



INTRODUCTION

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Situ conservation and the first five items speak directly to

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possible and as appropriate:





## NATURE ON THE OTHER

Lands outside of protected areas can be valuable for some species and are worthy of attention. They can provide connectivity between habitat patches and support migratory processes for birds and insects. Some species even thrive in landscapes fragmented by humans (e.g. the white-tailed deer -

## PROTECTING AT LEAST HALF OF THE EARTH IS VIABLE GOAL

There are several examples from around the world in which the nature needs half goal has already been realized through public policy. In western North America, there are several examples of governmental action to protect at least half of a region. On Haida Gwaii, British Columbia (previously known as the Queen Charlotte Islands) a mix of national park, provincial park and First Nations conservation has resulted on over 50 per cent protection of the terrestrial system and an initial

centuries. We may not even want to because we like the food it produces. But so much marginal land has been brought into cultivation in the last 250 years that we could make enormous inroads in restoring it.

In eastern North America most of western  
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 Eastern Townships were denuded of forests by farmers, sheep grazers, loggers and charcoal makers. But the land was marginal and largely abandoned as other lands became available. Today there is extensive forest cover across the region and significant species recovery. In upstate New York the 2 million ha Adirondack Park was created in 1895 to recover cut-over lands whose degradation threatened downstream water quality. Today over half it is managed as Forever Wild under the New York State constitution.

The rewilding of Europe has occurred at a remarkable rate as marginal hill and mountain farms are being abandoned by a declining population. The corresponding recovery of large mammals, including brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) western Europe is remarkable. Natura



## REFERENCES

- Canada: Canadian Boreal Initiative, [borealbirds.org/scienceletter.shtml](http://borealbirds.org/scienceletter.shtml)
- Capital Regional District (2012) Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-21, [www.crd.bc.ca/parks/documents/](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks/documents/)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

is a conservationist, writer and photographer. He is a recognized global leader in the field of parks, wilderness and large landscape conservation. He is a founder of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, with the goal to create a

continuous corridor for wildlife from Yellowstone National Park in the United States to the Yukon in Northern Canada and of the global Nature Needs Half PRYHPHQW ,Q /RFNH ZDV QDPHG RQH leaders for the 21st century byTime Magazine Canada.

## RESUMEN

Los objetivos de conservación se deben fundar en lo que sea necesario para proteger la naturaleza en todas sus expresiones. Cuando en 1988 el informe Brundtland pidió triplicar el patrimonio de áreas protegidas del mundo (que entonces representaba entre el 3 y el 4 por ciento de la superficie terrestre), existía el firme convencimiento de que el