

Protecting Ecosystems

Ecological Footprint



- Measures the amount of land and water needed to:
 - ✓ regenerate the resources humans use
 - ✓ absorb the waste humans produce



- In North America, people have a very large individual footprint.
- Average NA person needs 12 hectares of land to support his/her lifestyle.
- Earth can provide only 2 hectares per person.
- If everyone lived the way we do in NA, we would need 3 more Earths!

*What do you think about
when you see this image?*



Stewardship of Earth



- We need to be willing to decide what is more important: our wants, or our needs!
- More people these days are concerned about the state of our planet, and want to do something to help.
- A **steward** is a person who:
 - ✓ learns about the environment
 - ✓ changes behaviour to care for environment
 - ✓ educates others (what they learned, how to help)



Stewardship of Earth



The old man must have stopped our car
two dozen times to climb out
and gather into his hands
the small toads blinded
by our lights and leaping, live drops of rain.

The rain was falling,
a mist about his white hair
and I kept saying
you can't save them all
accept it, get back in
we've got places to go.



But, leathery hands full
of wet brown life
knee deep in the summer roadside grass
he just smiled and said
they have place to go
too.

- Joseph Bruchac, "Entering Onondaga"

Preserve, Conserve, Restore - Biodiversity



- **Preserve** areas not yet damaged by creating conservations areas, parks, and natural reserves.
 - ✓ About **10% of Ontario's** land is currently protected.
 - ✓ About **9% of Ontario's** land is currently protected.
 - *Is this enough...?*



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



Canada

Preserve, Conserve, Restore - Biodiversity



EXPANDING CANADA'S SYSTEM OF NATIONAL PARKS
AND NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS



<http://cpawsmb.org/campaigns/parks>

Preserve, Conserve, Restore - Biodiversity



- **Conserve** environment by using the ecosystems wisely.
 - ✓ Practice organic farming, consume organic foods, and use a home composter.
 - ✓ Do the 'Rs':
 - Reduce = **electricity** by turning off lights and unplugging appliances; **garbage** by buying goods with little to no packaging; buy what you **need, not want**
 - Reuse = **household items** (e.g., cans, jars, clothes)
 - Recycle = **glass, plastic, paper, metals, food** (composter)





Preserve, Conserve, Restore - Biodiversity



- **Restore** land by taking steps to repair the damage done.
- Steps one can take are:
 - ✓ planting trees (habitat, prevent soil erosion)
 - ✓ build bird nest sites
 - ✓ pick up garbage and clean up pollution
 - ✓ use native plants in gardens

