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The Open Science and Data Platform:
A Tool for Regulatory Efficiency

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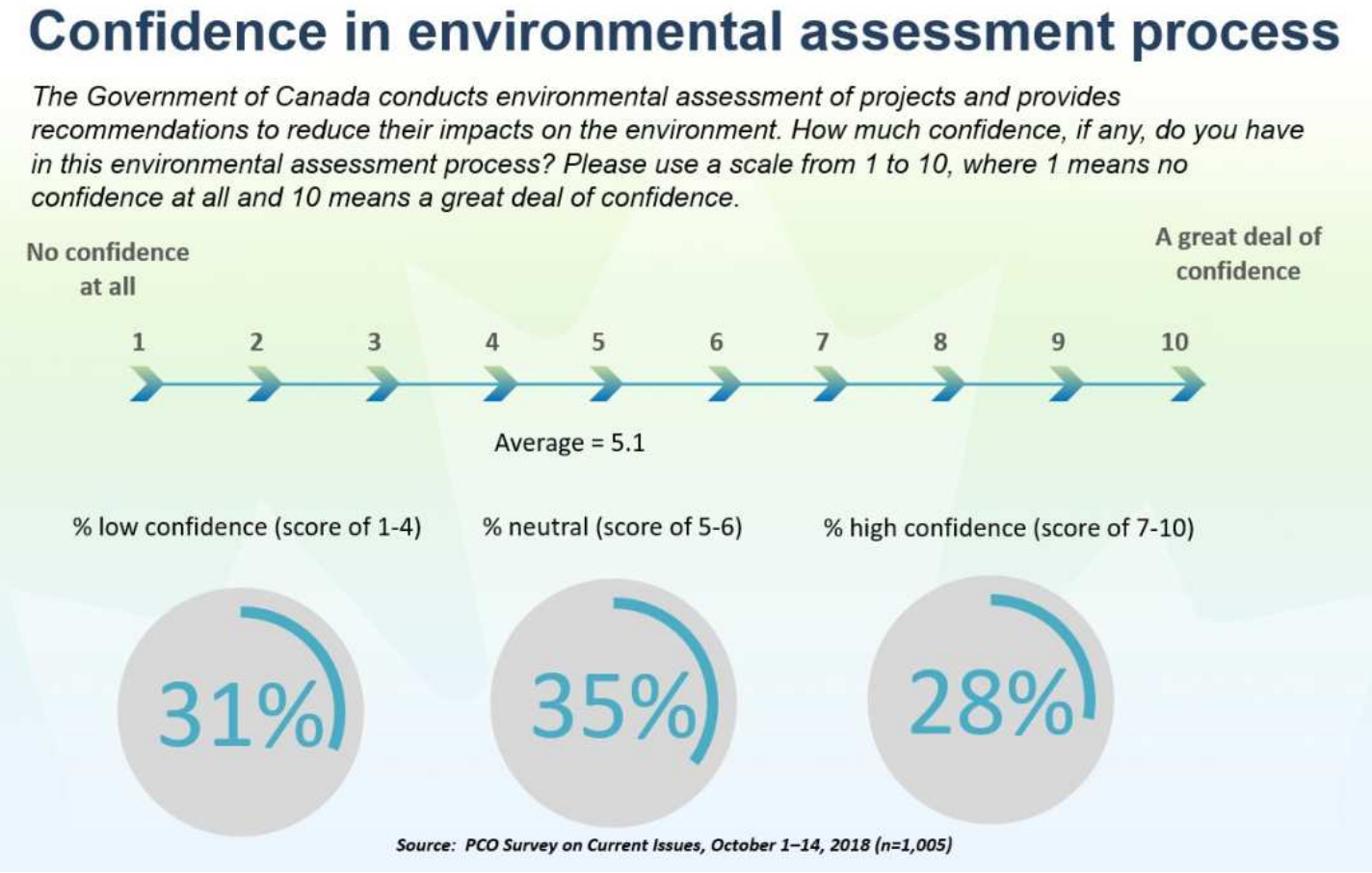
Outline:

- Background
- Current Status
- OSDP: a tool for regulatory efficiency
- Journey in region of interest
- Discussion

Background:

2016 Expert Panel on Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Processes



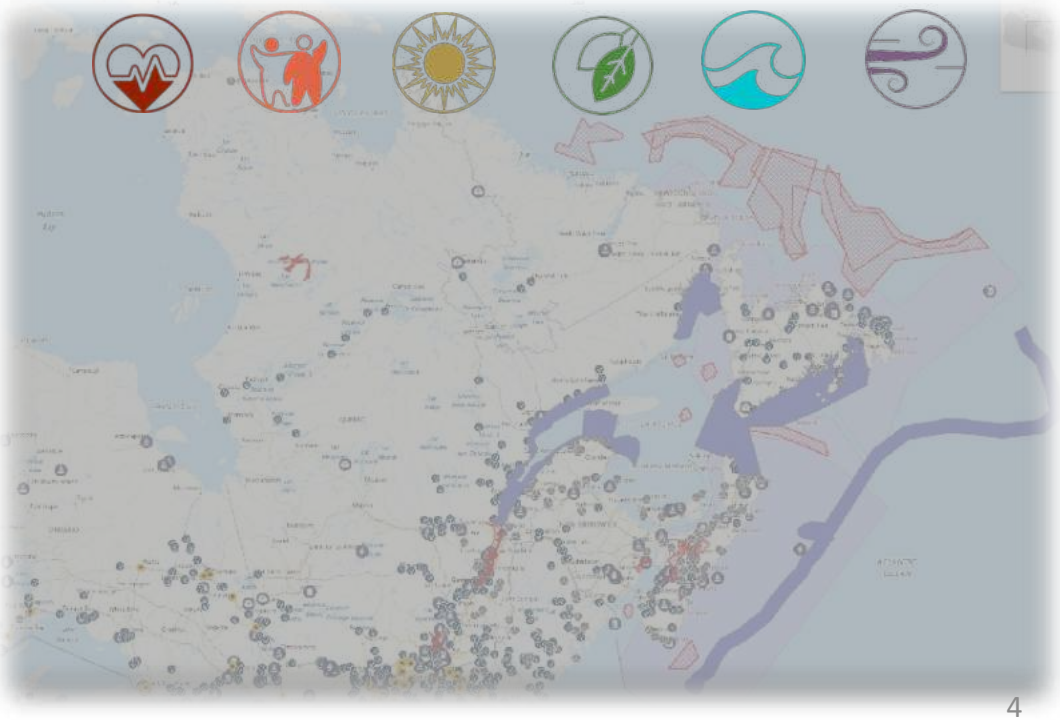
- **Biggest challenges identified could be overcome with better access to information, early awareness and improved transparency**
- **Science, evidence and Indigenous knowledge should inform project planning, assessment and decision making, and be open and accessible**
- ***The Impact Assessment Act* features deliberate approach to Cumulative Effects (CE):**
  - **Need was identified to create an Open Science and Data Platform to integrate fragmented data and science products dispersed across f/p/t systems to better understand CE and uphold public trust.**

Current Status

- ✓ Publicly launched in March 2021; co-led by NRCan & ECCC on behalf of 14 federal departments and agencies
- ✓ Brings together fragmented data and science dispersed across F/P/T systems; supports regulatory efficiency and upholds public trust in decision making
- ✓ Interactive geospatial mapping capability enables users to layer multiple datasets to see spatial relationships and unlock potential of open data
- ✓ Funding renewed for 2023-2028 under the Implementation of the Impact Assessment Act horizontal initiative

Content and Features:

- 27 federal, 12 p/t content providers
- 8000 + datasets
- 143,000 + scientific publications (NRCan, ECCC, DFO, HC)
- 19,000 + regulatory records via registries: IAAC, DFO, TC, CER, CNSC, Gov. of BC
- 567 monitoring stations
- **Thematic pages:** learn about CE, development activities, water, air, climate, biodiversity, land, economy and industry, heath, and society and culture.
- **Content collections** by theme or region of interest (support of regional initiatives e.g., TMX/Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative, Northern Ontario Ring of Fire, Atlantic Offshore Wind Development, Abitibi region).



