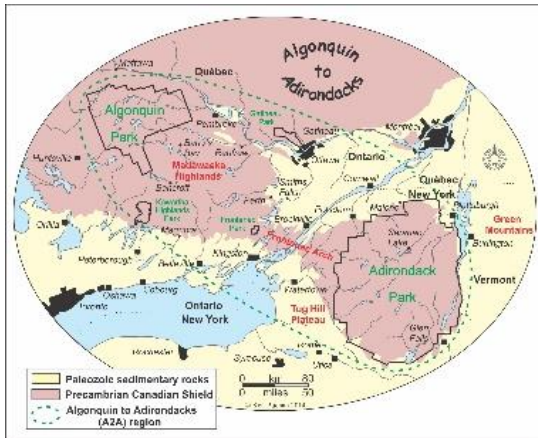


Conservation Action Planning in the A2A Region: A Landscape Corridor Framework



This project will develop and test the feasibility of an innovative, landscape corridor level approach to applying the Conservation Action Planning (CAP) Framework in both a scientific and cultural context within the Algonquin to Adirondack Corridor (A2A).

CAP is ideally suited as a foundational piece in that it represents an open concept planning process, designed around workshops and collaborative approaches that focus on opportunity, risk and adaptive management, and conservation targets, rather than the legal/policy requirements that constrains current conservation planning

in the A2A area. CAPs serve to strengthen and coordinate the greening efforts of existing agencies, organizations and local groups through a collaborative process which aligns well with the values and work of A2A.

While CAP is a relatively established process that has been applied at local levels elsewhere in Ontario, there are some basic challenges which need to be explored and tested prior to confirming feasibility and launching CAP planning within specific areas of the A2A corridor. These include:

- Development and testing of an innovative CAP approach that captures the ecological concerns at the landscape corridor scale of A2A using existing information and knowledge from local studies
- Exploring how to engage the range of stakeholder perspectives and cultures – from the conservation science community, to traditional knowledge and citizen science – and interests – rural landowners, naturalists, resource and working landscape interests, and recreation groups – in a collaborative process.
- Determining the form a corridor scale CAP would take – what framework or information is required to help direct and facilitate the more traditional local level CAP activity?

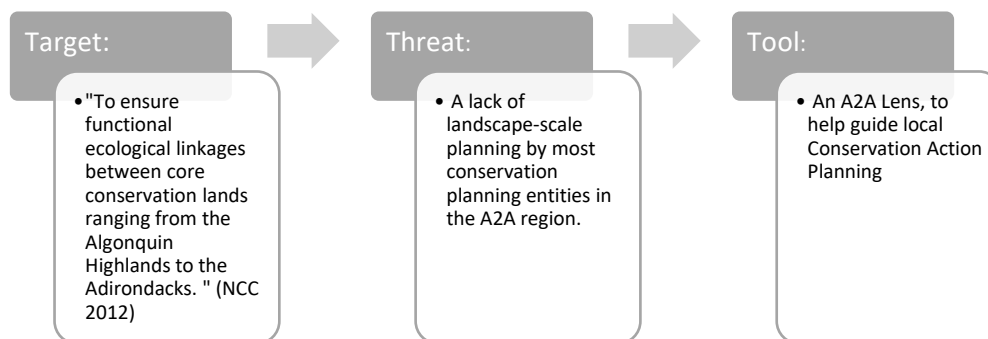


Ultimately, this work will test the feasibility of applying landscape corridor scale considerations to inform the local CAP process in the A2A. This work will also examine how to incorporate landscape scale thinking into local CAPs, in a way that will help ensure successful and sustainable plans.

We are hoping to learn answers to several key questions that are critical if CAP is to be applied in the A2A.

- How does the existing information and policy framework address landscape/corridor scale ecological functions and environmental flows that cross jurisdictional boundaries (wildlife movement, plant migration, etc.)
- What kind of framework or ecological lens would be most useful when trying to connect individual plans to account for A2A scale functions such as watershed services and wildlife movement.
- What would be the most effective stakeholder engagement/collaborative model to use in the A2A to ensure that the full range of cultural diversity and interests are involved in local CAP projects.
- What would be the most effective/sustainable delivery model to use for local CAPs in the A2A (including priority areas and corridor level concerns).

The project will also help build community capacity within the A2A to effectively engage in CAP through participation in the workshops and the A2A led corridor scale initiative.



Brief Description of Activities:

The initiative involves several stages to explore the feasibility of a dynamic CAP framework which is grounded in both an innovative ecological framework, and a collaborative engagement model that reflects the dynamic, cross jurisdictional and multi-cultural nature of conservation planning at the landscape level in the A2A.

1. Assess and organize existing information and needs
2. Develop stakeholder engagement model
3. Complete A2A corridor CAP framework

Workshops will be a key component, as they are with local Conservation Action Planning initiatives. This interactive approach offers several advantages including fostering learning and growth amongst stakeholder partners, providing a vehicle for collaboration and consensus building without necessarily requiring final agreements, and a cost-effective way of applying scientific knowledge to the identification of risks, opportunities, and potential measures involved in planning for conservation in the A2A corridor.