

## Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the extent to which Canada has adopted the sustainability goal (SDG 15) "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss". It provides the different existing strategies and policies taken by Canada in terms of preserving its key biodiversity areas, while analyzing the role of these policies in minimizing species extinction, deforestation, and agricultural expansion. Moreover, the project report also provides the added value of comparing Canada's performance on sustainability with other countries with similar GDP, economy, and size. Upon establishing our team as part of the APS1049 course at the University of Toronto, initial discussions were held with KPMG towards understanding the sustainability goals and what KPMG expects to achieve from this project, as well as comprehending the existing challenges relating to the existing policies on biodiversity proposed by Canada. Namely, KPMG wanted to approach the SDG 15 with an innovative methodology, with the goal of positioning Canada at the top of the sustainability market, while convincingly conveying the value brought by these policies in terms of reducing species extinction, agricultural expansion, and deforestation. Hence, brainstorming sessions were conducted within our team and with KPMG, and a methodological framework was proposed for analyzing data on biodiversity while gathering data on the existing policies. The results from the data analysis indicated that the most common threat faced for species extinction is the unintentional harvesting effects as well as pollution effects. Additionally, it was found that the biggest obstacle in attempting to safeguard key biodiversity areas, KBA's, is the lack of geographical identification. Furthermore, the deforestation data analysis indicated that non-renewable energy sources/processes and agricultural expansion are the leading cause of deforestation in Canada. The deforestation rate in upcoming years has decreased to around 1.4% a year since 2015 and even lower to 0.3% from 2018-2019. This report outlines the data analysis and the gaps in sustainability practices faced by Canada, and presents recommendations and actions that KPMG can propose to further develop the SDG 15 sustainability goal going forward which can be 1) investing in the recruitment and training of field conservation officers, 2) identifying and recognizing candidate KBA sites at risk, 3) converting emitted gasses to energy used solid oxide fuel cells, 4) establishing a government initiative to increase awareness on exotic species and its controls, 5) creating a detailed census report on indigenous people and 6) establishing a governmental organization to guide them, increasing nuclear power plant dependence.