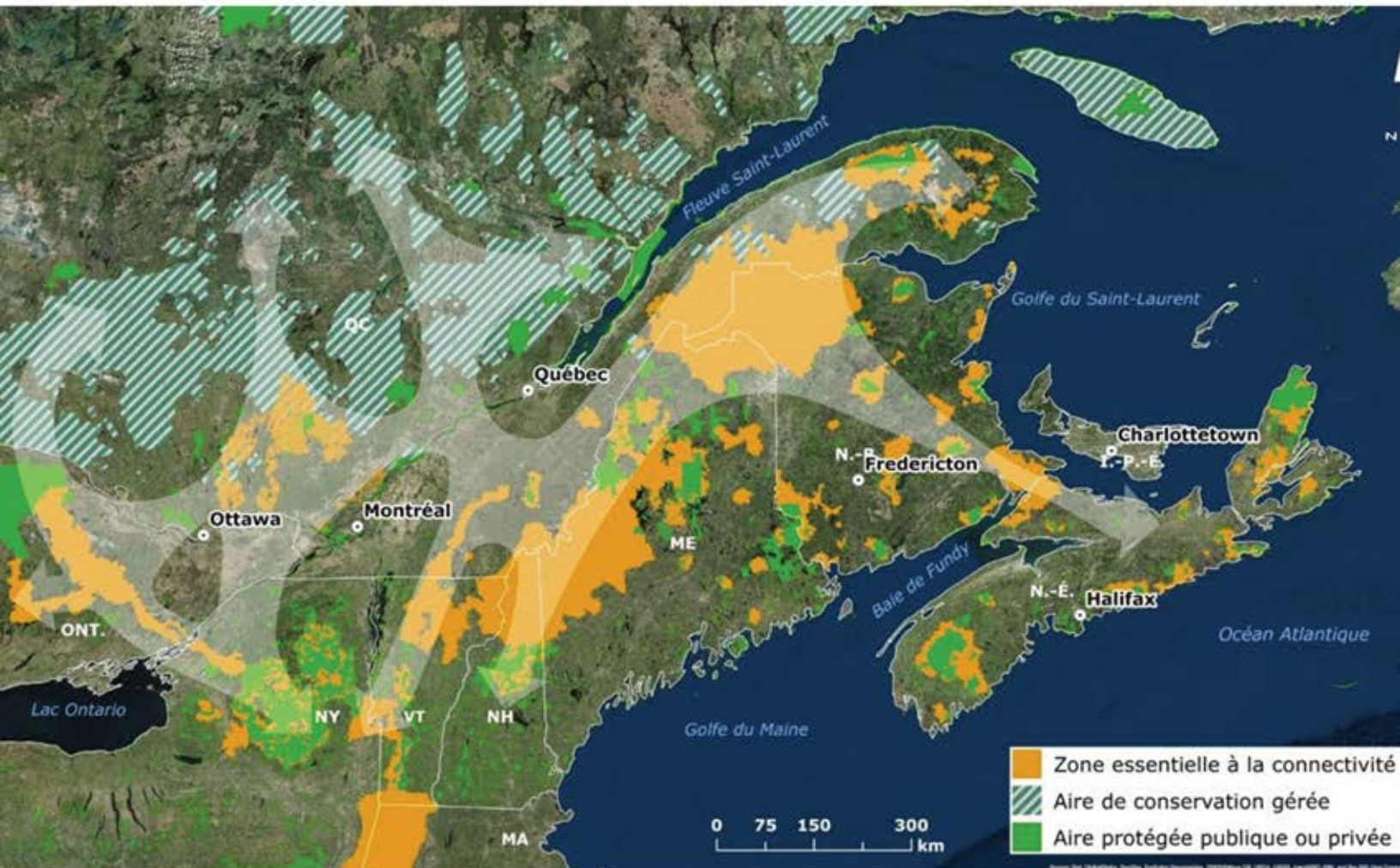


HIGHLIGHTS 2017-2020



Ecological Corridors



Fondsvert Québec

Fondation
de la faune
du Québec

WOODCOCK
FOUNDATION

The Ecological Corridors project is being carried out thanks to the financial participation of the Government of Quebec, the Woodcock Foundation, the American Friends of Canadian Nature, the *Fondation de la faune du Québec* and the Echo Foundation. Other financial partners have also joined to fund activities specific to each connectivity zone.



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The Ecological Corridors project, targeting natural passageways through which wildlife can move from one habitat to another, is helping to bring everyone together to counter the effects of climate change on biodiversity and our well-being. In collaboration with more than 100 experts and stakeholders, this initiative aims to mobilize the population, as well as key players in the protection, restoration and sustainable development of ecological corridors throughout southern Québec.

This project is being implemented by 7 main organizations: the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature-Action Québec, Appalachian Corridor, Éco-corridors Laurentiens, the Conseil régional de l'environnement Centre-du-Québec, Horizon-Nature Bas-St-Laurent and the Staying Connected Initiative*.

Two complementary strategies are being developed to deal with climate change: mitigation and adaptation, in line with the priorities of the Government of Quebec and the Government of Canada.

AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT

- Conservation organizations in the province are working together on a project that goes beyond their own jurisdictions.
- Conservation organizations are explicitly incorporating social issues into their work plans, not just animal and plant conservation.
- A concrete action plan for the conservation of natural environments in response to climate change in southern Quebec is being implemented with multisectoral partners who do not usually work together
- Quebec's ecological corridor conservation initiatives are being linked with those of neighbouring provinces and states.
- The initiative is being deployed nationally and regionally: in southern Quebec and in five regional areas of Quebec identified as critical for the connectivity of natural environments.
- The implementation team has become a reference for the government and stakeholders in terms of conservation of natural environments connected by ecological corridors.
- Other government ministries are also becoming involved in the project (MFFP, MTQ, MAMH).
- Several Sustainable Development Objectives are being targeted by the initiative and it has been recognized by the Quebec government team responsible for Resolution 40-3 on ecological connectivity, adaptation to climate change and biodiversity conservation

**with the support of Two Countries, One Forest*



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The project in numbers

\$1.9M

TOTAL INVESTMENTS

from private and public funds

170 000

PEOPLE REACHED

through training activities, workshops, newsletters, social media

630

MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES, WOODLOT OWNERS AND FARMERS

met in person

100

EXPERTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

materially involved in the project (environmental, social, scientific, forestry and agricultural, municipal)

2 000+

HECTARES

protected in ecological corridors

50 000+

TONS

of carbon captured annually by the natural environments protected by NCC in Quebec



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Project benefits



RMCS AND MUNICIPALITIES

The growing interest of municipalities and RCMs is truly tangible proof that the connectivity issue is beginning to take hold.

The many meetings and conferences held have made it possible to raise awareness of the issue and rally representatives of the RCMs and municipalities around the importance of taking ecological corridors into account in land use planning. Several RCMs are focusing on connectivity in their development plans.

Desired changes: Connectivity being considered and valued in land use planning.

Means: Encourage the use of conservation tools in land-use planning and development plans.



FOREST OWNERS AND FORESTRY STAKEHOLDERS

There is strong support from forestry stakeholders, including a cooperation agreement with the Groupements forestiers Québec, which represents more than 28,000 woodlot owners. This new relationship of trust between conservation organizations and forest stakeholders is a major paradigm shift.

The vast majority of forest stakeholders are convinced of the key role woodlot owners play in the conservation of ecological corridors and are motivated to take on the role of project ambassadors.

Desired changes: Forest corridors being valued and the forest vocation of properties being maintained.

Means: Encourage the use of voluntary conservation tools and integrated forest management plans as well as forest certification.



CITIZENS

Through online promotion, media outreach, and training, the importance of connectivity of natural environments and the role of citizens in the conservation of Ecological Corridors are better understood.

Citizens' contribution to data collection through new citizen science tools helps to confirm priority travel corridors, including wildlife crossings along roads.

Desired changes: Ecological corridors being valued by citizens

Means: Organize knowledge transfer and citizen science activities.



A few quotes

IMPRESSIONS OF THE PROJECT

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

"Through this project, we are creating unique spaces where partners from diverse backgrounds can discuss issues related to connectivity and the conservation of natural environments." – Éco-Corridors Laurentiens

"As a result of these three years of the project, we can say that connectivity is now known by the main targeted organizations in the regions, that they can talk about it and integrate it into their tool." – Conseil régional de l'environnement du Centre-du-Québec

"Municipal, agricultural and forestry stakeholders are working with us to improve the connectivity of natural environments through conservation projects and to clearly identify the corridors on their territory." – Appalachian Corridor



Several members of the implementation team following a co-creation meeting

MONITORING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

"This is an innovative and unifying project for the actors within the regions targeted by the project." – Pauline Marquer, Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec

"This project managed to mobilize regional and local actors from various sectors to apply the scientific concepts of ecological connectivity to the implementation of climate change adaptation measures on the ground." – Robert Siron, Ouranos

"It is clear to us that without this initiative, this connectivity issue would not be addressed by forest sector stakeholders." – Marc-André Côté, Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec

PARTNERS

"The Ecological Corridors project brings together a variety of stakeholders to develop initiatives that help our communities and forest ecosystems adapt to climate change." – Serge Demers, mayor and councillor of the municipality of Lac-des-Aigles



Workshop on the integration of ecological corridors in land use planning

"With urban sprawl, it is clear that the creation of ecological corridors will greatly contribute to reducing the fragmentation of natural habitats and conserving biodiversity. This project allows us to collaborate with experts and to integrate the concepts of connectivity into the principles of land use planning for our territory." – Scott Pearce – mayor of the township of Gore

"This is an extremely unifying project. We are proud to participate and to be involved. Several key players in the community are directly involved in this initiative. For our part, woodlot owners are at the very heart of this great project. They play an important role in achieving concrete results. They are the 'guardians of our natural heritage.'" – Pierre Baril, general manager - Coopérative Terra-Bois and a member of Groupements Forestiers Québec.

"This unifying project is an opportunity to better understand the importance of maintaining or restoring the connectivity of natural landscapes, especially in the context of climate change." – Jean-François Larrivée, forestry engineer, Papineau MRC

