



Parks Canada

Status On Agency Progress since First Priority

2008



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada



Table of Contents

Message from the CEO, Parks Canada Agency	ii
Executive Summary.....	iii
Status On Agency Progress since First Priority.....	7
Chapter 1: A Sacred Trust	8
Chapter 2: Toward A Culture of Conservation.....	8
Chapter 3: Planning for Ecological Integrity.....	10
Chapter 4: Building Capacity for Learning and Education	15
Chapter 5: The Need for Active Management and Restoration.....	17
Chapter 6: Tools for Understanding and Monitoring Ecological Integrity	19
Chapter 7: Working with Aboriginal People	24
Chapter 8: National Parks in the Canadian Protected Areas Network	25
Chapter 9: From Islands to Networks	27
Chapter 10: Interpretation and Outreach	32
Chapter 11: Enjoyment and Appropriate Use.....	35
Chapter 12: Shrinking the Ecological Footprint.....	36
Chapter 13: The Need for Committed Investment.....	40



Message from the CEO, Parks Canada Agency **2008 Status on the Agency Progress since First Priority**

I am proud to present this report, which summarizes the major achievements by Parks Canada in making progress on the 127 recommendations of the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks and the 2000 Parks Canada Ecological Integrity Action Plan and will inform our decisions when planning for next steps.

The basic foundation is now in place to make continuing gains and monitor progress towards improved ecological integrity across the national park system, as is clearly articulated in the 2008-2009 Corporate Plan performance expectations.

Ecological integrity is a key component of Parks Canada's mandate as it relates to national parks. Legislation and policies introduced since the EI Panel's report underscore the importance of maintaining and restoring ecological integrity in national parks and expanding the system of national parks and national marine conservation areas to include representative samples of all Canadian natural regions.

Ecological integrity is fundamental to the opportunities for Canadians to experience, learn from our national parks, and fully appreciate their irreplaceable value. Outstanding visitor experiences are rooted in ecologically healthy environments where the integrity of the natural resources enhances the sense of awe felt by visitors. Opportunities to learn about nature and the efforts of Parks Canada and its partners to maintain and improve ecological integrity are important to the appreciation of nature and the understanding of the relevance of conservation to Canadian society.

All of us at Parks Canada are proud of what we are accomplishing through our mandate. I am pleased to be able to highlight our achievements in responding to the recommendations articulated by the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks.

Alan Latourelle
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada Agency



Executive Summary

The Agency has successfully achieved implementation of the commitments from its 2000 Action Plan in the four areas of: making ecological integrity central in legislation and policy; building partnerships for ecological integrity; planning for ecological integrity; and renewal of Parks Canada to support its ecological integrity objectives.

The most recent highlight of establishment work includes increasing the legislative boundaries of Nahanni National Park and Reserve of Canada to cover about 30,000 square km. This represents a six fold increase in protected area – roughly equivalent to the size of Vancouver Island – of breathtaking landscapes such as the Ram Plateau, the Nahanni North Karst, the Tlogotsho Plateau, the Raged Range and Glacier Lake, thus protecting much of the Nahanni watershed and providing for fantastic new visitor experiences that reflect Aboriginal culture. This addition will increase by almost ten percent the area protected under Parks Canada’s national parks system. Also of great importance is the signing of an agreement between Canada and Ontario to establish the 10,000 square-kilometre Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area and the establishment of Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve in 2008. These actions contribute to protecting Canada’s wilderness, biodiversity and the natural process that provide us with clean air and water.

Greater efforts have also been made to enhance reporting on ecological integrity in Canada’s national parks. There is now a policy requirement for every national park to report on its state of ecological integrity every five years, based on information from ongoing monitoring programs. In addition to discussing the condition of ecological integrity in Canada’s national parks, The State of the Park report is the accountability mechanism for Field Unit Superintendents to report to the CEO on achieving the Agency’s Corporate Plan performance expectations related to maintaining and improving ecological integrity, in addition to other program areas such as cultural resource management, visitor experience and public outreach and education. Ecological integrity issues identified in these reports support the scoping for the five-year management planning review.

In support of Parks Canada’s five-year management planning review, the *Agency’s Guide to Management Planning* was updated and release in 2008. The guide sets out the legal and policy foundation for management planning for all national parks, national marine conservation areas, and national historic sites that are owned or administered by the Agency. It also emphasizes the Field Unit Superintendent accountability to the CEO for planning and reporting on the integrated approach for protection, public education and visitor experience in implementing the Agency



mandate. The guide includes sections on key strategies and area management that set out objectives, targets and key management activities to be undertaken to address identified issues. All parks initiating a planning process in the future will follow the 2008 *Guide to Management Planning*.

The establishment of a fully functioning EI monitoring and reporting system forms the knowledge foundation for consistency in reporting on maintaining and improving the EI in Canada's national parks. The EI monitoring and reporting program relies on the expertise of park specialists, local communities, citizen volunteers and Aboriginal partners to collect and interpret the information. The 6 to 8 ecological integrity indicators for each national park measure the health of Canada's national parks by reporting on the indicator's condition and trend (improving, stable or declining) over time. The Agency has created and filled 54 new science positions and 22 new public education positions to support ecological integrity monitoring, restoration and the enhancement of public education and visitor experiences. Collectively, these actions maximize Parks Canada's ability to successfully implement its initiatives in a steady and sustainable manner, which is consistent with the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's observations in the 2005 report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

Additional policy and operational guidance tools to govern active management and restoration activities have recently been developed, including the joint Parks Canada Agency – Canada Parks Council publication: *Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration in Canada's Protected Natural Areas (2007)*, *Management Directive on the Management of Hyperabundant Wildlife Populations (2008)*, and the *National Fire Management Plan (2008)*. The implementation of these guidance and policy tools are resulting in tangible improvements in the EI of Canada's national parks. For example, the re-introduction of natural processes, such as fire or "prescribed burn" into the landscape, is often one of the goals of ecological restoration. In Kootenay National Park, since 2002 the park has restored approximately 200 hectares of land near a popular campground to its historical state through a combination of forest clearing and prescribed burn. As a result, the area is now more hospitable for bighorn sheep and other species that depend on open forest/grassland habitat. Radio-tracking of the sheep indicates these animals are now returning to the restored areas after decades of absence. The ecological restoration of this area has resulted in an improvement of the ecological integrity indicators for Kootenay National Park.

The establishment of the EI monitoring and reporting system along with new operational guidance and policies support the Agency in achieving its corporate plan commitment to maintain and improve the EI in all national parks. However, Parks Canada cannot achieve this goal alone. The Agency works with the Federal Biosystematics Partnership and Conservation Data Centres such as NatureServe to facilitate consistency in biological data compilation and accessibility to data within the Agency and across Federal departments. The Agency also partners with



universities and centres of excellence, such as the Canadian Barcode of Life Network, to support science-based research and results that are consistent with Parks Canada's priorities for the protection of our natural heritage. The Parks Canada – Nature Conservancy of Canada agreement reached in 2005 works to secure private lands that are crucial to maintaining the EI of select parks. In addition, the Agency is working with the Tourism Industry Association of Canada and the Canadian Tourism Commission to enhance delivery of consistent message about ecological integrity among tourism industry practitioners.

