

AT RISK AND OVERLOOKED:

AN ASSESSMENT OF
ONTARIO'S ENDANGERED
SPECIES ACT

April 2025



ABOUT US



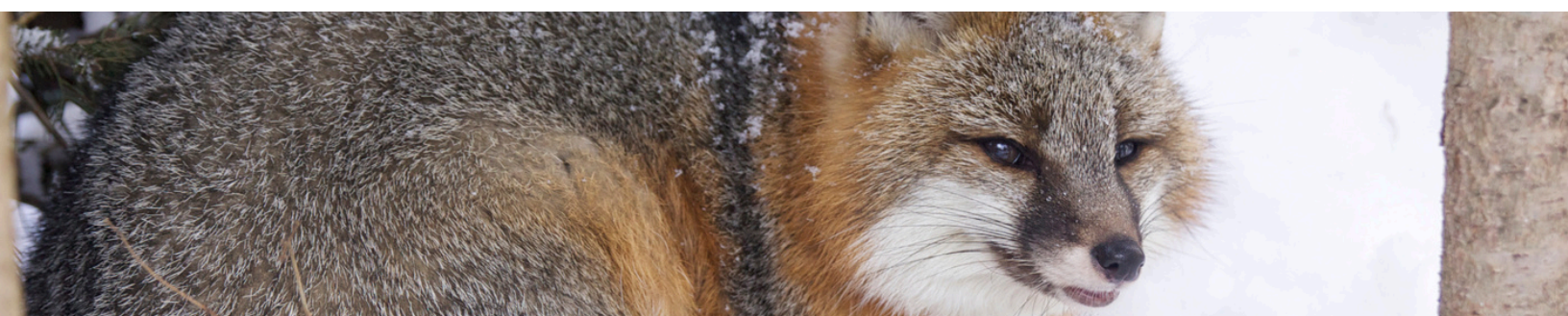
AEL Advocacy is a public interest law practice and not-for-profit organization based in Ontario. Our lawyers understand the important interconnection between humans, animals, and the environment. We combine our in-depth knowledge of the legal and political landscape with a commitment to supporting individuals and organizations working to protect animals and the environments where they live.

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This report draws inspiration from similar analyses conducted by [East Coast Environmental Law](#) on the implementation of species at risk legislation in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Their work provided valuable insights that helped inform our approach and recommendations.



DISCLAIMER

Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information in the *At Risk and Overlooked: An Assessment of Ontario's Endangered Species Act* report (the "Report") is accurate as of April 2025.

The legislative and regulatory provisions in this Report and the Appendices are for general information purposes only. This Report is not legal advice and does not replace official government publications.

If a discrepancy occurs between government policies, statutes or regulations, and this document, the government documents will apply. For official legislative provisions, consult the relevant legislation and policy documents that are referenced in the Report.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Us	i
Disclaimer	ii
Table of Contents	iii
Executive Summary	1
Introduction: Protecting Species at Risk in Ontario	3
Ontario's Endangered Species Act: An Overview	3
Legal Protections Under the ESA	3
A Brief History of the ESA	4
Legislative Rollbacks & Erosion of Protections	4
Government Obligations under the ESA	7
1. Maintaining the Species at Risk in Ontario List	9
2. Developing Recovery Strategies/Management Plans	10
3. Issuing Government Response Statements	10
4. Conducting Progress Reviews	11

5. Protecting Critical Habitat	12
Analysis: Implementation & Enforcement of Ontario's Obligations to Species at Risk	16
1. Appointing Members to SARPAC and COSSARO	16
Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee	16
Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario	18
2. Listing Species	20
3. Species Assessment & Reporting	21
4. Recovery Strategies & Management Plans	21
Recovery Strategies	21
Management Plans	22
5. Government Response Statements	23
6. Progress Reviews	25
7. Authorizations & Exemptions	25
What Requires an Authorization	26
Types of Authorizations	26
Issues with Authorizations & Exemptions	27
Conclusion	30
Appendix A: Current Status of Listed Species by Classification	32
Appendix B: Endnotes	56



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This report evaluates the Government of Ontario's compliance with the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (the "ESA" or the "Act"). It outlines the key legal obligations imposed on the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (the "Minister") under the ESA and assesses the extent to which these obligations have been fulfilled.

The ESA was introduced to prevent species from becoming extinct or extirpated, support the recovery of species at risk, and protect their habitats. Upon its enactment, the ESA was regarded as one of the strongest species protection laws in Canada. It established a science-based framework for listing and protecting species, developing recovery strategies, and enforcing habitat protections.

Over time, the ESA's impact has been systematically undermined through legislative amendments, regulatory changes, and poor implementation. Broad exemptions introduced for development, infrastructure projects, pit and quarry operations, and the forestry industry have allowed harmful activities to proceed with minimal oversight. These exemptions weaken the Act's core purpose by reducing accountability and limiting protections for species at risk and their habitats. Delayed protections have further compounded the problem, creating gaps in species recovery efforts and limiting the Act's ability to meet its conservation objectives.

