



### Ecological Framework

Fifteen ecoregions make up terrestrial Canada, and five make up the marine waters bordering Canada. Canada's 15 terrestrial ecoregions can be subdivided into 53 ecoprovinces, which can be further broken into 194 ecoregions. Ecoregions are useful for general national reporting and for placing Canada's ecosystem diversity in a North American or global context. Ecoprovinces are useful units at an intermediate scale for national and regional planning and reporting purposes. Ecoregions are a useful ecosystem scale for national, provincial, and regional planning and reporting purposes. Regardless of the level in the hierarchy, each unit is distinguished from others by its unique mosaic of plants, wildlife, climate, landforms, and human activities.

0 150 300 450 600 km

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection. Standard Parallels 49°N and 77°N

- |                             |                                      |   |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Ecological Framework</b> | <b>Populated Places</b>              | <b>Boundaries</b>                         |
| Arctic Cordillera           | • 1-4999                             | — International                           |
| Northern Arctic             | • 5 000-49 999                       | — Provincial / Territorial                |
| Southern Arctic             | • 50 000-99 999                      | — Canada / Kalaallit Nunaat dividing line |
| Taiga Plains                | • 100 000 and greater                | — EEZ (200 mile)                          |
| Taiga Shield                | • Provincial and Territorial Capital |   |
| Taiga Cordillera            | ★ National Capital                   |   |
| Hudson Plains               |                                      |   |
| Boreal Plains               |                                      |   |
| Boreal Shield               |                                      |   |
| Boreal Cordillera           |                                      |   |
| Pacific Maritime            |                                      |   |
| Montane Cordillera          |                                      |   |
| Prairies                    |                                      |   |
| Atlantic Maritime           |                                      |   |
| Mixedwood Plains            |                                      |   |

**Source(s):**  
**Ecological Framework**  
Marshall, Ian, 1999. Ecosystems of Canada. Ecosystem Stratification Working Group, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Environment Canada.

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