Strong inter-agency partnerships are a hallmark of Parks Canada's efforts to protect and recover species at risk. For example, in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada an innovative stewardship program is helping to bring species at risk back from the brink of extinction. Recovery efforts, with the help of volunteers, are focusing effort on enhancing critically small populations of Blanding's turtles. Since 2005, over 200 volunteers have been involved in a combination of nest screening to protect eggs from predators and increased protection for nesting turtles. Together these volunteers have tallied almost 10,000 hours in restoration activities. Across the country, Parks Canada works closely with local communities, including Aboriginal peoples and governments, volunteers, and partners and stakeholder groups to ensure the protection and recovery of species at risk within greater park ecosystems. This is an excellent example of implementing the integrated approach to protection (through ecological restoration efforts), public education and visitor experience.

Parks Canada is committed to improving relationships and cooperative activities with Aboriginal peoples. For example, the Agency created an Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat in 1999 and has established an Aboriginal Consultative Committee to advise the Agency on relevant policy issues. Parks Canada will continue to place priority on increasing the opportunity for Aboriginal people to meaningfully inform all aspects of the management of national parks. For example, in 2007, St. Lawrence Islands National Parks was honoured to be invited to participate in a Smoky Fire Ceremony, a rich Mohawk tradition aimed at building trust, respect and new working relationships between cultures. Since then, Aboriginal perspectives have been integrated by including Aboriginal traditional knowledge in decision-making related to resource management, visitor experience and educational programming. The Agency will continue to work to strengthen and deepen its relationship with Aboriginal people in and around national parks through initiatives that encourage Aboriginal people to reconnect with their traditional cultural landscapes. The 2008 report *Action on the Ground II: Working with Canadians to Improve Ecological Integrity in Canada's National Parks* highlights additional examples of shared stewardship from across Canada and reflects a host of creative and innovative approaches used by park team members and Agency partners to address challenges specific to improving and maintaining ecological integrity in Canada's national parks. In addition, Action on the Ground II fulfills the Agency's 2005 commitment to the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to periodically



produce public interest document that report on improving or maintaining ecological integrity.

In order for Parks Canada to continue to achieve such positive results in the face of internal and external factors such as climate change and a changing social environment, the Agency will invest \$90 million over the next 5 years to meet the 2008-2009 Corporate plan commitments. Future action-on-the-ground initiatives will build on the established monitoring and reporting program, policy and guidance tools, and existing partnerships to improve the ecological integrity of Canada's national parks. Through these initiatives, Parks Canada will continue to foster a deeper understanding and sense of attachment among Canadians to their protected heritage places.

These activities position Parks Canada well to effectively embrace future challenges and opportunities in maintaining and improving the ecological integrity of Canada's national parks. The outcomes will result in healthy ecosystems for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians for many generations to come. The integrated delivery of Parks Canada's mandate of protection, education and memorable experience will help Parks Canada ensure the continued relevance of national parks to all Canadians.



Status On Agency Progress since First Priority

This report describes the status of the actions that have been taken or are being taken in response to the 127 recommendations of the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks. This information is presented in a table, organized according to the chapters of the EI Panel's report. There is one entry in the table for each recommendation, but, for the sake of brevity, the many sub-recommendations found in the report are not reprinted here. Parks Canada recognizes the importance of the sub-recommendations, and the actions described here are intended to address them as well as the main recommendation.

The following tables provide cross-references to the *Parks Canada Action Plan* (2000), the document on which *First Priority* (2001) was based. In some instances, there is also a cross-reference to the fact that the recommendation and associated actions are particularly relevant to our commitment to build a culture of heritage conservation in Canada. In reporting on progress, the following definitions have been used:

- **Complete:** Action to implement the recommendation is substantially complete. Response to a recommendation is considered to be complete when the recommendation called for a single action with a specific result, such as the enactment of legislation, etc.
- **Integrated into operations:** Responses to recommendations are considered to be ongoing and integrated into the operations of the Agency and would never be considered "complete" because they require continuous actions and improvement.
- **Progress is being made:** Responding to some recommendations will take longer than others. When this definition is used, it implies that while some action has been taken, the recommendations are not yet fully implemented.
- **Addressed in *First Priority* (2001):** In a very few instances, *First Priority* (2001) indicated the approach Parks Canada would take to specific recommendations that may not have been consistent with suggestions made by the EI Panel.



Chapter 1: A Sacred Trust		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(1-1) We recommend this revised definition of ecological integrity: An ecosystem has integrity when it is deemed characteristic for its natural region, including the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes.	COMPLETE	Making Ecological Integrity Central

Chapter 2: Toward A Culture of Conservation		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(2-2) In accordance with section 16 (1) of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i> (1998), we recommend that within a six-month time frame, Parks Canada initiate the revision of the existing draft Charter that addresses the core values of the organization as they relate to the primary objectives and core mandate. For the National Parks Directorate of the Parks Canada Agency these core values should revolve around the concept of ecological integrity. To ensure that this Charter is understood and adopted by all staff and is reflective of the primary objective, Parks Canada should adopt a bottom-up process ...	COMPLETE	Making Ecological Integrity Central
(2-3) We recommend that within six months Parks Canada begin a process to move away from the language of business and adopt a language that emphasizes ecological integrity and conservation.	ADDRESSED IN FIRST PRIORITY (2001)	Renewal of Parks Canada
(2-4) We recommend that Parks Canada develop a detailed and ongoing program for ecological integrity orientation and training, with initial delivery to be completed within eighteen months by all current employees (including contract employees, co-operating associations, partners, and co-operators such as commercial operators within parks). Make this training part of every new employee's orientation package. Conduct a third-party audit of the orientation	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada



Chapter 2: Toward A Culture of Conservation

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
program after three years to assess the status and future needs for the program.		
(2-5) We recommend that Parks Canada examine and evaluate the existing structure and its implications for achieving ecological integrity requirements for national parks. In any structural re-organization we suggest the following guiding criteria be used to achieving the objectives required for ecological integrity ...	COMPLETE	Renewal of Parks Canada
(2-6) We recommend that Parks Canada take steps associated with staffing and training to ensure that protecting ecological integrity becomes the primary concern of every person in the organization. Such steps include ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada
(2-7) We recommend that Parks Canada improve accountability mechanisms within the organization to ensure progress toward the goal of protecting ecological integrity. ...	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Renewal of Parks Canada
(2-8) At all levels of decision making, we recommend that Parks Canada adopt a transparent and open decision-making process including formal records of decision and a strategy to communicate the rationale for decisions.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada
(2-9) We recommend that Parks Canada open dialogue about the management and maintenance of ecological integrity by ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada

Parks Canada has developed a Chief Executive Officer Award to recognize excellence in work on ecological integrity. The Agency proposes to implement a Natural Resource Council Award for Ecological Integrity. In 2006, we will finalize the criteria and award process for both the Chief Executive Officer Award and the Natural Resource Council Award.



