

# POLLING QUESTION

Welcome! Where are you from?

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CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (CIER) – CANADIAN  
WILDLIFE SERVICE (CWS), SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA) CONSULTATION,  
COOPERATION AND ACCOMMODATION PROJECT (CCA)



SARACCA project helps facilitate Indigenous communities' and organizations' participation in Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) listing and recovery planning processes for terrestrial species. Website: <https://yourcier.org/sara/>





# ABORIGINAL FUND FOR SPECIES AT RISK – APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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Canadian Wildlife Service – ON Region

October 16, 2023



# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- AFSAR Program and Objectives
  - What Makes A Strong Project
    - Eligibility Criteria and Examples
  - What Makes A Strong Application
    - Technical Elements and Examples
  - Application Run Through
  - Other ECCC Funding Programs
  - Question Period
    - Ask questions throughout!
-

# POLLING QUESTION

Have you heard of the AFSAR program and/or have previously applied for AFSAR funding?

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# ABORIGINAL FUND FOR SPECIES AT RISK (AFSAR)

- The **objectives** of AFSAR are to:

Support and promote the conservation, protection and recovery of target species and their habitats on Indigenous lands or traditionally used territories.

Support the engagement and leadership of Indigenous Peoples in the conservation and recovery of species at risk, their habitats and processes related to the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

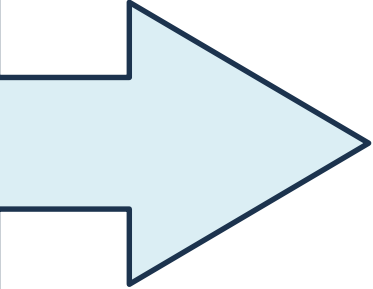
- Nationally, AFSAR allocates ~\$2.7 million per year to projects
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# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

<b>Eligible Recipients</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Indigenous communities and organizations located in Canada are eligible for funding</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Lands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reserves and lands set aside for the use and benefit of Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>• Other lands directly controlled by Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>• Lands where traditional food, social, and ceremonial activities are carried out by Indigenous Peoples</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Species</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species that are listed as Special Concern, Threatened, or Endangered on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA)</li> <li>• Species that are assessed as Special Concern, Threatened, or Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New projects may request funding for 1 to 3 years</li> <li>• Ongoing approved projects may request additional funds for up to an additional 5 years, to a maximum 10-year project length.</li> </ul>

# ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Habitat Protection and Securement
- Habitat Improvement
- Species and Habitat Threat Reduction
- Conservation Planning
- Surveys, Inventories and Monitoring
- Document and Use of Indigenous Knowledge
- Outreach and Education
- Project Evaluation



**Good Project =  
More Than One  
Activity Type**



# HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

- Enhancing, restoring or managing habitat of target species to improve overall habitat quality.

## Examples:

- Vegetation planting or removal of invasive species in the habitat of target species
- Residence creation (hibernacula, turtle nesting sites, etc.)



# SPECIES AND HABITAT THREAT REDUCTION

Direct intervention or proactive/preventative measures for target species under threat from human activity.

## Examples:

- Prevention of damage to target species habitats (e.g., educational signage)
- Protection and prevention of harm to target species (enabling species migration around roadways, exclusion fencing, etc.)



# CONSERVATION PLANNING

- Development of conservation strategies to improve habitat and reduce threats for target species
- Planning of stewardship programs, including target audience engagement strategies
- Compilation and dissemination of resource/land use guidelines and beneficial management practices

