

# “Biodiversity and People in a Changing Climate: Adaptation Imperatives for Enhancing Resilience”

Adaptation Canada 2016



“Protecting, restoring and sustainably managing biodiversity is our best defense in a world of rapidly changing climate.”

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FROM SESSION AND PANEL MEMBERS:

**Steve Hounsell**, session moderator; Chair, Ontario Biodiversity Council

“Break down the institutional barriers and silos that exist between climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity. The time has come to reunite the climate change and biodiversity issues into a holistic, integrated approach that will yield multiple wins for people, our economy, climate and biodiversity.

Screen proposed climate change actions through a biodiversity filter to favour actions which will yield the multiple wins we seek. Examples include investing in native, green, natural infrastructure to achieve climate resilience for people, our economy and biodiversity.”

**Deborah Harford**, Executive Director, ACT (Adaptation to Climate Change Team), Simon Fraser University

“Establish a Natural Capital Index, similar to the Nature Index of Norway, which internalizes the benefit of ecosystem services on local, regional, national, sectoral and global scales, presenting GDP as a subset of this value system. This would supplement our current reliance on GDP as a measure of progress to ensure that these services are taken into account.”

**Natalia Moudrak**, Director, Natural Infrastructure Adaptation Program (NIAP), Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo

“For those of us, who are making the argument for climate adaptation, natural infrastructure preservation and ecosystem resilience – we need to assess the way that we frame the argument to ensure that it outlines a “multiple wins” option. This includes demonstrating not only the environmental and social benefits, but also the economic considerations (alternatives considered, costs and benefits of each, Return-on-Investment, etc.). We should consider our ever-broadening target audiences and the language that will resonate well with them.”

**Dr. Mark Gloutney**, Director of Regional Operations, Ducks Unlimited Canada

“Part of the solution to building greater resilience includes a focused effort to conserve existing wetlands and strategically restore lost or degraded wetlands.”

**Charles Latremouille**, National Natural Area Conservation Planning Manager, Nature Conservancy of Canada

“Build capacity in conservation organizations to understand the effects of climate change and to plan conservation actions in a changing climate. Key actions include:

- Conserve and connect our natural ecosystems to maintain their capacity to store and sequester carbon, mitigate climate change effects on nature and people and provide opportunities for them to adapt;
- Build capacity in society and institutions to understand the effects of climate change on natural ecosystems, their important role in climate change adaptation, and how to plan, implement and monitor effective adaptation actions
- Continue efforts to make information accessible and to develop adaptation tools that can be used across Canada.”

**Dr. Jeff Bowman and Chad Cordes**, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry / Trent University

“Conserve habitats and manage connectivity.”

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS ARISING FROM AUDIENCE DISCUSSION:

“Engage social scientists as a means of driving positive behavioural changes that will result in healthy resilience ecosystems sustaining resilient human communities and resilient economies.”

“Protect and sustainably manage large intact ecosystems for their vast carbon storage capacity and for their ability to conserve biodiversity for both its own sake and for our benefits.”

