



Ecosystem Components — Wetland Diversity

Wetlands are lands where water saturation is the dominant factor. Wetlands occupy about 18% of Canada, and Canada has about 25% of the world's wetlands. Wetlands foster the growth of hydrophytic vegetation and other biological activities such as the sustenance of large numbers of waterfowl, storage and release of large quantities of water, and the production of large amounts of energy in the form of peat. They offer food and shelter, slow down soil erosion, and contribute to the natural water purification process. Wetland conservation is important particularly in the human-dominated ecozones of southern Canada. The map shows the percentage of ecoregions covered by wetland.

0 150 300 450 600 km

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection. Standard Parallels 49°N and 77°N

| Percentage area in wetlands | Populated Places | Boundaries |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1% - 5% | 1 - 49 999 | International |
| 5% - 25% | 50 000 - 49 999 | Provincial / Territorial |
| 25% - 40% | 50 000 - 99 999 | Canada / Kalaallit Nunaat dividing line |
| 40% - 50% | 100 000 and greater | EEZ (200 mile) |
| 50% - 63% | Provincial and Territorial Capital | |
| | National Capital | |

Source(s):
Percentage Area in Wetlands
Shown are the density of wetlands, by each original (circa 1985) Ecodistrict of Canada. Wetland density was measured from visual interpretation of Landsat imagery and other available sources and applied to each ecodistrict. Lands Directorate, Environment Canada.

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