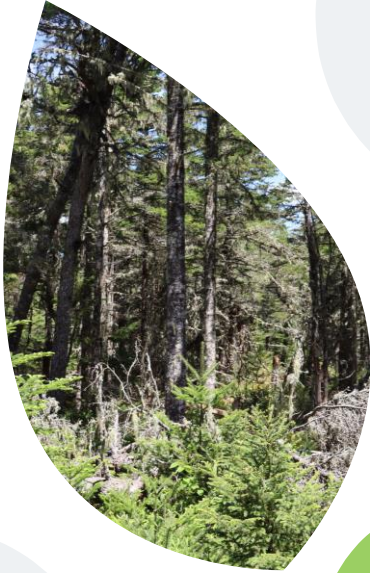
1. The area has a boundary that the governing authorities have the means to control activities within.
2. The governing authorities have a reason to conserve the area.
3. Conservation is year round and long term.
4. Site goals lead to conservation of biodiversity.
5. Conservation objectives override or are not threatened by other site objectives.



The Process

Once a piece of land is chosen to screen as a potential OEEM:

- Collect information on the property to assess whether it meets the criteria of an OEEM. (Ex: Mgmt plans, municipal policies)
- Pre-screening phone call with the land owner, that typically takes about an hour.
- SNBR screens the property, and identifies gaps and barriers.
- Work together to address gaps and barriers if desired by land owner.



The Process

Once a property meets the requirements of an OECDM

- Submit screened property and accompanying information to NS Department of Environment and Climate Change.
- If approved at provincial level, it is added to the Canadian Protected and Conserved areas database.
- OECDM is not a legal designation and there is nothing binding, it is only contributing to the conservation targets set by the province and Canada.



The Process

The entire process is completely voluntary, we need your permission to:

- Screen the property.
- Send the property for approval by NS Department of Environment and Climate Change.
- Submit it to the national Database.

This gives you lots of time to assess if you would like to continue moving forward in this process.

The Benefits



- The recognition of contributing to national conservation targets .
- Highlights leadership, and contributing to the “branding” of a community as a clean, green place to live and work.
- Reinforces community values regarding conservation, environmental protection, healthy lifestyles, and sustainable land use.
- As development increases, its nice for residents to know that some of their favorite places will stay untouched and maintain their rural character.



In Summary

1. You're living in a Biosphere Reserve!
2. We are looking to build relationships with communities whether or not OECMs interest you!
3. OECMs are just a way of accounting land that is already providing biodiversity conservation.
4. The process is completely voluntary!
5. Takes about 1-2 hours of staff time.
6. If you think you need more information we can set up a call with NS Department of Environment and Climate change, they are the leaders in OECMS.



Questions?



Resources

NS Provincial – Protecting Natural Values on Your Property brochure:

<https://novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/docs/PrivateLandBrochur.pdf>

NSNT Conservation Options Booklet:

https://nsnt.ca/wp-content/uploads/17-11-24-ConservationOptionsBooklet_web.pdf

Nature Conservancy of Canada:

<https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/nova-scotia/>

Protected Water Area Designation:

<https://novascotia.ca/nse/water/docs/ProtectedWaterAreaDesignation.pdf>

Wilderness Area Designation:

https://novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/docs/Wilderness_Act_Sum.pdf

Nature Reserves:

<https://novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/naturereserves.asp>

Developing a Municipal Source Water Protection Plan:

<https://novascotia.ca/nse/water/sourcewater.asp>

Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/national-wildlife-areas/protected-conservedareas-database.html#toc0>

Pathway to Target 1 Accounting – Decision Support Tool (DST):

<https://www.conservation2020canada.ca/accounting>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57e007452e69cf9a7af0a033/t/60816801b14b3261522b0442/1619093506>

[784/EN_Session+1_One_Pager_Screening.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57e007452e69cf9a7af0a033/t/60816801b14b3261522b0442/1619093506/784/EN_Session+1_One_Pager_Screening.pdf)