



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

Project Overview & Terrestrial Species at  
Risk Funding Information Session:

*Participant Summary Report*



**CIER**

Centre for Indigenous  
Environmental Resources

## Acknowledgments

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) and Environment and Climate Change Canada Canadian Wildlife Service (ECCC-CWS) would like to thank the participants that attended the virtual “Species at Risk Act (SARA) Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation Project” information sessions.

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## Introduction

This multi-year project will facilitate Indigenous communities' and organizations' participation in ECCC-CWS listing and recovery planning processes for terrestrial species at risk as part of implementation of the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). Each region will focus their resources on an area of study and development that maximizes efforts for each species (see the [regional lists](#)).

CIER's role is to support a range of activities between Indigenous communities and organizations, and ECCC-CWS on developing recovery documents, sharing knowledge and language, addressing threats to terrestrial species at risk survival and recovery, and land use planning for species at risk on reserve lands and within traditional territories.

As part of the project, CIER facilitated an Information Session on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This session focused on providing an overview of the project and outlining specific funding available to support Indigenous communities' and organizations' involvement in this project, including participant fees, capacity requests, and an Expression of Interest (EOI). There were 59 attendees from Indigenous communities and organizations from across the country at this session. The following provides a summary of the presentations and discussion.

## Session Overview and Materials

After a brief introduction to the CIER and ECCC-CWS project team, Danielle Prevost (ECCC-CWS) began the presentation with an overview of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the SARA-CCA project. Kate Cave (CIER) provided an overview of funding that is being administered by CIER to support involvement of Indigenous communities and organizations in species at risk recovery.

Materials related to this session are available to download [online](#).

## Discussion Summary

The following is a summary of the comments or questions that came up during this session:

- Can this funding be used to help collect and update data on a species that occurs in our community?
  - **Response:** Yes, this funding can help support inventory and monitoring projects for species. If you have a specific example of this type of project and want to know if this EOI funding is the most appropriate for that, please contact your region's ECCC representative or CIER. See [CIER's website](#) for contact details.
- Is this funding only available for projects that occur on federal land?
  - **Response:** This funding supports work on all lands and waters; on reserve lands and traditional territories.
- Are recovery documents developed to include short-term and local recovery actions, or do they focus on broader and more regional/national recovery actions?
  - **Response:** Recovery documents provide species information, may identify critical habitat and population estimates, and outline recovery actions that could apply across the species range. Some recovery actions can be applied locally and within a short time frame. For example, if a recovery document mentions the loss of wetlands as a threat for a species, we could provide funding to support the restoration of a wetland as an immediate recovery action.
- Can you apply for EOI funding even if you have been approved for funding in a previous call for EOIs? Can you submit more than one EOI application in a single funding round?
  - **Response:** Yes, if you submitted an EOI application in a previous funding round and were approved for funding, you can apply again in the next call for EOIs. Yes, you can submit multiple EOI applications in a single funding round.
- Can you apply for funding to prevent the potential future loss of a species?

- Response: While the priority of this funding is for species-at-risk that are currently undergoing recovery planning activities, we may be able to support funding for culturally important species or for early prevention of species loss. Please contact your region's ECCC representative or CIER to confirm whether it might be a project that this funding can support in your region.
- Can we apply for funding if we have received AFSAR funding? Can we combine EOI-funded activities with AFSAR-funded activities?
  - Response: Potentially. You would have to confirm with your region's ECCC representative.
- How can Indigenous Knowledge be brought to the forefront of species-at-risk work, and be more meaningfully incorporated into federal recovery planning work? Is it possible to have funding for species-at-risk work be more evenly distributed between scientific studies and studies focussed on the collection of Indigenous Knowledge?
  - Response: Part of the reason for this project is to have more in-depth conversations about Indigenous Knowledge and species-at-risk work. We are working towards including Indigenous Knowledge more meaningfully into federal recovery planning work and this EOI funding can help fund more projects focused on the collection of Indigenous Knowledge related to species-at-risk. The topic of weaving western science and Indigenous Knowledge in species-at-risk work is a large topic of discussion that we are looking forward to continuing to have.