



Species at Risk Act (SARA) Consultation,  
Cooperation and Accommodation Project

# Tools and Resources for Land Managers: Participant Summary Report

Created by:  
The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources



## Acknowledgements

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) would like to thank the participants that attended the Species At Risk Act (SARA) Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation Project in BC virtual workshop on tools and resources to support land managers with SARA related initiatives. We would also like to thank participants who shared their opinions, knowledge, and invaluable feedback towards the conservation planning process for Species at Risk. Participants represented Indigenous communities and organizations in British Columbia and Alberta. It is your participation that has made this step forward in building relationships and increasing Indigenous participation in Species at Risk recovery planning possible.

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## Project Summary

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) is partnering with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on a Species At Risk Act (SARA) Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation Project in BC. This one-year project will facilitate Indigenous communities' and organizations' participation in federal recovery planning for seven terrestrial Species at Risk: Grizzly Bear, Southern Mountain Caribou, Bank Swallow, Western Screech-Owl (two subspecies), Oregon Forestsnail, American Badger, and Marbled Murrelet.

CIER will support Indigenous communities and organizations and ECCC in their collaborative work including: recovery document development, knowledge and language sharing.

### Key Project Components

1. Consultation and Cooperation workshops (January – March 2021)
2. Modest capacity funding (Call for Expressions of Interest - EOIs - closed February 22nd, 2021)
3. Project evaluation report: outcomes, successes, challenges, needs assessment and recommendations for project extension.

Additional information on the project is available for download on CIER's website:

<http://www.yourcier.org/sara-consultation-cooperation-and-accommodation-project-in-british-columbia.html>

## 1.0 Training Session Background

The SARA training session was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, to share different tools and resources to support Land Managers working on Species at Risk (SAR) related work in their community or organization. The following is a list of some of the tools and resources that were shared at the workshop:

- National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association's SAR Management Toolkit
- Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources' SAR Teaching kit, SAR Action Booklets, & examples off Indigenous community SAR guidebooks
- Government of British Columbia's Conservation Data Centre
- Environmental and Climate Change Canada's critical habitat mapping and data sharing agreements, field guides, and online tools & funding

Participants included 44 representatives from 39 Indigenous communities across British Columbia and Alberta, as well as government representatives, and project consultants.

The session included speakers from the following organizations: National Aboriginal Land Managers Association ([Section 1.1](#)), Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources ([Section 1.2](#)), Government of British Columbia ([Section 1.3](#)), and Environment and Climate Change Canada ([Section 1.4](#)). (Note: To scroll directly to a specific section, hold down the control button (ctrl) on your keyboard at the same time as you click the section titles in the previous sentence).

### 1.1 National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association

The session was presented by Keshia Moffat, Environmental Coordinator for the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA). Keisha is from the Mi'gmaq community of Ugpi'ganjig located in Northern New Brunswick. She has over 5 years of experience working in the environment sector as an educator, communicator, researcher, and project coordinator. She holds a Master's degree in Environmental Practice from Royal Roads University. As the Environmental Coordinator at NALMA, she provides training, technical support, and develops resources to support Indigenous Nations in managing their lands and environment.

#### Overview

Keshia explained that NALMA's mandate is to build capacity and raise professional standards in land management that focuses on the following three areas:

1. Technical Support
2. Networking and Communication
3. Professional development

NALMA consists of several specialized units that offer training, resources, technical support, and funding to their members and other professionals in the field of land management. Through these units, NALMA has developed the following Environmental Tool Kits:

- Environmental Management Toolkit
- Climate Change Toolkit

- Waste Management on Reserve Lands Toolkit
- Contaminated Site Management on Indigenous Lands Toolkit (*in drafting stage*)
- Species at Risk Management Toolkit (*in final drafting stage*)

### **Participant Comments and Questions**

- Do you have to be a member of NALMA to use the toolkits? *Yes, you do have to be a member of NALMA to have access and use the toolkits. If you are interested, you can reach out to the regional office in BC or AB.*
- Is NALMA involved at all in federal law or policy reform relating to the Species at Risk Act? *No, NALMA is currently not involved in Environment Canada's SARA modernization process.*
- Does the toolkit speak to Indigenous, treaty, Aboriginal laws and rights and the need for SARA to comply in that respect? *Yes, it does. The toolkit includes this information along with provincial and federal laws.*
- Could land use management funding include Species at Risk work to inform land use plans? *Keisha suggested that participants contact the Land Use Planning Department at NALMA. Contact information is available on the website.*

## **1.2 Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources**

The session on the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)'s SAR Teaching kit, SAR Action Booklets, & examples of Indigenous Community SAR guidebooks were presented by Shianne McKay. Shianne is Ojibway and a member of the Pine Creek First Nation in Manitoba. She has 14 years of experience in the Environmental Conservation Sciences field. She has 13 years experience working directly with First Nation communities. Shianne joined CIER in September 2009 and is currently one of CIER's Senior Project Managers.