A significant weakening of the ESA stems from the shift in species classification decisions from Ontario-specific population status to global population status. As a result, species facing serious threats within Ontario may receive reduced protection if their global population remains relatively

stable, disregarding the unique conservation needs of local populations. Additionally, the introduction of the Species at Risk Conservation Fund has further eroded the Act's conservation goals. This fund allows developers to pay into the fund rather than taking direct measures to avoid harm to species and their habitats. By disconnecting harm from recovery efforts, the fund reduces incentives for proactive species protection and weakens the link between development activities and conservation outcomes.

In the midst of a global biodiversity crisis, strong legislative protections for species at risk are essential—but without meaningful implementation and enforcement, these protections remain largely symbolic. AEL Advocacy recommends the following urgent measures to restore the ESA's strength and integrity:

- Reinstate automatic protections for listed species and their habitats.
- Eliminate authorizations and exemptions for industrial and development activities.
- Address delays in developing recovery strategies, management plans and government response statements.
- Redirect funds from the Species at Risk Conservation Fund toward direct, measurable conservation efforts that benefit affected species and their habitats.
- Strengthen the integrity and independence of the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario and the Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee.

Protecting Ontario's biodiversity requires a renewed commitment to science-based decision-making, transparent governance, and the restoration of automatic species and habitat protections under the ESA. Strengthening the ESA is essential to reversing the current trajectory of species decline and ensuring that Ontario's most vulnerable species are safeguarded.



INTRODUCTION:

PROTECTING SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO

Ontario is home to a rich diversity of plant and animal species, many of which face increasing threats from habitat loss, climate change, pollution, and human activity. Protecting these species is essential not only for maintaining the health and resilience of Ontario's ecosystems but also for respecting the intrinsic value of all living beings.

ONTARIO'S ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: AN OVERVIEW

The ESA is Ontario's primary legal framework for protecting species at risk. Introduced to strengthen previous legislation, the ESA establishes science-based protections for species and their habitats while setting out clear government obligations to support species recovery. The ESA has three core objectives:

- To **identify species at risk** based on the best available scientific information, including information obtained from community knowledge and aboriginal traditional knowledge.
- To **protect species that are at risk and their habitats**, and to promote the recovery of species that are at risk.
- To **promote stewardship activities** to assist in the protection and recovery of species that are at risk.[1]

Under the ESA, "habitat" is defined broadly to include areas a species relies on for survival, including reproduction, rearing, hibernation, migration, and feeding.[2] This expansive definition reflects the understanding that species recovery depends not only on protecting individual animals and plants but also on safeguarding the ecosystems that sustain them.

LEGAL PROTECTIONS UNDER THE ESA

Species listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario ("SARO") List ([O Reg 230/08](#)) are granted legal protection. This includes prohibitions against:

- Killing, harming, harassing, or capturing species at risk.
- Damaging or destroying the habitat these species rely on.[3]

Once a species is listed, the government is required to develop a recovery strategy or management plan within specific timelines. These plans must outline the threats to the species, identify critical habitat, and propose concrete steps to support recovery.[4] The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (“MECP”) is responsible for implementing these plans and reporting on progress through Government Response Statements and periodic progress reviews.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ESA

Ontario was the first Canadian province to pass legislation to protect endangered species, with the original ESA passed in 1971. However, the original law was weak and ineffective, lacking strong habitat protections and recovery planning.[5] By the early 2000s, only 42 of 128 identified threatened or endangered species were formally protected under the law.[6] In response to these shortcomings, the Ontario government introduced a new ESA in 2007, which came into force in 2008.

The 2008 ESA was initially regarded as one of the strongest endangered species laws in Canada at the time.[7] It established a science-based process for identifying and listing species at risk and mandated the development of recovery strategies within defined timelines. The Act also provided automatic legal protection to both listed species and their habitats, ensuring that species protection was not subject to political discretion.[8]

Despite its initial strength, the ESA's effectiveness was quickly undermined. Transition provisions delayed full habitat protections for some species until 2013, leaving them vulnerable in the interim.[9] Even more concerning, the government introduced broad exemptions to accommodate development, infrastructure, resource extraction, and energy projects. These exemptions weakened the ESA by allowing economic considerations to override conservation priorities. Industrial and economic interests were given greater influence over species protection, eroding the law's core purpose.

LEGISLATIVE ROLLBACKS & EROSION OF PROTECTIONS

In 2013, the Ontario government introduced a series of regulatory exemptions that significantly undermined the ESA's core protections. Previously, any person or entity seeking to engage in an activity that could harm a species at risk or its habitat was required to obtain an individual permit or enter into a project-specific agreement with the Ministry.[10] These permits required proponents to demonstrate that their activities would provide an **“overall benefit”** to the affected species, ensuring that any harm caused would be outweighed by positive conservation outcomes.[11] The 2013 amendments introduced sweeping exemptions from these requirements, replacing the permit-based system with a “permit-to-rule” system. [12]

Under this new approach, proponents engaging in a wide range of potentially harmful activities no longer needed to obtain individual permits or seek direct government approval. [13] Instead, they were required only to comply with general rules set out in regulations. The scope of these exemptions was extensive, covering many of the most impactful industrial and commercial activities in Ontario, including:[14]

- Forestry operations
- Hydro-electric generating stations
- Aggregate pits and quarries
- Ditch and drainage activities
- Early exploration mining
- Wind facilities
- Development and infrastructure projects (including projects approved under individual and class environmental assessments)
- Certain activities affecting specific species (e.g., butternut trees, chimney swift, bobolink, eastern meadowlark, barn swallow, and certain aquatic species)
- Activities related to human health and safety

By allowing these activities to proceed without direct government oversight, the 2013 changes removed a critical layer of protection under the ESA.