Chapter 3: Planning for Ecological Integrity		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(3-1) We recommend that Parks Canada adopt an adaptive management approach ... at both national- and park-level scales of planning and management, such that ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-2) We recommend that Parks Canada simplify the parks planning process ...to ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-3) We recommend that the Park Management Plan become a fundamentally new document, such that ...	COMPLETE	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-4) We recommend that, with respect to strategic planning at the national level, Parks Canada establish a new strategic plan for managing the national system of parks for ecological integrity (Recommendation 8-2).	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-5) We recommend that Parks Canada establish formal, mandatory monitoring and evaluation processes (Recommendation 6-8) at the scale of individual parks prior to each new cycle of park management planning, by requiring a report from each park about the state of ecological integrity in the park and the surrounding greater ecosystem, to ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-6) We recommend increased funding for renewing a planning core within Parks Canada (Recommendations 4-1 and 13-2) that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competent in conservation science as well as planning for carrying out Parks Canada’s mandate to maintain and enhance ecological integrity in greater park ecosystems; and • Competent to meet the greater needs for enhanced consultation with the public and other agencies as demanded by ecosystem-based 	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity Renewal of Parks Canada



Chapter 3: Planning for Ecological Integrity		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
management.		
(3-7) We recommend that Parks Canada phase out separate Ecological Integrity Statements and Ecosystem Conservation Plans when they become integral to new, revised Park Management Plans (Recommendation 3-3). By this action, maintenance of ecological integrity will become the fundamental goal of park management planning, and the strategic plan will be linked explicitly to policy.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-8) We recommend that Parks Canada provide guidelines on how to develop adequate objectives and indicators for individual parks, which will permit an effective evaluation of progress toward the vision and goals of the Park Management Plan. Conservation scientists should be part of the team that prepares the Park Management Plan. Clearly defined and measurable objectives will assure the quality of the plan as an accountability tool and the implementation of an adaptive management approach. Formulation of objectives should take long-term outcomes into account to assess progress toward the park vision, and outline medium-term targets to implement specific actions.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-9) We recommend that Parks Canada develop national guidelines and associated training for planners and senior managers to successfully protect and integrate the primary objective of Parks Canada's mandate into public involvement processes, that meet the following criteria ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(3-10) We recommend that Parks Canada revise the present zoning system and methods for zoning in order to help designate, through planning, areas within parks based principally on their significance for maintaining or restoring ecological integrity and on their ecological sensitivity.	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Planning for Ecological Integrity



Chapter 3: Planning for Ecological Integrity		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(3-11) We recommend that within six months, there be an Order-in-Council to convert existing wilderness zones (Zone 2 areas) in national parks into legally designated wilderness as provided by the <i>Canada National Parks Act</i> (2000).	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Making Ecological Integrity Central
(3-12) We recommend that the Minister seek, through Bill C-70 or its successors, to amend Section 14 of the <i>Canada National Parks Act</i> (2000) to empower the Minister to make the necessary wilderness regulations rather than requiring an Order-in-Council through the Cabinet Committee. We further recommend that an Order-in-Council be required to remove any wilderness designated through these regulations. Suggested wording for Bill C-70 is in Appendix C of the EI Panel's report.	ADDRESSED IN FIRST PRIORITY (2001)	Making Ecological Integrity Central
(3-13) We recommend that Parks Canada fold the strategic components of Ecosystem Conservation Plans, with Ecological Integrity Statements, from this tier into revised Park Management Plans (Recommendation 3-3) at the strategic tier and discontinue the use of Ecosystem Conservation Plans and Ecological Integrity Statements as separate documents.	COMPLETE	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-14) In an effort to move away from the language of business, we recommend that Parks Canada stop using the term 'Business Plan' and refer instead to 'Implementation Plans' (Chapter 2).	ADDRESSED IN FIRST PRIORITY (2001)	Renewal of Parks Canada
(3-15) We recommend that Parks Canada revise the present format of Implementation (Business) Plans to also become comprehensive accountability tools for maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity. The tactical components of Ecosystem Conservation Plans should be outlined in the Implementation Plan and elaborated in individual Operational Plans for specific projects as means to	COMPLETE	Planning for Ecological Integrity



Chapter 3: Planning for Ecological Integrity		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
achieve and maintain ecological integrity. Operational Plans should be considered appendices to the Implementation Plan.		
(3-16) We recommend that Parks Canada review the length of the cycle for implementation planning with a view to making it commensurate with the length of the cycle for strategic planning, such that each new implementation planning cycle immediately follows and is guided by new Park Management Plans. This will facilitate better linkages between strategic and implementation planning.	COMPLETE	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-17) We recommend that Parks Canada designate stand-alone work plans as ‘Operational Plans’ under the umbrellas of the strategic and implementation plans to facilitate better linkage between strategic directions and on-the-ground activities to achieve ecological integrity objectives. This can be done by adding Operational Plans as appendices to the Implementation Plan, thus, forcing the Implementation Plan to refer explicitly to them as well as to strategic Park Management Plans.	COMPLETE	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-18) We recommend that Parks Canada annually report about progress to maintaining and restoring ecological integrity in individual parks to provide a short-term feedback loop at the park level ... A formal, mandatory Annual Plan Implementation Report should be available to the public using appropriate public involvement mechanisms. (This report could be simply a compendium of the annual reports on individual Operational Plans.) The Annual Plan Implementation Report should be short and designed to facilitate easy ‘roll-up’ into a mandatory five-year report on the state of ecological integrity in the park (Recommendation 3-5) prior to the beginning of the next park management planning cycle.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation



Chapter 3: Planning for Ecological Integrity		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(3-19) We recommend that the basic elements of a new National Strategic Plan should be similar to those proposed for revised Park Management Plans (see above), but scaled to the national level ...	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(3-20) With respect to implementation planning at the national level, we recommend that Parks Canada revise the Corporate Plan along lines conceptually similar to those suggested for Implementation (Business) Plans (Recommendation 3-15), especially so that business lines and service lines better reflect the principal objective of national parks with respect to ecological integrity and to better track the allocation of resources to the maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity. Develop Corporate Plans to achieve national-level targets for indicators of ecological integrity.	COMPLETE	Renewal of Parks Canada
(3-21) With respect to evaluation and reporting at the national scale, we recommend that Parks Canada continue to produce the State of the Parks Report, but ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Making Ecological Integrity Central
(3-22) To those ends, we recommend that Parks Canada create an enhanced role for regional Service Centres to ensure that national-, regional- and park-level planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting is coordinated and mutually supportive (Chapter 2 and 4).	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Renewal of Parks Canada



Parks Canada is implementing the *Action Plan to Protect Canada's Natural Heritage* (2002), which calls for ten new national parks, and the expansion of three existing national parks by 2008. At that time, we will undertake a review of our *National Parks System Plan* (1997) and update it based on current conservation science. The System Plan focuses on representing each of Canada's thirty-nine natural regions in the system, in cooperation with provinces, territories and Aboriginal peoples. Proposed national parks are generally located in regions where there are no other types of protected areas, thereby filling some ecological gaps in our nation's current protected area networks.

