



# NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada 

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# Natural Heritage Conservation Program: call for proposals

We are now accepting proposals for funding opportunities for 2019 to 2020 through 2022 to 2023

The Government of Canada has made a \$500 million investment in a new Canada Nature Fund to support the protection of Canada's ecosystems, landscapes and biodiversity, including species at risk. The fund provides funding that will be matched by philanthropic foundations, corporate, not-for-profit, provincial, territorial and other partners who will contribute at least an additional \$500M to raise a total of \$1 billion for conservation action.

The Natural Heritage Conservation Program is being funded by the Canada Nature Fund to enable a coordinated pan-Canadian approach to private land acquisition for purposes of establishing new protected and conserved areas.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is seeking proposals **to develop, coordinate, and deliver a national level project**<sup>1</sup> aimed at assisting local, provincial and national conservation organizations in securement of ecologically sensitive private lands in perpetuity in Canada. More specifically, \$100 million over 4 years in federal funding will support programming that achieves the following objectives:

- to contribute to the achievement of the terrestrial and inland water elements of Target 1 of Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets<sup>2</sup>
- to contribute to the protection of habitat for the recovery of Species at Risk Act (SARA) listed species at risk and the prevention of other species from becoming listed under SARA

## Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants include land conservation organizations, such as:

- national and local land trusts
- national and provincial land trust alliances

## Mandatory proposal requirements

Proposals must include:

- an articulation of how securement of at least 200,000 ha of ecologically sensitive private lands<sup>3</sup> will be achieved, through eligible land securement activities<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A national level project means that programming must be delivered in all provinces. Project delivery in the Territories is encouraged, but not mandatory, given the limited private land available in the North.

<sup>2</sup> By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, are conserved through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

- an outline of a collaborative governance structure with project partners for the management of the project, including how work planning, decision-making, and further disbursement of funds will occur
- a statement of project deliverables that are national in scope and will be delivered regionally, with a plan in place to allocate funds for sub-projects across the country
- an attestation that the applicant and their delivery partners are in compliance or substantially in compliance with the Canadian Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices or with the Guide des bonnes pratiques en intendance privée: aspects juridiques et organisationnels
- program delivery in both French and English
- matching funding by a minimum of 2:1 from non-federal sources (\$2 match for each \$1 of federal funding); match may include in-kind sources such as donations of land

## Priorities

The priorities of the Program are listed below. Within their submission, applicants should prioritize their activities accordingly and clearly explain how each priority will be addressed.

Priorities, in order of importance:

1. Lands secured, in key conservation areas<sup>5,6</sup>, contribute to:
  - achieving [Pathway to Canada Target 1](#)
  - providing the following priority co-benefits:
    - i. recovery of species at risk (lands with critical habitat or regular occurrence of species listed under SARA and/or species assessed "at risk" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada [COSEWIC] and/or provincially listed species)

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<sup>3</sup> Ecologically sensitive lands are areas or sites that currently or could, at some point in the foreseeable future, contribute significantly to the conservation of Canada's biodiversity and environmental heritage.

<sup>4</sup> Eligible land securement activities involve acquiring a legal interest or real right in a property that allows the applicant and its delivery partners to conserve and protect Canada's habitat and biodiversity. Land securement should focus on using on title options to conserve and protect lands such as fee-simple purchases, leases, conservation easements, covenants, or servitudes, acquisition of development rights, such as mineral, timber and exploration rights and other types of agreements. In order to be eligible for funding, securement must be in perpetuity.

<sup>5</sup> The highest priority for the NHCP is to secure ecologically sensitive lands in key conservation areas; however, lands secured outside of key conservation areas are eligible.

<sup>6</sup> Key conservation areas include ECCC proposed Priority Places as well as other areas identified at the national, regional, provincial or local level through science-based conservation planning, which may be updated periodically.

ECCC proposed Priority Places are: Forested Landscapes, Prince Edward Island; Southwest Nova Scotia; Saint John River Bioregion, New Brunswick; St. Lawrence Lowlands, Quebec; Long Point Walsingham Forest, Ontario; Milk River Watershed (South of Divide), Saskatchewan; Mixed Grass Prairie, Manitoba; South-Saskatchewan River Watershed, Alberta; Dry Interior of British Columbia; Southwest British Columbia; Southern Beringia, Yukon.

- ii. prevention of species not listed under SARA, including migratory birds, from becoming at risk
- iii. climate change adaptation and mitigation
- iv. provision of ecosystem services
- v. completion of ecological gifts

2. Partnerships and collaboration advanced:

- multiple funding and delivery partners<sup>7</sup>, across the country
- collaborative governance structure representative of the partners
- increased capacity of land trusts partnering in the project delivery for the purpose of furthering compliance with the Canadian Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices or with the Guide des bonnes pratiques en intendance privée: aspects juridiques et organisationnels

## Funding available

One or more national-scale project(s) will be funded to a combined maximum for all funded projects of \$25M per year for four years, for an overall combined maximum total of up to \$100M.

The selected project(s) would have a four-year duration from April 1, 2019 until March 31, 2023.

## How to apply

Proposals must be submitted to Grant Hogg ([grant.hogg@canada.ca](mailto:grant.hogg@canada.ca)) by **December 24, 2018**.

