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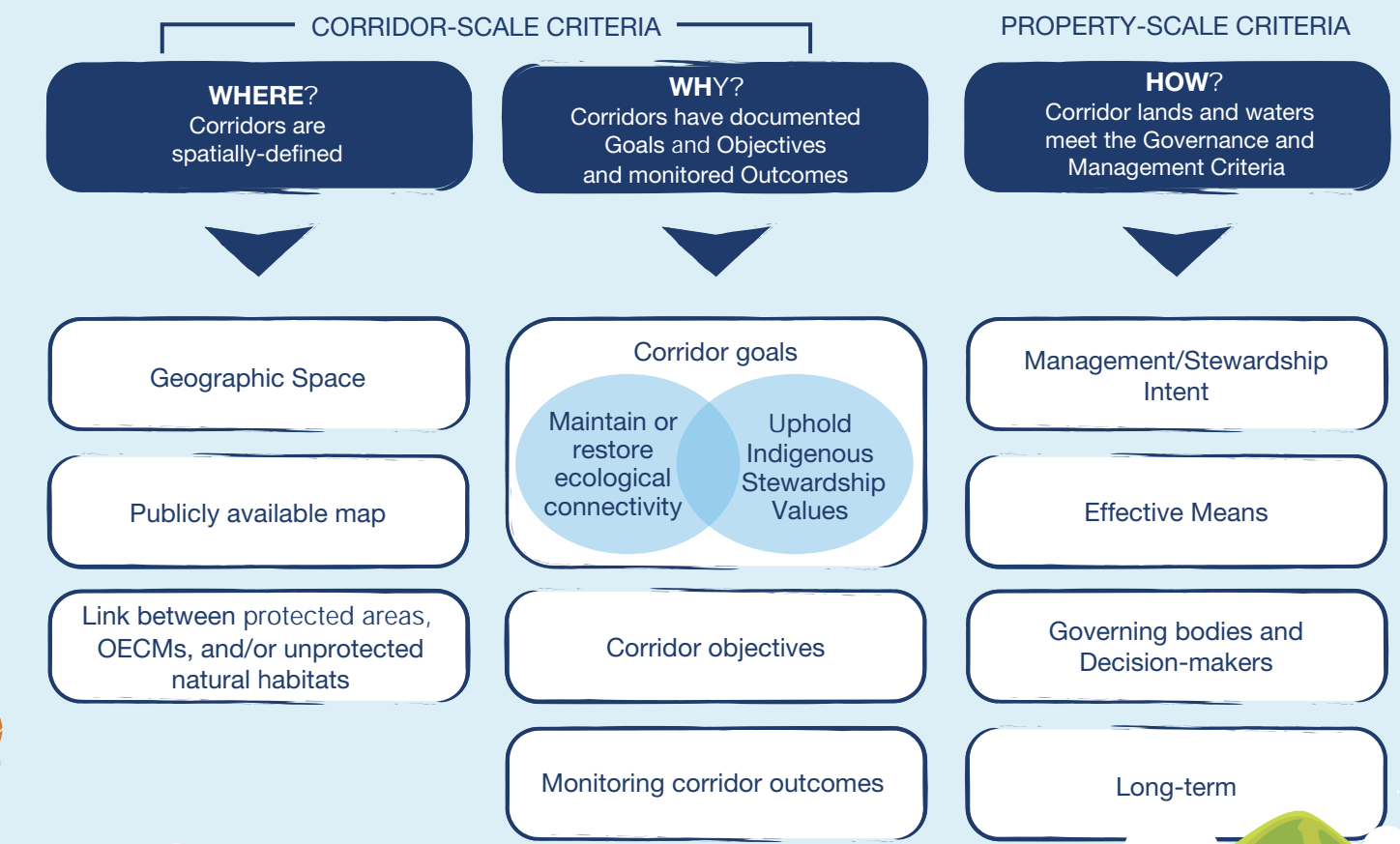
CRITERIA FOR ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS IN CANADA

Definition and Purpose of Ecological Corridors

An ecological corridor is “A clearly defined geographical space where governance, management and stewardship over the long term maintain or restore effective ecological connectivity while upholding Indigenous stewardship values” (modified from IUCN, 2020).

The primary purpose of an ecological corridor is to facilitate ecological connectivity between protected and conserved areas and/or unprotected natural habitat.

Ecological corridors complement Protected Areas and Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), and together form ecological networks for conservation.





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Criteria are a framework through which we can work collaboratively and effectively to advance ecological connectivity in Canada. This table describes the standards that should be met, or worked towards, in order for an area to meet the criteria for ecological corridors.

CRITERION	INTENDED EFFECT	DESCRIPTION
WHERE? & WHY? - CORRIDOR-SCALE CRITERIA		
<p>GEOGRAPHIC SPACE Corridors are delineated on publicly available maps and build ecological networks for conservation.</p>	<p>The corridor is delineated such that it links protected and conserved areas, and/or unprotected natural habitat, and guides the implementation of measures in support of corridor goals and objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that corridor mapping is publicly available supports the implementation of conservation measures, accounting and reporting, identifying relevant governing bodies and decision-makers, enhancing transparency, and raising public awareness of the corridor. To address sensitivities related to data ownership, coarse-scale or “fuzzy” boundaries are acceptable for publication, but precise boundary data should exist and be included in the corridor stewardship plan.
<p>GOALS, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES Corridor goals and objectives are documented, and outcomes are monitored.</p>	<p>Ecological connectivity is maintained or restored, and Indigenous stewardship values are upheld.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly documented goals and objectives provide a roadmap and facilitate collaborative action for the achievement of corridor outcomes, through active restoration and stewardship, while also providing a basis for future evaluation and monitoring.
HOW? - PROPERTY-SCALE CRITERIA		
<p>MANAGEMENT/ STEWARDSHIP INTENT The management intent is described and documented.</p>	<p>Management/stewardship intent is compatible with corridor goals and objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expression of intent is a clearly communicated statement or set of objectives for the property found in a mechanism or mean being used to manage/steward the property. The management/stewardship intent of properties composing the corridor does not have to be explicitly or exclusively related to corridor goals and objectives; however, it must not be in conflict.
<p>EFFECTIVE MEANS Means or mechanisms are in place and provide the ability to prevent, control or manage/steward what occurs within the corridor.</p>	<p>Only activities that are compatible with the corridor goals and objectives occur and are effectively managed/stewarded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means must exist to enable decision-makers to prevent incompatible activities and manage/steward activities compatible with the corridor goals and objectives. Examples of legal means include Indigenous law, legislation, bylaws, policy instruments and contracts. Other effective means include non-legal tools such voluntary agreements, incentive programs, negotiation, influence and recognized traditional rules.
<p>GOVERNING BODIES & DECISION-MAKERS Decision-makers act in a manner that is compatible with the corridor goals and objectives.</p>	<p>Governing bodies and decision-makers have the ability to apply effective means to ensure that only activities compatible with corridor goals and objectives occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having effective means is not enough to ensure that only compatible activities occur. Governing bodies and decision-makers must be able to apply them. All relevant governing bodies and decision-makers must be identified, and where they exist, track records of success or failure of decision-makers in using effective means should be considered.
<p>LONG-TERM Long-term means or mechanisms are in place and in effect year-round.</p>	<p>Corridor goals and objectives are maintained year-round and over the long term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms do not need to be permanent but should be intended to persist over the medium to long-term. Measures that only provide protection during a specific seasonal timeframe do not, on their own, achieve corridor goals and objectives.