

A photograph of a dense forest with two people standing among the trees, one appearing to be measuring a tree trunk. The scene is filled with tall, thin trees and lush green undergrowth, with sunlight filtering through the canopy.

# PEI's Protected Areas: The 7% Target and beyond

PEI Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division



# A Brief History











- 1989: World Wildlife Fund (Canada) launches its *Endangered Spaces Campaign* and 12% national target.
- 1991: PEI signs on, selects a 7% target, and adopts the Significant Environmental Areas Program (SEAP) as the roadmap.
  - *Sites selected from previous research and expert knowledge.*
- 2015: Canada adopts the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
  - Target 1: 17% of land and 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020.
- 2018: PEI commits to reaching its 7% goal by 2020.

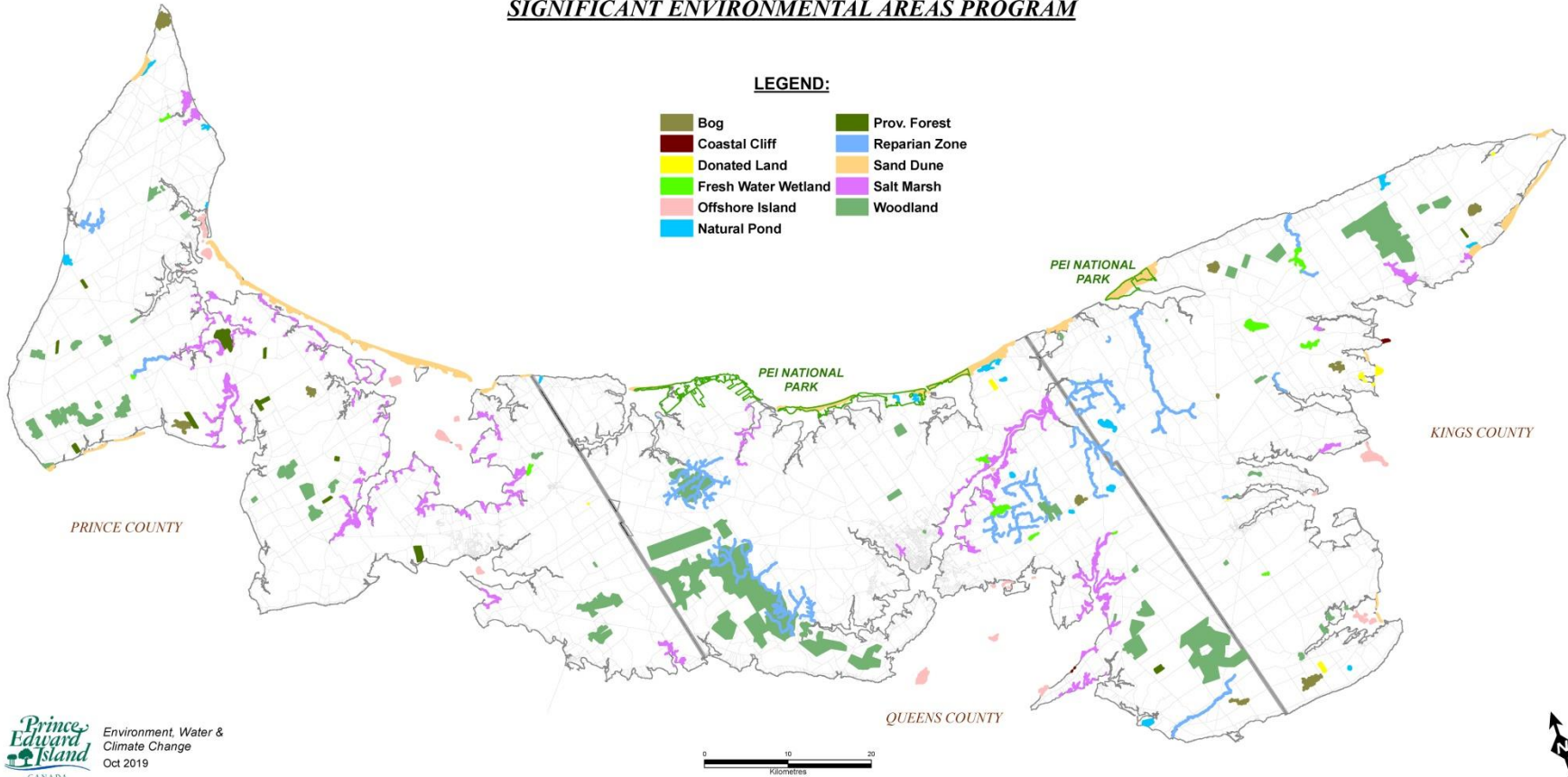


# SEAP

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS PROGRAM

### LEGEND:

 Bog	 Prov. Forest
 Coastal Cliff	 Riparian Zone
 Donated Land	 Sand Dune
 Fresh Water Wetland	 Salt Marsh
 Offshore Island	 Woodland
 Natural Pond	



