

# WHAT KIND OF FUTURE DO WE WANT?

## Climate Change and Restoration

This last year was full of unexpected dark twists and turns. But, in many ways, the global pandemic has proved that we're capable of coming together to take extraordinary action to meet existential threats head on. As we begin our return to normal, we will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to re-define what that normal is: What kind of future do we want?

Canada has some of the world's last remaining wilderness, yet our wildlife is struggling.

Our Living Planet Report Canada 2020 found that nationally at-risk species populations fell, on average, by 59 per cent since 1970. At the same time, climate change is accelerating this devastating loss of nature.

What could this mean, when we consider the future? Think of a child who, at this moment, is 5 years old. When they are 15 years old, there will be worsening wildfires, floods, droughts, avalanches and heatwaves. When they are 30, Arctic summer sea ice will have all but disappeared, affecting weather worldwide and threatening the foundation of Arctic ecosystems. When they are 50, sea levels will continue to rise, affecting coastal communities. When they are 75, our planet could be up to four degrees warmer. Countless species will go extinct and large parts of the Earth will be uninhabitable.

Like a lot of people, these scenarios keep me up at night. But I also have hope, because I know it doesn't have to turn out this way. We have the power to change the outcome – to meet these

threats head on.

I know this because of the incredible impact WWF-Canada has had on nature and wildlife over the last 50 years. We've helped beluga whale populations in the St. Lawrence recover, secured commitments to keep mining development out of caribou calving grounds, and safeguarded countless species through the restoration and protection of habitats across the country. This work was only possible thanks to the support of our donors, including those who left gifts, big and small, to WWF-Canada as part of their Will; a way to ensure that their commitment to nature lives on.

Now, our beautiful planet faces a critical tipping point. We know the next ten years will be crucial to reversing catastrophic wildlife loss and preventing greater climate breakdown. That's why WWF-Canada's new strategic vision was developed as a ten-year plan -- one that can change the trajectory of the planet and create space where nature and humans can thrive.

Our work over the next decade will focus on protecting biodiversity and mitigating climate change by strengthening and protecting natural systems. We will restore one million hectares of lost habitat and steward 100 million hectares of intact habitat, to safeguard our at-risk species. We will protect areas that sequester carbon from the atmosphere and reduce the destruction of carbon stores. We will seek guidance and wisdom from Indigenous partners to ensure our work



**Megan Leslie**  
President & CEO, WWF Canada

is inclusive and long-lasting. And we will reinvigorate people and communities to take action for wildlife.

These are bold, ambitious goals – but with your help, we know they can be achieved. Wildlife will be given the chance to recover and we will help the climate stabilize.

Think of that five-year-old child again. Today, they're helping to grow native flowers in their grandparent's garden and chasing the butterflies that stop by. When they turn 15, Canada will have protected 30 per cent of its land and freshwater. When they turn 30, the importance of Indigenous guidance and knowledge is widely understood, and everyone is living within the finite limits of the planet. When they turn 50, wildlife populations will be thriving. When they travel the country, they will see bats in the night sky, fireflies in the fields and visit oceans with enough food for whales and people. When they turn 75, our climate will be in balance. Simply put, nature and people are thriving together.

This is the future you have the power to help create. By supporting WWF-Canada, you will be part of a movement of people, today, and in the future, who are helping restore forests, wetlands, ocean and freshwater systems so nature can do its job. We're truly grateful for every single contribution. Your support helps us invest in and protect nature, so it can protect us.

**Megan Leslie**  
President and CEO of WWF-Canada