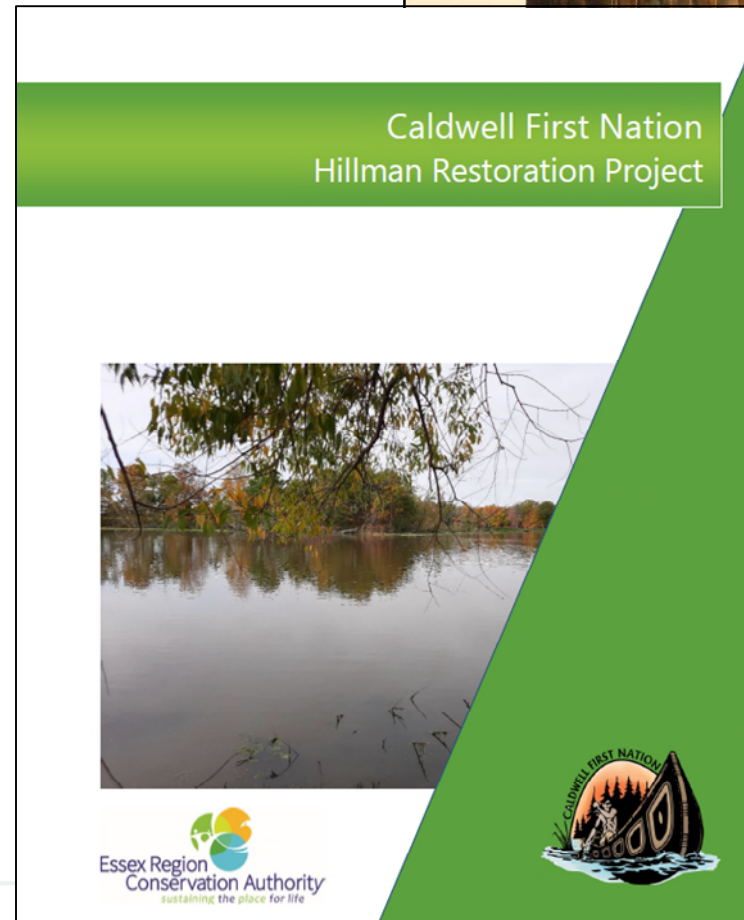
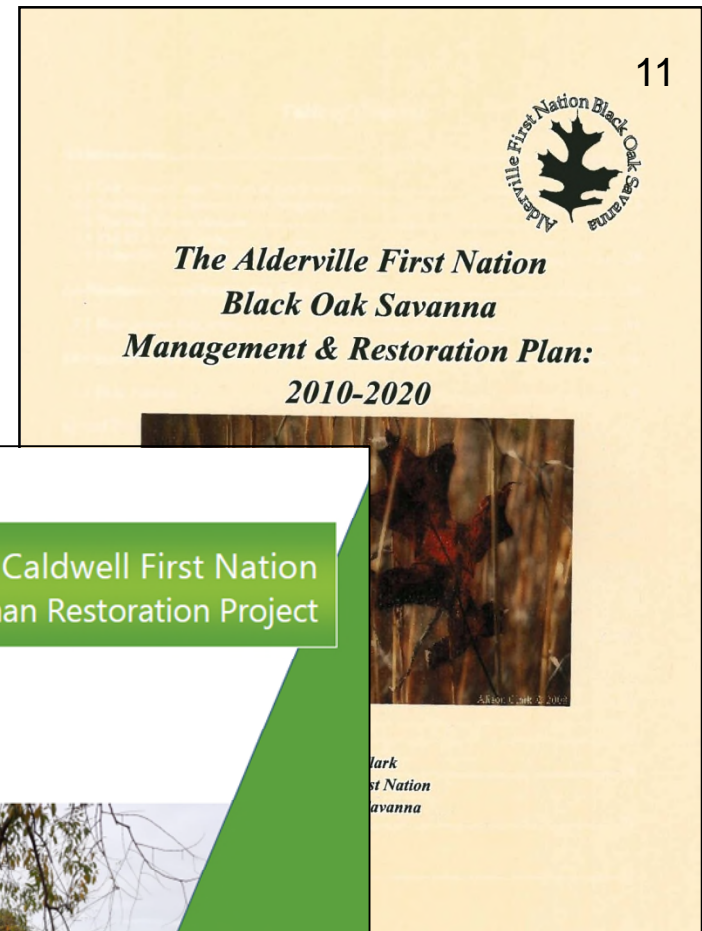


