



ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS

ASSEMBLÉE DES
PREMIÈRES NATIONS

2030 Nature Strategy

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Assembly of First Nations

Gerben Deinum, Senior Policy Analyst

Environment, Land, and Water Branch

Email: GDeinum@afn.ca



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Agenda

1. Background
2. Priority Targets
3. First Nations Engagement
4. First Nations NBSAP Contributions
5. NBSAP Challenges
6. Bill C-73
7. Current Status
8. Path Forward



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Questions and Comments

- Mentimeter will be used to communicate questions to the AFN team
- Pose questions and comments at www.menti.com
- Code **5153 2081**
- Responses near end of webinar



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Background

- At COP 15, hosted in December 2022, Canada committed to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Strategy (KMGBF).
- KMGBF requires signatories to update:
 - National Biodiversity Strategy
 - Action Plan
 - Among others





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Background

- Following COP 15's KMGBF, Canada has committed to actioning work on biodiversity loss through:
 - 23 Targets to achieve by 2030
 - 4 Goals to achieve by 2050
- Drafting the '2030 National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan' (NBSAP), or 'National Biodiversity Strategy', was led by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).





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Priority Targets

- The scale of the NBSAP necessitates bundling – Canada created 3 themes to target bundles
- Reducing threats to biodiversity
 - Targets 1 - 8

*Reducing threats to
biodiversity*

*Meeting People's
needs through
sustainable use and
benefit sharing*

*Tools and solutions
for implementing
and mainstreaming*



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Priority Targets

- Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing
 - Targets 9 - 13
- Tools and solutions for implementing and mainstreaming
 - Targets 14 - 23

Reducing threats to biodiversity

Meeting People's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing

Tools and solutions for implementing and mainstreaming



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First Nations Engagement

- During drafting phases of the NBSAP, AFN Environment conducted a virtual engagement session with First Nations to identify concerns with content.
- Through engagement sessions, and input from related First Nations-led fora, the AFN submitted 4 key recommendations to strengthen the NBSAP.

**AFN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN (NBSAP)
*Virtual Information Session***

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST

Registration is now open!
Save your spot at www.afn.ca.



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Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy:

Halting and Reversing
Biodiversity Loss in Canada



AFN NBSAP Contributions

1. The inclusion of specific language referencing First Nations' rights and culture in relation to land, water, ice, and biodiversity.
2. The need for transformative change: targets currently uphold systemic colonial processes, and would maintain this status quo if unchanged.



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Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy:

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AFN NBSAP Contributions

3. Current policies, programs, and initiatives are insufficient to achieve targets and halt biodiversity loss - systemic change and policies disruptive to the colonial system are needed.
4. Need for full and effective First Nations participation: progressive language and intentions fall short without thorough involvement of First Nations in the planning and implementation of the NBSAP.



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Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy:

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AFN NBSAP Contributions

- In addition to recommendations and guided by the concerns and values shared by First Nations, AFN authored a First Nations' section to the NBSAP.
- This section highlighted the concerns and recommendations from First Nations, ensuring its inclusion in the final draft of the NBSAP.



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NBSAP Challenges

Valuing Biodiversity

People and businesses must prioritize nature, biodiversity, and sustainability in decision-making

Mechanisms for Indigenous Leadership

There remains a need for concrete mechanisms for Indigenous People to participate and contribute to Canada's NBSAP, enabling stewarding of nature

Includes area-based conservation mechanisms, such as mechanisms to enshrine Indigenous protected and conserved areas within western legislative and legal frameworks



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NBSAP Challenges

Climate change exacerbates biodiversity loss

Causing ecosystem degradation, loss
Directly driving down biodiversity

Resources and whole-of-government approach

Multi-jurisdictional collaboration, financial capacity, closing knowledge and data gaps



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Bill C-73 *Nature Accountability Act*

- Concurrent with the NBSAP, Canada announced its intentions to advance Bill C-73 to strengthen reporting requirements for the NBSAP.
- C-73 was structured as the supporting framework to NBSAP targets:
 - KMGBF is the **Why**
 - NBSAP is the **How**
 - C-73 was the **legislative backing**





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Bill C-73 *Nature Accountability Act*

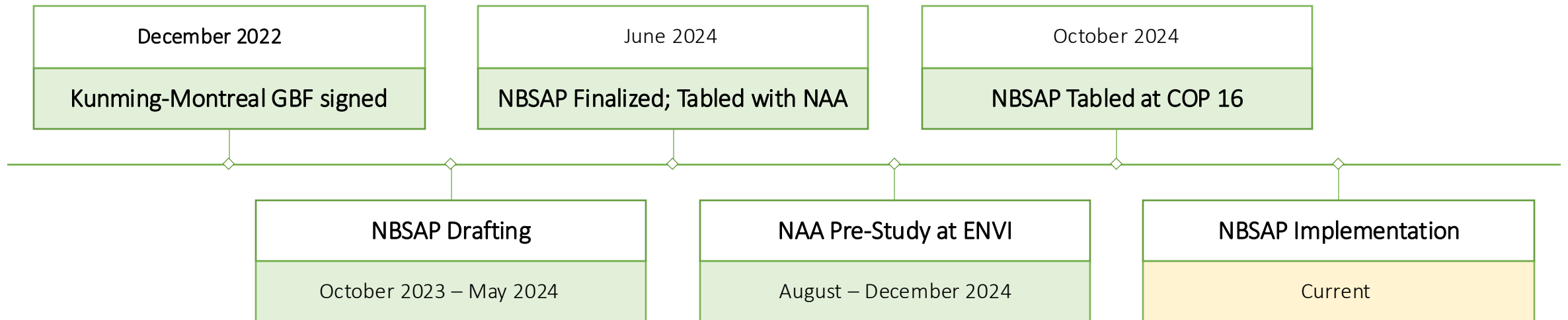
- Despite lack of strength in the commitments as introduced, C-73 was strenuously debated at the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI).
- Bill C-73 did not proceed past ENVI pre-study and died following prorogation of parliament.
 - Could be reintroduced (unlikely), but similar obstacles remain.





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Current Status





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Path Forward

- Unclear picture of how Canada intends to implement its NBSAP.
- Fiscal restraint will impact Action Plan progression.
- Enhanced Nature Legacy, the mechanism for much of Canada's conservation portfolio, is in a period of renewal.





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Path Forward

- The NBSAP remains Canada's guide to conservation into the future;
 - This entails recognition of First Nations and Indigenous Peoples as critical partners and leaders in conservation.
- AFN Environment will be working with select departments in the GoC to develop funding placemats outlining existing program and related funding opportunities as well as those stemming from renewal process.





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Thank you/ Merci
Questions/ discussion

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