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# TRANSFORMING SPECIES AT RISK CONSERVATION IN CANADA: THE PAN-CANADIAN APPROACH AND THE PRIORITY SECTORS INITIATIVE

Presentation to CFGA Canada Nature Fund Project Launch  
November 15, 2019  
Moncton New Brunswick  
Presented by Carolyn Seburn  
Priority Sectors Initiative  
Canadian Wildlife Service



Canada

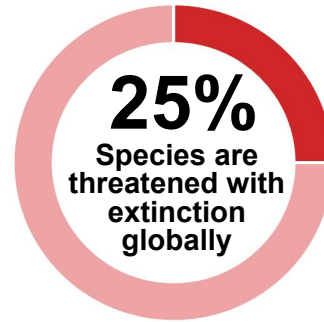
# PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Introduce the *Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada*
- Why a sectors based approach and what is it?
  - Building Governance and Partnerships
  - Sector Based Action Planning
  - Contribution Funding
- Why the Environmental Farm Plan Tool is important.

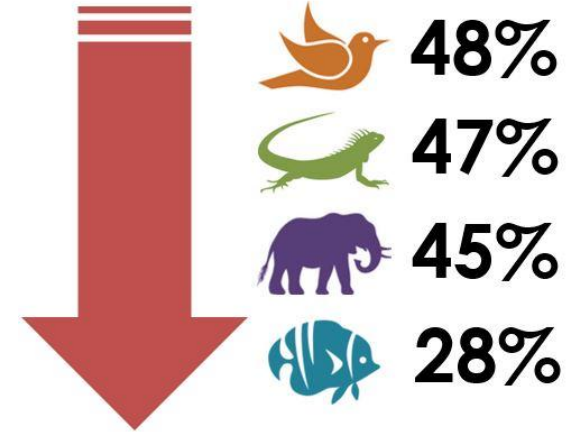
# NATURE IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

## Globally...

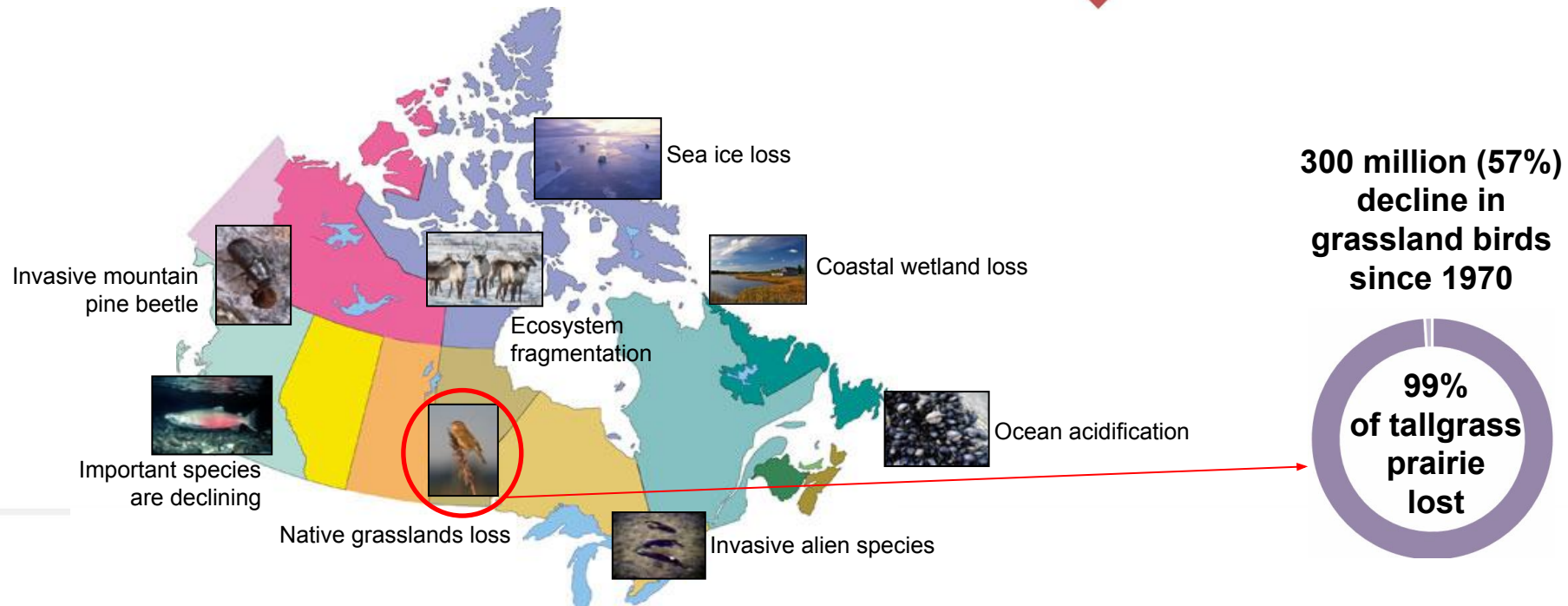
Rate of species extinctions is accelerating; **unprecedented** in human history; up to **1,000,000** species at risk of extinction