Photo: Alderville First Nation (Top)  
Caldwell First Nation (Bottom)



# SURVEYS, INVENTORIES AND MONITORING

- Assessing the presence of target species through surveying and/or monitoring
- Identifying potential sites for future habitat restoration (e.g., mapping and analysis of land types)
- Creation and/or maintenance of inventories or databases for habitat and species data

# DOCUMENT AND USE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

- Allows for communities to document Indigenous knowledge (IK) from knowledge holders/Elders, and where appropriate, bring in the IK to help inform the development of recovery documents and actions
- Consideration of IK for application in SARA processes and the planning and of national recovery documents
- Any IK gathered and documented is treated as Intellectual Property and remains with the recipient (community)

**CALLING ALL BIRDERS!**

Six Nations Wildlife & Stewardship Office  
wants your input and wisdom for our  
**2023 Bird and Bat Research Surveys.**

Field, D. (2022).  
Bank Swallow.  
All About Birds,  
Macaulay Library.

Finley, P. (2020).  
Chimney Swift.  
All About Birds,  
Macaulay Library.

Friedman, D. (2020).  
Bank Swallow.  
eBird Macaulay Library.

Irons, D. (2017).  
Eastern Wood-Pewee.  
All About Birds,  
Macaulay Library.

d'Entremont, R. (2017).  
Common Nighthawk.  
eBird Macaulay Library.

Jones, D. (2018).  
Acadian Flycatcher.  
eBird Macaulay Library.

Ecological Knowledge Interviews will  
be held on Monday, March 6, 2023.  
Come share your knowledge about  
bird and bat species on the reserve!

# OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Provide information to target audiences on specific actions to be taken to protect target species

## Examples:

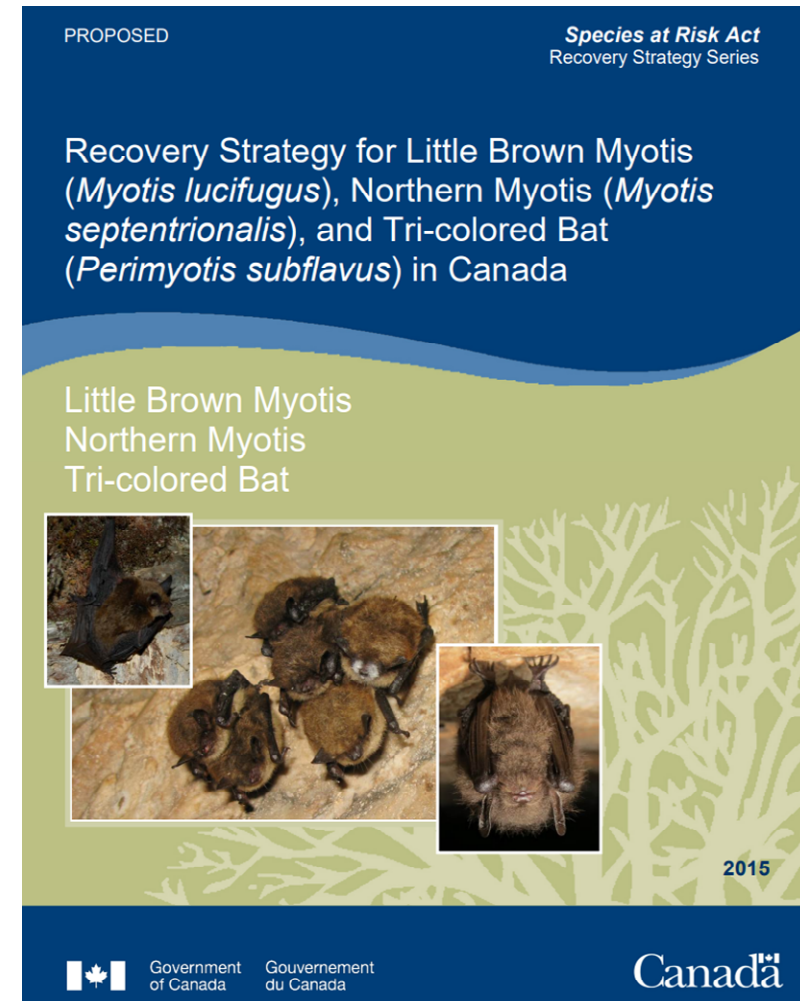
- Engaging with community members and land stewards about their potential contributions towards target species recovery
- Training of individuals/community members in stewardship practices related to target species



