

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

SARA101 Session 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 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).

The goals of the SARA project are to:

- Support capacity and skills development to incorporate Species at Risk and SARA considerations in land use planning, management, and stewardship.
- Enhance opportunities to contribute meaningfully to listing and recovery planning under SARA for terrestrial Species at Risk – including capacity funding.
- Provide funding for targeted recovery actions focused on priority species in the SARA legislated framework for this year and next.

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 EOI's.

Depending on the region, key project components will include Information sharing sessions as follows:

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

SARA101 Session Agenda

| Time (EST) | Agenda Item & Who | Notes |
|--------------|---|--|
| 9:00-9:15 | <p>Introduction Lynn Mallett</p> <p>Welcoming and Polling Questions Lynn Mallett/Anita Murdock</p> <p>Acknowledgements, Agenda and Housekeeping Items Lynn Mallett</p> | <p>Introduction Activity:</p> <p>Acknowledgements: Victoria Leck, Consultations Biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service under ECCC – SARA101 presentation.</p> <p>Anita Murdock– Research Associates at CIER, working in the background aiding with slides, polling, breakout rooms, recording and notetaking</p> |
| 9:15 – 10:45 | <p>SARA overview, Assessment and Listing Process Funding opportunities Protections</p> | <p>PowerPoint presentation by Victoria Leck: Discussion Q&A session facilitated by Victoria</p> <p>Polling Question #1: Have you or your community been involved in providing comments on a proposed species listing?</p> |
| 10:45-10:55 | Break (10 mins) | |
| 10:55-11:20 | Round Table discussion | Chance for participants to network and have discussions. |

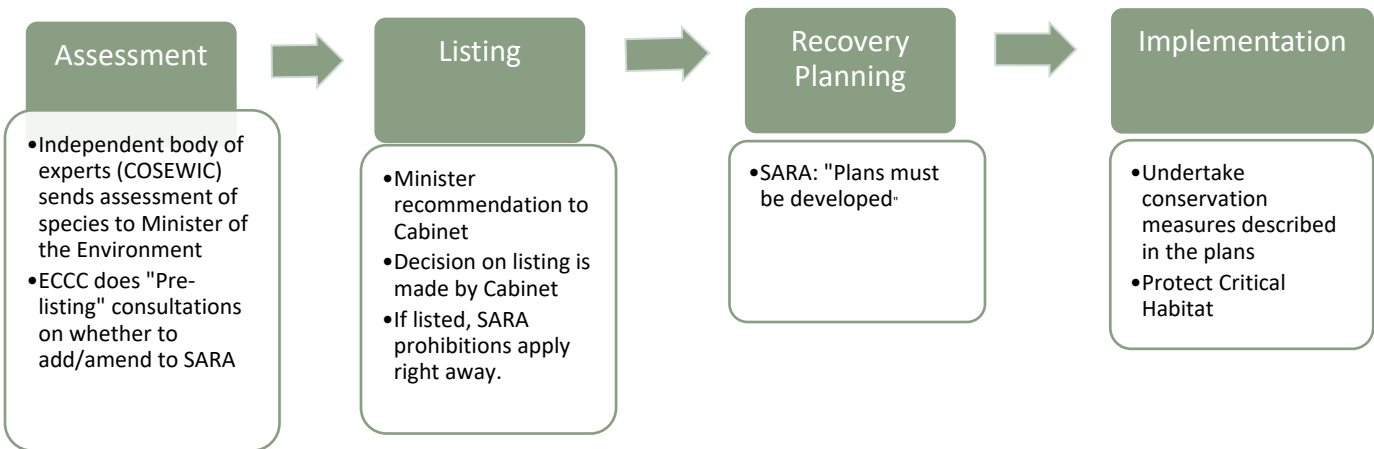
| | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| | | <p>Polling Questions #2: Have you or your community been involved in?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting a survey for a species at risk? • Habitat mapping for a federal species at risk? • Sharing Indigenous Knowledge for us in Recovery Documents? • Are you interested in being involved in any of the above? <p>Polling Question #3: Have you or your community received funding through ECCC for species at risk?</p> |
| 11:20– 11:30 | <p>Closing: Victoria Leck Wrap-Up CIER: Lynn Mallett</p> | Closing comments – Lynn |

Presentation Overview

As part of the project, CIER facilitated a SARA101 Session on February 3rd, 2022. This session provided an introductory overview of SARA, and the process of assessing, listing, recovery planning and implementation of species at risk protections. Current regional terrestrial species undergoing listing consultation and recovery planning within the next two years as part of the SARA Consultation, Cooperation and Accommodation Project was also presented. This session was organized to help Indigenous communities and organizations identify the species they would like to be involved in for listing and recovery planning.