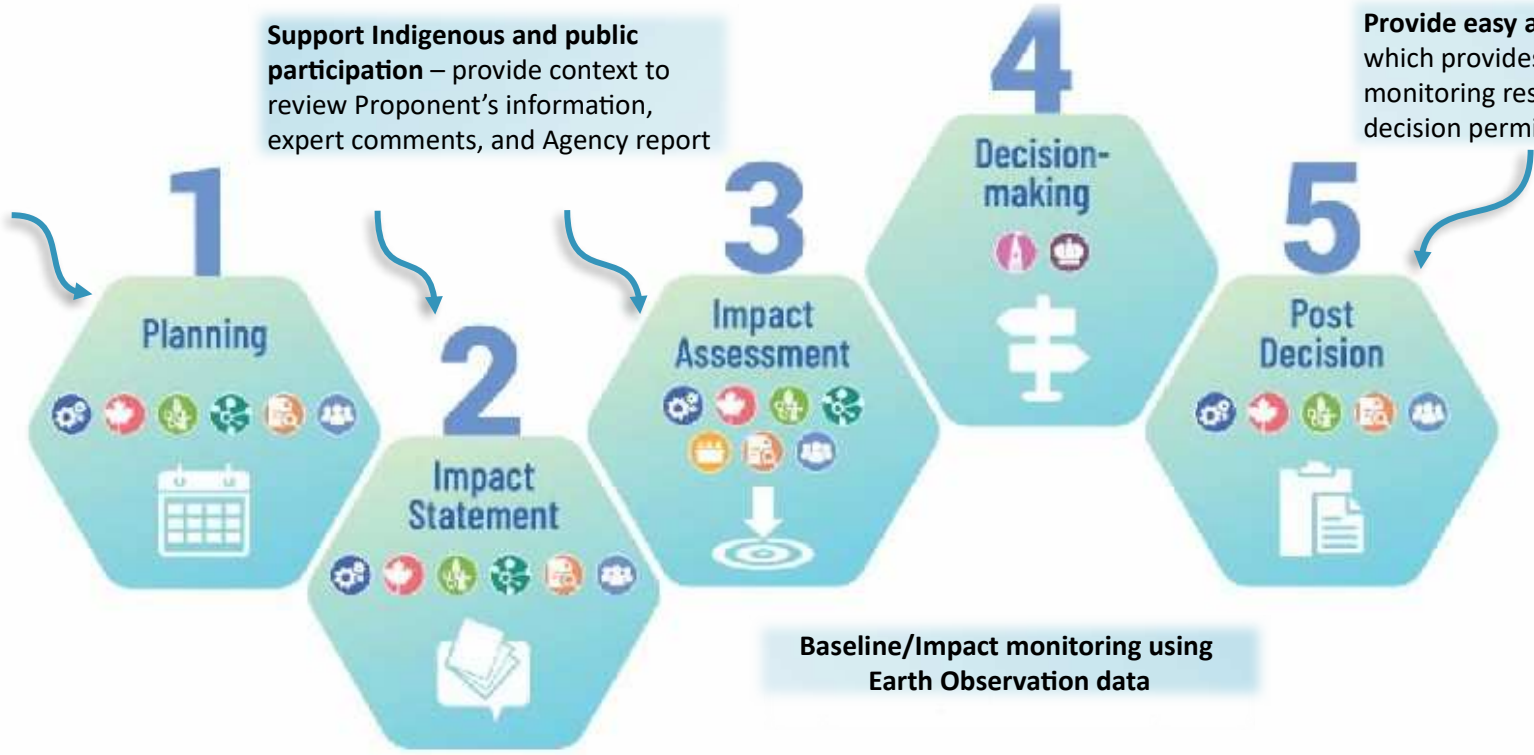
A Tool for Regulatory Efficiency

OSDP supports all phases of the IA process and beyond

Access to key data and science to inform drafting of Impact Statement (e.g., as referenced in Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, mechanism to highlight what is on offer – data from federal departments in their response to the Federal Authority Advice Record)

Support Indigenous and public participation – provide context to review Proponent's information, expert comments, and Agency report

Provide easy access to regulatory registries, which provides access to follow-up monitoring results and could support post-decision permitting



Registries on OSDP:

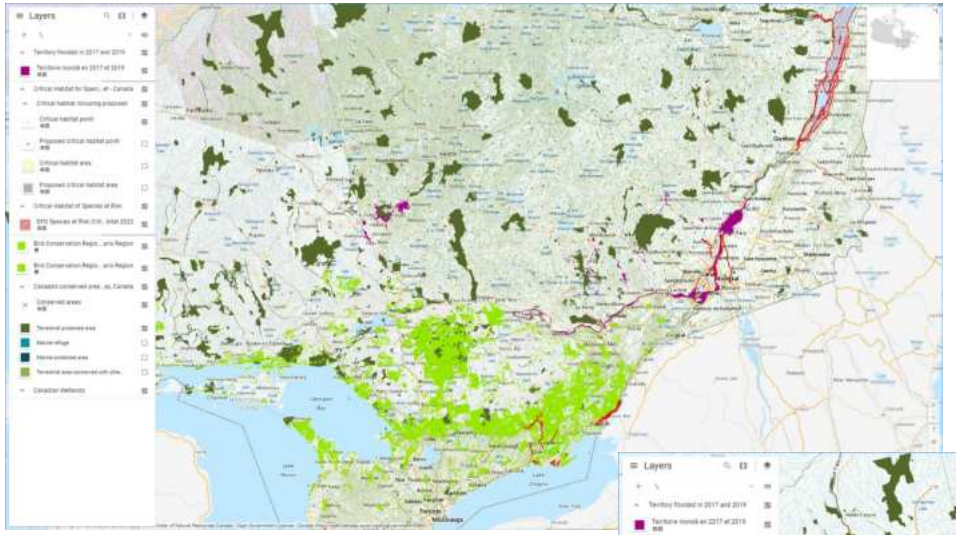
- **C**anadian Impact Assessment Registry
- Navigable Waters Act Registry
- Fisheries Act Registry
- Canada Energy Regulator
  - BERDI: Biophysical, Socio-Economic, and Regional Data and Information from major pipeline projects
- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
  - Environmental Protection Review
- Government of BC - Major Projects Inventory

OSDP can also support the regulatory efficiency 'legislative toolbox' including proposed pilots (e.g., BC, ON)