Each proposal submission must include the following information to show how the objectives of the funding, all mandatory requirements and priorities are met:

1. Introduction: introduce objectives of the proposal, the applicant and its relevant work experience, including their capacity to manage programs on a pan-Canadian basis, attestation that the applicant (or members of, in the case of a coalition or alliance) is in compliance or substantially in compliance with the Canadian Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices or with the Guide des bonnes pratiques en intendance privée: aspects juridiques et organisationnel, etc.
2. Project overview and rationale, including a collaborative governance structure and a clear, transparent and flexible decision-making process for selecting lands for securement and for further distribution of funds to delivery partners. This could include a brief reference to other sections of the proposal as listed below.

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<sup>7</sup> Delivery partners include Indigenous organizations, land conservation organizations, such as national, provincial and local land trusts and national and provincial land trust alliances, and others.



3. Description of applicant's funding partners and the matching funds they might provide. Description of delivery partners, including letters of support and attestations that they are in compliance or substantially in compliance with the Canadian Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices or with the Guide des bonnes pratiques en intendance privée: aspects juridiques et organisationnels.
4. Proposed operating plan (this will be the basis for annual work plans to be approved by ECCC). Outline how the applicant will plan, organize, manage, and operate the proposed project during the entire term of the funding agreement, including a description (with timelines) of how the project would be undertaken, a description of the projected outcomes, and the percentage of funds (ECCC contribution and total funds) going to each component, as applicable:
  - identification of key conservation areas for land securement and identification of criteria for land securement outside of these areas
  - land securement, within key conservation areas, and contribution to priority co-benefits
  - land securement, outside of key conservation areas, and contribution to priority co-benefits
  - description of programming delivered by partners and how funds will be distributed amongst them
  - programming to engage Indigenous communities<sup>8</sup>
  - programming to develop and implement management plans (stewardship) on lands secured through the project programming for land trust capacity development in the form of compliance with Standards and Practices
5. Proposed annual budgets (ECCC and matching contributions – cash and in-kind) for each of the 4 years for the applicant and its delivery partners based on eligible expenditures listed in Appendix 1. A budget template is provided in Appendix 2.
6. Expected results and indicators. Outlines what the project will achieve in terms of expected results and how this will be measured, including, but not limited to:
  - number of hectares secured
  - number of hectares stewarded
  - number of hectares of species at risk habitat secured and direct benefits for species at risk
  - geographic scope of activities
  - expected reach, in terms of capacity building, communication activities, engagement with Indigenous communities and other partners

Note: geospatial data and related metadata relative to the project must be maintained and available for reporting during the life of the funding agreement

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<sup>8</sup> Engagement may include Indigenous participation in the collaborative governance structure, as delivery and/or funding partners, in capacity building and other activities.

## Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated based only on the details provided in the application package, including the ability to address program priorities, work plan detail and feasibility, and the demonstrated engagement and support of partners. The final details for individual successful project(s) will be negotiated with ECCC prior to signing a funding agreement.

The proposals will be evaluated based on mandatory criteria listed above in the Mandatory Proposal Requirements section and the following merit criteria:

### Priorities (70%):

- Lands secured, in key conservation areas, contribute to:
  - achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 (60%)
    - total area secured
    - science-based conservation planning
    - proportion of lands that are secured within key conservation areas
  - providing priority co-benefits (15%):
    - recovery of species at risk
    - prevention of species not listed on SARA, including migratory birds, from becoming at risk
    - climate change adaptation and mitigation
    - provision of ecosystem services
    - completion of ecological gifts
- Partnerships and collaboration advanced (25%):
  - multiple funding and delivery partners, across the country
  - collaborative governance structure representative of the partners
  - increased capacity of land trusts partnering in the project delivery for the purpose of furthering compliance with the land trusts standards and practices

### Technical merit (30%):

- operating plan demonstrating how the priorities will be addressed
- clear on how to involve multiple partners in land securement
- experienced applicant and potential for delivering as planned
- feasible and suitable approach for land securement
- quantifiable performance measures
- clear, logical and concise presentation

One or more successful national projects may be selected.

For more information, please contact Grant Hogg ([grant.hogg@canada.ca](mailto:grant.hogg@canada.ca)).

Thank you for your interest in habitat conservation.

## **Appendix 1: Eligible expenditures**

- human resource costs, including salaries and benefits
- management and professional service costs, such as accounting, monitoring, communications, official languages translation, audit and legal charges
- travel, including field costs in accordance with the Treasury Board Secretariat's Directive on Travel, Hospitality, Conference, and Event Expenditures
- material and supplies costs
- printing, production, and distribution costs
- equipment and capital assets purchase or rental (though capital asset purchase is not an eligible expenditure for for-profit recipients)
- lease of office space
- vehicle rental and operation costs
- contractors required to perform activities related to the project
- cost associated with eligible land securement initiatives and projects such as land costs, legal charges, appraisals, surveys, baseline documentation, land transfer tax
- a reasonable share (10% or less) of overhead and/or administrative costs which are directly attributable to the carrying out of the project
- any GST/HST that is not reimbursable by Canada Revenue Agency and any PST not reimbursable by the provinces



## Appendix 2: Template for project budget

### 2.1 Total project funding (\$'000)

		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Total	
Contributor	Contributor type*	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind
Contributor 1	Contributor type 1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contributor 2	Contributor type 2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contributor 3	Contributor type 3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\* Environment and Climate Change Canada; other federal department; provincial government; municipal government; other

## 2.2 Total project costs (\$'000)

[illegible]