Further legislative rollbacks occurred in 2019 when the government passed Bill 108, the *More Homes, More Choices Act*. [15] These amendments increased ministerial discretion, delayed protections, and reduced automatic safeguards. Bill 108 shifted species classification decisions from Ontario-specific population status to global population status, meaning that species could lose protection if they were more abundant elsewhere, even if their Ontario populations were in steep decline. The timeline for listing newly assessed species on the SARO List was extended from three months to 12 months, delaying protections for newly identified at-risk species. The Minister was also granted discretionary power to delay species protections for up to three years after a species was listed as endangered or threatened. Existing permit holders were given a one-year exemption from prohibitions on harming newly listed species and their habitats, further weakening protection during a critical period when recovery efforts should have been prioritized.

In 2020, the government passed Bill 229 (*Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act*), which introduced further exemptions for forestry operations in Crown forests. These changes removed automatic protections for species and habitats affected by forestry activities, even after the Ministry of the Environment's own findings indicated that these practices could harm **at least 12 endangered or threatened species**, including the boreal caribou. [16] This effectively allowed the forestry industry to operate without meaningful constraints under the ESA, prioritizing economic interests over species protection.

In 2021, the government established the Species at Risk Conservation Fund, which introduced a controversial "pay-to-slay" mechanism. Under this system, developers could pay into the

fund rather than taking steps to avoid harming species at risk or their habitats.^[17] The fund is not required to benefit the specific species affected or even to support conservation efforts in the same geographic area. For example, a developer impacting Massasauga rattlesnake habitat in southern Ontario could pay into the fund, with the money directed toward general conservation activities elsewhere in the province. This effectively allows developers to "buy" the right to harm species and habitats without addressing the damage caused by their activities. The shift toward compensatory mitigation rather than direct protection further weakens incentives for proactive conservation and undermines the original intent of the ESA.

Once regarded as one of the strongest endangered species laws in Canada, Ontario's ESA has been systematically weakened through legislative and regulatory changes. Broad exemptions, delays in listing and protecting species, and the prioritization of industrial and development interests over conservation have eroded the Act's effectiveness.



GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE ESA

To achieve its objectives of protecting species at risk and promoting their recovery, the ESA outlines several key obligations for the Ontario government:

- **Maintaining the SARO List:** The government is responsible for ensuring that species are regularly assessed and accurately listed on the SARO List, which categorizes species as extirpated, endangered, threatened, or of special concern. The Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario ("COSSARO") advises the Minister on species status and classification. COSSARO's recommendations help determine which species should be added to or removed from the SARO List.^[18]
- **Developing Recovery Strategies and Management Plans:** For each species listed on the SARO List, the government must create and implement recovery strategies and management plans that detail the actions needed to support species recovery and mitigate threats.
- **Issuing Government Response Statements:** The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks must issue response statements that outline the government's planned conservation actions for each species at risk. These statements guide the protection and recovery process.
- **Conducting Progress Reviews:** The government must review and assess the success of recovery efforts over time to ensure that conservation actions are effective and lead to positive outcomes for species.
- **Protecting Critical Habitats:** The ESA requires the government to protect critical habitats of species at risk by creating legal regulations and ensuring enforcement of these protections. Critical habitats are areas essential for a species' survival, including breeding, feeding, or migratory sites.

While the ESA generally prohibits activities that could harm species or their habitats, the Minister has the authority to issue authorizations and exemptions for certain activities that might otherwise be prohibited.^[19]

The following sections of this report will explore how well these obligations are being carried out and whether they are effectively supporting the protection and recovery of Ontario's species at risk.

KEY PLAYERS ON SPECIES AT RISK

1

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS (MECP)

Oversees the administration of Ontario's ESA and leads the implementation of the province's species at risk program.

2

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO (COSSARO)

A group of independent experts responsible for assessing and classifying species as at risk in Ontario.

3

SPECIES AT RISK PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SARPAC)

An advisory body that provides recommendations to Ontario's Environment Minister on the implementation of the species at risk program.

1. MAINTAINING THE SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO LIST

Before a species is afforded protection under the Act, it must be listed as a species at risk on the SARO list (section 7).[20] The SARO List is updated based on scientific assessments conducted by COSSARO, an independent body responsible for evaluating the status of species and determining their classification.

Species on the SARO List are classified into one of four categories based on their level of risk:

SPECIAL CONCERN	Lives in the wild in Ontario, is not endangered or threatened, but may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.
THREATENED	Lives in the wild in Ontario, is not endangered, but is likely to become endangered if steps are not taken to address factors threatening to lead to its extinction or extirpation.
ENDANGERED	Lives in the wild in Ontario but is facing imminent extinction or extirpation.
EXTIRPATED	Lives somewhere in the world, lived at one time in the wild in Ontario, but no longer lives in the wild in Ontario.