OSDP example journey: High Frequency Rail Project Toronto-Quebec City corridor

Scenario #1 : Regulatory registries, infrastructure and First Nation locations

****expanded on next slides**

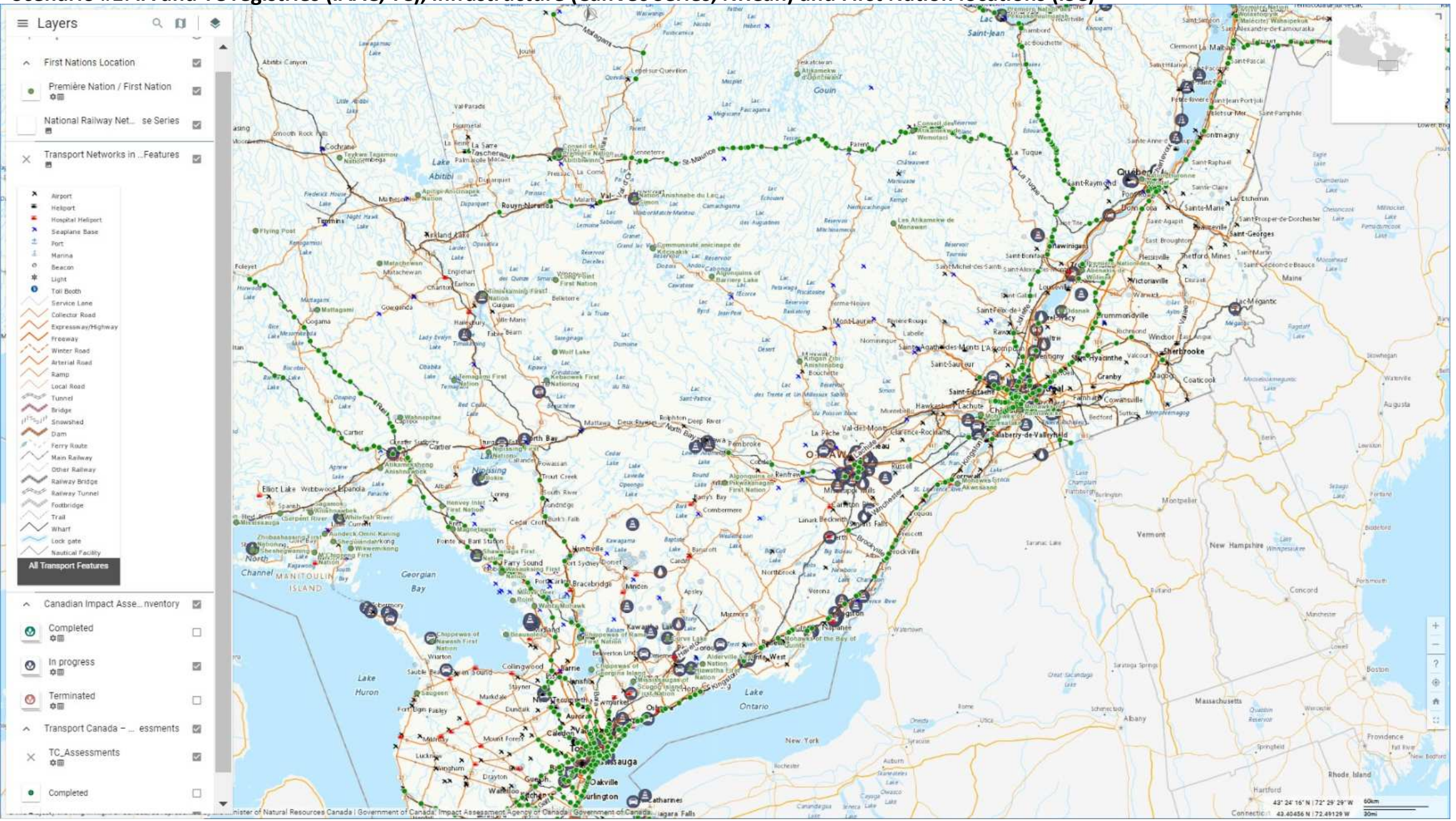


Scenario #2: Biophysical Environment: Critical habitat, conserved areas, species at risk, areas flooded

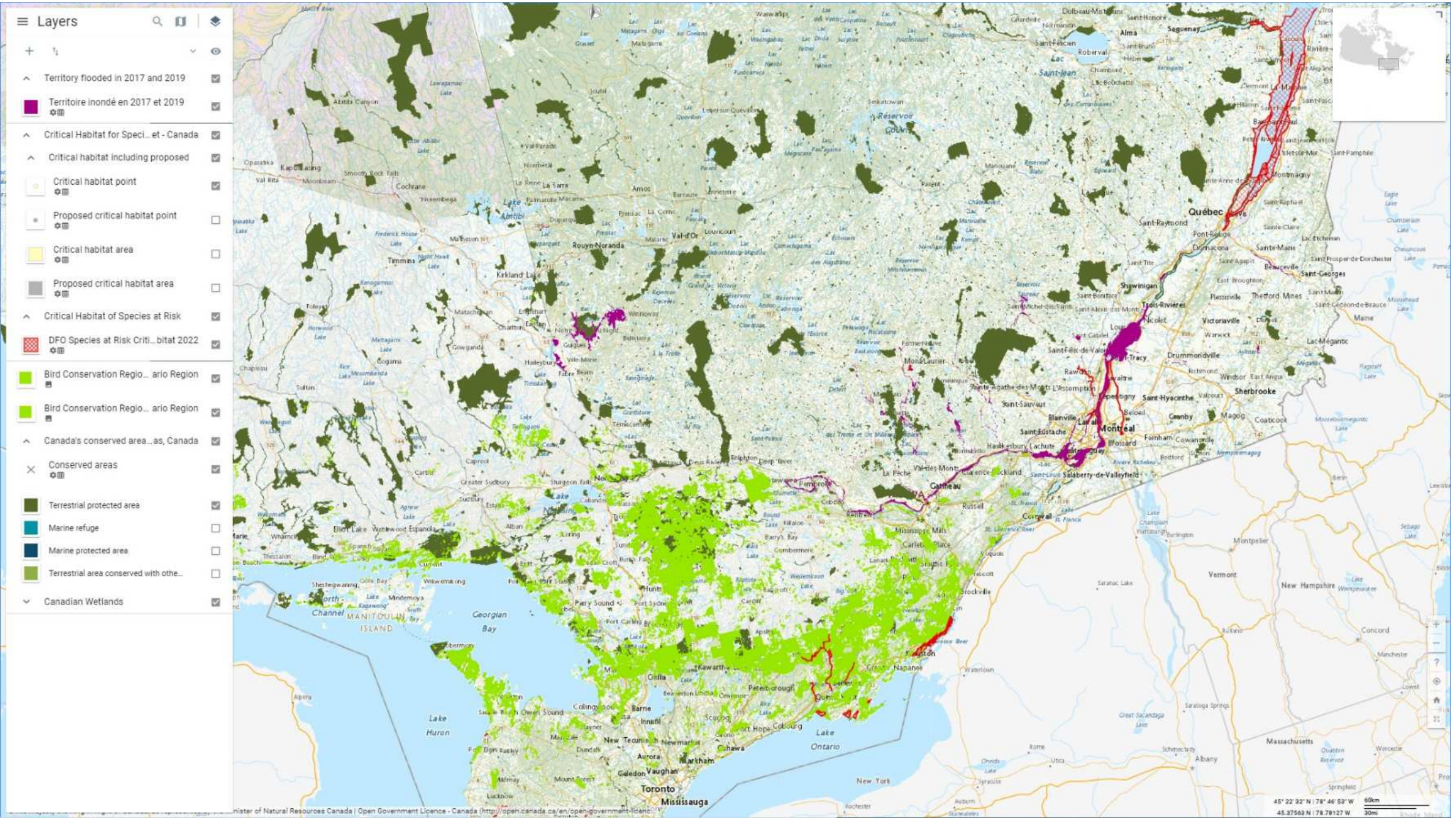
Scenario #3: integrated view, understanding cumulative effects and regulatory environment in region of interest