Parks Canada has established a National Monitoring Program and held national monitoring workshops to guide its implementation. Under the program, Canada has been divided into six bioregions for the purposes of program management and a maximum of six common indicators have been agreed on for each of these bioregions. National parks within bioregions are working collaboratively and in conjunction with partners in the bioregion. The common indicators will be used to report on ecological integrity in future reporting cycles/activities.

Chapter 4: Building Capacity for Learning and Education		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(4-2) We recommend that Parks Canada manage and upgrade its science capacity ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada
(4-3) We recommend that Parks Canada significantly increase formal contact with Canadian universities by establishing a system of ten co-operative study units specializing in ecosystem science and protected area management (estimated cost \$3 million per year, see Chapter 13).	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(4-4) We recommend that Parks Canada facilitate contact with the larger university and education community by ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(4-5) We recommend that Parks Canada re-establish and/or revitalize memoranda of	COMPLETE	Building Partnerships for



Chapter 4: Building Capacity for Learning and Education

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
understanding or research agreements with government research agencies to expand research capacity and ensure that joint projects receive stable funding.		Ecological Integrity
(4-6) We recommend that Parks Canada establish partnership agreements with interested Aboriginal peoples, enabling national parks to co-operate with Aboriginal peoples to increase knowledge and understanding of ecological integrity in national parks and historic sites.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(4-7) We recommend that Parks Canada work with partners in provincial, territorial, and municipal park systems, universities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to collectively fund the systematic establishment of regional science advisory committees, and to participate in annual “Parks Research Forum” series across Canada, based on the Ontario model.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity

Parks Canada seeks scientific advice from the Minister’s Round Table as well as the Council of Science and Technology Advisors Committee through the Federal Science and Technology Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee. We have signed memoranda of understanding with the Canadian Forest Service, Canadian Museum of Nature, Canadian Space Agency, Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing, University of Saskatchewan - Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, Nature Serve Canada, and the Federal Biosystematics Information Partnership.



Chapter 5: The Need for Active Management and Restoration

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(5-2) We recommend that, in appropriate parks, Parks Canada actively manage to restore fire, within an adaptive management framework, to fifty percent of the long-term average, using the following means ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(5-3) We recommend that Parks Canada be active in species restoration and that Parks Canada must have the required new resources.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(5-4) We recommend that Parks Canada establish a set of guidelines for site restoration, in order to guide the many questions that remain at the field level regarding restoration. The guidelines should include targets for acceptable levels of toxic substances, restoration of landforms and hydrological patterns. The guidelines should also include guidance of the removal or remodelling of historical structures in order to meet site rehabilitation needs	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(5-5) We further recommend that Parks Canada establish a dedicated site restoration fund of \$5 million per year to ensure that funds are available and that restoration is not directly competing with other immediate priority issues. The fund should be allocated based on a national priority list for site restoration in national parks. As there are a limited number of sites that need restoration, the fund can be re-evaluated after five years to see if it has met its objective.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Making Ecological Integrity Central
(5-6) We recommend that Parks Canada develop a national policy and guidelines on the definition of invasive alien species and appropriate criteria for control and removal methods.	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(5-7) We further recommend that Parks Canada improve the management of alien species by working with local experts, museums, universities and other government departments to routinely monitor for new species invasions. In addition, improved management of alien	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Planning for Ecological Integrity



Chapter 5: The Need for Active Management and Restoration

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>species will result from implementing recommendations made in Chapter 12 concerning the elimination of non-native plant species in parks. To foster public support for the elimination of alien plant species from national parks, we recommend that Parks Canada design and implement interpretive programs and other information as recommended in Chapter 10</p>		<p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(5-8) We recommend that Parks Canada establish guidelines for the management of any harvested populations in a park. We recommend that no harvest be allowed to occur unless these guidelines are met and that any harvest under the jurisdiction of Parks Canada that does not meet these principles should be discontinued. We note that some harvest regimes within some national parks are not under the jurisdiction of Parks Canada and thus Parks Canada could advocate a position in these cases. We recommend the following principles for harvesting in national parks ...</p>	<p>PROGRESS IS BEING MADE</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(5-9) We recommend that Parks Canada confirm the role for control of hyper-abundant species in national parks through active management, to maintain or restore ecological integrity, as long as the following conditions are met ...</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity</p>

The *Species at Risk Act* was passed by Parliament in 2002, with two-thirds of the Act coming into force in June 2003. Parks Canada has developed a national *Species at Risk Program* that focuses on implementing the *Species at Risk Act* (2002) on Parks Canada managed lands. As part of our commitment to collaborative efforts related to species conservation, we actively participate in the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council, Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.



Chapter 6: Tools for Understanding and Monitoring Ecological Integrity

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(6-1) We recommend that Parks Canada develop national guidelines for ecological inventories: inventories specifying the type, scale, resolution and frequency of the information required. All parks should then review their current inventories against these guidelines.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p>
<p>(6-2) We recommend that Parks Canada incorporate the costs of developing an adequate ecological inventory as part of new park establishment. As a general rule, the average cost of an inventory will be approximately \$250,000 per park to cover a basic inventory of vegetation, topography, linear features, invertebrates and vascular plants. There are currently fourteen un-represented natural regions and five northern parks with inadequate basic inventories. The total cost to complete a basic inventory of each of these (fourteen new parks and five existing northern parks) would be \$4.75 million.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p>
<p>(6-3) We recommend that Parks Canada establish an emerging issues research fund of \$1 million per year to deal with threats to ecological integrity that occur outside the normal management planning and business planning cycles. The National Office should administer the fund, with proposals for access based on peer review and expressed emergency need.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p>
<p>(6-4) We recommend that Parks Canada integrate monitoring within the management accountability framework. Specifically, we recommend that Parks Canada ...</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p>



Chapter 6: Tools for Understanding and Monitoring Ecological Integrity

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(6-5) We recommend that Parks Canada further develop the program for ecological monitoring and assessment in national parks. Specifically, we recommend the following actions ...</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p>
<p>(6-6) We recommend that Parks Canada support ongoing regional and national monitoring initiatives with monitoring data at the park level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a dedicated ecological integrity monitoring envelope ...; • Working with other agencies, industry, universities ...; and • Establishing a resource library of measurement protocols and targets ... 	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p> <p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(6-7) Correct the absence of an atmospheric monitoring program by establishing a network of six monitoring stations in national parks, in co-operation with the Atmospheric Environment Branch of Environment Canada.</p>	<p>PROGRESS IS BEING MADE</p>	<p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(6-8) We recommend that Parks Canada establish an ongoing park-based monitoring report of the state of each individual park's ecological integrity (see for example the State of the Greater Fundy Ecosystem Report or Waterton's State of the Crown of the Continent Report). As outlined in Recommendation 3-3, these reports should be done every five years, prior to the Park Management Plan review. In addition, these reports should undergo a third-party review/audit and be made publicly available as part of an annual public reporting process. In using this report, the revised Park Management Plan should demonstrate how</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity</p>



