

Natural Environment

Climate change is already affecting nature in New Brunswick. Understanding how it affects our land, water, species, and spaces will help us identify actions to reduce the impacts.

This summary draws on findings from [New Brunswick's Climate Change Risk Assessment](#), which looks at how climate change is impacting the province today and what we are likely to face going forward. The assessment identifies key issues of concern and opportunities for action.

What's the Risk?

The actions we take today to prepare and build resilience can help reduce the harm of future climate-related hazards like flooding, erosion, heatwaves, and wildfires.

Risks from the changing climate range from minimal disruptions to widespread and lasting disruptions. This can cause harm to health and safety, ecosystems, communities, economic sectors, or infrastructure.

By 2050, risks and the resulting impacts will increase significantly if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced and if we don't prepare for the impacts of climate change through adaptation. Ecosystems and habitats in the province are already seeing impacts and will likely experience more widespread and long-lasting or even irreversible impacts.

Natural systems in New Brunswick are complex and diverse, and the province has a rich species diversity, including many interconnected ecosystems and habitats, which will not all be impacted in the same way.

Risks to Nature

The top drivers of risks to nature are coastal flooding and erosion, extreme heat events, drought, and wildfires. These are expected to cause:

- reduced ability for coastal systems to regulate flooding and erosion
- gradual loss of habitats like beaches, dunes, and salt marshes
- changes to freshwater systems and species from saltwater incursion, cyanobacteria blooms, and drought
- changes in our rivers can affect the life cycles of species such as fish and increase susceptibility to new invasive species and pests
- displacement or loss of species
- decreased carbon storage capacity of forests, wetlands, and soils

How Can We Adapt?

Climate change adaptation refers to actions that reduce the harm caused by climate change impacts.

ADAPTATION IN ACTION: SIKNIKTUK CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Coastal erosion within the Sikniktuk (Chignecto Isthmus) continues to threaten the wetland and floodplain ecosystems that support diverse plants and animal species.

In response, Maqmigew Anqotumeg Inc. partnered with Elsipogtog First Nation to create Indigenous-Led Area-Based Conservation. The goal is to use nature-based approaches guided by Mi'gmaq knowledge to conserve coastal lands, restore floodplains, and protect wetlands. Overall, increasing the resilience of those coastal systems and providing a buffer to the increasingly severe impacts from coastal flooding.



In New Brunswick, there is considerable environmental data, skilled experts, and local projects that foster and support resilience in our natural systems.

There are also challenges. Agencies do not always work closely together. Short-term funding and a limited ability to plan make it harder to keep long-term projects going. To better protect nature in a changing climate, there needs to be stronger collaboration, better access to data, long-term investments, meaningful inclusion of First Nations in planning and decision-making, and more use of nature-based adaptation approaches.

Next Steps

- Individuals, specialists, and organizations can work with local governments and community partners to meaningfully involve Indigenous and equity-deserving populations in decision-making, while promoting nature-based adaptation approaches to conserve, protect, and restore ecosystems and keep natural areas connected.
- Learn how the [New Brunswick Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) is helping the province understand current climate risks and how to prepare for the future.
- Explore climate change adaptation resources. [CLIMAtlantic.ca](#) offers tools, information, and services to get you started.
- Connect and get involved with local organizations through the [New Brunswick Environmental Network](#), [Nature NB](#), [Ducks Unlimited](#), [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#), [CPAWS](#), and [Birds Canada](#).



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