



2023 Call for Proposals

Fund Objectives

The Arctic Species Conservation Fund supports high-quality stewardship and research initiatives focused on wildlife and habitats in the Canadian Arctic. WWF-Canada relies on partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and the best available information to jointly advocate for policies and legislation that are effective for the conservation of the Arctic environment. We are pleased to issue a call for proposals to identify projects that will achieve meaningful outcomes for the conservation of Arctic species and the people who depend on them.

Eligibility

Applicants from all backgrounds (community groups, Hunters and Trappers Organizations, governments, universities, independent researchers, non-government organizations, etc.) and fields of study (Indigenous Knowledge, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, natural sciences, social sciences, etc.) are eligible to apply. Projects can take place anywhere across northern Canada. Applicants can request up to \$25,000.00 CAD per year. Proposals for multi-year projects will be accepted, but funding will be determined on an annual basis.

Evaluation Criteria

1) Expected conservation outcomes

Applicants are required to identify tangible conservation outcomes for wildlife and habitats that will result from their projects, and how a partnership with WWF-Canada can help facilitate these outcomes (i.e., What decision-making process will your project contribute to? What specifically will change through the successful implementation of the project? How will wildlife and people benefit through this work?)

2) Involvement and relevance of proposed project to northern communities

Applicants are required to discuss how their project will affect local northern communities; outline the involvement of northerners in their project, including team members and implementation crew; and must demonstrate community support for the project if applicable.

3) Relevance to WWF-Canada's 2023 Arctic Conservation Priorities

Applicants must specifically reference how their project will result in tangible outcomes that address WWF-Canada's 2023 Arctic Conservation Priorities, which are attached to this Call for Proposals.

Submission Timelines

New in 2023, proposals will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis at any point in the year. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with WWF-Canada staff in advance to assist in the development of a successful proposal. Final proposals should be submitted at least six weeks prior to the project start date.

Application Format

Proposals can be submitted in English, French or Inuktitut in the following format*:

- I. Background information and context of the project
- II. Project description
 - a. Objectives
 - b. Methods
 - c. Workplan
- III. Anticipated outcomes and, where possible, a list of measurable benefits to conservation with associated metrics and target dates of achievement
- IV. Relevance to northern communities and involvement of northern residents in the project
- V. List of all major project partners
- VI. Full project budget, including secured and unsecured funding from other sources, and a detailed indication of how WWF-Canada funds will be used (daily rates are required for personnel time)

****The application format can be altered for northern organizations. Any individual or group requiring assistance in preparing a proposal is encouraged to reach out to discuss the desired project by phone****

Granting Conditions

Applicants will be notified of the results of their proposal within four weeks of receipt. Recipients of the WWF-Canada Arctic Species Conservation Fund will then be required to negotiate and sign a WWF-Canada contribution agreement. This process must be completed prior to the start of the project or the incurring of any associated costs. Successful recipients will submit three reporting items during project implementation:

a) Interim report

Roughly one month after the completion of the first major project milestone, recipients will be required to submit an interim report following a WWF-Canada template outlining the implementation of the project, preliminary results, updated work plan and a financial report of funds spent to date.

b) Communications media

Recipients will be required to submit an agreed upon number of media (photos, videos, maps, etc.) from the project to be used for communications purposes in partnership with WWF-Canada. Formats, quantities, uses, and limitations will be agreed upon prior to signing the contribution agreement.

c) Final report

Recipients will be required to submit a final report at the end of the agreement. The final report will follow a WWF-Canada template including a discussion of project findings; the relevance of the work to conservation, including relevant metrics; an assessment of the project's success; any future plans; and a full financial statement.

Recipients may be required to demonstrate proper insurance coverage prior to signing a funding agreement. Recipients will be required to acknowledge WWF-Canada's assistance in any presentations, publications, or events pertaining to the funded project.

Contact Information

Applications should be submitted to arcticspecies@wwfcanada.org. Any questions pertaining to the WWF-Canada Arctic Species Conservation Fund should be directed to Jason Harasimo, Associate Specialist, Arctic Species and Ecosystems at jharasimo@wwfcanada.org or 506-364-2988.



2023 Conservation Priorities

Arctic Habitats

- Support for Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area projects at any stage of development.
- Initiatives that enable communities to participate in Land Use Planning, Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments, Species at Risk listing processes, etc.
- Studies on the resilience of Arctic habitats in the face of a warming climate or disturbance.
- Studies on the effectiveness or need to improve existing protected areas.
- Projects that demonstrate the potential of economic opportunities for northern communities through conservation programming.
- Nature-Based Solutions projects seeking to identify, restore or protect areas of carbon storage.

Arctic Marine Mammals

- Understanding the effects of underwater noise, ice breaking and oil spill events on marine mammals.
- Understanding the impacts of ship-based contaminants (black carbon, greywater, heavy metals, invasive species, microplastics, scrubbers etc.) on marine mammals and Arctic marine habitats.
- Identification and characterization of critical habitat for marine mammals, including migration corridors.
- Projects that help with the evaluation and/or design of mitigation measures used by industry to reduce effects of disturbance on marine mammals from industrial development and shipping.
- Evaluating the impacts of disturbance on walrus at their haul-out sites.
- Piloting monitoring and management of migrating whales through science, community-led initiatives, or a combination of both.

Barren-ground Caribou

- Research furthering our understanding of the effects of roads, development sites and other forms of disturbance on caribou and their habitats.
- Identification and characterization of critical habitat for caribou.
- Actions that help create or implement existing management plans and recovery strategies for caribou.

Polar Bears

- Research contributing to the understanding of the drivers of polar bear conflict in communities.

- Development and implementation of methods to reduce human-polar bear conflict in communities.
- Innovations and community-based initiatives to manage polar bears and attractants in communities.
- Projects that bridge the gap between Indigenous Knowledge, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and scientific understandings of polar bears.
- Identification and characterization of important polar bear habitat both currently and in the future.