Chapter 6: Tools for Understanding and Monitoring Ecological Integrity

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
the proposed direction and specific management actions respond to the state of ecological integrity within the park (Chapter 3). The park-based State of the Park Report should include ...		
(6-9) We recommend that Parks Canada continue to produce the national-level State of Parks Report with the following changes. The Minister should affirm that the primary purpose of the State of the Parks Report is to report on ecological integrity, regardless of whether the State of the Parks Report includes other integrated information. In addition the State of Parks Report should ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Making Ecological Integrity Central
(6-10) We recommend that Parks Canada develop a formal and rigorous data collection approach for State of the Parks Reports. Specifically we recommend that Parks Canada ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada
(6-11) In recognition that data and information are different, we recommend that prior to any data collection program, Parks Canada formally define what information is required for management. Formally define information needs by asking what is required, what level of precision is required, how current does the information need to be and what scale of resolution is required. The information needs analysis should be conducted in all parks using the model established in Jasper National Park (Thomlinson, 1997).	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(6-12) We recommend that Parks Canada establish a system-wide data management and archiving system. These could include ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada



Chapter 6: Tools for Understanding and Monitoring Ecological Integrity

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(6-13) We recommend that Parks Canada make Field Unit Superintendents responsible for the protection of park ecological data and documentation. Through regular audits, evaluate the state of ecological data sets and documentation. As a first step, Parks Canada should have Statistics Canada conduct an audit on data management and storage mechanisms.</p>	<p>PROGRESS IS BEING MADE</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(6-14) We recommend that Parks Canada report the condition of ecological data sets in the national parks in the national and park-level State of the Park(s) Reports.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(6-15) We recommend that in all national parks, Parks Canada design a Data Management Plan to organize, protect and make data accessible. These plans should be considered a key product of the ecosystem conservation program, while Park Management Plans should include the park's data management strategy.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(6-16) We recommend that Parks Canada assign professional geographic information officers to each national park, to maintain a professional database and ensure public access. These data managers should work in close partnership with external partners in regional Conservation Data Centres.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p>
<p>(6-17) We recommend that Parks Canada invest in the existing network of Canadian Conservation Data Centres, through direct funding, by ...</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity Renewal of Parks Canada</p>



Chapter 6: Tools for Understanding and Monitoring Ecological Integrity

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(6-18) We recommend that Parks Canada make suitable Parks Canada databases publicly available on the Internet. This will ensure data standards are maintained and allow researchers to conduct additional analysis that can benefit Parks Canada.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(6-19) We recommend that Parks Canada enhance its ability to manage and share information at the National Office, service centres and national parks, so that Parks Canada can share data and information “vertically” within the organization and “horizontally”, at appropriate scales, with external partners, as follows ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(6-20) We recommend that Parks Canada become an active partner in ongoing national efforts to establish a Biodiversity Resource Network. Parks Canada's involvement could range from cataloguing its databases for network access to participating in the design of the Network's structure to ensure the Network will meet Parks Canada's needs.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity

The Ecological Integrity Innovations Fund and the Species at Risk Recovery Fund provide opportunities for national parks to submit proposals to undertake research on emerging issues. The proposals are peer reviewed and funded through the National Office. In 2004-2005, thirty-nine projects were funded.

Parks Canada has strengthened its working relationships with a number of regional and national agencies as part of the Parks Canada bioregional approach to monitoring. These alliances include the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network, the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing, and the Canadian Forest Inventory Committee. Using the bioregional approach, field units are actively engaging other land managers within their bioregions to develop common monitoring approaches.



Funding from Budget 2003 allowed Parks Canada to establish an agreement with NatureServe, the umbrella organization for Conservation Data Centres, covering all ten provinces and the Yukon Territory. Conservation Data Centres conduct biological inventories to find and document populations of rare species, study and classify ecological communities, analyze critical conservation issues, provide customized information products and conservation services, and make their data widely available to the public via the Internet. Each Conservation Data Centre serves as a clearinghouse for reliable and current scientific information about plants, animals, and ecological communities within its respective jurisdiction.

Chapter 7: Working with Aboriginal People		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(7-1) To foster the development of relationships based on trust and respect between Parks Canada and Aboriginal peoples, we recommend that Parks Canada initiate a process of healing between Aboriginal peoples and Parks Canada. Through this process Parks Canada will ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(7-2) We recommend that Parks Canada adopt clear policies to encourage and support the development and maintenance of genuine partnerships with Aboriginal peoples in Canada. Through these policies, Parks Canada will ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(7-3) We recommend that Parks Canada, together with Aboriginal communities, develop mutually reinforced educational projects that will lead to better mutual understanding and joint action toward protection of ecological integrity in national parks. Through these educational projects Parks Canada will ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity Building A Culture of Heritage Conservation
(7-4) We recommend that Parks Canada ensure protection of the current cultural sites, sacred areas and artefacts that are under the auspices of Parks Canada. As part of this process, Parks Canada will ...	COMPLETE	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity



The Aboriginal Heritage Presentation Innovation Fund, established in 2001, has assisted in the enhancement, creation, support, and delivery of Aboriginal interpretation programming at national parks and national historic sites administered by Parks Canada. All projects were developed in partnership with local Aboriginal groups to present their stories and their relationship to the land to visitors. Parks Canada invested over \$1.1 million in these projects with Aboriginal partners contributing another \$726,000. A total of thirty-eight projects have been undertaken and are in addition to the large number of ongoing Aboriginal on-site interpretation programs developed and presented by Aboriginal partners in national parks across the country.

Chapter 8: National Parks in the Canadian Protected Areas Network

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(8-1) We recommend that the Minister seek provincial and territorial co-operation on finishing, by the end of 2003, the implementation of the Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas, endorsed by the Tri-Council of Environment, Parks and Wildlife Ministers in 1992; work towards a comprehensive national protected areas system plan based on co-operation between the Government of Canada, provinces and territories. The EI Panel has not identified costs associated with this multi-jurisdictional recommendation.</p>	<p>PROGRESS IS BEING MADE</p>	<p>Making Ecological Integrity Central</p> <p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(8-2) We recommend that Parks Canada, in co-operation with other jurisdictions, complete a nation-wide protected areas gap analysis that will guide completion of the national protected areas system, of which national parks represent an essential component. Base the gap analysis on the principles of conservation biology and the maintenance of ecological integrity (Recommendation 3-4).</p>	<p>ADDRESSED IN FIRST PRIORITY (2001).</p>	<p>Making Ecological Integrity Central</p>



