Ecological Corridors



What are Ecological Corridors?

Ecological corridors are defined spaces that aim to maintain or restore **ecological connectivity**, which is the free movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on earth¹.

There are three main types of corridors:



1 Linear Corridors: Unbroken strips of habitat²



Stepping Stone Corridors:
Small, scattered patches of habitat²



3 Landscape Corridors:

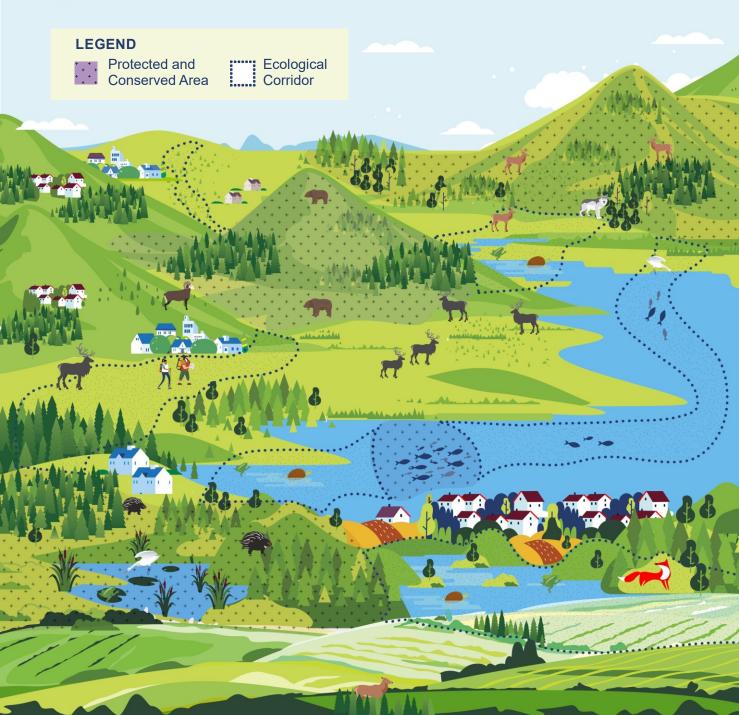
An uninterrupted patchwork of landscape features²

Fundamental Principles of Ecological Corridors

Ecological corridors complement protected and conserved areas. Together, these elements form ecological networks for conservation. **Ecological networks** are a web of core conservation areas (protected and conserved areas) connected with ecological corridors.¹ Corridors should be created where ecological connectivity is needed, and have a management plan with specific objectives to achieve this connectivity. Corridors can allow human activities, so long as they support connectivity.¹

Ecological Corridors Are Important Because They:

- Help species adapt to climate change
- Lessen the impact of human development on natural habitats
- Improve the ecological integrity of protected and conserved areas
- Connect various habitat types needed for species' different life stages, including migration
- Support vital ecosystem services like food, air, nutrients, and water cycles
- 6 Promote human-wildlife coexistence and ways for people to connect with nature



Parks Canada's National Program for Ecological Corridors Objectives

- Collaborate with other levels of government, Indigenous partners, experts, and stakeholders
- Develop national criteria for ecological corridors that protect and restore ecological connectivity
- Identify and map priority areas where ecological corridors would halt and reverse biodiversity loss across Canada
- Support on-the-ground work for corridors through funding towards conservation, restoration, and management
- Inspire others to take measures in support of ecological connectivity and corridors
- Promote and advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through weaving of knowledge systems and opportunities for land stewardship and connection

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- Hilty, J., et al. (2020). Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 30. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.
 - Guidelines Series No. 30. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

 "Ecological Corridors and Biodiversity." Sicirec Sistemas De Circulación Ecológica, http://www.sicirec.org/definitions/corridors.