A species may also be classified as **Not at Risk** if it doesn't meet the criteria for any of the other categories, or as **Data Deficient** if there's insufficient information to determine its status.

Once COSSARO designates a species at risk, MECP must amend the SARO List within **twelve months** of receiving COSSARO's report.

Species listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA are entitled to legal protections, including:

- Protection from being killed, harmed, harassed, or captured.
- Protection of their habitat.
- Development of a recovery strategy for endangered and threatened species and a management plan for species of special concern.

2 . DEVELOPING RECOVERY STRATEGIES/MANAGEMENT PLANS

Once a species is listed as endangered or threatened, the ESA mandates the development of a recovery strategy for that species. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks must complete a recovery strategy within **one year for endangered species** and within **two years for threatened species**.

A recovery strategy is a detailed document that outlines the species' habitat needs, identifies threats to its survival, and provides specific objectives and recommendations for protection and recovery. These recommendations also guide the development of habitat regulations under section 56(1)(a) of the ESA, which may include protective measures for critical habitats.

The ESA requires that recovery strategies be developed in accordance with the **precautionary principle**.^[21] This means that when there is a risk of significant biodiversity loss, a lack of full scientific certainty cannot be used as a justification for delaying measures to prevent or reduce that risk.

For species classified as special concern, the ESA requires the completion of a similar plan called a management plan within **five years**, unless a federal recovery strategy or management plan is already required under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.^[22]

In certain circumstances, the Ministry may be granted additional time to finalize a recovery strategy. Extensions may be permitted when the issues involved are particularly complex, when coordination with other jurisdictions—such as federal agencies—is necessary, or when priority is being given to the recovery of other species.^[23]

3 . ISSUING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE STATEMENTS

Following the completion of a recovery strategy or management plan, section 12.1 of the ESA requires the Ministry to issue a government response statement within **nine months**. This statement outlines the actions the Ontario government intends to take or support in order to facilitate the species' recovery.

The government response considers several factors, including:

- Recommendations from the recovery strategy or management plan
- Social and economic considerations
- Feedback from stakeholders, Indigenous communities, and the public

The response statement is a key document that is meant to guide future actions and ensure accountability for species protection.

4. CONDUCTING PROGRESS REVIEWS

Following the publication of a the government response statement, the Ontario government is required under section 12.2 of the ESA to review progress on species protection and recovery. This review must take place within the timeframe specified in the government response statement or, if no specific timeline is provided, within **five years** of the statement's publication.



5. PROTECTING CRITICAL HABITAT

When a species is listed as endangered or threatened, its critical habitat is also protected. Section 10 of the ESA specifically prohibits any person from damaging or destroying the habitat of a species listed as endangered or threatened on the SARO List. This provision ensures that the habitats crucial for the survival and recovery of these species are safeguarded.

The ESA defines habitat as either:[24]

- **General Habitat:** This refers to any area where a species directly or indirectly depends on to carry out its life processes, such as feeding, breeding, or sheltering (section 2(1)(b)).
- **Regulated Habitat:** This is the area specifically prescribed for a species in a habitat regulation made under the Act (section 56(1)). These regulations may define habitat by outlining the boundaries, describing the features of the area, or using other descriptive methods. In some cases, regulated habitat may also include areas outside the species' current range, such as areas where the species once existed or locations that are expected to support recovery efforts in the future.[25]

Not every change to a habitat is considered damaging or destructive, and so, habitat areas are categorized based on the species' tolerance to disturbances. This categorization helps to assess how sensitive a species is to habitat changes and determines the level of protection required.[26] The categories are as follows:

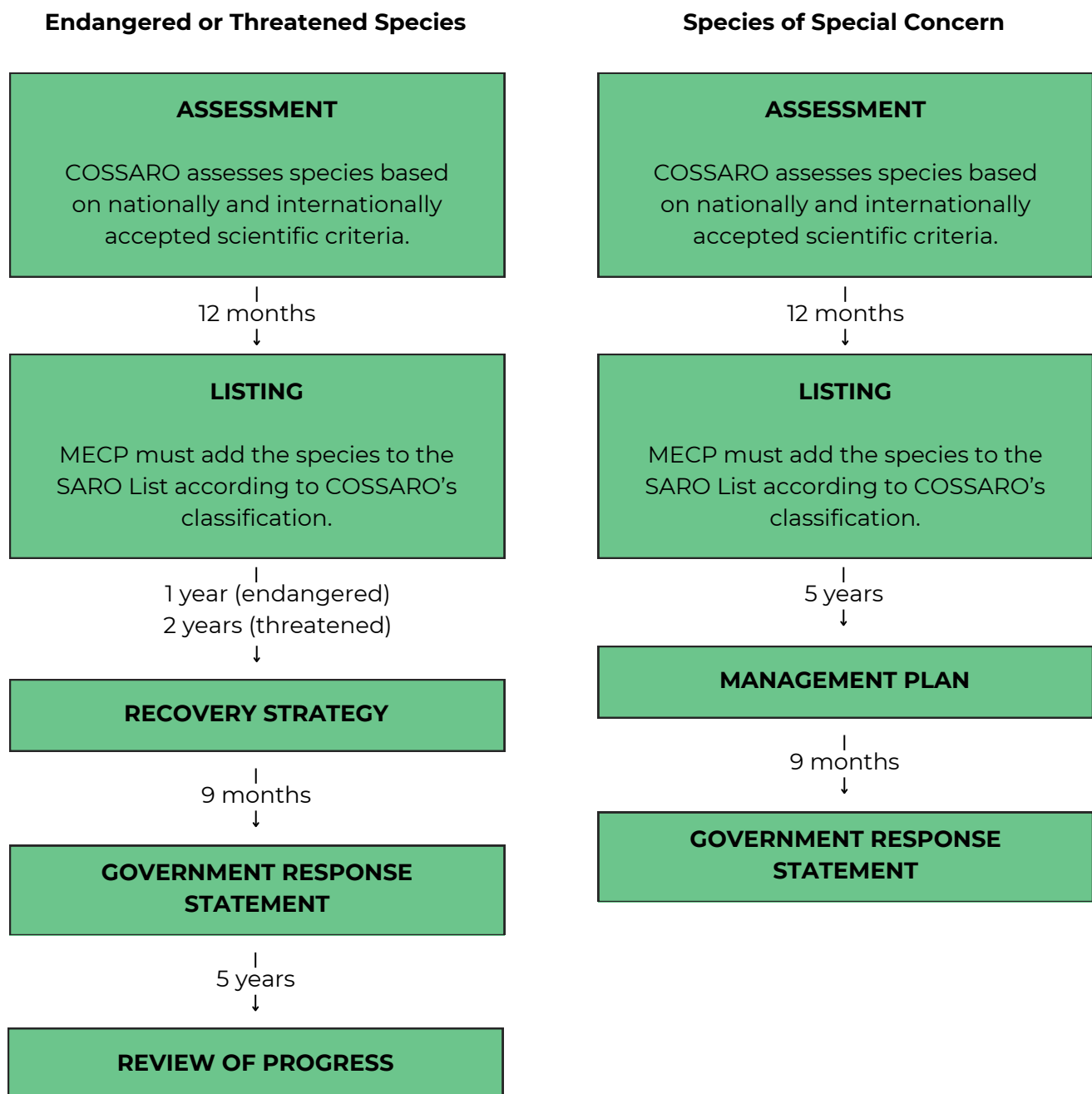
CATEGORIES OF PROTECTED HABITAT

CATEGORY 1: RED	These are areas of habitat where a species will probably be least tolerant to changes (e.g., nesting and hibernation sites). Activities that could alter category 1 habitat areas will likely damage and destroy them, so they usually require authorization to continue.
CATEGORY 2: ORANGE	These are areas of habitat where a species is believed to be moderately tolerant to changes (e.g., areas used daily to find food). Relatively high-impact or large-scale activities that could alter category 2 habitat areas could damage and destroy them, so they usually require authorization to continue.
CATEGORY 3: YELLOW	These are areas of habitat where a species is believed to be the most tolerant to changes (e.g., areas used occasionally to find food). Some high-impact or large-scale activities that could alter category 3 habitat areas could damage and destroy them, so they usually require authorization to continue.

When activities are proposed that could alter these habitats, the category system informs the conditions under which the activity may be authorized. Activities likely to damage or destroy Category 1 habitat will typically face the most rigorous restrictions and mitigation requirements.^[27] Conversely, activities affecting Category 3 habitat may be subject to more flexible conditions.^[28]

This framework ensures that habitat protection aligns with the species' needs and their ability to tolerate changes, balancing conservation priorities with practical land and resource use.

PROCESS & TIMELINES



The obligations outlined in the ESA are designed to ensure the identification, protection, and recovery of species at risk in Ontario. The government's obligations, ranging from the listing of species to the development of recovery strategies and habitat protection, are critical to ensuring the long-term survival of endangered and threatened species in the province. However, the effectiveness of these provisions depends on their implementation and the government's commitment to fulfilling these obligations in a timely and thorough manner.

The following analysis will examine how these obligations are being carried out in practice, highlighting the successes and challenges in achieving the Act's goals.



ANALYSIS:

IMPLEMENTATION & ENFORCEMENT OF ONTARIO'S OBLIGATIONS TO SPECIES AT RISK



1. APPOINTING MEMBERS TO SARPAC AND COSSARO

The ESA establishes two independent committees tasked with providing recommendations to the Minister on species at risk: the Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee ("SARPAC") and the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario ("COSSARO"). Despite their critical role in the protection and recovery of species at risk, significant issues with the appointment process, transparency, and operational capacity have undermined the effectiveness of both committees.

SPECIES AT RISK PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Under section 48 of the ESA, SARPAC is tasked with advising the Minister on the implementation of Ontario's species at risk program. Its key responsibilities include:

- Applying the precautionary principle in administering the Act.
- Developing and delivering incentive and stewardship programs, such as the Species at Risk in Ontario Stewardship Program.

- Promoting best management practices for species protection and recovery.
- Implementing public education and outreach programs.
- Preparing and executing recovery strategies and management plans.
- Gathering scientific data, community knowledge, and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge to support species classification by COSSARO.
- Advising on the role of agreements and permits in species protection and recovery.
- Identifying ways to integrate sustainable social and economic activities into conservation efforts.

