



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

**Land Relationship Visioning Toolkit - Part 3 Summary
Report**

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Created by:
The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources
(CIER)



CIER

Centre for Indigenous
Environmental Resources

Acknowledgments

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

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Introduction

This multi-year project will facilitate Indigenous communities' and organizations' participation in Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) listing and recovery planning processes for terrestrial species as part of implementing the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). Each region will focus their resources on an area of study and development that maximizes efforts to each species.

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) role is to support and facilitate a range of activities between Indigenous communities and organizations, and ECCC 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. CIER also manages the provision of funds on behalf of ECCC SARA participation, capacity funding requests and Expression of Interest call for proposals.

LRVT Session Part 3 Agenda

Time (EST)	Agenda Item & Who	Notes
9:00-9:15	<p>Introduction Lynn Mallett</p> <p>Welcoming and Polling Question Lynn Mallett/Alexia Goodswimmer</p> <p>Acknowledgements, Agenda and Housekeeping Items Lynn Mallett</p>	<p>Lynn: Introduction</p> <p>Acknowledgements: Tineasha Brenot, Indigenous Engagement Officer with the Canadian Wildlife Service under Environment and Climate Change Canada - will provide an overview of SARA and CWS work</p> <p>Kassie McKeown, Technical advisor for Cambium Indigenous Professional Services – from Alderville First Nation, will facilitate the LRVT presentation.</p> <p>Alexia Goodswimmer- Research Associates at CIER, will be working in the background aiding with the chat screen, recording and notetaking</p>
9:15 – 9:20	Introduction by ECCC	Tineasha Brenot, to provide overview of CWS, SARA project and funding.
9:20 – 10:10	Land Relationship Visioning Tool	<p>PowerPoint presentation by Kassie McKeown: The agenda is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening and reflection. Opening and closing by Dave Mowat, Chief, Alderville First Nation • When to use tool. • Go through tools. • Discussion (effectiveness and Feedback). • Communities piloting tool – feedback from 3 communities
10:10 – 10:20	Break (10 minutes)	
10:20 – 11:10		Miro Board – Virtual whiteboard
11:10 – 11:15	<p>Closing and wrap up Lynn Mallett/Tineasha Brenot</p>	

Presentation Overview

The presentation from Cambium Indigenous Professional Services (CIPS) provided a review of the Land Relationship Visioning Toolkit, which intention is to:

- Create a space for data collection beyond legislated species and spaces
- Assist land practitioners by functioning as a practical tool
- Act as a starting place for those interested in but overwhelmed with data collection and land use planning
- Bring community together by creating opportunities for knowledge sharing
- Create an opportunity for reconnecting to the land

The toolkit is comprised of 4 toolsets:

Toolset #1

Practitioner's digital toolset #1 provides a space to record important digital resources. These resources will provide the community with the beginning of a resource library and will help build knowledge and capacity.

Toolset #2

In this section the toolkit covers tools to complete species inventories. In this portion of the digital package, participants are provided with the following supporting digital tools to document important species such as:

- Tab 2A: Species at Risk Act designations
- Tab 2b: Cultural Species

These resources will allow the user to develop a species inventory for their community, in the form of Excel spreadsheets. There they can track culturally important species for a community and help to locate Species at Risk designations.

Toolset #3

This portion of the digital package provides the user with Tools to document community habitats. In this digital package you will find

- Tab 3a: Cultural Spaces
- Tab 3b: Habitat Identification

These resources will allow communities to efficiently document the important habitats and spaces in their community.

Toolset #4

This section (Methods of Mapping) provides a variety of methods for mapping such as hands on mapping, scale and image mark up, Graphic Information Systems (GIS) plus Multimedia and internet-based mapping.

Discussion Summary

CIPS provided a presentation on the Land Relationship Visioning Tool (LRVT) Part 3. This half day workshop was held on March 23, 2022 and had a main goal to provide an overview of the toolkit, and to have the communities who piloted the tool, provide feedback related to their experiences to CIPS, ECCC and other communities. The following were involved in the presentation.

- SARA Overview was presented by Tineasha Brenot, Indigenous Consultation Officer with ECCC, with support from Victoria Leck.
- Kassandra (Kassie) McKeown with Cambium Indigenous Professional Services (CIPS)

- Communities that were selected to pilot the Land Relationship Toolkit, were invited back to a third presentation on their experiences with the toolkit. Included in that invite were participants from previous LRVT Workshops.
- In attendance to the workshop were 18 individuals from 16 Indigenous Communities and/or Territories.

Meeting Objectives:

- Welcome Ontario Indigenous communities and organizations back to a third session
- Receive feedback from communities who were selected to pilot the Land Relationship Visioning Toolkit (LRVT)
- Presentations from communities who piloted the LRVT
- Collaborate with communities/organizations on Conservation ideas and actions
- Question and comment on the Land Relationship Visioning Toolkit
- Miro board activity to summarize feedback

Toolkit #1: Digital resource library

CIPS Q: Kassie asked if those who have been able to use the LRVT digital toolkit #1, have you found this to be useful or easy to use? Have you been adding on to it? Would you like to say anything related to the toolkit?