**Data provided by: IAAC, TC, NRCAN, DFO, ECCC, ISC, Governments of ON and QC

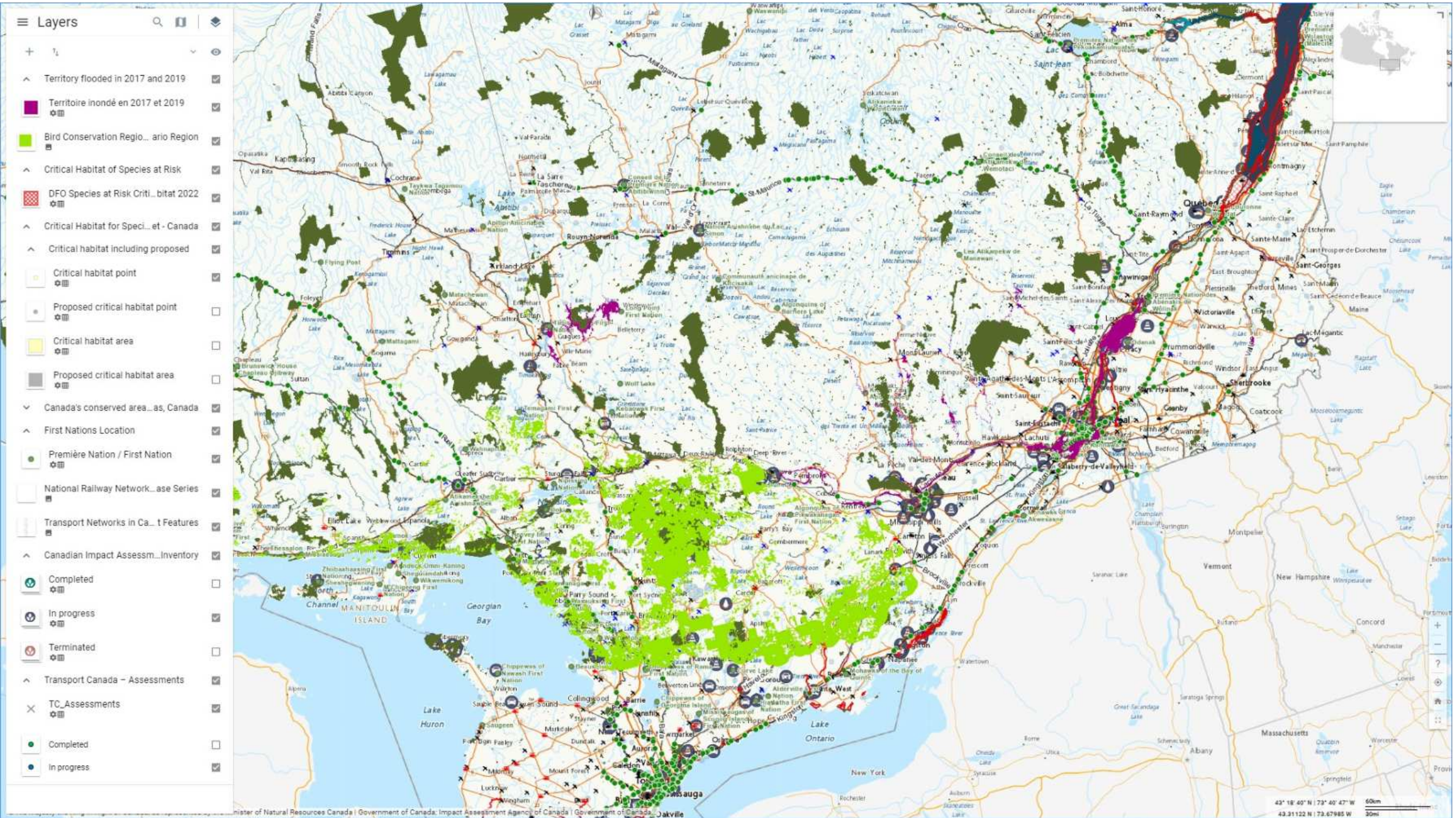
OSDP example journey : Data to support IA: Proposed High Frequency Rail Project, Toronto-Quebec City corridor
Scenario #1: IA and TC registries (IAAC, TC), infrastructure (CanVec Series, NRCan) and First Nation locations (ISC)