# Legislative Tools

## *Natural Areas Protection Act*

Goal: to preserve exceptional or rare habitats

Activities: highly restricted. No structures, paving, vehicle use, or large-scale vegetation cutting. Trails subject to limits.

Duration: permanent for private land, even if the land is sold. Process for de-designation on public land.

Incentives: property tax relief, and exemption from land holding limits.



# Natural Area Examples



Woodlands



Offshore  
Islands



Bogs



Marshes



Ponds



Riparian  
Zones

# Legislative Tools

## *Wildlife Conservation Act (s.16)*

Goal: to protect, manage and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Activities: active management. No land conversion, but forestry, grassland management, vehicles, trails, allowed.

Duration: for the term of the agreement (generally 20+ years) for private land. Process for de-designation on public land.

Incentives: currently no property tax relief or exemption from land holding limits. Discussions on the potential for partial tax relief.



# Wildlife Management Area Examples



Impoundments



Habitat  
Enhancement



Hunting, Fishing  
& Trapping



Multi-use



Viewing  
Structures



Forest  
Management

# Legislative Tools

## *Planning Act Regulations (G: Morell River Conservation Zone)*

Goal: maintain the unspoiled state of the Morell River, and protect its recreational value.

Activities: no change of use, building or tree cutting without a permit. Strict limits on why permits may be issued.

Incentives: currently no property tax relief or exemption from land holding limits.








# Non-Legislative Tools

## *Donation of Ecologically Sensitive Land*

The Province or qualified non-government groups can receive ecologically significant properties. The value of the donation is tax-deductible, and capital gains taxes do not apply.