- CIER Project and SARA Overview was presented by Victoria Leck, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) under Environment Climate Change Canada (ECCC).
- In attendance at the workshop were 3 participants from 3 Indigenous organizations and communities.

SARA is designed to protect individuals and habitat, allow for recovery of species, and work in a complementary fashion with provincial legislation. The Species at Risk Act Process can be found in the following figure and is adapted from ECCC SARA101 presentation by Victoria Leck.

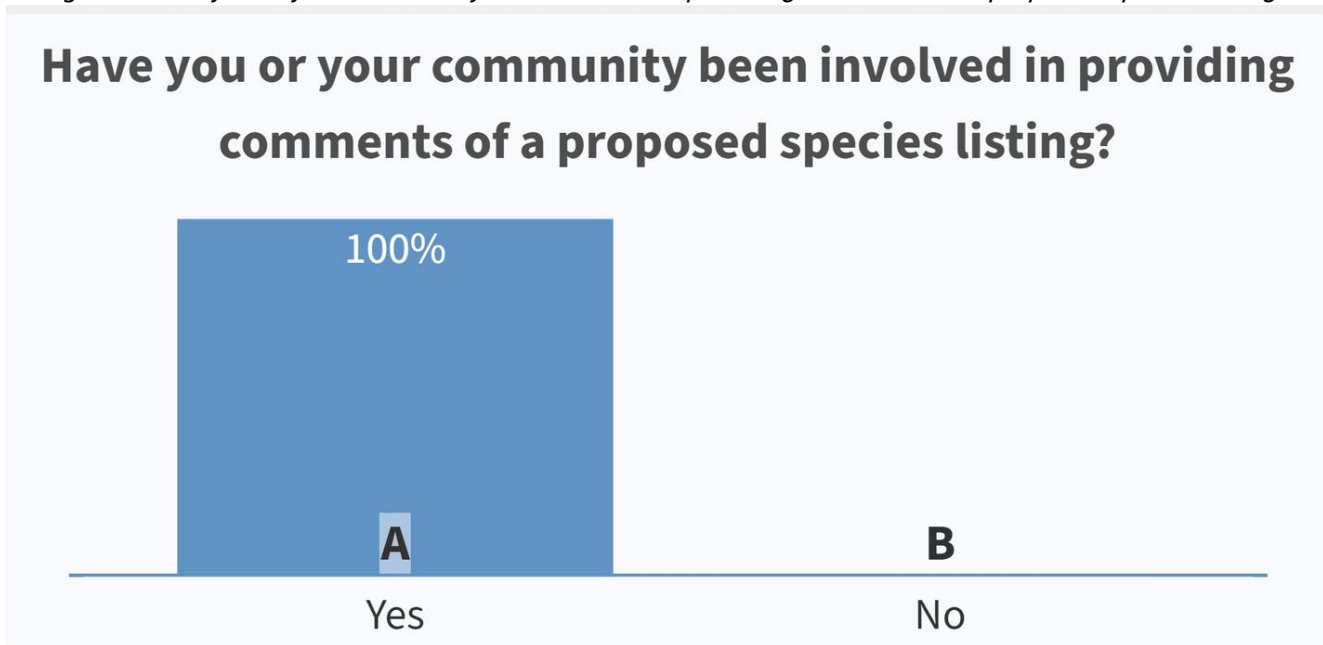


Discussion Summary

Listing

The first part of the presentation provided an overview of SARA and the listing processes. Following this part of the session a polling question was asked to the participants. The results for the first polling question are as follows.

Figure 1: Has you or your community been involved in providing comments of a proposed species listing?



Listing: Discussion Questions

Q1. What are the barriers that prevent communities from providing input on pre-listing consultations?

Q2. How could we improve the way we do pre-listing consultations?

- What works with listing consultation?
- What doesn't work?
- What would make listing consultation better?

