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**The Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk  
Now Accepting Proposals for 2016–2017**

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## **The Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk**

### **Now Accepting Proposals for 2016–2017**

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Now into its 13th year, the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) program supports the development of Aboriginal capacity to participate actively in the implementation of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). This fund also enables the Government of Canada to facilitate Aboriginal involvement in activities that protect or conserve habitats for species at risk (SAR).

In 2014, AFSAR was strengthened such that funding became available to support projects that will proactively prevent species, other than SAR, from becoming a conservation concern, in addition to expanding the funding for SAR.

Funding under AFSAR is separated into two streams:

- The AFSAR SAR Stream focuses on projects addressing the recovery of SAR listed on Schedule 1 of SARA; and
- The AFSAR Prevention Stream focuses on projects addressing other species, beyond those listed on SARA, to prevent them from becoming a conservation concern.

#### **Timelines:**

*The program will be accepting Expressions of Interest until December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The submission of an Expression of Interest is strongly encouraged, particularly for applicants who have not received AFSAR funding in the past or for those applying to a new stream.*

*The deadline for proposal submissions is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.*

#### **Note:**

Due to the election period, the 2016–2017 call for proposals was delayed. As a result, notification of 2016–2017 funding decisions will be received later than is typical. The departments will aim to have funding decisions made by mid-April 2016 for AFSAR aquatic projects, and by mid-June 2016 for AFSAR terrestrial projects. Applicants should therefore only submit an application for funding consideration for activities that will occur after mid-April 2016 for AFSAR aquatic projects, and after mid-June 2016 for AFSAR terrestrial projects. For more information or to discuss implications for your project, contact your [Regional Coordinator](#).

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#### **AFSAR SAR Stream National Priorities and Expected Results**

The national priorities for the AFSAR SAR Stream are projects or activities that focus on the following:

- Implementation of priority activities described in recovery strategies or action plans such as protection of critical habitat
- Implementation of multi-species projects with a focus on ecosystem-based recovery initiatives
- Implementation of projects involving collaboration among multiple stakeholders/partners
- Implementation of signed SARA Section 11 agreements

- The recovery of SAR and threats to SAR included as part of an international agreement
- The consideration of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) for application in SARA processes

In order to be eligible, proposed projects must contribute to one or more of the following expected results of the AFSAR SAR Stream:

- Strengthen capacity in Aboriginal communities for SARA implementation
- Mitigate threats to SAR, be they individuals or populations
- Protect, improve or manage critical and important habitat<sup>1</sup> of SAR
- Document and conserve ATK and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) on SAR and, where appropriate, help ensure their use in the development of recovery objectives

### **AFSAR Prevention Stream National Priorities and Expected Results**

The national priorities for the AFSAR Prevention Stream are projects or activities that focus on the following:

- Species assessed as “may be at risk” and “sensitive” by the General Status of Species in Canada
- Species of cultural significance to Aboriginal people (e.g., Food, Social or Ceremonial species of conservation interest)
- Supporting the enhancement of wildlife that are of cultural and/or socio-economic importance to Aboriginal communities
- Building capacity in Aboriginal communities and organizations to participate in wildlife conservation actions

In order to be eligible, proposed projects must contribute to one or more of the following expected results of the AFSAR Prevention Stream:

- Strengthen capacity in Aboriginal communities for their participation in preventive action to conserve the target species
- Stop, remove or mitigate potential threats, caused by human activities, to individual target species and/or their habitat
- Protect, improve or manage important habitat<sup>2</sup> of the target species
- Document and conserve ATK and TEK on the target species

### **Regional Priorities for Both Streams**

In addition to the national priorities, each region has regional priorities that support the national priorities. These include target areas, species and threats that have been identified as priorities for the region. For the 2016–2017 funding year, emphasis shall be placed on projects that address regional priorities.

Please contact your AFSAR regional coordinator to receive further information on regional program priorities for projects in your area.

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<sup>1</sup> The program defines “important habitat” for the SAR Stream as habitat that is considered as candidate for Critical Habitat or habitat that is important for the species but that is not actually identified in a recovery strategy/action plan/management plan.

<sup>2</sup> The program defines “important habitat” for the Prevention Stream as habitat that is important for the species’ “conservation”.

**For more information:**

- Information on the AFSAR program is also available on [the AFSAR website](#).
- Please refer to the 2016–2017 AFSAR Application Guidelines for additional information and other details on project eligibility. Separate guidelines are provided for the [SAR Stream](#) and the [Prevention Stream](#).
- If you have any questions, please contact [AFSAR-FAEP@ec.gc.ca](mailto:AFSAR-FAEP@ec.gc.ca).

**Thank you for your interest in species at risk and in preventing other species from becoming a conservation concern. We wish you the best in your application!**