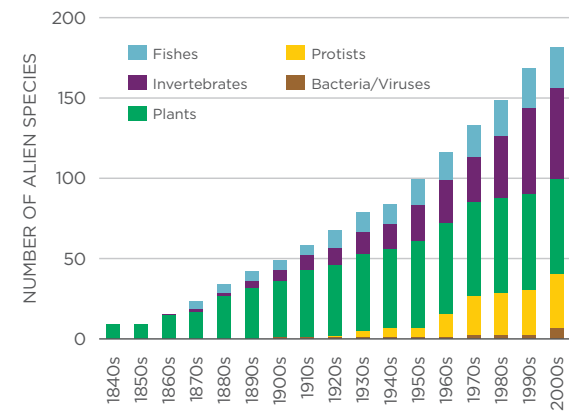


Wake-Up Call

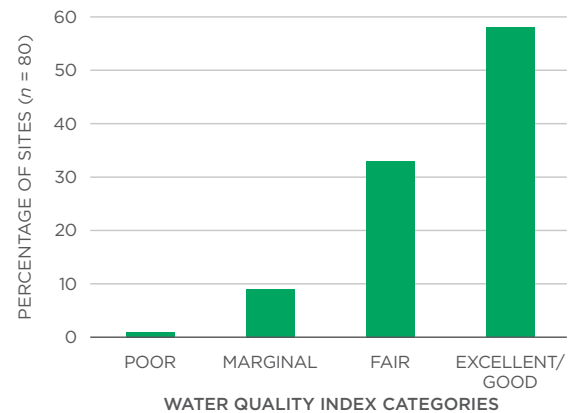
The State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2010 reveals alarming trends in Canada's most populated region.

AS SOUTHERN ONTARIO'S housing developments and highways vie for space with industrial lands, all but the most tenacious plants and animals are being shut out of suitable habitat. Nonetheless, Queen's Park is planning to absorb an additional five million people in Southern Ontario by 2036, making a stressed situation worse. Though other regions of the province are not under as much pressure, the province's biodiversity is headed in the wrong direction.

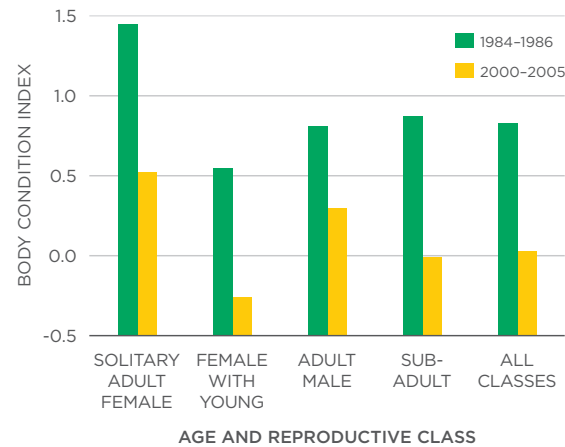
The Ontario Biodiversity Council has released *State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2010*, a useful report chock full of data on provincial biodiversity trends. This is a selection of what appears in the report.



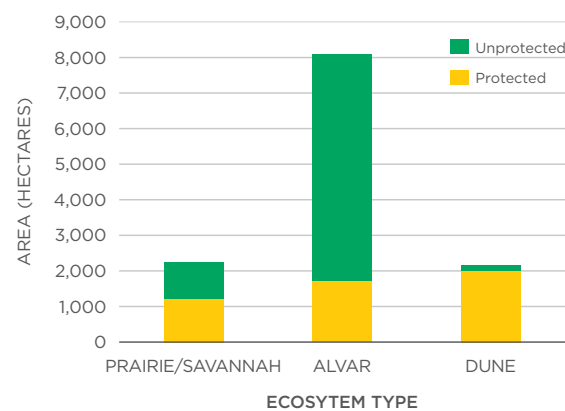
More and more species are invading the Great Lakes.



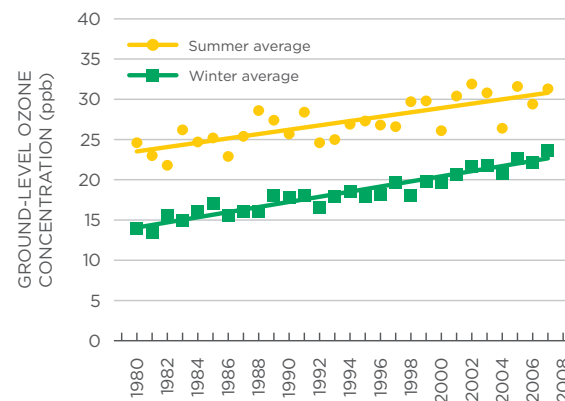
90% of freshwater streams have a fair to excellent rating. All poor and marginal ratings occurred in Southwestern Ontario.



