



Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
For

Information: X

Decision:

Issue

Environment and Climate Change Canada is seeking comments on the draft Policy on Assessing Imminent Threats under Sections 29 and 80 of the *Species at Risk Act* – terrestrial species.

Background

- The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) includes two emergency provisions: emergency listing and emergency orders. The Act intends for these tools to be used as a last resort, notably in situations where the Minister has determined that a wildlife species is facing imminent threat(s) to survival (emergency listing under section 29) or to survival or recovery (emergency order under section 80).
- These tools have been used infrequently. To date, there has been one emergency listing (the Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis and the Tri-colored Bat (2014); and three emergency orders (Greater Sage Grouse in AB/SK and two for Western Chorus Frog in Quebec).
- ECCC, in collaboration with Parks Canada, has developed a policy to assist the Minister in his decision-making under these two emergency provisions.
- The policy's purpose is to provide consistency in the interpretation of imminent threat(s) to the survival (under section 29) and to recovery or survival (under section 80) of a terrestrial wildlife species under SARA. The draft policy has been used to guide past imminent threat assessments, including for southern mountain caribou and wood bison.
- ECCC can undertake an imminent threat assessment when the minister of the environment is in possession of sufficient and credible information upon which to make an assessment of the imminent threat(s) facing the recovery and/or survival of a wildlife species.
- Imminent threat is considered on a case-by-case basis, based on the nature of the threat(s) and biological species needs. The threats could be new, emerging, or intensifying.

Consultation

The [draft policy](#) has been posted on the SARA Registry for a 60-day public consultation period. Feedback from our co-management partners will be invaluable to help inform the finalization of the policy.



As such, we are seeking feedback from all Hunter and Trapper Organizations, Regional Wildlife Boards, Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, communities/hamlets, Government of Nunavut, and NWMB board staff.

In particular, we are seeking feedback as it relates to proposed consultation, engagement and collaboration with co-management partners, including the inclusion of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in assessments and imminent threat assessments.

How long is it out for consultation and what was sent for consultation.

The policy comment period is open until June 30, 2023, however, ECCC will accept comments after the deadline, to ensure co-management partners have sufficient time to provide feedback.

Next steps

Comments will be reviewed and considered as we finalize the policy documents. Once the policy is finalized, approval of the Minister will be sought before posting as final on the SAR Public Registry. At this point ECCC envisions that the final ITA policy to be published in fall 2023.