TWO HOUSE DESIGN-CRAFTERS  
snowshoe workshop  
Hosted by the Environment Program

# WHAT MAKES A STRONG AFSAR PROJECT?

- **High Priority Activities:** Project activities are linked to conservation actions identified in recovery strategies/action plans for target species
- **Critical Habitat:** For SARA-listed species, project activities take place on or benefit critical habitat. For non-SARA-listed species, project activities take place on or benefit important habitat



## WHAT MAKES A STRONG AFSAR PROJECT?

- **Multiple Species Benefit:** Project benefits multiple species and has a focus on ecosystem-based recovery initiatives
- **Culturally Significant Species:** Project supports the enhancement of wildlife that are of cultural and/or socio-economic importance to local communities
- **Mitigate Threats of Climate Change:** Project involves actions that reduce threats of climate change to target species





# WHAT MAKES A STRONG AFSAR PROJECT?

- **Multiple Partners:** Project involves collaboration among multiple partners with priority being given to projects that involve a larger number of confirmed partners
  - **Local Knowledge and Experience:** Project involves individuals and communities with local experience and knowledge, and/or supports capacity building to allow communities to respond to species conservation
  - **Local and Regional Support:** Project demonstrates a high degree of local and regional support from a variety of partners
-

# WHAT MAKES A STRONG APPLICATION?



- what activities do you propose  
 - who will carry out activities  
 - what are the target species

- what data will be generated  
 - how will progress be monitored  
 - how are results measured

- how will project activities be achieved  
 - what are constraints and of project

- why should the project be done  
 - what impact will project have  
 - how does project contribute to SAR recovery

- when will project activities take place

# WHAT MAKES A STRONG WORK PLAN?

- Consider which activities align with target species
- Inclusion of quantifiable results and outcomes
- Quality over quantity
- Avoid grouping multiple activity categories
- If activity is repeated on a yearly basis, describe how the activity will build off the previous year
- Where possible, integrate activities with other existing stewardship programs



# WORK PLAN ACTIVITY EXAMPLE

	Activity Description	Measurable Results of Activity
<b>Sufficient Description and Measurable Results</b>	Engage with community members and leaders by seeking local traditional knowledge and involving people of the First Nation in identification, monitoring and stewardship of SAR birds and bats. Solicit input from community members via communications platforms. Conduct interviews with people who hold knowledge about the ecology and/or any special meanings related to target SAR species. Transfer this information to GIS system to inform field sampling. Draft a confidentiality protocol to protect TEK.	Acquisition of local traditional knowledge of the species (up to 10 interviews held). This will inform field studies and deepen knowledge and interest in the species and stewardship efforts.
<b>Insufficient Description and Measurable Results</b>	The team will document IK through surveys and interviews about species at risk and their habitat to connect community members to SAR.	Elders/Knowledge Holders engaged

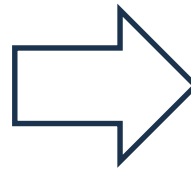
# WHAT MAKES A STRONG BUDGET?