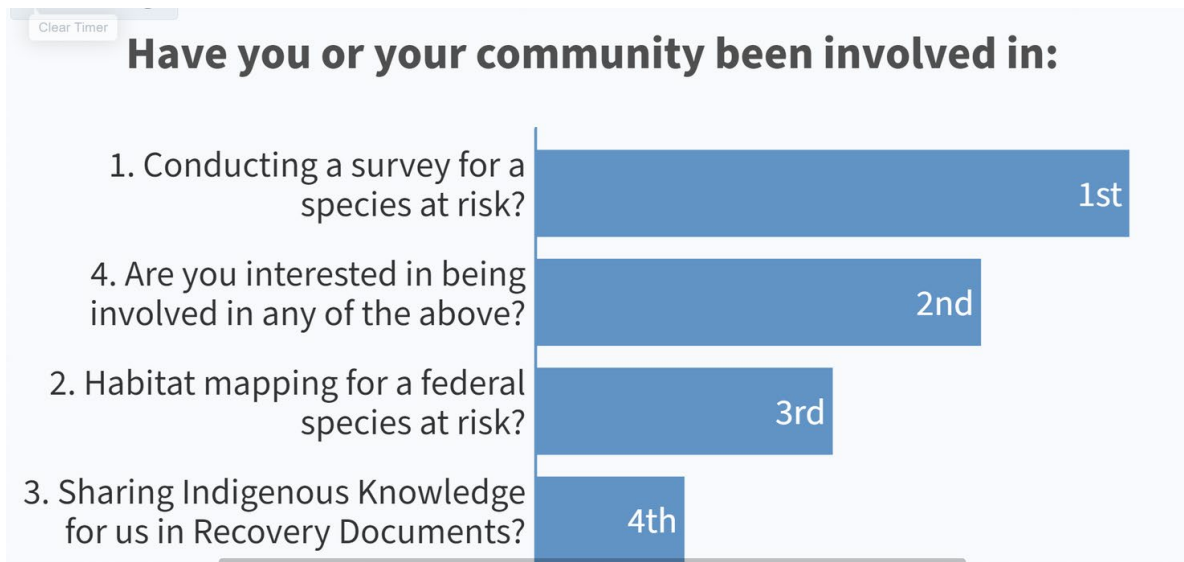
Q3. How do you, or could you, work with your community or organization to gather input on pre-listing consultations?

Q4. How could future protection of individuals, residences, and critical habitat impact and benefit your community?

Recovery Planning

The second part of the presentation provided an overview of the recovery planning process. Following the presentation, two polling question were asked to the participants. The results of the second polling questions is as follows.

Figure 2: Have you or your community been involved in? (Responses have been ranked):



Recovery Planning: Discussion Questions

Q1. What are the barriers that prevent communities from providing input on recovery documents?

Q2. How could we improve the way we do recovery document consultations?

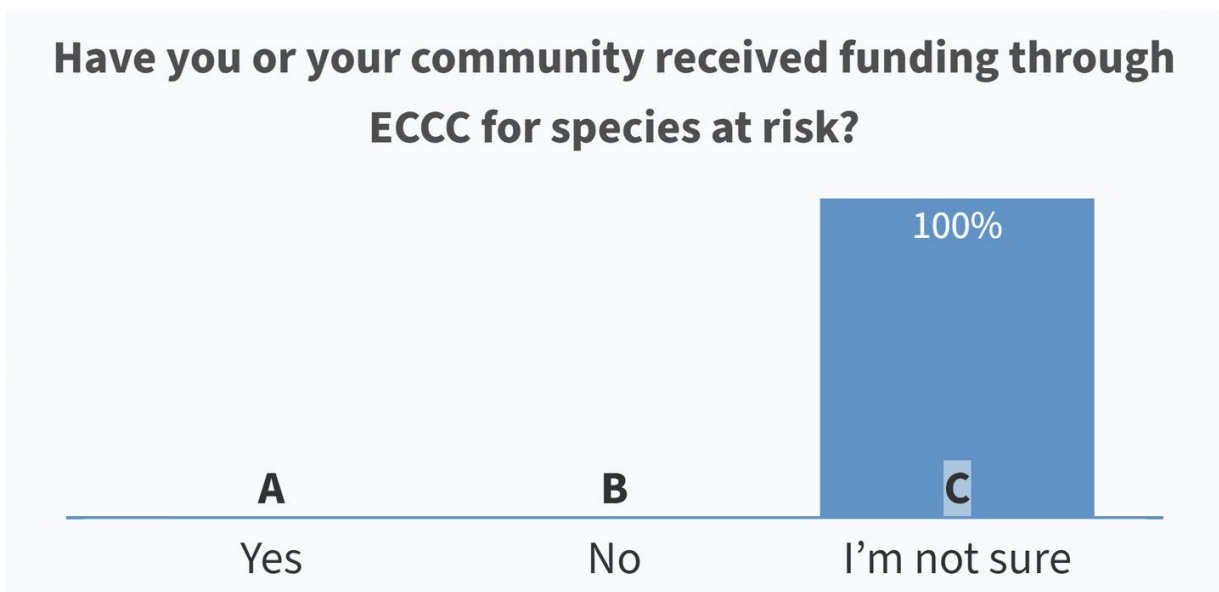
- What works well with the current process?
- What doesn't work?
- What would make recovery document consultation better?