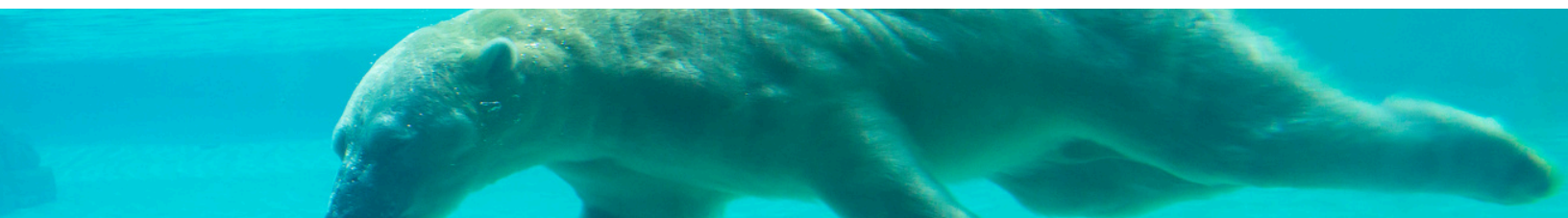
However, SARPAC's effectiveness has been severely compromised by issues in its appointment process, lack of transparency, and questionable governance.

A 2021 report by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario found significant problems with the selection process for SARPAC members. MECP could not explain how members appointed in 2019 and 2020 were identified, screened, or selected. By 2020, 67% of SARPAC's fifteen members were industry representatives, half of whom were registered lobbyists. As of the most recent data, eleven of SARPAC's thirteen members are affiliated with industry.^[29] The Auditor General raised concerns that these industry ties represented a conflict of interest, as the priorities of industry lobbyists "can be contrary to protecting species at risk and their habitats."^[30] This imbalance calls into question the committee's ability to provide impartial advice grounded in conservation science.

SARPAC's governance and reporting practices have also lacked transparency. The committee failed to produce annual reports for 2017, 2018, or 2019. In 2016/17 and 2019/20, Ministry staff—not the committee itself—prepared SARPAC's reports, undermining the independence of the process. Furthermore, none of these reports have been made publicly available, as SARPAC is not legally required to disclose governance documents.^[31] This lack of transparency prevents meaningful public and stakeholder oversight, weakening confidence in the committee's work.

The absence of stable leadership further exacerbates these issues. As of the latest reporting, SARPAC has thirteen members but no appointed Chair.^[32] Without clear leadership, the committee's ability to fulfill its mandate is severely limited. Effective leadership is essential for establishing priorities, ensuring balanced representation, and maintaining accountability.

SARPAC's current structure reflects a troubling shift away from science-based, independent decision-making toward industry influence. Without reforms to improve transparency, accountability, and the balance of representation, SARPAC cannot effectively fulfill its role in protecting Ontario's species at risk.



COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO

Under section 3 of the ESA, COSSARO is established as an independent body responsible for assessing and classifying species at risk in Ontario. Its core responsibilities include:

- Developing and applying criteria for assessing species based on the best available scientific information.
- Maintaining a list of species that require assessment or reclassification.
- Conducting assessments and submitting reports to the Minister.
- Providing advice on species classification and related matters.

COSSARO is composed of up to 12 members, including a Chair and Deputy Chair, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Unlike SARPAC, COSSARO members are prohibited from acting as lobbyists, reinforcing the committee's independence from industry influence. COSSARO is legally required to function independently of MECP and submit an annual report each January, which includes species classifications and recommendations. If the Minister disagrees with a listing decision, COSSARO must provide a second report justifying its classification.

Despite these structural safeguards, COSSARO has faced significant challenges in fulfilling its mandate due to delays in member appointments and operational instability. In 2019 and 2020, COSSARO was unable to submit annual reports because it lacked the minimum number of members required to function.^[33] The ESA requires a quorum of eight members for voting purposes, and during this period, the committee was unable to conduct full meetings or vote on species classifications. As a result, a substantial backlog of species assessments accumulated.^[34] The failure to maintain adequate membership violated section 3 of the ESA and caused significant delays in listing decisions, which in turn delayed critical legal protections for vulnerable species.

In 2020, the MECP appointed new members, renewing COSSARO's ability to function. By the end of that year, the committee had largely eliminated the backlog of species assessments.^[35] However, as of the most recent reporting, COSSARO had seven members—a Chair, Deputy Chair, and five other members—still short of the required quorum for voting.^[36] This ongoing failure to maintain a full committee has weakened COSSARO's capacity to carry out its mandate effectively and in a timely manner.

The consequences of these delays are significant. Delayed classification prevents the timely development of recovery strategies and habitat protection measures, leaving species at risk exposed to ongoing threats without adequate legal protection. While COSSARO remains a critical component of Ontario's species protection framework, its effectiveness depends on maintaining full membership and ensuring timely species assessments.

IMPACT OF 2019 AMENDMENTS ON COSSARO MEMBERSHIP

Amendments to the ESA in 2019 expanded COSSARO membership beyond scientific experts and Indigenous knowledge holders to include those with “**community knowledge**.”^[37] While community knowledge can play a valuable role in strengthening species assessments—such as insights from experienced naturalist groups on species’ life history, distribution, and population changes—this expansion raises concerns about the integrity of COSSARO’s decision-making.