OSDP example journey: Data to support IA: High Frequency Rail Project, Toronto-Quebec City corridor
Scenario #2: Biophysical Environment: Critical habitat (ECCC) , conserved areas (ECCC, Government of ON), species at risk (DFO, ECCC), areas flooded (Government of QC)



OSDP example journey: data to support IA: Proposed High Frequency Rail Project, Toronto-Quebec City corridor
Scenario 3: integrated view, understanding cumulative effects and regulatory environment in region of interest



Questions for Discussion

- How could the OSDP be better leveraged by federal authorities for robust evidence-based decision-making in RA, IA and related regulatory processes?

- Where do you see OSDP fitting into the regulatory efficiency toolbox, e.g. P/T partnerships, proponent supports, regional hotspots?

Visit the OSDP

Additional Resources:

About the Open Science and Data Platform:
https://osdp-psdo.canada.ca/en/about-osdp

Take a quick tour:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAM_HpKm2Ks

Keep in touch

Web: https://osdp-psdo.canada.ca

Email: osdp-psdo@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Tell us what you think!

Feedback Form:
https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/Y2ZW5K8

Annex – additional background

The Open Science and Data Platform: a strategic fit

OSDP Usage Statistics

The Open Science and Data Platform: *a strategic fit*

A Tool to support…

Openness and transparency:
Public trust in evidence-based decision making

Regulatory effectiveness and efficiency:
Minister's Working Group on efficiency in IA and permitting
Clean Growth Office

F/P/T collaboration:
Surfacing f/p/t data, systems, and registries to support cooperation/harmonization across jurisdictions

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples:
Enhanced engagement; meaningful consultation

Key priorities and alignment with synergy initiatives

Clean Energy Transition and Net Zero Critical Minerals Strategy

Regional Energy and Resource Tables and Regulatory Efficiency Pilot

Open Government, Open Science
Open access to data, science and regulatory information to support a broad suite of initiatives