Q3. How do you, or could you, work with your community or organization to gather input on recovery document consultations?

Funding

The third part of the presentation provided an overview of funding. The results of the third polling questions is as follows.

Figure 3: Have you/your community received funding through ECCC for species at risk?



Detailed Discussion

Q: Participant is quite new and doesn't know how much the previous person in this position was involved, however when providing comments, they must get approval up the line before they can say anything. Sometimes it is not possible with the time provided. They benefit from and prefer more one-on-one engagement.¹

CWS: (Victoria): We understand the time constraints, especially due to Covid. However, ECCC is flexible. We will allow for as much time as possible to add flexibility and would be happy to have a discussion.

Q: Who enforces the protection orders?¹

CWS: Enforcement of protection orders is done by protection officers. They will enforce protection on the land that the order applies to. There are no protection orders for reserve lands, as ECCC wants to look at collaborative options before putting in place any regulatory tools.

Q: We have infrastructure projects where we have hired consultants to put together environmental assessments. Since the consultants are not with ECCC and CWS, how do we know if they represent ECCC well. How can we trust their assessments, if they say no permits are required.¹

CWS: Good question. We recommend that you call our permitting team at ECCC. You can share details on the project and the environmental assessment, and they can provide a confirmation on whether you will need a permit. Some assessments may have already been assessed by us. Contact us, and we will let them know if a permit is required.

Round Table Discussions

Comment: Participant is new to the position and not aware of what their community has been doing with respect to SAR. They are interested in engaging in smaller projects and will certainly be listening in to the EOI funding session for February 9th. Monarchs are of great concern to their community. The Monarch migration use to be a big event in the area, but over the years the numbers have declined and dwindled. Now there are barely any are seen. We would likely want to participate in action plans directed to the Monarch, because their decline has had such a big impact to our community.²

CWS: (Victoria). Totally understandable. The area is a gathering point for Monarchs and other migrating species before heading across the lake. So, numbers are typically seen in large amounts.

Comment: Participant is also new to the position and aware of just a few projects related to SAR in the community. The previous person in this position applied for small projects. Likely nothing since last August. The community is excited to get things started and build projects for migratory species, as their community is a stopping point for these species.¹

CWS: (Victoria) Brought up Land Relationship Visioning Tool (LRVT) by CIPS and discussed. CIER provided link in the chat.

Comment: Participant is also new to the position and doesn't know the history of the projects their community has worked on. They are receiving funding for the LRVT pilot, so they are excited to get started with this. Are there any

other resources we can tap into? We would like to look at mapping for SAR in our region. This would help the community grasp the concept of what they are dealing with as it related to SAR.³

CWS: (Victoria) There are a lot of open-source resources. One such resource is the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC). You can refer to their website, however we recommend that if you are looking for specific information, you contact them directly. This is run by province. There are other mapping resources on the web such as *ebird* and *inaturalist*, or you can talk to elders and knowledge holders in your community.

Q: In the LRVT presentation and resources, it instructs us to create a list of SAR in our area. Is it okay to provide a list of species that are not part of SARA, but are looked as being as sacred to our community?³

CWS: (Victoria) Yes, you can provide both. SAR and other species important to the community. This is all part of the process of building up your LVRT.

Q: If we want to protect a species such as Black Ash, but at the same time the species is a source of income, what would the protection look like? How would we protect the species, while still being allowed to harvest for traditional or economic purposes.¹

CWS: (Victoria) Consultation on the listing of Black Ash is still underway. ECCC wants to make sure they do consider any socio-economic factors when listing a species. If there will be impacts, they want to know what they are. If the listing impacted Aboriginal Rights, then ECCC would want to investigate the impacts further. That is why the engagement and participation in these workshops is so important. It allows for engagement regarding impacts. Without going through the process, we are not sure what accommodation measures could be used.

Comment: We just do not want our community to have a fear of practicing their traditional ways.¹

CWS: (Victoria) Any accommodation to be made will be species specific and requires a different process in determining the specific species protection measures. That is why it is important to engage and participate in meetings and workshops. Also keep in mind that there is some flexibility in the deadlines, so feel free to reach out and we can arrange a one-on-one meeting or a visit to your community.

Appendix A – Participant 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.