



Conservation
ONTARIO
Natural Champions

Nature Smart Climate Solutions Program

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Partnerships

Conservation Ontario (CO)

Latornell Conservation Symposium
October, 2022



Background

- **Natural Climate Solutions Fund**

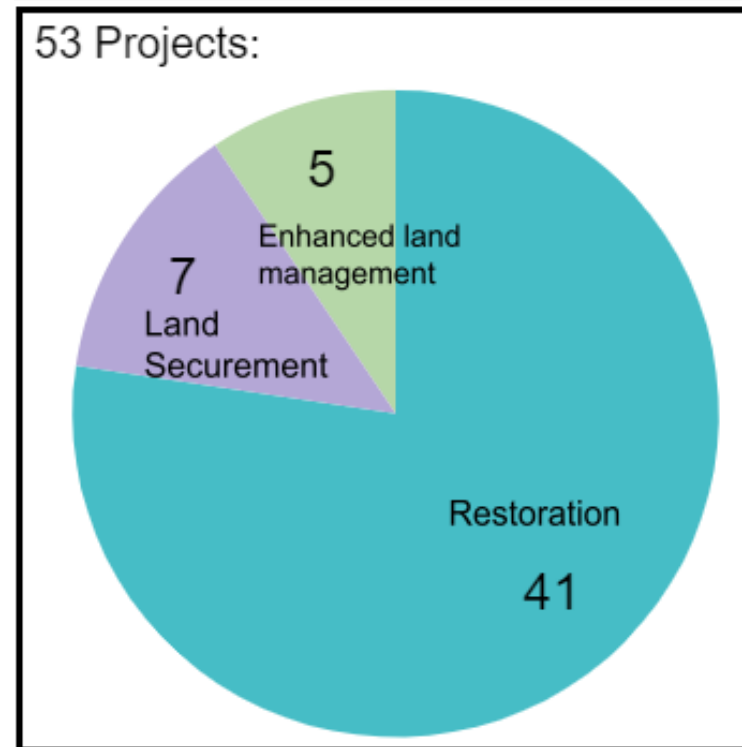
- 2 Billion Trees Program (NRCAN)
- Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (“NSCSF”; ECCC)
- Agricultural Climate Solutions Program (AAFC)

- **3 funding streams of NSCSF:**

- Place-based actions stream
- Sector-based policy stream
- Reverse auction pilot stream

- **Project types:**

1. Restoration
2. Enhanced land management
3. Conservation/land securement





Background

\$9 million over
3 years to CO

- **Natural Climate Solutions Fund**

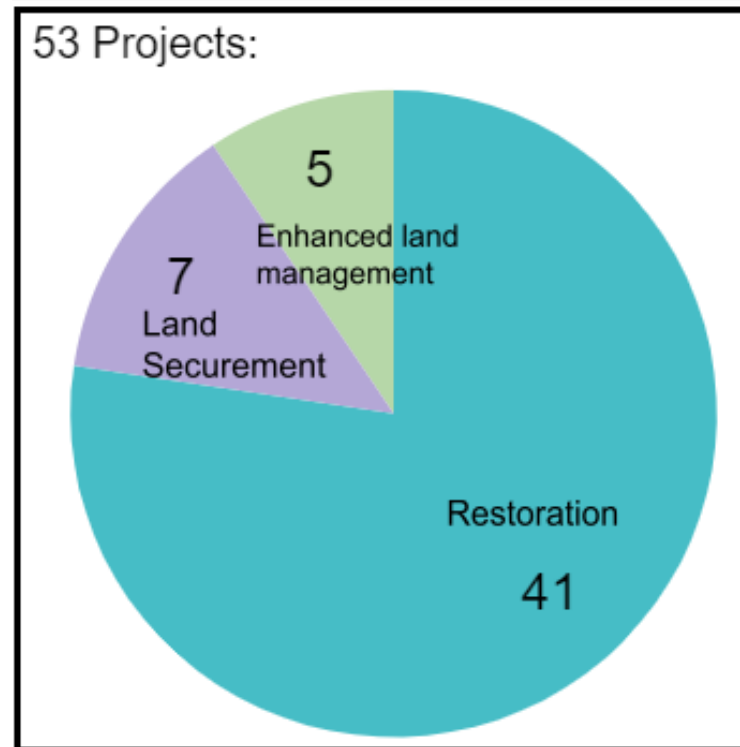
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Background

- **Desired outcomes of the NSCSF fund:**
 1. Net Canadian greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions
 2. Conservation and protection of Canada's wildlife and habitat
- **Eligible properties:**
 - Conservation authority-owned
 - Municipal
 - Private
- **Co-benefits:**
 - Flood risk reduction, migratory bird habitat, species at risk, livestock health, water quality, soil health, many others.....



