



## INDICATOR: PARTICIPATION IN PROVINCIAL TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION:** Engage People and Enhance Resilience

**TARGET:**

3. By 2015, the number of Ontarians who participate in biodiversity conservation activities is increased by 25%.
11. By 2015, the proportion of private lands in Ontario that are managed for biodiversity is increased.

**THEME:** Conservation Response – Biodiversity Stewardship

**Background Information:**

Ontario supports a wide variety of intact, self-sustaining ecosystems inhabited by diverse populations of native species. Many of Ontario's significant natural areas are located on private property and the need for private landowner incentives as part of an overall biodiversity conservation strategy has been widely accepted (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2012). Economic incentives can encourage and assist landowners in taking action to maintain and enhance biodiversity values on private lands.

Two voluntary programs, the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) and the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP), provide tax incentives to private landowners to encourage and support the long-term private stewardship of Ontario's biodiversity. The programs work by providing property tax relief to landowners who protect biodiversity values such as forests, wetlands and endangered species habitat on their lands.

Recent studies of participation rates in Ontario's conservation tax incentive programs show an increasing trend. Between 2002 and 2008 combined participation rates in MFTIP and CLTIP increased by 11% (Ontario Biodiversity Council 2010; FPTGC 2010).

This indicator reports on the number of properties and the total area enrolled in both CLTIP and MFTIP from 2002-2013, as an indicator of both participation rates in biodiversity conservation and the proportion of private lands that are managed for biodiversity conservation.

**Data Analysis:**

Data for this indicator (2002-2013) were obtained from the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) and the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP), both of which are administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The number of properties enrolled, as well as the area enrolled in both MFTIP and CLTIP were compiled for the years 2002-2013. For CLTIP the percentage of eligible properties that participate in the program was also compiled for the years 2002-2013. This represents an index of program uptake. Data for 2002 and 2003 include some properties that were subsequently deemed ineligible, artificially inflating the data. Lands owned by conservation authorities or eligible charitable conservation organizations that have a primary objective of natural heritage conservation are also eligible for CLTIP. These community conservation lands are included in the area analysis.



**Results:**

**Trend:** Mixed      **Data Confidence:** High      **Geographic Extent:** Provincial

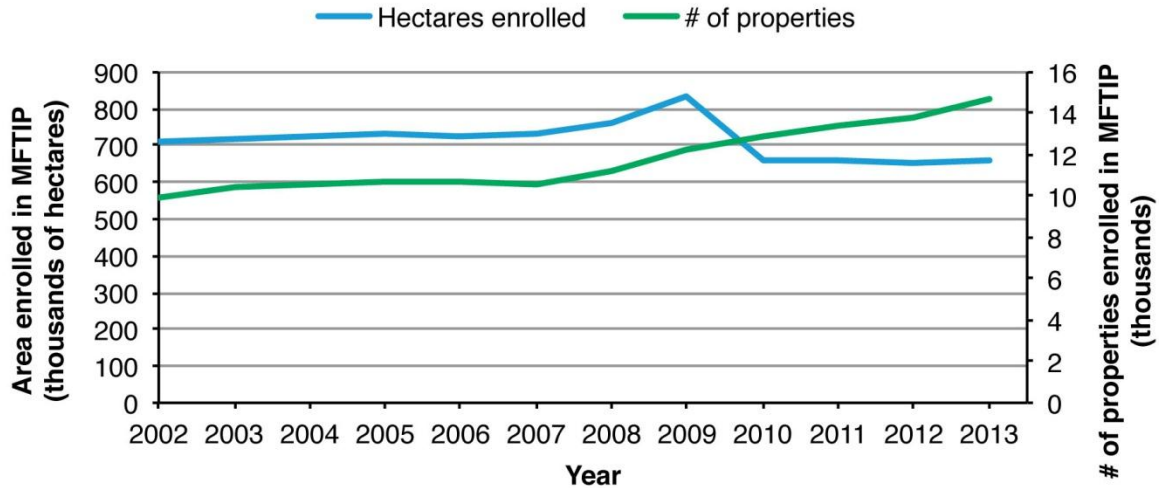


Figure 1. Land area and participation in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program 2002-2013.

