Implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach for Canada's Priority Species

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Victoria Snable / Cory Toth Priority Species Division Canadian Wildlife Service







Context

- Conserving species at risk across Canada is challenging, and every year the number of species listed under the Species at Risk Act grows
- A collaborative, multi-species and place-based approach is expected to provide greater conservation outcomes
- To address this, the "Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada" was agreed upon by the federal, provincial*, and territorial governments in December 2018

Previous Methods

Single species

Independent efforts

Assessment/Planning

Delivery by program

The Pan-Canadian Approach

Multi-species/ ecosystem based (where appropriate)

Targeted, collaborative efforts

Implementing actions

Integrated delivery

Represents a significant shift in species conservation that aims to accelerate progress, improve outcomes, strengthen engagement and partnerships with Indigenous peoples, and increase return on investments

The PCA and Indigenous peoples

A partnership: Implementation of the PCA aims to renew relationships and strengthen collaboration between governments and Indigenous peoples across Canada, meaningfully contributing towards reconciliation

Context and goals:

- Recognizing and respecting the role of Indigenous peoples in the conservation of species at risk and biodiversity;
- Engagement throughout implementation of the PCA;
- Increased capacity for Indigenous-led community stewardship planning and action.

^{**} The framework of wildlife management established under the LCAs provides a structure that has many shared elements with the PCA. This is not necessarily the case across the rest of the country.

Vision for Pan-Canadian Approach Implementation Phase 3a: Engage Indigenous peoples to Phase 3b: Stakeholder engagement to Phase 2: Detailed consolidation of FPT seek support for PCA approach, forge We are here consolidate conservation actions partnerships, and consolidate conservation actions underway/planned underway/planned conservation actions Provincial/Territorial Federal actions Stakeholder actions Indigenous actions actions **Consolidated Database** of Conservation Actions **Phase 4: Identification of Gaps** Phase 1: FPT to inform Collaborative **Planning Initiatives Identification of Priority** Engage experts to examine actions underway **Species** and planned to identify knowledge gaps, Almost 3000 actions collected priorities, and opportunities for each species so far from government sources. **Development of species**specific FPT workplan placemats **Phase 8: Monitoring & Phase 7: Finalization of Phase 5: Conservation** Phase 6: Engagement on reporting on protection **Conservation Action Action Planning Draft Conservation** & recovery outcomes Plans **Action Plans** Develop species-specific plans that address gaps, are guided Increased transparency to Ground-truthing of draft plans with by tenets of the PCA, and take Canadians showing measurable key Indigenous partners and a holistic approach to each improvements to protection & stakeholders species' conservation needs recovery for priority species Could feed into SARAcompliant documents. depending on species

Collecting Conservation Actions

PRIORITY SPECIES

Identification of Priorities

Cooperative Action Planning

Investments and implementation

Monitoring and reporting

Results and Benefits

Better Conservation Outcomes for More Species at Risk
Improved Return on Investment
Increased Co-benefits for Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- It is difficult to identify priorities without first knowing who is doing what, and where they are doing it
 - Thousands of conservation actions are being undertaken across the country by not only governments, but also Indigenous peoples and others

A detailed account of all conservation actions planned or underway for each priority species will help create a holistic picture of recovery efforts across Canada

Priority Species Conservation Action Planning



Barren-ground Caribou*



Boreal Caribou (YK, NT, BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NL)



Greater Sage-grouse (AB, SK)



Peary Caribou



Southern Mountain Caribou



Wood Bison (YK, NT, BC, AB, MB)

- * Includes Dolphin & Union population
- Aim to carry out species-specific planning to address recovery needs
- Presents unique opportunities for conservation actions and collaboration, as well as unique challenges
- Aims to align priorities, achieve better conservation outcomes, and enhance communication and collaborative work between partners



Moving Forward

- We are proposing the following steps to continue with the implementation of the PCA and the engagement of Indigenous peoples
 - 1. Continued engagement/communication on the process for priority species with Indigenous groups and WMBs
 - 2. Provide input on conservation actions being undertaken for the priority species that we may not be aware of currently (Phase 3)
 - 3. Contribute to the identification of conservation gaps and priorities (Phase 4)
 - 4. Collaboratively develop draft conservation action plans (Phase 6)
- NWMB is an important partner in the above steps



Annex

Conservation and recovery actions – e.g. population monitoring, habitat restoration, protected-area creation, etc. Provincial/ Other **ENGO** Indigenous **Federal Industry Territorial** stakeholder actions actions actions actions actions actions This is where we would appreciate DATABASE PROVIDING FULL PICTURE OF WHAT IS your initial **CURRENTLY BEING DONE FOR EACH PRIORITY SPECIES** participation and expertise **IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS IN RECOVERY EFFORTS EACH PRIORITY SPECIES: TARGETED, EFFECTIVE ACTIONS** (e.g. prioritization of grants & contributions, updating of Recovery Strategies and/or Action Plans, creation of other recovery documents)

What is Conservation Action Planning?

- Planning efforts will be informed by the consolidated conservation actions submitted by partners and subsequent identification of gaps in knowledge/action, ensuring the threats and needs faced by each species are being addressed
- Ultimately, the planning approach will vary by species, depending on their needs. This may include:
 - If SARA-listed: the development of SARA recovery documents for barren-ground and Dolphin & Union caribou that incorporate Indigenous Knowledge, and the input of communities, Wildlife Management Boards, partners, and others
 - Building upon initiatives underway for Peary caribou, and collaborating with Inuit and Inuvialuit communities, co-management partners and other Indigenous organizations on critical habitat identification and protection

Action Planning as a Collaboration

- Inclusion of conservation actions from a diversity of groups (Phases 2 and 3) will provide a holistic picture of the work being accomplished across the country, and will ensure more effective (and non-duplicative) conservation measures for all six species, including Peary and barren-ground caribou, moving forward
- We are beginning Phase 3 to actively engage Wildlife
 Management Boards and Indigenous organizations and
 determine a process moving forward for broader engagement
 - We welcome feedback and suggests on engagement approaches in Nunavut