



Acting on climate
change to build
a better tomorrow

Open call for Expressions of Interest to WWF-Canada's Nature and Climate Grant Program, presented by Aviva Canada

Guidelines

Introduction

Every day, in Canada and the world over, we are witnessing the devastating impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change. Deadly heat waves, wildfires, floods and super storms: these are the calling cards of a planet in crisis, and the next 10 years are critical. If we don't set a path for nature's recovery, we will continue on an irreversible course toward the destruction of complex ecosystems, severe climate disruption driven by greenhouse gas emissions and the extinction of more than one million species worldwide.

But the future of the planet isn't a foregone conclusion. The path we're on is reversible if we act now, and if we use one of the most effective tools around: nature. By using nature to fight biodiversity loss and climate change, we can reverse what seems irreversible.

Our latest Living Planet Report Canada revealed widespread and dramatic declines in wildlife across the country, with populations of at-risk species dropping by 59 per cent on average since 1970. Disruptions are often linked to current and historic land-use changes such as draining wetlands, deforestation, development of coastal regions, growth of cities and agriculture, and impacts from industrial sector activities, such as energy production and mining. All of these threats are accelerated by climate change.

WWF-Canada's Nature and Climate Grant Program, presented by Aviva Canada

WWF-Canada is holding an open call for Expressions of Interest for the Nature and Climate Grant Program, presented by Aviva Canada. This program is designed to support local and Indigenous organizations in taking measurable actions for restoration of degraded lands and shorelines. The actions that receive resources from WWF-Canada will improve ecosystem well-being and result in increased carbon storage potential through sequestration. These efforts are focused on ecosystems in priority regions — areas identified, through systematic analysis, to have the greatest need and potential for recovering biodiversity and increasing carbon stored in nature.

Goals of the WWF-Canada Nature and Climate Grant Program:

1. Increase the ability of landscapes and coastal areas to sequester carbon through restoration activities.
2. Increase/improve viable habitat for wildlife.
3. Engage communities and individuals in Canada in measurable conservation action.

4. Improve resilience of habitats and communities to climate change.

Funding Availability

With generous support from Aviva Canada, WWF-Canada will be granting approximately five (5) projects of two (2) years duration. Groups may request up to \$135,000 CAD per year to support eligible activities.

Expression of Interest:

Expressions of interest should be emailed to hcrochetiere@wwfcanada.org by **January 14, 2022**.

Please include the following in your expression of interest:

- Project title
- Contact information for the project lead
- Project objectives
- A description of project activities, including restoration and engagement activities
- The location of the project, including an estimate of the area to be restored
- A description of existing partnerships and community support
- A budget estimate for the total project and the amount requested from the WWF-Canada Nature and Climate Grant Program
- Any other relevant information

Eligible Regions and Activity Categories

All projects that take place on Indigenous territories must be carried out with respect for Indigenous rights and governance structures and be of interest and use to the Indigenous communities and organizations involved or affected.

The fund will support practical, applied work that will increase the landscape's ability to sequester carbon and improve habitat. Priority habitats/landscapes include:

- coastal zones (Blue carbon sites)
- agricultural sites (potentially soil, grassland restoration or reforestation)
- wetlands
- forested lands

Priority Regions are:

- British Columbia coast
- Interior Plateau of British Columbia
- Lower Fraser watershed
- Saint John River
- Southern Ontario
- Southern Quebec

Examples of eligible activities include shovel ready projects such as:

- Habitat creation or enhancement (biotic)
- Seeding / planting native species

- Tree planting
- Restoring natural saltwater flows
- Bank stabilization
- Restoration activities that will prevent the loss of carbon sinks (e.g. removal of hard armouring and transition to living 'soft' shoreline to reduce the threat of 'coastal squeeze' and avoid the loss of carbon sinks of sea grass beds and salt marsh)

Revegetation actions must use native plants appropriate to the local ecosystem. Appropriate native plants include but aren't limited to trees, shrubs, ground cover, and seagrasses.

Projects must also demonstrate their ability to maximize ecosystem benefits by acknowledging and proposing how the project activities will help reduce climate risks that threaten the long-term viability of carbon stored in nature (e.g. risks such as increased susceptibility to forest fires, increases in drought/flooding and sea-level rise).

Note: Strong preference will be given to projects that are Indigenous-led or have Indigenous partners.

Ineligible Activities

- Projects or studies that are required by law or regulations

Eligible Applicants

- Registered Charities
- Indigenous organizations or groups
- Other listed Qualified Donees – Please visit <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/qlfd-dns/qd-1stngs/menu-eng.html> to confirm that your organization is a listed Qualified Donee
- Not-for profit organizations
- Community-based organization

Only one application can be submitted per organization.

Notification

All proponents will be notified if they are invited to submit a proposal in January 2022. A proposal template will be circulated by WWF-Canada.

Proponents will have from **May 1, 2022** until **April 30, 2024** to complete projects and reporting requirements.