Chapter 8: National Parks in the Canadian Protected Areas Network

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(8-3) We recommend that the Minister expand the national park system to include ecological representation of all thirty-nine natural regions as defined by Parks Canada. We recommend that the Minister ensure sufficient funds are allocated for new park establishment, and that new parks have sufficient funds for government planning, operations and ecosystem management, without reducing funds of existing parks (Recommendation 13-4).</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Making Ecological Integrity Central</p> <p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(8-4) We recommend that Parks Canada negotiate park establishment agreements that give the highest priority to maintaining ecological integrity by seeking boundaries that meet ecological integrity objectives. Ensure regional co-operation measures are in place to support ecological integrity objectives.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Making Ecological Integrity Central</p> <p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(8-5) We recommend that Parks Canada improve local support and future regional co-operation for candidate park sites by ...</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(8-6) We recommend that Parks Canada increase the resources available to conduct biophysical inventories and greater park ecosystem analyses, to ensure that proposed park boundaries are based on the best available conservation science (Recommendations 6-2 and 13-2).</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity</p> <p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p>
<p>(8-7) We recommend that Parks Canada appoint conservation scientists to new park establishment negotiating teams in order to help provide convincing arguments for boundaries based on ecological integrity criteria. Ensure that park planners and conservation scientists who participated in</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p> <p>Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation</p>



Chapter 8: National Parks in the Canadian Protected Areas Network

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
the park establishment phases are available to take part in new park management planning efforts (Recommendation 3-3).		
<p>(8-8) We recommend that Parks Canada reach agreement with the provinces, territories and other federal departments to use their legislative powers to withdraw candidate national park sites from development as early as possible to preserve their ecological integrity during the planning process. For example, with respect to the boreal forest, urge the responsible governments not to issue timber or other development permits in candidate park sites on federal lands (as recommended by the Senate Subcommittee on the Boreal Forest in <i>Competing Realities: The Boreal Forest at Risk</i> (1999)).</p>	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity

Through the new national park feasibility study process, Parks Canada allocates resources to understanding the ecological integrity considerations and key biological features of proposed national park candidate sites. For example, numerous studies were undertaken to determine the best boundaries and to understand the biophysical features for Ukkusiksalik National Park. The best available science was used to redraw the boundaries of the proposed Manitoba Lowlands national park and to identify areas of high conservation value to guide the proposed expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve.

Chapter 9: From Islands to Networks

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(9-1) We recommend that the Minister work with the provinces and territories to protect the ecological integrity of the national,</p>	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity



Chapter 9: From Islands to Networks		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>provincial and territorial network of protected areas through formal agreement. In developing the agreement, include First Nations governments, municipalities, non-government organizations and industry as partners in the discussions.</p> <p>We recommend that the Minister initiate a federal inter-departmental memorandum of understanding to support the maintenance of ecological integrity of national parks by ensuring consistent policies and plans with respect to lands under federal jurisdiction in greater ecosystems that include national parks.</p>		
<p>(9-2) We recommend that the Minister requests the Government of Canada to use existing federal government authority within its jurisdiction regarding fisheries, endangered species, migratory birds, long-range air pollution, navigable waters and environmental impact assessment to support the maintenance of ecological integrity in national park ecosystems. (A similar action was also recommended with respect to boreal forest management by the Senate Subcommittee on the Boreal Forest in 1999).</p>	<p>PROGRESS IS BEING MADE</p>	<p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(9-3) At the provincial and territorial level, we recommend that Parks Canada undertake regular and continuing dialogue among senior executives of federal, provincial and territorial agencies responsible for land and resource management to support improved co-operation on the maintenance of ecological integrity in national parks and other protected areas. For example...</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>



Chapter 9: From Islands to Networks		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(9-4) We recommend that Parks Canada, in partnership with the provinces and territories where appropriate, improve regional co-operation with Aboriginal peoples in two ways....	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(9-5) We recommend that Parks Canada increase its participation in specific local resource management arrangements with provincial or territorial agencies that have jurisdiction in greater park ecosystems. Systematically participate in municipal and regional government planning and regulatory processes. Adopt a supporting role in the conservation of lands around national parks by ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation
(9-6) We recommend that the Minister launch a national partnership program to protect the ecological integrity of national parks, by establishing a Partnership Fund of \$20 million per year. Apply the Partnership Fund to a broad range of co-operative agreements to help maintain the ecological integrity of national parks and other federally administered conservation areas, such as Canadian Heritage Rivers. The EI Panel recommends that the fund be administered by Parks Canada and that....	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity
(9-7) We recommend that Parks Canada use the full range of existing regional co-operation models to enhance maintenance of biodiversity and ecological processes in the greater ecosystem of each national park. Evaluate the effectiveness of each model for its potential contribution to land use change in support of maintaining ecological integrity. Example models include ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity



Chapter 9: From Islands to Networks		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(9-8) We recommend that Parks Canada develop and support partnerships with First Nations, conservation groups, co-operating associations and the business community to assist in a variety of research, monitoring and public education activities in support of maintaining ecological integrity in greater park ecosystems.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p> <p>Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation</p>
<p>(9-9) We recommend that Parks Canada develop partnerships with charitable land trusts to secure habitat adjacent to Canada’s national park, in co-operation with private landowners to acquire critical habitat adjacent to national parks or using conservation easements to create zones of cooperation around parks.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(9-10) We recommend that the Minister require Parks Canada to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of the parks by working in co-operation with adjacent landowners, and by participating in regional land use planning, environmental assessments, and other decision-making processes where outcomes are reasonably expected to affect the ecological integrity of a national park.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(9-11) We recommend an amendment to the <i>Canada National Parks Act</i> (2000) to incorporate a consequential amendment to the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i> (1992), requiring the Minister responsible for national parks to undertake an environmental assessment when adverse environmental impacts on a national park are expected to occur. (Such an assessment could be done on the initiative of a request by a provincial or territorial government, members of the</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Making Ecological Integrity Central</p>



Chapter 9: From Islands to Networks		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
public, or on the Minister’s own initiative. The federal Environment Minister would retain authority to require an environmental assessment under an existing provision of <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i> (1992).) Suggestions for specific wording of the <i>Canada National Parks Act</i> (2000) are contained in Appendix C of the EI Panel’s report.		
(9-12) We recommend that the Minister advise the Government of Canada to amend the <i>Income Tax Act</i> (1985) to exempt ecological gifts from capital gains tax and allow for the part sale/part donation (“bargain sale”) of land.	COMPLETE	Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation
(9-13) We recommend that Parks Canada use the State of the Parks Report to measure progress toward the implementation of those portions of the <i>Canadian Biodiversity Strategy</i> (1995) that are within Parks Canada’s mandate.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity

The *Parks Canada Corporate Plan* (2006-2007 to 2010-2011) commits the Agency to engaging partners at the regional and local level to identify strategies to improve ecological integrity in national parks. This includes engaging local residents, governments, Aboriginal communities, and tourism and other business sectors to accomplish this goal. Management plans for national parks also place emphasis on regional cooperation.



Parks Canada has allocated a significant portion of the overall funding received for accelerating its actions to improve ecological integrity toward two ecological integrity funds: 1) the Priority Themes Fund and 2) the Innovation and Leadership Fund. Specifically, the Priority Themes funding will be used to fund multi-year projects in national parks related for restoration of ecosystems, regional partnering, improving scientific understanding and informing, influencing and involving Canadians. The Innovation and Leadership funding will be used to fund shorter term results-oriented projects within one of the key priority investment areas. A key criterion for parks, which are submitting proposals to these funds, is the extent to which these project proposals involved partnerships. An example of a Priority Theme project that focuses on partnerships is the Point Pelee Wetland Restoration Project. An example of the Innovation and Leadership Fund project is the Beaver Hills Sustainable Community Initiative: Stewardship of Elk Island National Parks Greater Park Ecosystem.