Photo credit: TRCA



Photo credit: South Nation CA



Photo credit:
Ausable Bayfield CA



Current Status

- CO will receive \$9 million from ECCC over 3 years (2021-2024)
 - Already dedicated \$2.5 M for 2021-2022 activities
 - \$3.5 M allocated in 2022-23
 - Funding intended for projects with eligible activities taking place until March 31, 2024
- CO signed memoranda of agreements with 17 participating CAs
- Recognition of the important work CAs do:
 - Restoration, management and securement of natural infrastructure
 - Leveraging expertise, local relationships, watershed planning and management, as well as funding and partnerships

Project Success Summary

- Project Success Stats:

- 14 CAs shared results for the first fiscal term (2021-2022)



St. Clair Region CA: grass buffer site prep



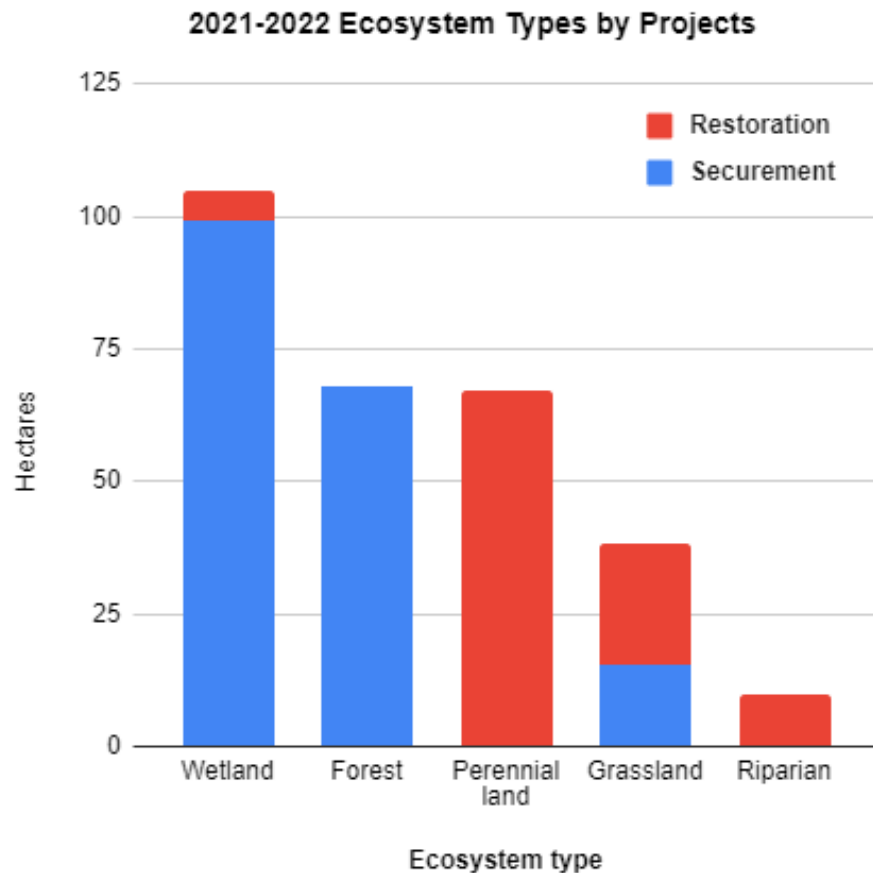
Ausable Bayfield CA: tree buffer on Strang property



Project Success Summary

- **Project Success Stats:**

- 14 CAs shared results for the first fiscal term (2021-2022)
- 1,686 hectares with enhanced land management practices applied (cropland/cover crops, not shown in figure)
- 95 hectares of land restored
- 175 hectares of land secured for conservation





Project Success Summary

- **Project Success Stats:**
 - 4 new properties submitted to Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD) screening



Central Lake Ontario CA: St. Mary's cement tract property acquisition

South Nation Conservation:
Dickenson Creek Swamp acquisition



Communication, Outreach and Next Steps

- Program Communications and Outreach
 - CO webpage entitled *Nature-based Climate Solutions*
<https://conservationontario.ca/policy-priorities/climate-change/nature-based-climate-solutions>
 - CO A story map has been developed and featured on the website
 - Social media campaign to profile the projects and role of all CAs in providing Nature Smart Climate Solutions services

The Conservation Authority Projects are featured on this StoryMap. Scroll to learn more.





Communication, Outreach and Next Steps

- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction values
 - ECCC will use the data recorded and reported by CAs to estimate greenhouse gas emission reduction values and these will be shared with CO (likely in 2024)
- Monitor for and develop new partnerships, and knowledge transfer opportunities with CAs and others





Thank you to our current participating CAs*:

- Ausable Bayfield
- Catfish Creek
- Central Lake Ontario
- Credit Valley
- Essex Region
- Grand River
- Halton
- Kawartha
- Lower Thames Valley
- Lower Trent
- Maitland Valley
- Mississippi Valley
- Raisin Region
- Rideau Valley
- South Nation
- St. Clair Region
- Toronto and Region

**list of participating CAs could grow if we receive more ECCC funding over the 3-year period*



Thank you



Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

- Other provincial and local partners, including municipalities, local landowners, NGOs (e.g. Ducks Unlimited Canada, local Land Trusts, ALUS), Indigenous /First Nations Communities, the Province and others.

Thank you



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