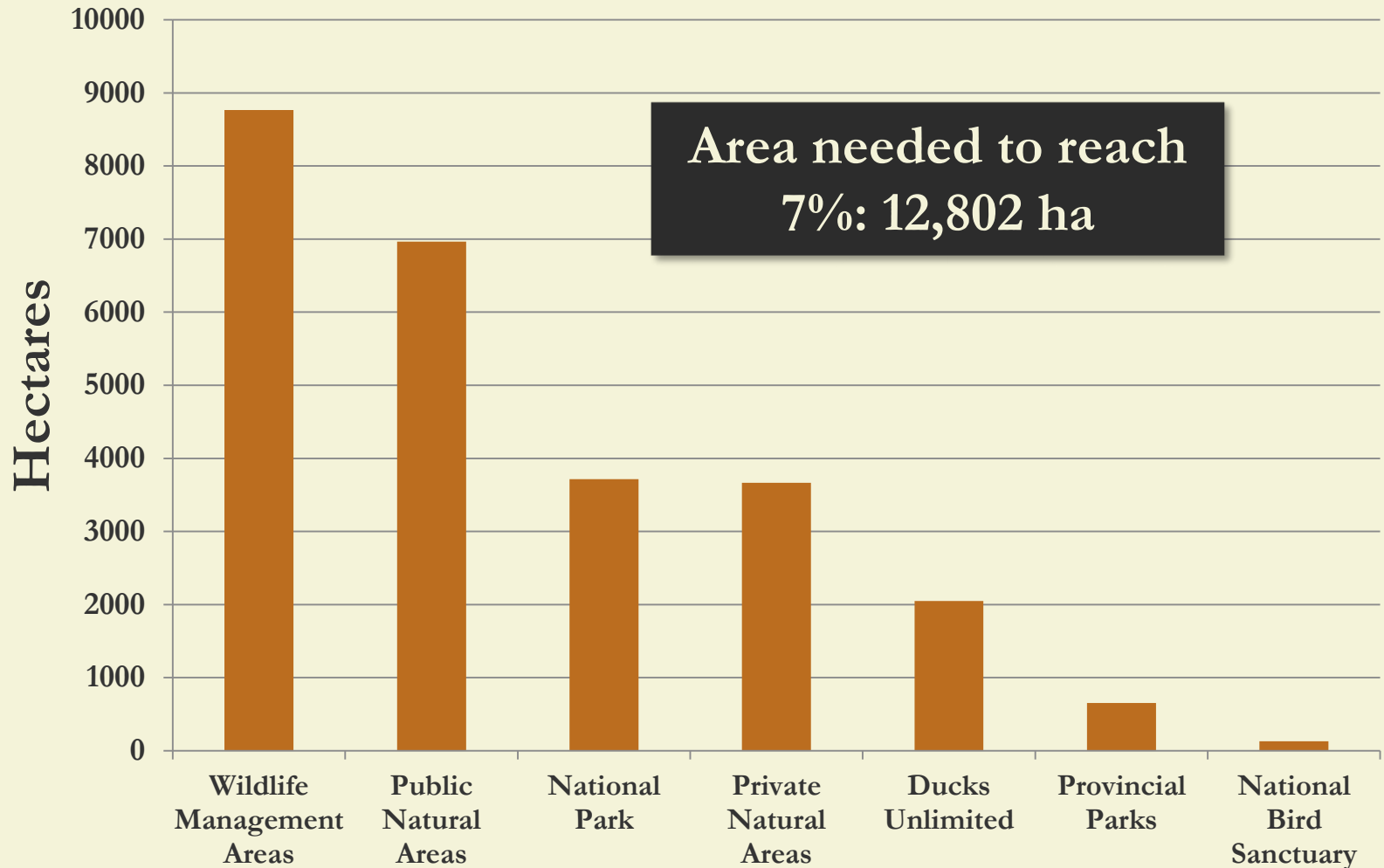
## *Property Management Plan*

Articulates the landowner's management goals for a property. Not linked to legislation or incentives, but counts towards the 7% goal in some cases (eg. Ducks Unlimited Agreements).



# Progress to Date


Protected Areas – Current Status  
26,896 ha (4.74%)





# The Path to 7%

Source	Hectares
<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b>26,896</b>
<b><u>Lands to be Added</u> (7,214 ha, approx. 17,820 acres)</b>	
Public Lands awaiting final designation (NAPA)	160
Public Lands identified by internal review	5,669
Lands being acquired under the Challenge Fund	290
Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (Hog Island)	1,095
<b><u>Projected Total for March 2021 target</u></b>	<b>34,110 (6%)</b>



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<b><u>Other lands that could be added (two-year forecast) – with partnerships</u></b>	
FFW (forecast for 2021-23)	1,105
Indigenous Protected & Conserved Area (Hog Island)	410
Private Landowners	300
FFW candidate WMA and NAPA lands	500
NGOs (forecast for 2021-23)	1,045
Municipal green spaces	250
Barrier beach and salt marshes (legal work needed)	633
Community Pasture forested land	100
New Land Acquisition Fund (forecast for 2021-23)	1,250
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,592</b>
<b>PEI Total = 39,702 (7.0%)</b>	
<b>(Canada has reached 12.1%, and is predicting to meet the 17% goal by 2023)</b>	





# Beyond 7%

- Canada is projecting it will reach 17% by 2023.
  - *The Federal Government has committed to advocating that all countries commit to conserving 30% of lands and oceans by 2030.*
  - *New national targets of 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030 have been announced.*
- The recent Speech from the Throne announced PEI's intention to move the target to 10%.
- Important to protect the right places with the right tools (NAPA, WCA, agreements with private landowners)





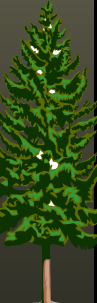
# Beyond 7%

- What would that look like?
  - Use the results of the 2020 Corporate Land Use Inventory (currently underway) to identify areas with ecological importance that merit protection.
  - Examples:
    - *Older forests*
    - *Uncommon tree species (ash, elm, ironwood)*
    - *Habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors*





# Three Take-aways

- No single agency can achieve land protection goals on PEI. It takes partnerships among Governments, landowners and NGOs, and a flexible suite of legislative and non-legislative tools and incentives.
  - Land use planning needs to include not only protected areas, but also habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors. It is difficult, time-consuming and expensive (sometimes impossible) to re-create lost habitats.
  - Conflicting priorities need to be identified and resolved. Example: power corridors pushed out of farmland and developed areas into forests and wetlands.
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# Questions / Discussion?