Chapter 10: Interpretation and Outreach		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(10-1) We recommend that Parks Canada add ecological integrity to the “Statement of Purpose for Interpretation and Outreach” as the core purpose of interpretation and outreach. In order to formally entrench the importance of ecological integrity in interpretation, this Statement should be backed by a clear policy that all national, regional, and individual park publications, interpretation programs and facilities reflect the ecological integrity obligation.	COMPLETE	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(10-2) For each park, we recommend that Parks Canada develop an ecological integrity interpretation and outreach strategy that confirms ecological integrity as the prime objective, presents clear and consistent messages about ecological integrity, balances plans for both interpretation and outreach, and has measurable goals and objectives that can be evaluated on a regular basis (for example, in Implementation Plans or State of	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation



Chapter 10: Interpretation and Outreach

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
the Park Reports). This strategy requires the following elements ...		
(10-3) We recommend that Parks Canada make essential interpretation information available to all park visitors at no charge (excluding park entrance fees).	COMPLETE	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation
(10-4) We recommend that Parks Canada expand national parks interpretation programs to reinforce efforts aimed at traditional target audiences and to include new strategic target audiences and media. Support strong interpretation programs in terms of personnel, budget, and training. Acknowledge and support the professional status of those who work in interpretation through a national training program focusing on ecological integrity, funding for research and development of presentation programs, and a process for career advancement. Provide funds for interpretation and outreach programs for research, staff, and renewal of these programs to meet interpretation objectives. (Chapter 13) This would entail ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation
(10-5) We recommend that Parks Canada include the regional dimension in interpretation programs in order to place ecological integrity messages into regional, national, and global contexts. Make each park the regional focal point for public education programs in protected areas networks and ecosystem management. This would entail ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation
(10-6) We recommend that Parks Canada increase and support the role of partners,	INTEGRATED INTO	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity



Chapter 10: Interpretation and Outreach

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
particularly volunteer associations, in interpretation and outreach as an enhancement to, but not replacement of, the work of core professional full-time staff.	OPERATIONS	Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation
(10-7) We recommend that Parks Canada immediately cease the product marketing of national parks in general and the product marketing which attempts to increase overall use of parks or divert demand to shoulder seasons or so-called “under-used” parks in particular. Concentrate instead on social marketing, policy marketing, and de-marketing aimed at appropriate target audiences with messages focusing on ecological integrity	ADDRESSED IN FIRST PRIORITY (2001)	N/A
(10-8) We recommend that Parks Canada work with regional and provincial bodies involved in tourism product marketing to educate them about the stresses on ecological integrity caused by current or increased levels of use and to encourage them to incorporate appropriate ecological integrity messages in their marketing programs.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Building Partnerships for Ecological Integrity Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation

Parks Canada signed a new agreement with the Nature Canada to implement the *Parks and People Program*. The *Parks and People Program* will award grants of up to \$5,000 to community-based naturalist clubs, cooperating associations and naturalist clubs in schools for organising and delivering learning activities such as outdoor talks, guided hikes and walks, nature watch activities and special programs for children. These activities will strive to bring Canadians into intimate contact with nature, nurture in them a deep passion for nature, and motivate them to become ongoing, active and responsible stewards of the environment.



Parks Canada has developed tools such as the video “*The Path Before Us: Ensuring the Ecological Integrity of the National Parks of Canada (2003)*” to assist national parks in working with community and regional stakeholders. Great strides have been taken in a number of parks, such as Gros Morne, Point Pelee, and St. Lawrence Islands National Parks.

Chapter 11: Enjoyment and Appropriate Use		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(11-1) We recommend that Parks Canada develop a formal assessment program for assessing activities in national parks with ecological integrity as the determining factor. This assessment should ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(11-2) We recommend that Parks Canada phase out inappropriate recreational uses of national parks, over time and as opportunities arise, including those that are deemed “non-conforming uses”. (See also recommendations in Chapter 12.) Note: this recommendation is related to recreational activities and does not include traditional activities that are part of a park establishment agreement.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Making Ecological Integrity Central Planning for Ecological Integrity
(11-3) We recommend that Parks Canada adopt demand management as an explicit policy, provide increased support for social and natural science research related to demand management, and address demand management in each park's Park Management Plan and interpretation programs, so that visitors and other audiences can understand why they should support demand management.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity Renewal of Parks Canada Building a Culture of Heritage Conservation
(11-4) We recommend that Parks Canada develop a national directive to define “basic and essential services”. Suggested wording appears in Appendix C of the EI Panel’s report.	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Planning for Ecological Integrity



The “Healthy Parks for People” initiative in Prince Edward Island National Park is a demonstration of how Parks Canada is working to integrate all of its activities related to the three core mandate elements of protection, visitor experience and education based on meeting visitors’ interests in: **1)** discovering the park in new ways and; **2)** healthy lifestyles. On land acquired specifically for this purpose, visitors will be welcomed oriented and informed about the range of visitor experience opportunities available within the park. The additional interaction with staff will enhance visitor understanding of the park’s special heritage values. It will also allow for a reduction of the existing footprint by providing the services and information prior to visitors entering the national park.

Chapter 12: Shrinking the Ecological Footprint		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(12-1) We recommend that Parks Canada establish a highly qualified core design/planning group within Parks Canada's National Office or in regional Service Centres, to be responsible for developing ecologically sensitive design criteria to ensure that ecologically sustainable design and management in all development projects in national parks is realized on the ground.	ADDRESSED IN FIRST PRIORITY (2001)	Planning for Ecological Integrity
(12-2) We recommend that Parks Canada procure all professional services on an open and competitive basis, emphasizing environmental performance criteria as much as other criteria such as design quality, cost, and timeliness of delivery.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada
(12-3) We recommend that Parks Canada assess any capital redevelopment of facilities, accommodations and infrastructure belonging to both Parks Canada and to private or commercial operators. This should be based on the following principles: ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity



Chapter 12: Shrinking the Ecological Footprint

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(12-4) Over a long-term, programmed time frame, we recommend that Parks Canada redesign, replace, rebuild or remove existing facilities and infrastructure in national parks to reduce their ecological footprints. Such improvements include ...</p>	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
<p>(12-5) We recommend that Parks Canada use environmental management systems as integral to conducting daily operations in keeping with the preservation of ecological integrity. The widespread adoption of the environmental management system could be facilitated by ...</p>	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
<p>(12-6) We recommend that Parks Canada, over time, incorporate sustainable infrastructure, energy systems, materials and practices in park management and activities. There are many ways to achieve this recommendation, such as ...</p>	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity
<p>(12-7) We recommend that Parks Canada closely track the implementation of the new policy review component of environmental assessment at all national parks, in order to evaluate its effectiveness in enhancing decision-making related to the scale and appropriateness of proposed projects. Policy review should produce a record of decision that describes project objectives, evaluates alternatives (particularly non-development alternatives), demonstrates concordance with all relevant national park policies and identifies measures for evaluating the success of the project's implementation and operation. Information from the evaluation should be used adaptively to improve future projects and future environmental assessments.</p>	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Planning for Ecological Integrity