Habitat loss threatens species globally  
Adapted from: WWF Living Planet Report, 2018

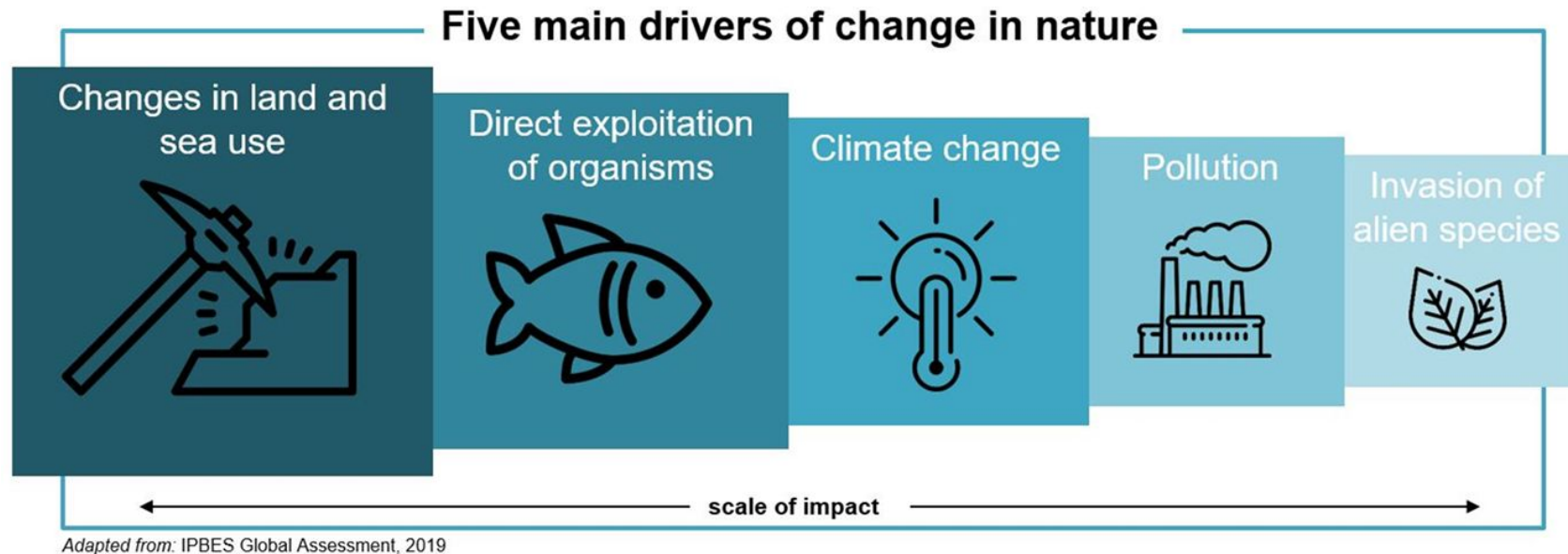


## ... And in Canada



# WHY ARE WE LOSING NATURE?

There are five main drivers of change, both globally and in Canada



- ➡ Cumulative effects of multiple pressures amplify impacts
- ➡ Nature's decline and climate change are connected