- **Funding Range:** Project funding usually ranges from \$15,000 to \$70,000 per project, per year
  - **Matching Requirement:** Indigenous applicants are asked to obtain a minimum of 0.20:1 from non-federal sources matching contributions (\$0.20 confirmed match for \$1 AFSAR funding)
  - **Multiple Contribution Sources:** Applicants are encouraged to obtain either cash or in-kind support from multiple collaborators
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# BUDGET LINE EXAMPLE

- **Cost Breakdown:** Where possible, provide a cost breakdown for various expenses

<b><u>Materials and Supplies:</u></b>	
- binoculars	<b><u>Total:</u></b>  <b>\$3,950</b>
- audio recording units	
- headlamps	
- field nets	
- GPS	



<b><u>Materials and Supplies:</u></b>	
- binoculars (2 x \$210)	<b><u>Total:</u></b>  <b>\$3,950</b>
- audio recording units (4 x \$640)	
- headlamps (5 x \$60)	
- field nets (2 x \$150)	
- GPS (1 x \$370)	

# SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- **Maps:** Provide location(s) of project activities
- **Support Letters:** Demonstrates a high degree of local and regional support from a variety of partners
- **Survey Protocols:** Reference what methodologies will be undertaken as part of project
- **Permits:** Consider if any provincial and federal permits are required for your project and where applicable, indicate if these permits are in place



# SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

- **Grants and Contributions Enterprise Management System (GCEMS)** is an electronic platform for receiving applications for grants and contributions
  - Provides a single window to all applications-based funding opportunities by Environment and Climate Change Canada
  - To access the AFSAR application form, applicants will need to register under GCEMS; contact [sgesc-gcems-sgesc-gcems@ec.gc.ca](mailto:sgesc-gcems-sgesc-gcems@ec.gc.ca) for technical guidance and support in setting up an account
  - **Deadline for AFSAR Applications:** October 31, 2023 at 14:00 (EDT)
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# APPLICATION RUN THROUGH

- Tombstone Data
  - Project Summary
  - Project Type and Primary Region
  - Target Species, Benefiting Species, Critical Habitat
  - Land Type, Ecosystem-Based Recovery Initiatives
  - Addressing Climate Change, Addressing Priority Sectors and/or Threats
  - Work Plan
  - Indigenous Knowledge Application in SARA Processes
  - Expected Results
  - Permitting
  - Project Budget
  - Other Supporting Information
  - Official Languages
  - Certification
-

## Tombstone data

Please complete all the information fields below. They will form the basis of your organizational profile.

**Organization Name \***

Full legal name of applicant or organization.

**Organization address \*****Organization email \*****Organization phone \*****Organization fax****Principal applicant representative \***

Name *	Title *	Phone *	Email *	Fax

## Project summary

### **Project goals / objectives \***

Please clearly state the objective(s) and goal(s) of the project. Please describe how the goals will measure project success.

### **Project description \***

Please provide a summary description of your project, showing the link between the project, the stated goals and the program/fund's objectives.

### **Project team experience**

Please describe any relevant qualifications and experience of the project team members that could help demonstrate the organization's experience and capacity to carry out the proposed project.

## Target species \*

List the species that is/are directly impacted or targeted by project activities. To be eligible for AFSAR funding, target species must be listed on Schedule 1 of SARA (except extirpated) and/or species assessed as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Please note that once selected, every target species will be identified as a regional priority, whether it is or not. We ask you to kindly ignore this error.

A list of species will appear in a drop-down as you type at least three letters of the species name. Select the species from the drop-down. The list of species with their subspecies and/or population (if relevant) is from the [SARA public registry](#)<sup>1</sup>. Please note that the GCEMS only recognizes common names, not scientific names. AFSAR does not have specific regional lists of species if a species has a region's name in parentheses after the species name, choose the same species but with no region specified.

Species name *	Is there a Proposed or Final recovery Strategy in place? * Select yes/no if there is/is not a proposed or a final Recovery Strategy in place, or N/A if the species' status does not require a recovery strategy (e.g. Special Concern or not listed on schedule 1 of SARA). Visit the SARA public registry for further information.	Is the target species culturally significant ? * (Yes / No)	If culturally significant, describe how/why.