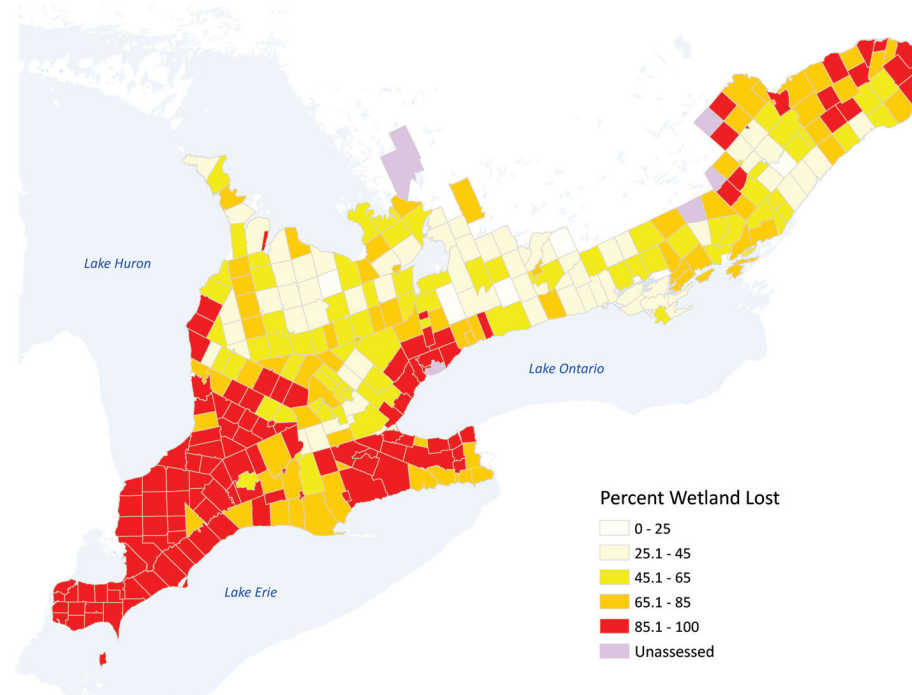
The health of Southern Hudson polar bears is declining.



There is some improvement in Ontario's protection of rare ecosystems.



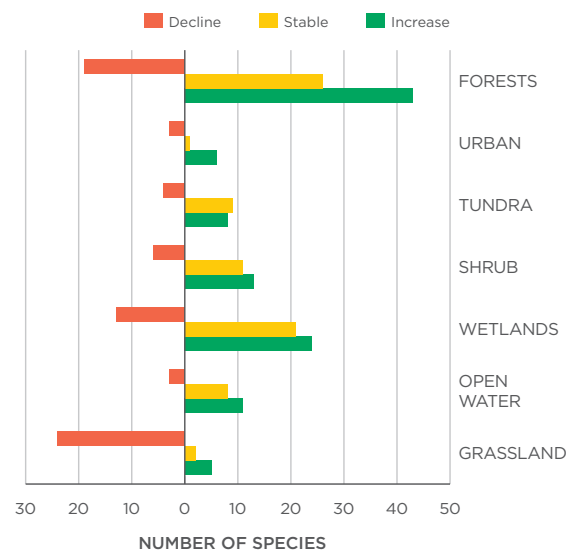
Ground-level ozone concentrations are on the rise.



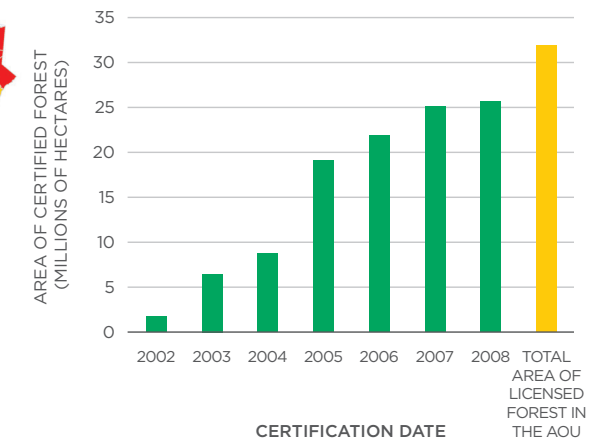
Wetland loss in Southwestern Ontario is almost complete.

“Biodiversity should be considered a sacred element in addition to the other four elements [air, water, earth and fire].”

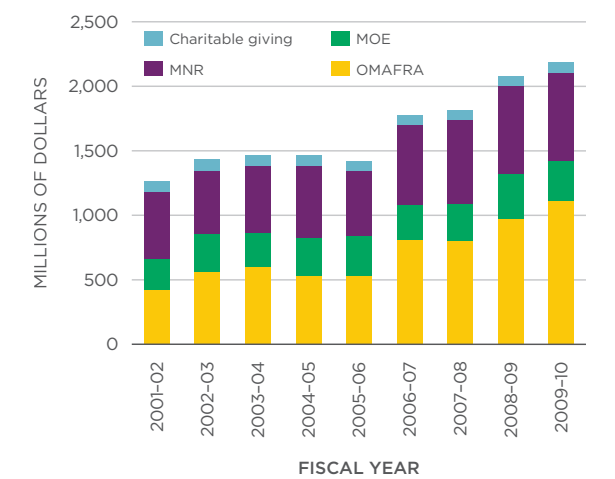
*David Suzuki
The Legacy: An Elder's vision for our Sustainable Future*



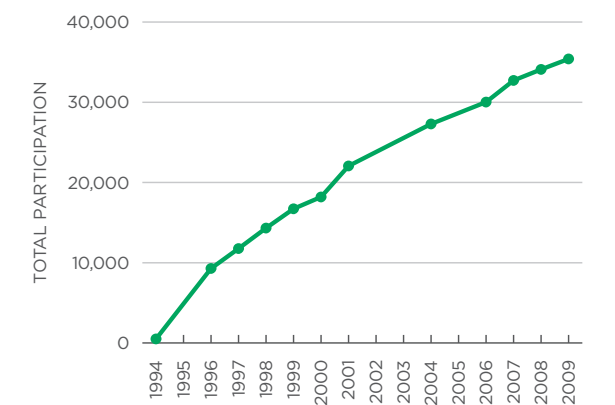
Bird species are particularly vulnerable in grasslands. In another trend, aerial insectivores are declining at an alarming rate (>50%) for unknown reasons.



The number of certified forests is heading in the right direction.



There is some improvement in the money spent on conservation.



Farmers are preparing Environmental Farm Plans.

Map reprinted with permission from Southern Ontario Wetland Conversion Analysis: Final Report (Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2010). Graphs reprinted with permission from The State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2010 - Highlights Report. Find the full report at ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca. This page is sponsored by goslingfoundation.org.