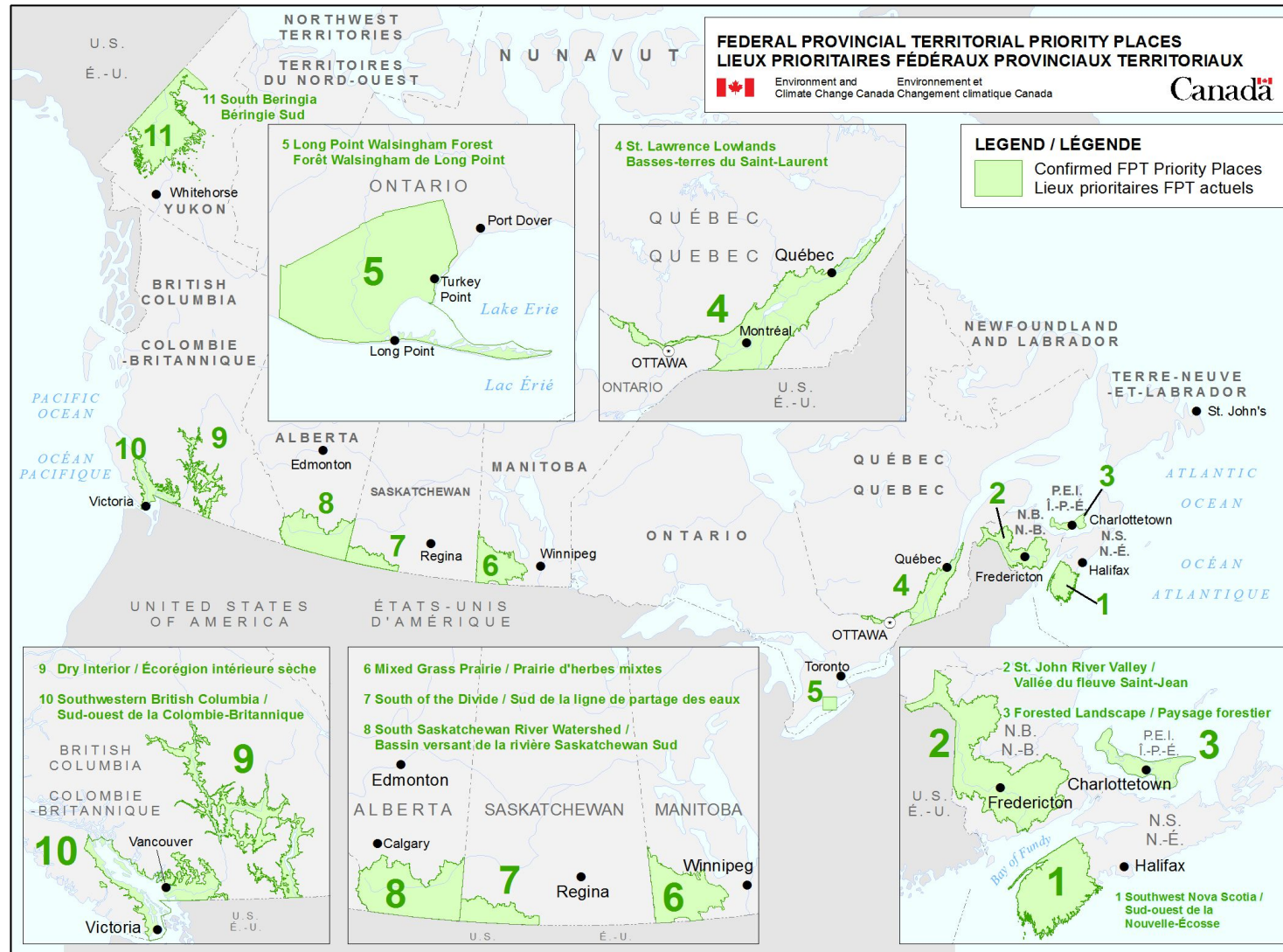
# TRANSFORMING SPECIES AT RISK CONSERVATION

- The Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada was approved by FPT Ministers for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity (CWB) on June 28, 2018
  - Shifts toward collaboration, multi-species and ecosystem-based approaches and a focus on shared priority places, species and sectors and threats
  - Implementation enabled by federal contributions of the Nature Legacy's Canada Nature Fund and investments of partners
- Approach includes commitment to develop action plans with the forest, agriculture and urban development sectors to meet the needs of species at risk and support sector sustainability
- In June, 2019, FPT CWB Deputy Ministers approved timelines for Fall 2019:
  - Develop critical paths for sector action planning that engages partners
  - Initiate sector-based action planning for species at risk conservation
- Action plans will build the strategic policy case for future shared investment in collaborative action for priority sectors

# SPECIES STREAM COMPONENTS

- **Priority Places**
  - Initial investments to be jointly selected with P/Ts with later projects informed by multi-species and ecosystem-based action plans developed with Indigenous peoples and stakeholders
  - Early projects may emphasize foundational activities while later ones will favour action implementation
- **Priority Species**
  - Conservation agreements (e.g. SARA s.11) and investments for caribou and other priority species
- **Priority Sectors**
  - Domestic: Targeted investments for sustainable practices in priority sectors
  - International: Conservation of migratory species at risk in the Caribbean and Central and South America
- **Indigenous Partnerships**
  - Contributions to build relationships, enhance capacity, and increase collaborative conservation activities that advance protection and recovery of species at risk