## Benefitting Species

List the species, other than the target species, within the scope of the project that would most likely benefit from this stewardship project, but that are not directly impacted or targeted by the project activities. (10 species maximum)

Species name. Please note, there are no specific regional lists of species for this year's call. *	Please explain how the species will benefit from the project. *

### Critical Habitat \*

<p><b>Does your project contribute to Critical Habitat threat reduction, improvement, protection, or securement? Critical Habitat is habitat essential to the conservation of the listed species as described in (proposed or final) <a href="#">Recovery Documents</a><sup>2</sup> (Species at Risk Recovery Strategies or Action Plans) *</b> (Yes / No / N/A) If you answer Yes to this question, the other questions in the table must be answered.</p>		
<p><b>For which species? Only the species that were listed previously under the target species drop-down could be added here.</b></p>		
<p><b>Type of Critical Habitat (type of structure or area ex: bat hibernaculum or grassland).</b></p>		
<p><b>Location of Critical Habitat</b></p>		
<p><b>Please briefly describe how your project will address the Critical Habitat of the SARA-listed Targeted species.</b></p>		
<p><b>Please also include a short description of how you plan to verify and measure the positive impact your project will have on the Critical Habitat.</b></p>		

## Land Type \*

Please indicate in which land type(s) and habitat(s) the project will be undertaken and provide the associated information. For Land type, please select one of the three option: Option 1- Reserves and Lands set aside for the use and benefit of Indigenous peoples under the Indian Act or under section 91 (24) of the Constitution Act of 1867. / Option 2 - Other lands directly controlled by Indigenous People (e.g. Métis Settlement lands, and land claims /treaty settlement lands) / Option 3- Lands where traditional food, social, and ceremonial activities (harvesting or other) are carried out by Indigenous peoples.

Please select one of the three options *	Name of Land *	Indicate habitat type ( <u>e.g.</u> forested wetland) and brief description of the habitat. *	Importance of land to the target species ( <u>e.g.</u> estimated percentage of species' range or critical habitat covered by this project) (maximum 800 characters). *

## **Ecosystem-based Recovery Initiatives**

Ecosystem-based recovery initiatives indicate an awareness of the importance of the surrounding habitat/environment and show that they are part of a larger ecosystem approach or plan.

**Does this project have a focus on ecosystem-based recovery initiatives? \***

- Yes
- No

**If you answered yes to the question above, briefly outline how the project activities will support an ecosystem-based approach. Justification for the project's benefit to a surrounding habitat/environment must be provided. If applicable, please provide the lead organization of the ecosystem-based recovery initiative, a contact person at this organization and letters of support. *Please note that letters of support can be attached in the Other supporting information module of GCEMS.***



### **Collaboration among Multiple Partners**

**Does this project involve collaboration among multiple partners? Collaboration may include those actively involved in undertaking project activities and those solely providing financial or in-kind support. \***

- Yes
- No

**If you answered yes to the question above, please provide the following information: the name of partners involved, and a detailed description of the role of each partner in fulfilling project objectives.**

## Addressing Climate Change

Will your project reduce the effects of climate change on the target species? \*

- Yes
- No

If you answered Yes to the question above, please indicate which of the following mechanisms your project will use to mitigate impacts of climate change on target species. Check all that apply, then provide a brief explanation as to why you chose each mechanism:

- The project will restore, enhance or prevent the loss of habitat in the long-term for habitat-limited target species at risk that would otherwise be lost or impaired due to the direct impacts of climate change.
- The project will provide significant, landscape-level habitat connectivity that is designed to meet the needs of target species whose ranges are shifting due to climate change.
- Other(s)

**Briefly explain the rationale for your choices. If you selected “other”, also describe the mechanism by which your project will mitigate the impacts of climate change on your target species. (maximum 400 characters)**

## Addressing Priority Sectors and/or Threats

To address priority sectors, collaborative activities with forestry, agriculture or urban development sector partners may include, for example:

- Engagement, consultation and [outreach](#);
- Integrating Species at Risk into sectoral policy, planning and [practices](#);
- Collaborative research and Indigenous [knowledge](#);
- Shaping and testing of decision support tools; and
- Assessing financial incentives and mechanisms.

