



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

## **Land Relationship Visioning Tool Workshops: Participant Summary Report**

November 16 & 23, 2021

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 presented by Cambium Indigenous Services Ltd (CIPS) for the Land Relationship Visioning Tool.

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## Introduction

This multi-year project will facilitate Indigenous communities' and organizations' participation in ECCC's 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 (see regional lists posted on CIER's websites respective provincial pages).

CIER's role is to provide support in an administrative capacity to Indigenous communities, and organizations, and ECCC in their collaborative work including 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 for SARA participation, funding requests and EOIs.

Depending on the region, key project components will include:

- Information sharing sessions
- Engagement workshops
- Nation-to-nation dialogues
- Training sessions
- Modest capacity funding
- Project evaluation and reporting

## Presentation Overview

As part of the project, CIER facilitated a two-part Land Relationship Visioning Tool (LRVT) Information Session on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. These sessions provided an overview of the LRVT, which was presented by Cambium Indigenous Professional Services (CIPS). As part of the roll-out of the LRVT tool, CIPS and ECCC announced a funding opportunity for participants to test the tool as part of their community-based land management practices.

The LRVT is designed to be a multi-process, community driven tool designed to identify a community's significant spaces and species and develop a decision-making process to protect them. The main goals of the tool, is to maintain and enhance functioning habitats, maintain, and enhance wildlife populations, and protect community determined significant spaces. Altogether, this resource is designed to develop a land management vision and process, to protect significant species and spaces in an organization's community.

## Attendance

In attendance during the presentation were 18 different Indigenous organizations and communities.

## Funding Overview

It was announced during the workshop presentations that funding was available on a first come first serve basis to participants in attendance during either of the LRVT sessions. The objective of the funding was to provide financial assistance to communities who wished to pilot the tool as part of their community Species at Risk, and land management plans, and to provide feedback for further development and refinement of the tool, geared for Indigenous communities.

The communities who were chosen to test the tool, were provided guidance and support by CIPS. Feedback gathered by CIPS, during the piloting period, from the participating communities will be used to provide a follow-up and information building workshop in March 2022.

## Q&A Session Summary

The CIPS PowerPoint presentation and resource material can be found in the following location:  
<https://www.indigenousaware.com/lrvtraining>

During the presentation, led by CIPS, several discussions and questions were addressed. The following provides a summary of these discussions and questions asked.

Some of the Initial questions posed to the participants included:

- Where is everyone from?
- Why did you decided to participate?
- What interested you in the LRVT?
- What do you hope to gain from attending these sessions?
- Are you familiar with land use planning, Species at Risk conservation or funding proposal applications?

Some of the responses from these questions were as follows:

- Some communities had previous knowledge of Species at Risk and have already worked with species studies such as with Caribou, and reptiles all of which can be seen in the Provincial Species at Risk listings.
- Some departments within communities have received Species at Risk consultation notices and want to learn more about how to engage community members on these topics.
- Some communities wanted to learn more about tools and techniques related to land and species conservation, and land relationship stewardship.
- Some communities were interested in identifying species at risk in their communities, and working on ways to protect them, and planning for protection of traditional lands.
- There was an interest in mapping of sensitive land areas and where Species at Risk occur.

Also provided during the presentation were topics such as:

- Why mapping was important for communities.
- Community engagement ideas.
- Data processing ideas.
- Information on how to use data collecting activities to build community engagement in Land Management and Species at Risk plans.

Some comments and feedback from participants during the presentation include the following:

- Need to keep the lands natural and working to preserve the land for the future.
- Work needs to done, to maintain strong relationships with the community, and the land.
- Reconnect people and communities to the land and engaging them to become involved in the protection process.
- Collect data for reports to produce for Government and Industries, to provide background information to help in the protection of traditional lands during consultations.
- There is a need to protect and identify habitats for Species at Risk.
- Importance in compiling data during community consultations for project development.
- Need for support for projects to protect shorelines.
- Creation of invasive species plans for mitigation.
- Recording traditional and historical knowledge for protection of that knowledge for future generations.

- Significance and importance of Species at Risk and important natural areas are not based on a scientific point of view. For Indigenous communities they have other importance such as spiritual connections, ceremonial locations, trees with medicinal benefits, shrubs and rocks that have significant historical benefits for community members.
- There is importance and benefits of traditional teaching and gathering historical data based on species that use to be in the area, or new species that now have moved into the areas due to climate change.
- Create community awareness for Species at Risk and invasive species.
- There needs to be collaboration with other communities or departments within communities to build on gathering data for maps.
- Information was provided on what a BioBlitz was, and ways to create a successful one while focusing on incorporating Indigenous knowledge
- Include surrounding communities, Provincial Parks, and other neighboring communities to build stronger relationships that can protect Species at Risk.
- A project called 'Map Me Happy', was used as an example to build community engagement, based on large scale maps, and allowing each participant to record their data.
- Accessibility should be available to everyone within the community for data recording and various apps should be made available for recording data in real time, which can then be transferred to a map.
- Good to use large, scaled mapping projects to have community record data, as a hands-on exercise to gain community involvement.
- Build on mapping resources by using local resources to provide large, scaled maps, such as with forestry companies, Fish and Wildlife offices and local libraries.