



2016

BIODIVERSITY PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS



CORPORATE STRATEGY ON BIODIVERSITY, 2015–2020

The *Corporate Strategy on Biodiversity, 2015–2020*, provides a framework for taking account of and protecting biodiversity.

ISSUE 1



PROTECT AND RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS

OBJECTIVE 1

Take account of species assemblages and ecosystems

OBJECTIVE 2

Help preserve special-status species and protected areas

OBJECTIVE 3

Foster connectivity between natural habitats and help combat invasive alien species

ISSUE 2



DEVELOP TOOLS THAT HELP MAINTAIN BIODIVERSITY

OBJECTIVE 4

Design tools, frameworks and best-practice guides

OBJECTIVE 5

Participate in conserving Québec's biodiversity

ISSUE 3



ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE

OBJECTIVE 6

Carry out surveys and environmental follow-ups

OBJECTIVE 7

Further the development of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services

ISSUE 4



RAISE AWARENESS, INFORM AND EDUCATE

OBJECTIVE 8

Encourage collaboration
and knowledge sharing

OBJECTIVE 9

Raise awareness among
Hydro-Québec personnel and
the general public about the
importance of protecting
biodiversity



MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

Hydro-Québec has adopted
an action plan on biodiversity and
publishes an annual review of
its performance in biodiversity.

For the second year in a row,
Hydro-Québec exceeded its
annual target by implementing
seven innovative measures
to protect Québec's natural
heritage.

TARGET

5

ACHIEVEMENTS

7



Hydro-Québec implemented initial
measures to protect the four-toed
salamander, a species likely to be
designated as threatened or vulnerable
in Québec. For example, in Blainville,
the work involved making the shoreline
of a pond less steep, planting shrubs and
placing logs around the edge of a wetland.
These measures not only provide suitable
habitat for the four-toed salamander but
benefit a number of other species.

ISSUE 1

PROTECT AND RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS

Owing to the fact that 99% of its power is generated from hydroelectricity, Hydro-Québec helps to limit the magnitude of climate change, which has an impact on biodiversity. In addition, it implements numerous measures to protect the fauna and flora around its facilities.

99%

of the electricity generated
by Hydro-Québec comes
from renewable resources

16

special-status wildlife species
protected by Hydro-Québec through
its participation in recovery teams coordinated
by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune
et des Parcs

5

hibernacula (shelters) for Dekay's
brown snake built in the Montréal region

In 2016, Hydro-Québec built five snake hibernacula (shelters) to offset the loss of Dekay's brown snake habitat that resulted from the construction of Henri-Bourassa substation. Dekay's brown snake is a species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Québec. The shelters will help to protect the snakes from freezing in winter and from predators in summer.



Every year since 2015, Hydro-Québec has stocked the Romaine and Puyjalon rivers with thousands of young Atlantic salmon. This measure, combined with the construction of spawning grounds, will help to increase the number of salmon in these rivers.

ISSUE 2

DEVELOP TOOLS THAT HELP MAINTAIN BIODIVERSITY

**Hydro-Québec actively participates
in conserving Québec's biodiversity.
In 2016, it funded a number of concrete
initiatives in all regions of the province.**

\$841,575

invested in the Côte-Nord Atlantic
salmon habitat enhancement program
(projected total of \$10 million)

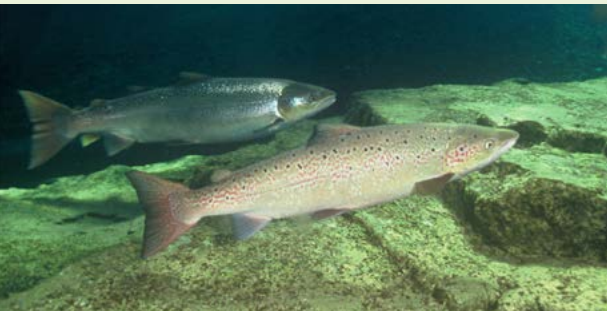
\$110,750

in donations and sponsorships
to support organizations that help maintain
Québec's biodiversity

\$971,480

in grants given out by the Fondation
Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement

The goal of investing in the [Côte-Nord Atlantic salmon habitat enhancement program](#) is to offset the residual impacts of the Romaine complex on salmonids. The construction of a fish pass in the Petite rivière de la Trinité, one of the compensation measures implemented, has increased the salmon spawning potential in the river by 40%.



The [Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement](#) funded 18 projects benefiting 56 threatened or vulnerable species or those likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable. For example, funding provided to the Nature Conservancy of Canada is helping to enhance wildlife habitat in the réserve naturelle Alfred-Kelly (Alfred Kelly Nature Reserve) and protect birds of prey there, including the peregrine falcon.

ISSUE
3

ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE

Hydro-Québec carries out numerous environmental follow-ups to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and monitor the status of plant and animal populations. The results of these studies show that, overall, biodiversity is comparable to that in nearby natural environments.

49

Hydro-Québec publications on biodiversity
Over 10,000 documents can be consulted
through the [CherLoc](https://cherloc.ca/) online catalogue
(<https://cherloc.ca/>)

\$500,000

provided over five years
to establish and run the new
[Phytotechnology NSERC/Hydro-Québec
Industrial Research Chair](#)

10

species of waterfowl observed
on the reservoirs in the Romaine complex



Since the partial diversion of the Rupert in November 2009, environmental follow-ups focusing on a number of aquatic species have been conducted. The results show that the target species—white sucker, longnose sucker, walleye and lake whitefish—are using the spawning grounds created in the river.

During the construction of the Romaine complex, Hydro-Québec took measures to mitigate the impact of its activities on rare plants. The work included transplanting ostrich fern and woolly beach heather to sites that would not be affected by reservoir impoundment.

ISSUE
4

**RAISE AWARENESS,
INFORM
AND EDUCATE**

Hydro-Québec focuses on sharing its biological knowledge and expertise to optimize the awareness and protection of biodiversity in Québec. It also educates its employees on the importance of protecting biodiversity.

13

academic conferences
on biodiversity

6,974

primary school students educated
about the importance of protecting biodiversity

1,037

employees receiving biodiversity-related
training

As part of its international activities, Hydro-Québec used its expertise to help the Bolivian firm ENDE Transmisión. It advised the firm on optimizing the route of a new transmission line and also recommended mitigation measures to protect three species of flamingos at risk.



Our Envirovolt kit has allowed 6,974 Grade 3 and 4 students to pretend they are biologists by identifying different plant and animal species. Students also had an opportunity to discover the various environmental measures implemented by Hydro-Québec to preserve biodiversity.

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PHOTO SOURCES

Cover page Cattail marsh
above beaver dam:
Jean-Bastien Lambert

P. 3 Four-toed salamander:
Martin Ouellet/
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P. 5 Dekay's brown snake:
David Rodrigue

P. 7 Petite rivière de la
Trinité: WSP Canada
Réserve naturelle
Alfred-Kelly: Nature
Conservancy of Canada
Peregrine falcon:
Guy d'Anjou

P. 9 Ostrich fern:
Martine Hamel