



2026 Call for Proposals

Fund Objectives

The [Arctic Species Conservation Fund](#) (ASCF) supports 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 the 2026 call for proposals to identify projects that will achieve meaningful outcomes for the conservation of Arctic wildlife and the people who depend on them.

Eligibility

Applicants from all backgrounds (Hunters and Trappers Organizations, governments, universities, independent researchers, non-government organizations, etc.) and fields of study (Indigenous Knowledge, Inuit Qaujimagatugangit, natural sciences, social sciences, etc.) are eligible. Projects can take place anywhere across northern Canada, though projects based in Nunavut will be prioritized. Applicants can request up to \$25,000 per year. Proposals for multi-year projects will be accepted, with funding 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 people and wildlife 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 through a letter of support if the applicant is not a representative of the local Indigenous organization.
- 3) Relevance to National Inuit Strategy on Research
For projects based in Inuit Nunangat, non-Inuit applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their project relates to the [National Inuit Strategy on Research](#).
- 4) Relevance to WWF-Canada's 2026 Arctic Conservation Priorities
Applicants must specifically reference how their project will result in tangible outcomes that address WWF-Canada's 2026 Arctic Conservation Priorities, which can be found at the back of this Call for Proposals.

Submission Timelines

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, Methods, Workplan
- III. Anticipated outcomes and, where possible, a list of measurable benefits to conservation with associated metrics and target dates of achievement in the future
- IV. Relevance to northern communities, involvement of northern residents in the project and a letter of support from a representative community organization if applicable
- 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 get in touch to informally discuss their desired project

Granting Conditions

Applicants will be notified of the results of their proposal within four to six weeks of receipt. Recipients 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. WWF-Canada will not request or hold ownership of any data from projects funded through the ASCF.

Successful recipients will submit up to three reporting items during the project period:

- 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
In some cases, 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 and permits prior to signing a funding agreement. In some cases, recipients will be required to acknowledge WWF-Canada's funding contribution 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 Missy MacLellan, Associate Specialist, Arctic Species and Ecosystems at mmaclellan@wwfcanada.org, or 438-454-5582.



2026 Conservation Priorities

Arctic Habitats

- Support for Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) projects at any stage of development.
- Initiatives that enable community groups to participate in Land Use Planning, Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments, Species at Risk listing processes, etc.
- 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.
- Projects with a focus on the High Arctic, including Tuvaijuittuq, Pikialasorsuaq and the Last Ice Area.

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 of critical habitat for marine mammals, with an emphasis on migration corridors.
- Piloting monitoring and management of migrating whales through science, community-led initiatives, or a combination of both.
- Evaluation or design of measures used to reduce effects of shipping disturbance on marine mammals.
- Evaluating the impacts of shipping disturbance on walrus at their haul-out sites.

Barren-ground Caribou

- Research furthering our understanding of the effects of roads, mining activity, helicopters 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.
- 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.