

WHAT DOES NATURE PROVIDE TO CANADIANS?

Ecosystems in Canada provide countless benefits to society, whether through provisioning services, regulating and maintenance services, or cultural services.¹

Ecosystem services



Provisioning

- Food
- Timber



Regulating

- Flood control
- Pollination
- Water purification
- Global climate regulation



Cultural

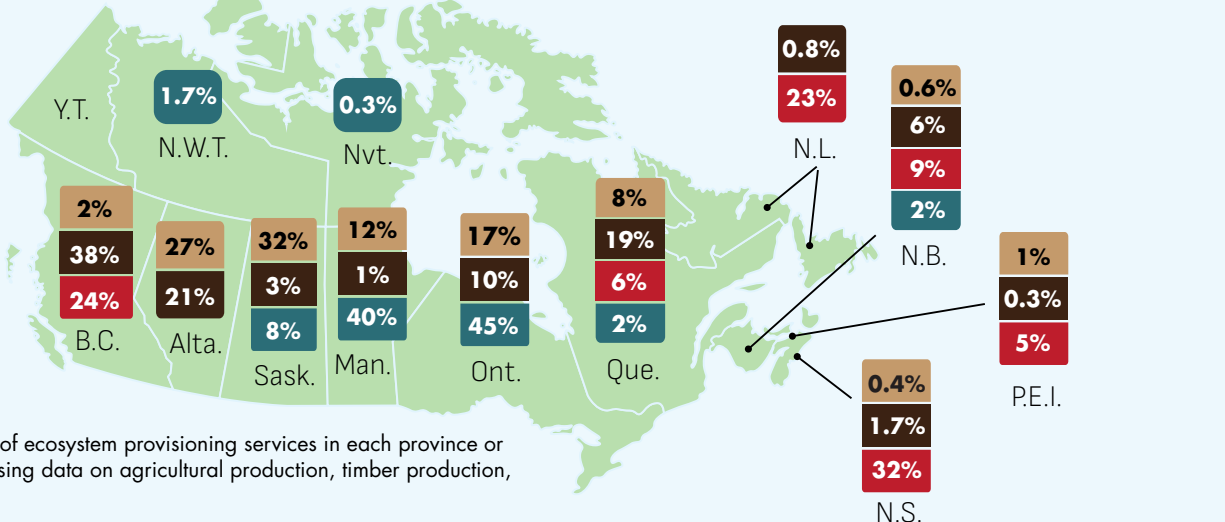
- Recreation
- Spiritual services



Provisioning services

Goods like food and timber come from nature

Contribution to provisioning services (%), by province or territory, 2020



Note: The contribution of ecosystem provisioning services in each province or territory is calculated using data on agricultural production, timber production, and fish landings.



Regulating and maintenance services

Flood protection and carbon sequestration

2 million Canadians live within 1 km of a coast



More than 10% of the coastal population is protected by salt marshes

Salt marshes sequester **785,324 tonnes** of carbon per year



Cultural services

Places to play and discover

Total number of visits to Canada's national parks from April 2022 to March 2023: **22,462,078**

Most visited park: **Banff National Park**
4,130,081 visits



Ecosystem and species appreciation

Canada is working to protect its ecosystems

Percentage of Canada's conserved areas in 2022:



- **13.6%** of the terrestrial area (land and freshwater)
- **14.7%** of the marine area

1. Provisioning services are the tangible benefits humans receive from ecosystems (e.g., lumber and crops). Regulating and maintenance services describe the biological processes that regulate and maintain ecosystem function (e.g., climate regulation, pollination). Lastly, cultural services are the experiential and intangible benefits humans derive from nature (e.g., recreation, education).
Sources: Statistics Canada, table 38-10-0161-01 – Salt marsh ecosystem services account, table 38-10-0170-01 – Coastal population and dwellings by elevation and distance from coastline, table 38-10-0171-01 – Ecosystem services, biomass provisioning services by ecosystem type and type of product; Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2023, Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database, <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/national-wildlife-areas/protected-conserved-areas-database.html>; Parks Canada, 2023, Parks Canada attendance 2022_23 dataset, <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/57c69cfc-fc85-495b-9eef-555a08404034>.