To address priority threats, threat-based reduction initiatives will seek to reduce risks from illegal wildlife trade, invasive species, and wildlife diseases. Activities may include, for example:

- Partner consultation, engagement and [outreach](#);
- Strategic policy development and international engagement; and
- Collaborative research and Indigenous knowledge.

**Does your project address a priority sector and/or threat? \***

- Yes  
 No

**If you answered yes to the above question, please check all that apply and explain how your project addresses them.**

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## Work Plan \*

<p><b>Fiscal year (2024-25 / 2025-26 / 2026-27) *</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Government of Canada fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.</b></li> <li>• New projects may request funding for 1 to 3 years. Previously approved projects may request additional funds for up to an additional 5 years, to a maximum <u>10 year</u> project length.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Activity category *</b></p> <p>Choose from the following list of eligible activity categories. You may add as many activities as necessary. For more information about eligible activity categories, please refer to the <a href="#">AFSAR program webpage</a><sup>3</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Habitat Protection and <u>Securement</u></b></li> <li>• <b>Habitat <u>Improvement</u></b></li> <li>• <b>Species and Habitat Threat Reduction</b></li> <li>• <b>Conservation Planning</b></li> <li>• <b>Surveys, Inventories and Monitoring</b></li> <li>• <b>Project Evaluation</b></li> <li>• <b>Outreach and Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Documentation and Use of Indigenous Knowledge (IK)</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Activity description *</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provide details that support "what, why, where, by who, and how" for each activity.</b></li> <li>• <b>Please pay particular attention to the Activity Description, as reviewers will evaluate it and, if your project is approved, will form the basis of your Contribution Agreement and associated reporting templates.</b></li> <li>• <b>Only describe activity types relevant to your project. For outreach activities, applicants will need to describe in detail how each outreach activity will lead to action in implementing on-the-ground species</b></li> </ul>	

### **Indigenous Knowledge Application in SARA Processes**

**Do project activities include the use or documentation of Indigenous Knowledge (IK)? \***

Yes

No

**If you answered yes to the above question, please provide the following information:**

- 1. Please detail what IK is expected to be documented, and the method for obtaining the IK.**
- 2. How might this IK contribute to the conservation and protection of the target species and/or management of threats?**
- 3. Please comment on the community's interest in sharing any IK generated by this project with ECCC for the purposes of species assessments and the planning and implementation of recovery documents.**

## Expected Results

Please fill Expected Numerical Results for each activity type listed in each fiscal year of your workplan. Click on the activity type below and then enter a numerical amount per year that is expected for that activity (ex. 10 hectares protected). Once you have entered the numerical results per year, click the 'Save' button to go back to the main screen to add an additional activity and repeat the steps.

Activity Type List	Result Type	Expected Numerical Results		
		2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
<b>Habitat Protection and Securement</b>				
Protect land through legal means (Band Council Resolution Zoning under Land Code for First Nations under First Nations Land Management Act (FNLMA) regime Certificate of Possession, By-laws)	# of participating landowners/landholders			
	# of hectares protected			
	# years of protection			
Protect land <a href="#">by the use of</a> land use planning or management plans	# of participating landowners/landholders			
	# of hectares protected			
	# years of protection			
Protect land by other means (Comprehensive Claims, Self-Governments)	# of participating landowners/landholders			
	# of hectares protected			
	# years of protection			
<b>Habitat Improvement</b>				
Vegetation planting	# of hectares improved			
Vegetation and exotics removal	# of hectares improved			
Riparian restoration	# km of shoreline improved			
Residence creation	# of residences created			
Other habitat improvement activities	# of hectares improved			
Land management manuals or plans	# of participating landowners/landholders			
	# of manuals/plans			
<b>Species and Habitat Threat Abatement</b>				
Direct protection from human-induced threats (individuals protected)	# of SAR individuals protected			
	# of SAR sites/colonies/populations protected ( <a href="#">i.e.</a> plants)			
	# of SAR species protected overall			