# PAN CANADIAN APPROACH – F/P/T PRIORITY PLACES



# PAN CANADIAN APPROACH – F/P/T PRIORITY SPECIES

- Boreal Caribou
- Southern Mountain Caribou
- Peary Caribou
- Barren-ground Caribou
- Greater Sage-Grouse
- Wood Bison



# PAN CANADIAN APPROACH – FPT PRIORITY SECTORS AND THREATS

- Priority sectors confirmed
  - Agriculture
  - Forestry
  - Urban development
- Priority threats confirmed
  - Invasive alien species
  - Wildlife disease
  - Illegal wildlife trade



# PRIORITY SECTORS – KEY MILESTONES

- Priority sectors initiatives will enhance beneficial practices and improve sector sustainability from local to regional scales by promoting measures that address common broad-based threats to multiple species
- Consult with sectors and government and non-government partners (2018/19)
- Develop sector-based action plans on key threats (2019/20)
- Implement priority actions



Example: EFP SAR Tool

*The complexity of engaging in sectoral discussions across a multitude of partners and stakeholders will likely require adjusted milestones*

# PURPOSE OF ACTION PLANNING FOR SPECIES AT RISK WITH PRIORITY SECTORS

To identify and prioritize opportunities for the alignment of sector policy and practice with positive outcomes for species at risk conservation using a multi-species, ecosystem-based approach

Action plans will be co-created with provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous People, industry and stakeholders



# AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COLLABORATION

- FPT governments must work together across sectors to balance environmental, industry and community expectations
- The Pan-Canadian Approach provides an opportunity to co-create and implement species at risk action plans with key sectors
  - Enable a long-term vision and positive narrative focused on collaboration and shared outcomes
  - Flexibility for application across jurisdictions and contexts
- Development of the action plans is just beginning - sector partners want to contribute
  - Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada supporting this effort
  - Provinces and territories engaging across ministries in their jurisdictions
  - Indigenous partners are an essential voice at the table
  - Industry organizations are existing partners and seeking early engagement (e.g. Canadian Association of Forest Owners, Forest Products Association of Canada, Canadian Cattlemen's Association)

Extending collaboration across all partners and stakeholders is essential for success

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

Agriculture  
Sector

- Alignment of agriculture and conservation policy objectives, obligations and outcomes (e.g. Canadian Agricultural Policy and SARA)
- Maintaining sustainable beef cattle production to optimize species at risk outcomes in grassland ecosystems
- Enhancing biodiversity conservation and providing co-benefits to crop producers
- Innovative economic instruments
  - Payments for ecosystem services
  - Conservation easements/tax incentives
  - Crop insurance
  - Ecosystem services/natural capital valuation
- Integration of species and risk and biodiversity targets in market-based certification
- Standards for Environmental Farm Planning
- Knowledge transfer and extension services
- Implementation of SARA conservation agreements (s.11)
- Policy approaches to recognize contributions to recovery

# SPECIES AT RISK PARTNERSHIPS ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS

## A FOUNDATION FOR COLLABORATION

Agriculture  
Sector

- Through Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands, CWS has invested in projects since 2015 that explore opportunities and barriers to agriculture sector engagement in protection of species at risk and/or critical habitat on agricultural land
- Two approaches: funding for on-the-ground and policy exploration projects
  - On-the-ground activities included outreach, engagement, stewardship measures and habitat protection agreements in most provinces
  - Policy activities included coordinating with provinces to assess areas of complementarity and conflict among provincial baseline obligations for the sector, agriculture subsidy policies and federal SARA objectives
- Key learning from both approaches can inform the Agriculture Sector Action Plan

**Industry-led certification projects**  
e.g. environmental farm plan  
approach for sustainable sourcing  
certification; niche market branding  
of SAR-friendly beef

**3rd party delivery of habitat  
conservation measures** e.g.  
MULTISAR, SODCAP, MHHC in  
partnership with provincial livestock  
associations

