

Preface

Wildlife is a great Canadian heritage, yet too little has been done to ensure that it always will be. One reason for that may be the lack of guidelines for the development of wildlife policy in Canada. This paper had its genesis at the 44th Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference in 1980, where the issues to be addressed were defined. The text has been developed through the cooperative participation of conservation organizations with the territorial, provincial and federal governments, and it is being published on behalf of the wildlife ministers of those governments.

These guidelines form a framework within which government and non-government organizations can develop their own policies and programs, and a statement of the general direction in which wildlife conservation should move in the next decade. By approving these guidelines, governments have agreed to the goals, principles and elements. In addition, they have agreed to consider implementing, where appropriate and consistent with provincial, territorial or federal policies, the actions listed under each element. An evaluation of the guidelines will be made by the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference after five years.

While most of the proposals in this paper will need government action, they are widely supported by individuals and organizations and will require their active participation to take effect. Wildlife conservation in Canada is and should remain a close partnership between citizens and their governments.