The ESA does not clearly define what constitutes valuable community knowledge, leaving room for the inclusion of individuals whose interests may conflict with the Act’s core purpose “to protect species that are at risk and their habitats, and to promote the recovery of species that are at risk.” For example, if individuals representing industry or political interests were appointed as community knowledge holders, they could exert undue influence over listing decisions, particularly where new species designations might impose restrictions on development or resource extraction. The 2019 amendments risk diluting COSSARO’s scientific integrity by allowing members with competing interests to influence decisions intended to be grounded in science and conservation principles.

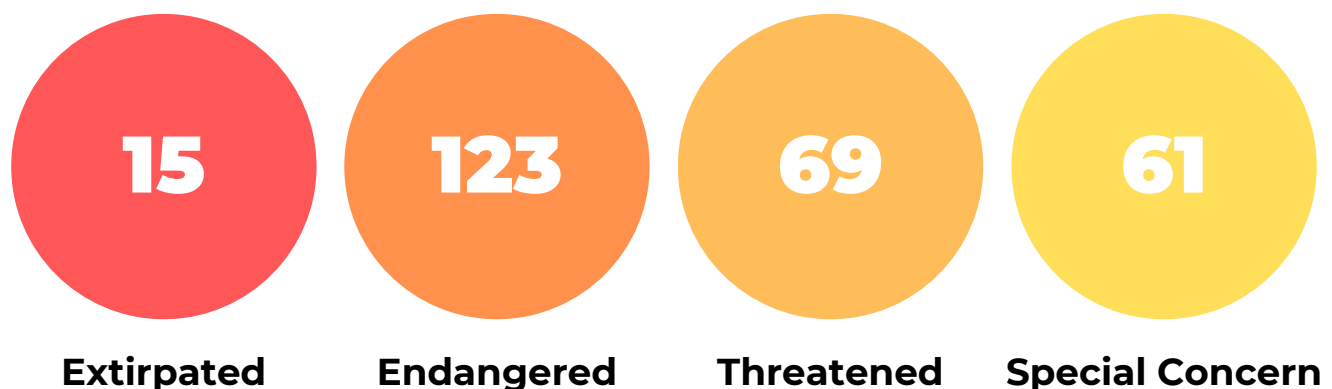
To protect COSSARO’s independence and scientific integrity, Ontario’s ESA should define what constitutes valuable community knowledge and establish criteria to prevent the appointment of individuals whose interests conflict with species protection and recovery. Maintaining a balanced, scientifically grounded membership is essential to ensuring that COSSARO can fulfill its mandate effectively and independently.

2. LISTING SPECIES

Section 7 of the ESA requires the Minister to maintain the Species at Risk in Ontario (“SARO”) List, which was formalized through regulation in 2007. As of December 2024, the SARO List includes **268 species** categorized as follows:

- **15 species** are listed as **extirpated** from the province;
- **123 species** are listed as **endangered**;
- **69 species** are listed as **threatened**; and,
- **61 species** are listed as species of **special concern**.

The extirpated species are the American Burying Beetle, the Blanchard’s Cricket Frog, the Eastern Box Turtle, the Eastern Persius Duskywing, the Eastern Tiger Salamander, the Eskimo Curlew, the Frosted Elfin, the Gravel Chub, the Greater Prairie-Chicken, the Illinois Tick-trefoil, the Incurved Grizzled Moss, the Karner Blue, the Paddlefish, the Spring Blue-eyed Mary, and the Timber Rattlesnake. Examples of endangered species include the Acadian Flycatcher, the Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander, the American Badger (Northwestern and Southwestern Ontario population), and the American Chestnut. Threatened species include the American Water-Willow, the American White Pelican, the Bank Swallow, and the Black Redhorse. Species of special concern include the American Bumble Bee, the American Hart’s Tongue Fern, the Bald Eagle, and the Barn Swallow.



A 2021 report from the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario found that there were 243 species at risk in Ontario in 2020.^[38] The increase to 268 species in 2024 reflects a **10.3% rise over just five years**, underscoring the growing threat to Ontario's biodiversity and the urgent need for stronger conservation measures.

Currently, species protection under the Act applies to the **207 species** classified as endangered, threatened, or extirpated, while habitat protection extends to the **192 species** listed as endangered or threatened.^[39]

3. SPECIES ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

COSSARO is tasked with assessing species at risk and recommending their classification under the SARO List. COSSARO's assessments are based on scientific evidence, government research, and external reports.^[40] If the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada ("COSEWIC")—an independent advisory panel to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada—designates a species native to Ontario as at risk, COSSARO is required to conduct an assessment.^[41]

COSSARO evaluates species based on the following criteria:

- Provincial decline in the total number of mature individuals
- Small distribution range and evidence of decline or fluctuation
- Small and declining number of mature individuals
- Very small or restricted total Ontario population

These criteria are grounded in scientific best practices for species assessment and are designed to reflect both the biological vulnerability of species and the broader ecological pressures they face.