**Agreements under section  
11 of SARA** for specific  
habitat outcomes for specific  
species




SARPAL Spectrum of Activities

# CONSIDERATIONS

- Which economic instruments have demonstrated proof-of-concept and can be scaled and exported?
- Fiscal sustainability of economic instruments/incentives
- Succession planning for natural forage-based agriculture
- Address economic dis-incentives to conservation e.g. crop insurance on marginal lands
- Knowledge transfer to recover the loss of knowledge and extension services
- Build on relationships and the pride of farmers/producers in their communities and work
- Local knowledge is critical to enrich general solutions
- Assess synergies with approaches to enable low-carbon agriculture

# PROPOSED ACTION PLANNING PROCESS

Step	Contributors / Participants
1. Set the stage	Early engagement of partners and stakeholders
2. Establish purpose & scope	Initial meeting of representative partners and stakeholders to discuss:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situation analysis</li> <li>• Identify purpose, scope and goals</li> <li>• Governance options (including Core Planning Team and broader engagement plan)</li> </ul>
3. Frame the discussion	Establish Core Planning Team and develop Terms of Reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage broader partner and stakeholder networks</li> <li>• Plan a National Workshop</li> <li>• Coordinate drafting of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Situation analysis</li> <li>○ Conceptualizing: targets, goals, threats, opportunities, factors, strategies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4. Plan actions	National Workshop where participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and refine the situation analysis and conceptualizing elements</li> <li>• Propose actions</li> </ul>
5. Analyze options	Core Planning Team coordinates analysis of options such as assessment of the cost-effectiveness of proposals or other decision science approaches as appropriate
6. Finalize the action plan	Core Planning Team coordinates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of draft action plan</li> <li>• Review by partner and stakeholder networks</li> <li>• Revision to incorporate comments of partners and stakeholders</li> </ul>
7. Approve the action plan	Final action plan to be proposed for approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FPT Conservation, Wildlife &amp; Biodiversity ministries</li> <li>• FPT sector ministries as appropriate</li> </ul>



# PROPOSED SECTOR CORE PLANNING TEAMS

- Follow an analytical-deliberative process: Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation and structured decision-making approaches such as assessments of cost-effectiveness
- Core Planning Teams (10-20 people) for each sector
  - Expertise:
    - Forest/agriculture/urban policy and management
    - Conservation (species at risk, migratory birds, wildlife and biodiversity)
    - Socio-economics and natural capital valuation
    - + geographic balance
  - Representation:
    - CWS and supporting federal partner (NRCan/CFS, AAFC)
    - PT wildlife and forest/agriculture/local government Ministries (reporting to CWDC and sector fora e.g. CCFM Inet, FPT Agriculture Environment Working Group)
    - Indigenous peoples (role to be determined)
    - Industry
    - Communities/municipalities
    - ENGOs
    - Academia
- Agriculture process will include SARPAL initiative lessons learned (2015-2019)
- For urban sector, partnering with Innovation@ECCC to apply design thinking pilot to develop engagement plan
  - Systems mapping to identify and understand key processes, decision makers and leverage points

# PROPOSED CRITICAL PATHS FOR SECTOR ACTION PLANS

Step	Summer/ Fall 2019	Fall 2019	Winter/ Spring 2020	Spring/ Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Fall 2020/ Winter 2021	Spring/ Summer 2021
Conceptualize	Set the Stage	Establish Purpose and Scope ★					
	Set the Stage	Establish Purpose and Scope ★					
	Set the Stage		Establish Purpose and Scope ★				
Plan Actions & Monitoring			Frame the Discussion	Plan Actions		Assess and Finalize Plan	
			Frame the Discussion	Plan Actions		Assess and Finalize Plan	
				Frame the Discussion	Plan Actions		Assess and Finalize Plan
Seek Approval							Seek Approvals
							Seek Approvals
							Seek Approvals



★ Launch meeting with sector

# ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLANNING MODULE FOR SPECIES AT RISK AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

## **Innovative**

- Builds on existing Environmental Farm Plan Tool to help farmers and ranchers innovate

## **Scalable and Replicable**

- Scales up Alberta proto-type to willing provincial partners
- Tailored to the needs of individual provinces

## **Partnerships/Collaboration**

- Implemented through partnerships and collaboration.
- Provides an opportunity to build a collaborative network within and across jurisdictions

## **Sustainable**

- Decision support tool with enduring added value for SAR and wildlife habitat conservation.

## **Significant Positive Species at Risk Outcomes**

- Direct and indirect benefit for SAR including potential co-benefits for broader biodiversity conservation activities.
- Potential co-benefits for low-carbon agriculture