Interactive and Geospatial by Design

Power of open access and integration of multiple datasets in regions of interest

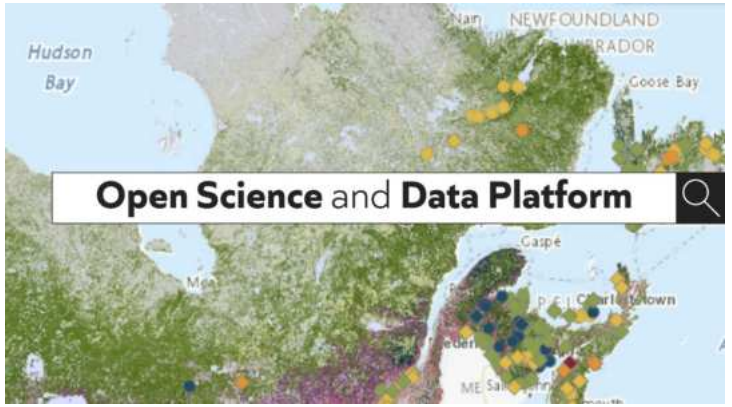
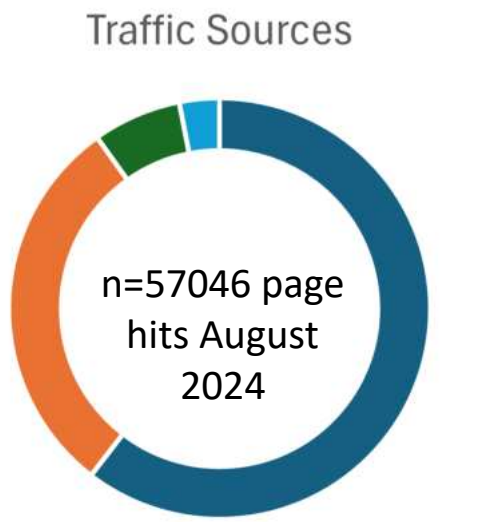
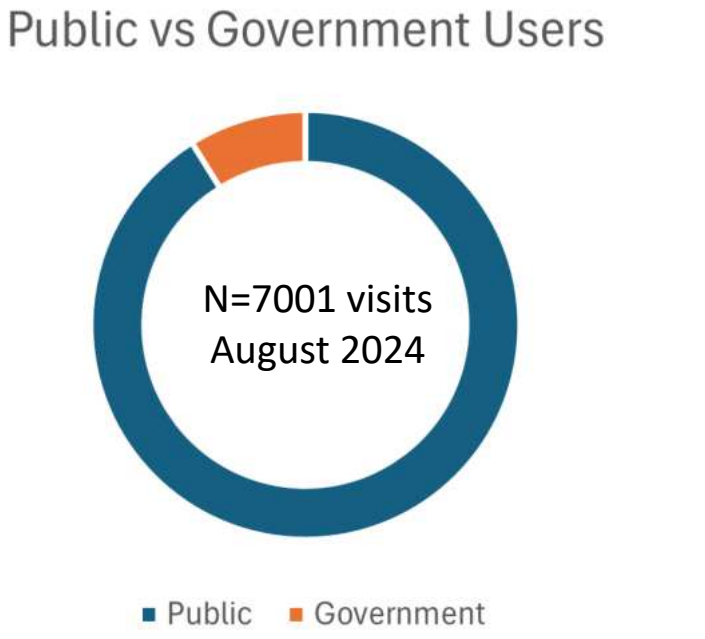
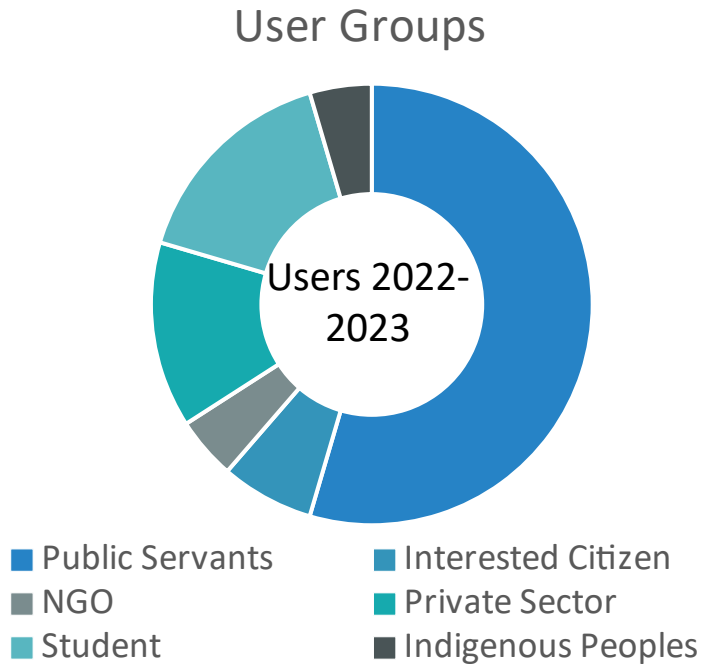
Understanding the changing landscape to inform regional assessments and cumulative effects

Curated content collections allowing users to find regionally-specific resources from diverse sources

Tracking OSDP Usage

Tracking Methods:

- Monthly analytics (e.g., returning/new users, page views, traffic sources)
- User feedback survey
- User Needs Assessment

Highlights:

- >14,000 returning users since public launch
- ~ 60/40 public/government users from 2020-2022, increasing public use more recently