A: We have found this portion of the toolset very useful and comprehensive. The descriptions were useful which made it user friendly. We have not added to it however I am eager to see how it will grow.⁷

Toolkit #2: Understanding Natural Heritage Inventories

Comment/suggestion: What would be helpful might be is to put together a handbook with short descriptions and pictures of specific species, as some users might not know the scientific terms for them. If there could be a part in the spreadsheet that could link the Species at Risk Act (SARA) website, which provides photos and descriptions. It would assist with identification.⁷

Toolkit #3: Tools to document community habitats

Comment/suggestion: What would be interesting is to add links and photos into another column which you can pull up a photo to reference the habitat.⁷

Comment/suggestion: A helpful tool would be a pulldown tab beside the habitat type, that could help identify where these habitat types are found or just a section that can sort out the various types of habitats.⁷

Q: Is it possible that these resources, can be linked to something, which could help identify various types of wetlands. Is there a list of standard habitat types that would provide descriptions? Can there be a section to leave room for the user to add ideas such as traditional listings?⁷

CIPS: (Kassie) Excellent feedback, there are different resources out there that can be added to the toolkit. We will put together some of these additional resources, and have them added to the LRVT

Toolkit #4 Mapping Natural Heritage Features:

CIPS: (Kassie) Is there any feedback for this portion of the toolkit?

A: Our community uses a method called "Direct- To- Digital Mapping". The idea of this mapping is it can be done live, while conducting interviews with the community members. It uses methodology that uses Google Ear pro, and it is very easy to use.⁴

CIPS: (Kassie) This resource will be reviewed from CIPS, to see how it can be incorporated into the toolkit.

Comment/suggestion: Another item that would be useful is a list of some applications that could be used in the field of for data collecting, taking photos, and taking way points. Apps that are user friendly to those who are just getting started. GIS photo, and Spot marked are some of these programs⁷

CIPS: (Kassie) This has been mentioned and it is more user friendly to use these Apps.. It is very useful for anyone to use their phone and be interactive in recording data.

Toolkit #5: Using your vision to guide community decisions:

This is the summary portion, step by step assistance to write a report. This is generic and open for any type of report your community needs it for. This part may have not been reached from the Pilot project users. Anyone have a chance to use this? And does this make sense to them in or useful in any way?

Comments: None were made.

Summary from Pilot project participants

Caldwell First Nation summary provided by Cambium Indigenous Professional Services as Caldwell First Nation (CFN) was not in attendance. Kassie McKeown was in participation and conversations with CFN for the pilot of the project. The following is her synopsis of those activities

Caldwell First Nation:

Caldwell First Nation wanted to start a working group for the LRVT, there was a weekend meeting held to initiate discussions on Species at Risk and other species. This was to gain interest for those who may want to join the working group and participate in the conservation efforts. This focus group was held in the winter, which they established a work plan that will assist their community to achieve their goal. Now with spring approaching field work and the focus of these working groups can be held now that spring arrived, and the seasons will continue to change.

Moose Deer Point

Moose Deer Point First Nation (MDPFN), hosts a very biodiverse area and is home for various species included on the Species at Risk List. The community is surrounded by the O'Donnell Point Provincial Nature Reserve, and the community of Moose Deer Point has a dwindling number of elders and knowledge holders so to start using the LRVT was not much "on the lands" work" so the focus was a working group.

Contact was made to those known land users, the people who trap, fish and hunt also the Elders, then they were presented the working information for the LRVT and how they wanted to use it, what they wanted to do. Maps were reviewed a natural boundary line that the Traditional Land Use wanted to follow this map was displayed and elders/knowledge holders provided information on what they considered MDPFN traditional land, and this knowledge showed that the boundary extended quite further from the lands, MDPFN has. Historical and culturally significant locations were discussed with elders, locations they utilized historically, different information was recorded.

A decision was made to use that information and do a Bio Blitz in those culturally significant areas to see if it is also environmentally significant however the weather kept the community from going out and over time interest was lost. Mentioned locations from those who participated would be further investigated to identify

other Species at Risk, species habitats and record the data collected into the Land Relationship Visioning Toolkit. MDPFN provided additions that they created within the LRV Toolkit.

Culturally important species are those that are highly significant to those with prominent functional roles in their diet, materials, medicine, cultural identity and/or spiritual values. The difficulty has been hard to develop a list based on that term. We took the excel spreadsheet and “ran with it”. Species are presented in English and Ojibway, drop down menus are placed so it was easier to sort. Further explanation of how Moose Deer Point separated each section provided within the Land Relationship Toolkit was provided to those in attendance and the community. As this is confidential information for Moose Deer Point First Nation, they did ask if anyone wants to share and has extended an offer to share the template for other communities who are interested.^{7, 10}

Resources

Cambium Indigenous Professional Services Land Relationship Visioning tool link
<https://www.indigenoussaware.com/lrvtraining>

Garden River First Nation provided this resource they use for mapping this is Direct To Digital https://firelight.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Guide_FirelightGroup_DirectToDigital_20JAN2016.pdf

Appendix A: Participant list and Contact Information

The contact information from participants has been left out of this public document. Participant information will be kept private internally, to help ECCC with report writing and the engagement phase of their SARA work.