



INDICATOR: Volunteer efforts to conserve biodiversity

Strategic Direction: Engage People

Target: 3. By 2015, the number of Ontarians who participate in biodiversity conservation activities is increased by 25%.

Theme: Conservation Response – Biodiversity Stewardship

Previous version: [Volunteer efforts to conserve biodiversity 2015](#)

Background Information

Volunteers continue to play an increasingly important role in the conservation of biodiversity. Many factors influence this trend, including government budgets for biodiversity conservation, as well as increased awareness about the importance of biodiversity and its conservation. Each year, the conservation of biodiversity in Ontario benefits greatly from the help of thousands of volunteers. These volunteers range from Indigenous peoples and communities who promote a responsibility for nature, to school children who plant trees to rehabilitate and restore the landscape, to groups who devote their time to organizing and carrying out habitat enhancement activities or fundraising campaigns, to the many thousands of individuals who contribute observations of flora and fauna to community science programs, to private landowners who donate their time and act as good stewards of their land.

This indicator presents an index of the number of people volunteering to conserve Ontario's biodiversity and provides a means of assessing trends in the level of public participation in biodiversity conservation in the province.

Data Analysis

This indicator presents an index of the number people volunteering to conserve biodiversity in Ontario based on four conservation organizations (Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ontario Nature, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters) and various public bodies (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Stewardship Program and the 36 conservation authorities in Ontario). As such, this indicator does not reflect all people volunteering to conserve biodiversity across Ontario but provides a means of assessing trends in the level of public participation in biodiversity conservation in the province.

For the purposes of this indicator, volunteering for biodiversity conservation included any activity undertaken by an organization, community or individual to further the understanding, protection or enjoyment of the natural environment; enhance, restore or rehabilitate native habitat or species; or support the organization or administration of biodiversity conservation activities between the years 2006 and 2018. It does not include membership in the select conservation organizations.



Results

Trend: No change **Data Confidence:** Medium **Geographic Extent:** Provincial

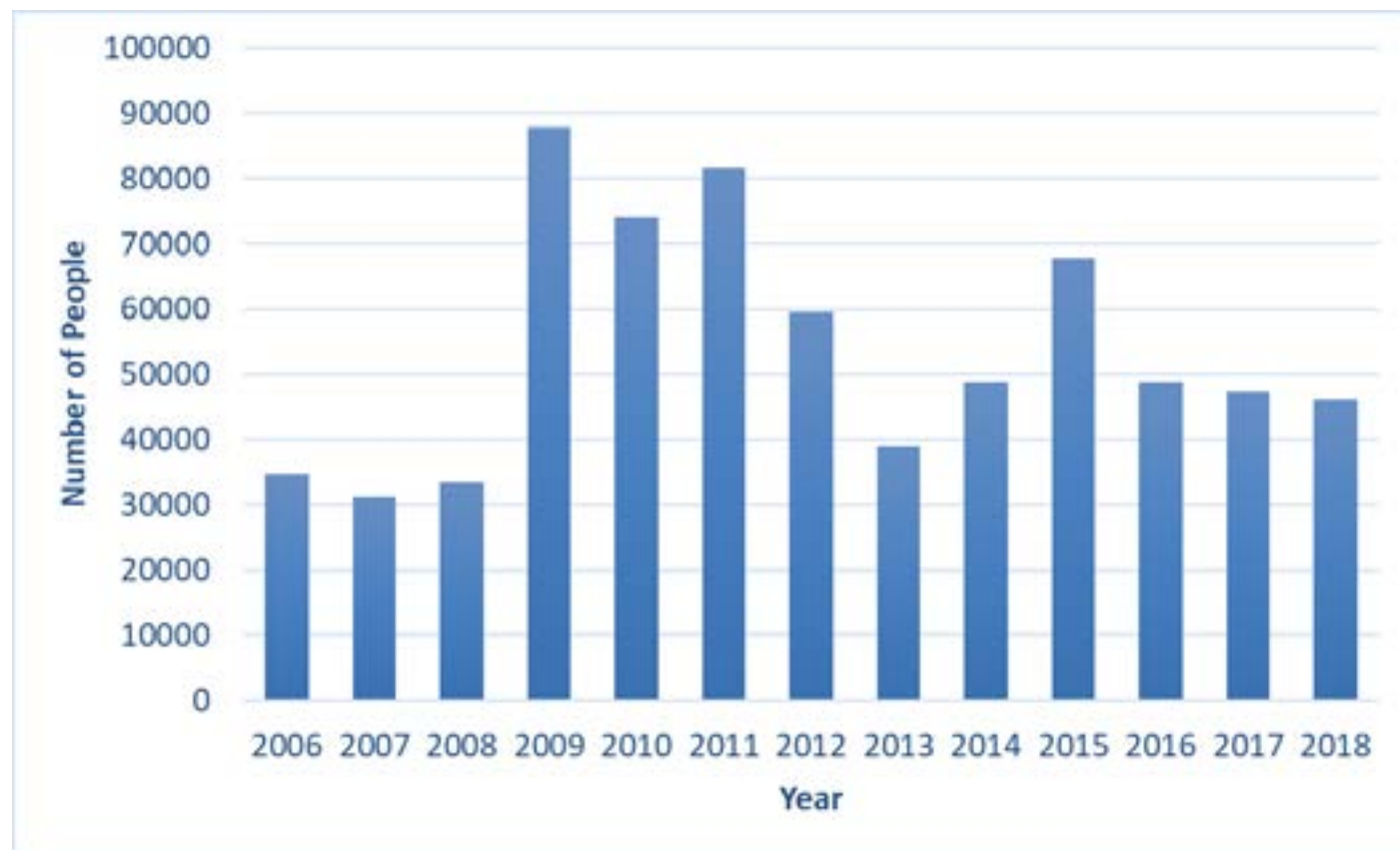


Figure 1. Number of people volunteering to conserve biodiversity in Ontario, 2006-2018. (Source: Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Conservation Ontario, Ontario Nature, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and Ontario Stewardship) (Note: Data for Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters was only available for the years 2010-2018. Data for Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Program were based on financial years rather than calendar years. Financial year data was assigned to the first calendar year).

Status

- Between 2006 and 2018, the number of people who volunteered with select conservation organizations to conserve Ontario’s biodiversity increased from 34,697 to 46,058, despite some variability. Although this represents an overall increase of 32%, it can largely be attributed to a refinement in reporting activities.

Links

Related Targets: 11. By 2015, the proportion of private lands in Ontario that are managed for biodiversity is increased.

Related Themes: N/A

Web Links

Conservation Ontario <http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/>

Ducks Unlimited Canada <http://www.ducks.ca/>

Nature Conservancy of Canada <http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/>

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters <http://www.ofah.org/> Ontario Nature <http://www.ontarionature.org/>

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 Ontario Biodiversity Council. 2021. State of Ontario’s Biodiversity [web application]. Ontario Biodiversity Council, Peterborough, Ontario. [Available at: <http://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/sobr> (Updated: June 2, 2021)].