## Permitting

Does your proposed project require a permit? \*

- Yes  
 No

If you answered Yes to the question above, please add each permit in the box below using "Add permitting". It is your responsibility to acquire the necessary permits for the proposed project. You must verify with ECCC or Parks Canada Agency whether you require a SARA permit or other permits prior to undertaking your project. Additionally, you must ensure that all necessary provincial and/or territorial permits are acquired. Please contact your [AFSAR Regional Coordinator](#)<sup>4</sup> for more information.

Please enter the type of permit required for your project *	Issuing authority *	Status * (Application submitted / Obtained / Not Started)





## Other supporting information

Allowed file types: Microsoft Excel (.xls, .xlsx), Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx), PDF (.pdf), JPG (.jpg), GIF (.GIF), KMZ (.kmz). A maximum size of 10 MB per file is accepted. Please provide any additional information that could enhance your application.

File name *	File description *

## Official languages

Please complete the Official Languages section of the application. It is now a mandatory requirement for all ECCC applications moving forward. This section will form the basis of the Official Languages Clauses to add to Section 14 in Appendix A of the funding agreement. Each question is yes or no. All organizations, no matter the size, will have to respond to the questions.

**Is the organization international, national, provincial or territorial in scope? \***

- Yes
- No

**Is the project international, national, provincial, or territorial in scope? \***

- Yes
- No

**Is the project delivered in a geographic area with official language minority communities (OLMCs)? <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pch/documents/services/official-languages-bilingualism/publications/lo-ol-communautes-communities.pdf> \***

- Yes
- No

**Is the project's target audience composed of individuals or groups belonging to both official language communities? \***

- Yes
  - No
-

## Certification

Please note that what qualifies as a signature/e-signature will have to be determined by the Department.

**Approver \***

**Approver title \***

**By signing this application, you are certifying that the information stated in the Application is complete and accurate. \***

By submitting this Application, I (the Applicant) or I (on behalf of the Applicant), have read and understand that:

- All records provided by an Applicant to ECCC in a proposal and in communications in relation to a proposal is collected, retained and used by ECCC for the purposes of reviewing, evaluating and selecting project proposals under grants and contribution funding programs administered and managed by ECCC or for a use consistent with these purposes:
  - Federal MPs and/or their team may be advised about the approval in principle of a project and may be provided with information provided in this Application including applicant's name, project title, project description, project location, funding amounts and contact information.
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# OTHER INDIGENOUS FUNDING PROGRAMS

- **Indigenous Guardians:** provides Indigenous Peoples with a greater opportunity to exercise responsibility in stewardship of their traditional lands, waters, and ice.
  - For more information, please contact:  
[gardiensautochtones-indigenousguardians@ec.gc.ca](mailto:gardiensautochtones-indigenousguardians@ec.gc.ca).
  - **2 Billion Trees - Indigenous Stream:** provide support to Indigenous organizations with projects focused on preparing to plant (capacity building activities such as training, seed collection and infrastructure development) and tree planting.
  - Webinar will be scheduled for October when the Indigenous Funding Stream call for applications launches. To register for the webinar, please contact:  
[2BTIndigenous-2GAAutochtones@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:2BTIndigenous-2GAAutochtones@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca).
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# LINKS

- [GCEMS Website](#)
  - [2024-2025 Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk](#)
  - [SAR Public Registry](#)
  - [COSEWIC Website](#)
  - [ECCE Environmental Funding Programs](#)
-



# THANK YOU!

## **Renee Turza**

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Canadian Wildlife Service

Environment and Climate Change Canada, Government of Canada

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## **Danielle Aulenback**

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