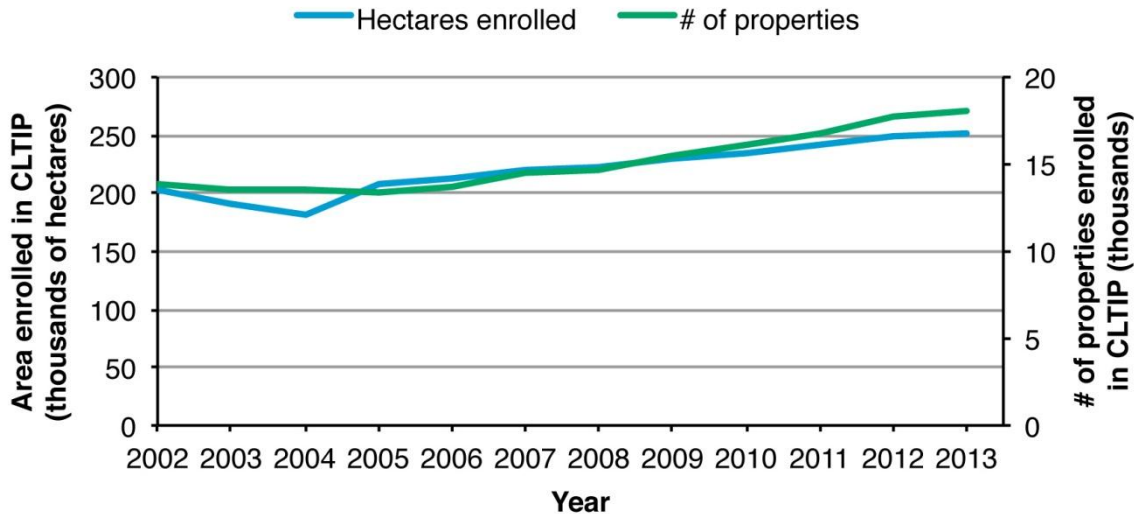


Figure 2. Land area and participation in the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program 2002-2013.

**Status:**

- Between 2002 and 2013, the number of properties participating in CLTIP and MFTIP increased by 38% (from 23,714 to 32,643 properties); however, the percentage of eligible properties that participated in CLTIP remained unchanged, averaging 42%.
- Between 2002 and 2009 the area conserved under MFTIP increased by 18% (from 708,000 to 837,000 hectares); however, in 2010 there was a decrease of 178,000 hectares, largely as a result of the sale of large piece of land to American owners that are ineligible to participate in the program.



- Between 2002 and 2013 the area conserved by private land owners and community conservation lands under CLTIP increased by 25% (from 202,000 to 252,000 hectares). Throughout the program approximately 32% of the area was conserved through community conservation lands.

## **Links:**

**Related Targets:** N/A

**Related Themes:** N/A

## **Web Links:**

Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/conservation-land-tax-incentive-program>

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/managed-forest-tax-incentive-program>

## **References:**

Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments of Canada (FPTGC). 2010. Canadian biodiversity: Ecosystem status and trends 2010. Canadian Councils of Resource Ministers. Ottawa, ON. [Available at: <http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=83A35E06-1>]

Ontario Biodiversity Council. 2010. State of Ontario's biodiversity 2010. A report of the Ontario Biodiversity Council, Peterborough, ON. [Available at: <http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/6aa599ac>]

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 2012. Incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity: Case studies and lessons learned. CBD Technical Series No. 56. Montreal, QC. [Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-56-en.pdf>]

## **Citation**

Ontario Biodiversity Council. 2015. State of Ontario's Biodiversity [web application]. Ontario Biodiversity Council, Peterborough, Ontario. [Available at: <http://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/sobr> (Date Accessed: May 19, 2015)].