Chapter 12: Shrinking the Ecological Footprint

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(12-8) We recommend that Parks Canada adopt the principle of integrating environmental considerations into all projects. Include environmental assessment practitioners in all phases of a project, from concept to final construction, in partnership with the project manager. As a means of ensuring that ecological integrity becomes everyone's job, project managers, not the environmental assessment practitioner, must be responsible for meeting ecological integrity objectives related to their project.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity</p>
<p>(12-9) We recommend that Parks Canada enhance its expertise in understanding and managing cumulative effects (Chapter 4).</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p>
<p>(12-10) We recommend that Parks Canada provide individual national parks with the authority to set an annual date beyond which project proposals will not be accepted. This will enable environmental assessment staff to organize their workload and will provide a reference point as an aid in evaluating cumulative effects. Park Management Plans should provide an assessment of cumulative effects and identify quantitative targets for limiting cumulative effects over the period of the Park Management Plan (Chapter 3)</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS (COMPLETE IN MOUNTAIN PARKS)</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity Renewal of Parks Canada</p>
<p>(12-11) We recommend that Parks Canada provide training in environmental assessment for all prospective project managers, and provide professional development and networking opportunities for specialist and practitioner positions.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Planning for Ecological Integrity Renewal of Parks Canada</p>
<p>(12-12) We recommend that Parks Canada establish a policy formally adopting the precautionary principle to ensure that risk to</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Making Ecological Integrity Central</p>



Chapter 12: Shrinking the Ecological Footprint

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
national park ecosystems is reduced. Park Management Plans should contain a statement describing how the park will apply the precautionary principle in managing development proposals.		

With funding from Natural Resource Canada's Leadership Measures Program, Parks Canada is implementing twenty-two projects, totalling more than \$3 million that will use environmentally sustainable technologies. These projects will use ground source heat pumps, photovoltaic systems, solar heating systems, wind and hydro turbines to generate electricity, and provide advanced building control systems that save energy. As a result, greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by an estimated 800 tonnes annually, representing twenty-five percent of Parks Canada's total reduction target.



Chapter 13: The Need for Committed Investment

EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<p>(13-1) We recommend that Parks Canada take the following first steps to implement improved management and accountability for ecological integrity in national parks before the allocation of additional resources to maintain and restore ecological integrity.</p> <p>The first steps proposed by the EI Panel have been chosen to be seminal in setting a new direction for Parks Canada at both symbolic and operational levels. These first steps are measures that have been recommended previously in this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforms to bring science advice and information to the Chief Executive Officer and into the Executive Board through the appointment of a national Director General of Ecological Integrity (Chapters 2 and 4); • Initiation of a participatory process to develop an Agency Charter, which would lay out the core values of the organization as they relate to its primary objective of ecological integrity (Chapter 2); • Development and early implementation of a detailed and ongoing training and orientation program focused on ecological integrity (Chapter 2); • Revisions to planning guidelines to make ecological integrity the core and overarching theme of future Park Management Plans (Chapter 3); • Gazetting the wilderness zones in at least two national parks in order to give them legal designation, and announcing the intention to gazette wilderness zones in all parks within five years (Chapter 3); and 	<p>ADDRESSED IN FIRST PRIORITY (2001)</p> <p>INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS</p>	<p>Renewal of Parks Canada</p>



Chapter 13: The Need for Committed Investment		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing written guidelines for the re-orientation of the external relations (marketing) department from a focus on mass tourism product marketing to a focus on social marketing, policy marketing, and de-marketing with messages focusing on ecological integrity (Chapter 10). <p>We recommend that Parks Canada take the following first steps to implement improved management and accountability for ecological integrity in national parks before the allocation of additional resources to maintain and restore ecological integrity.</p> <p>The first steps proposed by the EI Panel have been chosen to be seminal in setting a new direction for Parks Canada at both symbolic and operational levels. These first steps are measures that have been recommended previously in this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening systems to enable public transparency on spending of all additional resources in business plans and public estimates, to make readily identifiable the budgets for: ecosystem research, monitoring and management; the Partnerships Fund and expanded partnerships with Aboriginal peoples; and national parks interpretation;• Development of a strategic plan for moving beyond these first steps to address the longer-term issues essential for the re-orientation of the Parks Canada Agency's national parks components toward the ecological integrity objective, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A detailed budget plan for expenditure of all additional resources given for ecological integrity purposes;○ Specific accountability goals for the ecological integrity mandate, including regional integration at national, Field Unit and individual park levels;		



Chapter 13: The Need for Committed Investment		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiation of communications with Aboriginal peoples on how to undertake a healing process; and ○ A plan to refocus the interpretation and outreach programs on ecological integrity as the primary message, and to widen the audiences for these programs. 		
(13-2) We recommend that the Minister ... seek additional resources to implement the recommendations of the EI Panel as follows (refer to Figure 13-4 in EI Panel's report for specific dollar amounts) ...	PROGRESS IS BEING MADE	Renewal of Parks Canada
(13-4) We recommend that funding for new park establishment should include ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Making Ecological Integrity Central
(13-5) We recommend that Parks Canada divide project funds using an “envelope” system of fiscal management with one of these envelopes being for activities related to ecosystem research, monitoring, and management at both national and regional levels, and one envelope for projects under other program areas.	COMPLETE	Renewal of Parks Canada
(13-6) We recommend that Parks Canada initiate, within two years, an investigation of the infrastructure of each national park, to determine the capital funding required with respect to ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada
(13-7) In keeping with the public trust to protect, conserve and interpret Canada's natural heritage, and to contribute towards the protection of global biodiversity as established in the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i> (1998), we recommend that Parks Canada undertake pilot projects to adopt a revised definition of assets that would include the following elements ...	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada



Chapter 13: The Need for Committed Investment		
EI Panel Recommendations	Status	<i>Parks Canada Action Plan (2000)</i>
(13-8) We recommend that Parks Canada require Field Units to include a specific examination of the implications of revenue forecasting and targets on maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity in their Implementation (Business) Plans.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada
(13-9) We recommend that Parks Canada enable management decisions in support of ecological integrity to be separated from revenue implications and to accomplish this, through clarifying and publicizing that the need to protect ecological integrity is included in the revenue policy interpretation of “extraordinary circumstances” under which relief from revenue targets can be obtained.	COMPLETE	Renewal of Parks Canada
(13-10) We recommend that Parks Canada establish a consistent set of rules to be used in full cost accounting for all projects or activities with full cost recovery objectives.	INTEGRATED INTO OPERATIONS	Renewal of Parks Canada