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The Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk

Now Accepting Proposals for 2019–2020



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One of the Government of Canada's conservation results is the recovery of species at risk. Now approaching its 20th year, the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk (SAR) delivers on this result by providing funding for projects submitted by Canadians that contribute directly to the recovery objectives and population goals of species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Activities must take place on private land, provincial Crown land, or Indigenous land across Canada.

Important Information

Starting in 2019-2020, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is responsible for the administrative role for aquatic projects. Applicants wishing to pursue aquatic HSP projects should contact the appropriate [aquatic regional coordinator](#).

The underlying objectives of the HSP program are to:

- Support habitat projects that benefit species at risk;
- Enable Canadians to become actively and concretely involved in stewardship projects for species at risk that will result in tangible and measurable conservation benefits; and
- Improve the scientific, sociological and economic understanding of the role that stewardship has as a conservation tool.

To respect these objectives, HSP SAR Stream will only fund projects targeting terrestrial SARA-listed species. Additionally, all HSP projects should be targeted to address priorities in both Program priority levels, with priority being placed on activities that address Level 1 Priorities. Projects addressing priorities in both levels are more likely to be successful over those addressing only one level. See the description of priorities below.

Projects that do not address Level 1 or Level 2 priorities may not be considered for funding in 2019-2020.

HSP Expected Results and Intermediate Outcomes

In order to be eligible, proposed projects must demonstrate how they contribute directly to the recovery objectives and population goals of target species. Further, the proposal must contribute to one or more of the expected results and intermediate outcomes below:

Program Expected Results:

- Canada's wildlife and habitat is conserved and protected
- Canada's species at risk are recovered
- Indigenous Peoples are engaged in conservation



Program Intermediate Outcomes:

- Sufficient habitat is conserved to support species recovery
- Increased engagement of Indigenous Peoples in nature conservation activities
- Reduced threats affecting species at risk populations
- Enhanced understanding of the impacts of climate change and stressors on ecosystems, biodiversity and species

Program Priorities:

Level 1: (Highest) Priorities for funding:

HSP projects are more likely to be funded if they involve collaboration among multiple partners with priority being given to projects that involve a greater number of confirmed partners.

Highest priority will be given to projects with activities located in an identified priority place, and/or target priority species, sectors and /or threats. Additionally, projects within this category will be more likely to be funded if they target multiple SARA-listed species; demonstrate a focus on ecosystem-based recovery initiatives that show an awareness of the importance of the surrounding habitat/environment; show they are part of a larger ecosystem approach or plan; and/or mitigate the threats of climate change to the target species.

Priority Places:

Priority places represent landscapes of significant conservation value, such as those with high occurrences and/or diversity of species at risk and migratory birds or those with important habitat for these species. These places have also been targeted as having existing conservation opportunities with active partners and stakeholders which can be expanded on or leveraged through more targeted program funding to increase successful conservation outcomes. Note that priority places are assigned at the regional level and, at this time, not all provinces or territories have priority places identified as Level 1 Priority for funding. Please refer to the prepared maps for visual representation of the priority places.

- Southwest Nova Scotia (Atlantic Region)
- Saint John River Bioregion, New Brunswick (Atlantic Region)
- Prince Edward Island Forested landscape (Atlantic Region)
- St. Lawrence Lowlands (Quebec Region)
- Long Point Walsingham Forest (Ontario Region)
- Milk River Watershed (South of Divide) Saskatchewan (Prairie Region)
- Mixed Grass Prairie Manitoba (Prairie Region)
- South-Saskatchewan River Watershed Alberta (Prairie Region)
- Dry Interior of BC (Pacific Region)
- Southwest BC (Pacific Region)
- Southern Beringia (Northern Region)



Priority Species:

Priority species are iconic species that are the focus of significant conservation interest and efforts both in Canada and, in some cases, internationally. These species may also be umbrella or keystone species which will result in improved conservation for other species sharing their habitat when conservation actions are targeted to them.

- Caribou Species:
 - o Peary Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*)
 - o Dolphin and Union Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*)
- Western Chorus Frog, Great Lakes/St-Lawrence-Canadian Shield population (*Pseudacris triseriata*)
- Bats
 - o Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*)
 - o Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)
 - o Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Wood Bison (*Bison bison athabasca*)
- Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus urophasianus*)
- Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

Priority Sectors and Threats:

Priority sectors and threats were chosen given the impact they have on species at risk, migratory birds and their habitats in most parts of Canada. The priority sectors and threats are intentionally broad in scope in order to allow region-specific prioritization of conservation concerns.

- Projects that work with or build active partnerships with the forestry, agriculture or urban development sector to reduce threats to target species
- Projects that reduce threats to target species from Invasive species

Level 2: (Secondary) Priorities for funding

If there are sufficient funds, the HSP may also fund projects with activities located in the following secondary priority places or that target the following secondary priority species or threats.

Secondary Priority Places:

Projects with activities located in an identified secondary priority place and that target multiple SARA- listed species. Additionally, projects within this category will be more likely to be funded if they demonstrate a focus on ecosystem-based recovery initiatives and show an awareness of the importance of the surrounding habitat/environment and/or show they are part of a larger ecosystem approach or plan.



Atlantic Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Beaches, Dunes and Marshes • Forested habitat • Limestone Barrens
Quebec Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magdalen Islands • Monteregian Hills
Ontario Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Peninsula • Huron Fringe • St. Clair Plains • Iroquois Plain • Norfolk Sand Plain • Pelee Island
Prairie Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tall Grass Prairie (MB)
Pacific Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponderosa Pine biogeoclimatic zone (areas not already captured within the Dry Interior of BC Priority Place listed above) • Creston Valley
Northern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unglaciated areas of central and northern Yukon, as well as adjacent areas in southwest Yukon with unique lowland habitats (grassland, riparian, old forest, dune, or saline flats habitats under 1000m) that now harbour Beringian endemic or disjunct species.

Secondary Priority Species

Atlantic Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyanolichens (SARA-listed Atlantic Populations) • Piping Plover • SARA-listed Turtle species
Quebec Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Ginseng • Chimney Swift • Piping plover • Various species of turtles including Wood Turtle
Ontario Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massasauga Rattlesnake • Piping Plover • Bobolink • Eastern Meadowlark
Prairie Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loggerhead Shrike
Pacific Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancouver Island Marmot
Northern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland Caribou (Northern Mountain pop.)



Secondary Priority Threats

Atlantic Region	N/A
Quebec Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversion, destruction or degradation and drainage of large patches of grassland, wetlands
Ontario Region	N/A
Prairie Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction or degradation of large patches (>69 ha) of remaining native prairie • Destruction or degradation of sand-dune complexes • Destruction or degradation of residences for colonial species
Pacific Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of Critical and important Habitat caused by recreational activities
Northern Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects working to reduce or prevent habitat fragmentation, degradation, or loss

Timelines:

The submission of an Expression of Interest is strongly encouraged, particularly for applicants who have not received HSP funding in the past, in order to discuss how your project meets the Program’s approach to priorities. The Program will be accepting Expressions of Interest until November 30th, 2018.

The deadline for proposal submissions is December 21st, 2018.

For more information:

- Please contact your [HSP Regional Coordinator](#) to receive further information on the Expression of Interest and on program priorities for projects in your area.
- General information on the HSP is also available on the [HSP website](#).
- Please refer to the HSP Application Guidelines for information on how to complete an Expression of Interest, how to submit a proposal, and other details about project eligibility.
- If you have any questions, please contact ec.pih-hsp.ec@canada.ca.

Thank you for your interest in the recovery of species at risk . We wish you the best in the success of your application!