

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Shared Canada-U.S. Vision of Conservation Success for the Great Lakes



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The next decade of conservation action in the Great Lakes will shape this region forever. As both The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) launch new campaigns, building and enhancing our partnership around the Great Lakes will be a critical strategy in achieving conservation success. Through collaborative science and action, and coordinated funding for global priorities, NCC and TNC will work together to ensure the Great Lakes is among the best managed ecosystems in the world.

NCC is a Canadian nonprofit charitable organization incorporated in 1962 with a mission to protect areas of biological diversity for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of future generations. NCC is the lead conservation partner with the government of Canada and Ontario, as well as other provinces across the country, and is responsible for protecting 2 million acres of land across Canada, with a staff of 200 employees and a yearly budget of over CDN\$100 million.

NCC and TNC have identified the Great Lakes as a priority site for conservation action and have been engaged in a variety of partnership activities to support the conservation of this region, including our current Northwestern Lake Superior Coast partnership project. Given TNC's and NCC's complementary goals, respective fundraising strengths, and urgent opportunities for Great Lakes conservation, enhanced collaboration will benefit and strengthen both organizations and our overlapping conservation missions.

Desired Outcomes

- ***A Network of Protected Areas:*** Support the creation of new protected areas (including aquatic protected areas) and lead private land/ water conservation.
- ***Sustainable Land and Water Use:*** Promote sustainable land and water use through effective legislation, policy, and industry standards in agriculture, mining and quarrying, renewable energy and forestry, and act as a role model by developing best management practices.
- ***Abate Key Threats:*** NCC and TNC will work together to identify and mitigate threats to biodiversity which have a broad scope and require a basin-wide, ecosystem approach. This includes addressing aquatic invasive species and climate change.

Key Strategies

- ***Establish and Communicate Conservation Priorities:*** Continue to identify priority biodiversity targets and conservation actions from a basin-wide perspective.
- ***Land and Water Protection:*** Implement and fund site-based conservation plans in Canada and the US.
- ***Lake Basin Planning:*** Work within existing lake-based management organizations to inform conservation priorities and leverage funding.
- ***Improving Great Lakes Policy:*** Work to coordinate and synchronize key policies, legislation and standards.
- ***Coordinated Priority Funding:*** Develop a bi-national fundraising strategy.

Key Challenges, Opportunities & Questions

- How do we best engage the resources of each organization to protect the Great Lakes?
- How can TNC support NCC's need for private funds to match government investment?
- How can we identify and address NCC's priority capacity needs (e.g. private sector fundraising, aquatic ecology)?
- How can we support each other in building our partnerships with funding and create leverage for that funding?
- How can we better work together in engaging and informing public policy?
- How do we foster cross-border exchange of experiences?