### **Overview**

Shianne talked about CIER's history of delivering aquatic and terrestrial stewardship program and highlighted the following initiatives:

- [Dakota Field guide & Storybook](#)
- [The Sagow Pimachiwin Guidebook](#)
- [MB First Nation's Teaching Kit](#)
- [MB Species at Risk Action Booklets](#)
- [The Hydro-Climatic Monitoring Roadmap](#)
- Manitoba USKE Land Use Planning & Visioning

She talked about the [First Nations Land Management Resource Centre](#), a 'First Nations organization dedicated to serving and supporting First Nations communities who want to re-establish control over their lands, natural resources, and environment through the historic government-to-government Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management'<sup>1</sup>. She mentioned that 99 First Nations have successfully ratified their Land Codes and 3 First Nations have moved on to full self-governance. She briefly elaborated on several [tools and resources](#) provided by the First Nations Land Management

<sup>1</sup> First Nations Land Management Resource Centre. 2021. [First Nations Land Management Resource Centre \(RC\) \(labrc.com\)](#)

Resource Centre including: Land Governance Manual, Land Governance Planning Hub, and Training and Resources.

### **Participant Comments and Questions**

- Would that be the same as an Order in Council? Is the Order in Council only for oil and gas? They are in Alberta and not signatory to Treaty 8.

## **1.3 Government of British Columbia Conservation Data Centre**

The session on the Government of British Columbia's Conservation Data Centre (CDC) was presented by Katrina Stipeck. Katrina has worked with CDC since 2005 and has focused much of her work on helping clients access species and ecosystems data and information. Katrina completed her Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Victoria in 1998.

### **Overview**

The CDC is part of the BC Ministry of Climate Change Strategy. The CDC team makes data and information accessible by:

1. **Compiling lists of species and ecological communities.** The BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer (BCSEE) reflects the standard for scientific and common names in B.C. Currently over 22,000 elements reported!
2. **Determining the risk of extirpation – conservation status ranks.** It is a science-based approach and not a legal listing. Species are listed based on a red (*extirpated, endangered or threatened*), blue (*special concern*), or yellow (*apparently secure, not at risk*) listing.
3. **Mapping locations of species & ecological communities at risk (“Element Occurrences” aka “EOs”).** Mapping locations are based on the following:
  - An area in which a species or ecological community is, or was, present
  - Has practical conservation value
  - Represents a breeding population/seed dispersal
  - Sustain the survival of the element and continues to be important over time
  - Some data is secured.

Katrina talked about 3 different CDC web tools: (1) BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer; (2) CDC iMap/EcoAtlas BC; and, (3) BC Data Catalogue. She also briefly discussed the Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS), which is Alberta's Conservation Data Centre and is housed within Alberta Environment and Parks.

### **Participant Comments and Questions**

- Does any other organization in the BC government collect and report regularly on the overall status of BC' biodiversity (i.e., number of species, ecological communities known to be risk, and cumulative disturbances of ecosystems)? *There is a section in the government, the State of the Environment Reporting, that does some analysis. Previously State of Environment produced publications on Environmental Trends in BC. Now they report out on various metrics. However, summary publications are not developed. NatureServe Canada does publish some scientific reports with a national lens.*

- Do we have an organization in Alberta that does what BC CDC does? *The Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS) does similar work to BC CDC.*
- Many FN communities are remote and do not have access to high-speed internet or high band width which is causing severe limitations to access IMapBC. Is anyone looking at this issue? *Currently, the issue isn't being looked at, but if someone needs information or particular data they can contact Katrina and she can provide in a format that is accessible by communities.*
- I think that fish and wildlife information that show data sets of animal sightings for biologists are available. It was accessible to the public, but they keep some of the more sensitive species hidden as they do not want the public knowing, visiting their habitat, and disturbing them. *The CDC sees value in the availability of data, but if a landowner providing data does not want it to be shared then that is a higher-level of securement.*

## 1.4 Environment and Climate Change Canada

Danielle Prevost led the fourth session on ECCC's terrestrial Species at Risk tools and resources. Danielle Prevost is an Indigenous Stewardship Biologist with Environment Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service. She has worked with communities throughout BC on conservation with a focus on Species at Risk. Danielle has a passion for all wildlife, but feels a closest kinship to frogs, as the most constant thing in her work and life is change. Danielle focuses on building strong partnerships and friendships to navigate these changes together.

### Overview

Danielle shared resources to aid in Species at Risk conservation and protection. Resources such as the SARA Public Registry, Open Data Portal, Federal Data Sharing Agreement for critical habitat maps, and Field guides for SARA listed terrestrial species at Risk in BC were shared during her presentation.

Danielle highlighted the following funding opportunities for Species at Risk work:

- Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk
- Habitat Stewardship Program
- Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program
- Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands
- Canada Nature Fund

She talked about the Community Nominated Priority Places (CNPP) and the 11 priority places across Canada identified by ECCC, 2 of which are in BC. The goal is to develop and implement ecosystem-based conservation plans.

### Participant Comments and Questions

- BC is currently doing a pilot project to amalgamate these resources into a Biodiversity Hub BC. The hub will include information about funding for Species at Risk work and challenges to specific approaches to this work.
- Can you talk about and share an example of a species where sharing secured data is detrimental to that species? *Snake dens is one example where buffer data is provided to protect the species.*

- When data is shared is it possible to get in KML vs. shape files for those who do not have GIS? *Yes, it is possible to get KML files.*
- How is climate change built into the data? *In terms of mapping potential range data where species might move as a result of climate change, that information is considered for recovery planning, however the maps included in recovery documents are maps of critical habitat. .*
- Is draft critical habitat data for specific caribou herds available through data sharing agreement? *If you want to enter a data sharing agreement, we would share the data we have within the boundaries of the agreement.*
- Are CNPPs finalized or just nominated at this point? *They are finalized and nominated by communities.*
- Has a section 10 agreement been entered into outside of BC? Do you have an example of this that we can access? *There isn't one available yet.*