

National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk

Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for wildlife commit to a national approach for the protection of species at risk. The goal is to prevent species in Canada from becoming extinct as a consequence of human activities.

We recognize that:

- i) species do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries, and cooperation is crucial to the conservation and protection of species at risk;
- ii) the conservation of species at risk is a key component of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, which aims to conserve biological diversity in Canada;
- iii) governments have a leadership role in providing sound information and appropriate measures for the conservation and protection of species at risk, and the effective involvement of all Canadians is essential;
- iv) species conservation initiatives will be met through complementary federal and provincial/territorial legislation, regulations, policies, and programs;
- v) stewardship activities contributing to the conservation of species must be supported as an integral element in preventing species from becoming at risk; and
- vi) lack of full scientific certainty must not be used as a reason to delay measures to avoid or minimize threats to species at risk.

We agree to:

- i) participate in the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council in order to coordinate our activities and resolve issues for the protection of species at risk in Canada;
- ii) recognize the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as a source of independent advice on the status of species at risk nationally; and
- iii) establish complementary legislation and programs that provide for effective protection of species at risk throughout Canada, and that will:
 - a. address all native wild species;
 - b. provide an independent process for assessing the status of species at risk;
 - c. legally designate species as threatened or endangered;
 - d. provide immediate legal protection for threatened or endangered species;
 - e. provide protection for the habitat of threatened or endangered species;
 - f. provide for the development of recovery strategies within one year for endangered species and two years for threatened species that address the identified threats to the species and its habitats;
 - g. ensure multi-jurisdictional cooperation for the protection of species that cross borders through the development and implementation of recovery strategies;
 - h. consider the needs of species at risk as part of environmental assessment processes;
 - i. implement recovery strategies in a timely fashion;
 - j. monitor, assess and report regularly on the status of all wild species;
 - k. emphasize preventive measures to keep species from becoming at risk;
 - l. improve awareness of the needs of species at risk;
 - m. encourage citizens to participate in conservation and protection actions;
 - n. recognize, foster and support effective and long term stewardship by resource users and managers, landowners, and other citizens; and
 - o. provide for effective enforcement.
- iv) refer any disputes that may arise under this Accord to the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council for resolution.