



February 13, 2017

As you may recall, our holiday newsletter included a link to a paper on some global impacts of climate change on natural heritage. *The broad footprint of climate change from genes to biomes to people*, found at <http://www.soc.hawaii.edu/mora/Publications/Mora%20055.pdf>. This extra-ordinary effort summarizes evidence from 191 studies that demonstrate that 82% of 94 species and processes, from 32 terrestrial, 31 marine, and 31 freshwater ecosystems, have been impacted by climate change.

Our December e-mail also suggested that we'd follow that up with a few of our own observations on climate change impacts on Ontario's natural heritage. We still intend to do that. But before we share links to some of the key science papers we've found, a very important document has been posted to the Environmental Registry.

**Naturally Resilient: MNRF's Natural Resource Climate Adaptation Strategy (2017 -21) can be found at <https://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTMxMzg4&statusId=MTk5MzAw&language=en>. Comments are due March 13.**

Naturally Resilient describes a "strategic and coordinated five-year framework (2017-2021) to guide the ministry in taking actions to continue sustainable natural resource management in Ontario, and support resilience, as the climate changes." Unfortunately, few people know about it. MNRF appears to have not supported the posting with any e-mails or broad outreach, other than a tweet; no public meetings or consultations are planned; and MNRF recently declined to provide a staff member as a resource to a proposed OHI webinar.

The OHI believes that the draft strategy is important; has some merits and flaws; and of course can only be effective if it, and the Climate Change Adaptation Directorate it is meant to inform, is supported with appropriate resources. We are distressed, however, at the irony that a document that cites community, education, awareness, and participation offers no opportunities for engagement other than through the Environmental Registry, including in a section entitled How To Get Involved.

**The OHI suggests two actions. First, we urge any group involved in natural heritage or climate change to look at the document and consider making comments. Secondly, we'd be interested to hear from any community or academic organizations that might wish to share perceptions on this draft strategy. We do not anticipate crafting a joint submission, but would be pleased to coordinate an informal learning circle on the draft strategy.**

We look forward to chatting with you downstream,

*Andrew McCammon*

Executive Director  
416 231 9484