Despite these clear criteria, there are significant gaps in species assessments based on data obtained by AEL Advocacy through freedom of information requests:

- Of the 15 extirpated species, only 14 have received assessment reports.
- Of the 123 endangered species, only 66 (54%) have been assessed.
- Of the 69 threatened species, only 46 (67%) have been assessed.
- Of the 61 species of special concern, only 44 (72%) have been assessed.

This leaves **98 species** on the SARO List in need of assessment or re-assessment by COSSARO—a concerning gap that undermines Ontario's species protection framework.^[42]

4. RECOVERY STRATEGIES & MANAGEMENT PLANS

RECOVERY STRATEGIES

Under Section 11 of the ESA, the Minister is required to ensure the preparation of recovery strategies for all species classified as endangered or threatened. These strategies provide a foundation for species recovery by identifying habitat needs, outlining threats to survival, and recommending recovery actions.

Recovery strategies must be completed within **one year** for endangered species and within **two years** for threatened species.

As of December 2024, recovery strategies have been completed for 180 species, leaving **12 species without any formal recovery plan**.^[43] Among the species with delayed strategies, the government has cited the following reasons:

- Delays due to federal cooperation
- Prioritization of other species
- Adoption of federal recovery strategies (affecting 11 species)
- Determination that a recovery strategy is no longer necessary under the ESA ^[44]

Delays in completing recovery strategies weaken the ESA's ability to protect at-risk species. Without these strategies, critical habitat protections and conservation actions are not implemented, increasing species' vulnerability to ongoing threats. As a cornerstone of species protection, recovery strategies guide government efforts to restore and maintain healthy populations across Ontario.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Under section 12 of the ESA, the Minister is also required to ensure the preparation of a management plan for all species of special concern within **five years** of listing. These plans set out objectives for maintaining population levels and mitigating environmental risks.

Of the 61 species of special concern listed under the SARO List, federal or provincial management plans have been completed for **43 species**. However, **18 species** have no management plan at all and **15 species** have been without a management plan beyond the required five-year timeline.^[45] This failure to meet statutory deadlines weakens the government's ability to stabilize populations of at-risk species and prevent their decline into more vulnerable categories.



5. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE STATEMENTS

Section 12.1 of the ESA requires the Minister to publish a Government Response Statement (GRS) within **nine months** of receiving a recovery strategy or management plan. The GRS outlines the policy actions the government intends to take, the priority of these actions, and the anticipated timelines for implementation. In developing a GRS, the government is expected to incorporate scientific advice, socio-economic factors, and feedback from stakeholders, Indigenous communities, and the public.

Despite these requirements, government response statements have been widely criticized for failing to align with the scientific recommendations provided in recovery strategies. The Office of the Auditor General of Ontario has repeatedly noted that GRS objectives are often weaker and less ambitious than those recommended by experts, resulting in ineffective or incomplete conservation measures.^[46] For example, recovery strategies often call for specific habitat protections or population targets, but the corresponding GRS may omit these details or present vague commitments that lack enforceable timelines.

A major weakness of the GRS process is the absence of performance measures and cost estimates—critical tools for evaluating the effectiveness of recovery actions and allocating resources efficiently. Without measurable targets and transparent funding commitments, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks lacks a systematic framework for assessing whether recovery actions are achieving their intended outcomes. This makes it difficult to determine whether adjustments are needed to improve conservation efforts or address emerging threats.^[47]

This absence of rigorous oversight and accountability undermines the effectiveness of the GRS and may hinder the recovery of species at risk. The failure to establish clear and actionable steps for recovery leads to uncertainty about the true impact of the government's efforts.

As of December 2024, government response statements have been published for **183 species** listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern.^[48] However, the absence of clear, enforceable targets and the failure to track performance means that these response statements often fail to translate into meaningful, long-term protection for Ontario's most vulnerable species. Without stronger accountability and transparent evaluation processes, the government's response to species at risk will remain inconsistent and inadequate.



6. PROGRESS REVIEWS

Under section 12.2 of the Act, the Minister is required to review progress toward the protection and recovery of species either within the timeline specified in the government response statement or, if no timeline is provided, no later than **five years** after the statement is published. The intent of this provision is to evaluate whether the government's recovery actions are effective and to adjust strategies as needed to improve conservation outcomes.

However, the Act does not require ongoing progress reviews after the initial report, even if species recovery goals have not been met.^[49] Once a progress review is completed, the Ministry is under no legal obligation to provide follow-up assessments or publicly report on the outcomes of the recovery measures.^[50] This creates a significant accountability gap. There is no mechanism to ensure that ineffective strategies are modified or that successful ones are scaled up.

Additionally, the progress reviews do not systematically evaluate the effectiveness of the actions taken. The reviews tend to focus on whether specific activities were initiated rather than whether those activities have resulted in tangible improvements to species recovery. For example, if a recovery strategy recommends habitat restoration, the progress review may simply confirm that a restoration project was started—but not whether it has led to increased population numbers or improved species health.

This approach contrasts sharply with the practices of other jurisdictions. The federal government, Nova Scotia, and the Northwest Territories require progress reports every five years until recovery goals are either achieved or deemed no longer feasible.^[51] These jurisdictions also have clearer frameworks for evaluating success based on measurable biological and ecological indicators. In Ontario, the absence of these mechanisms makes it difficult to determine whether government actions are genuinely advancing species recovery or merely fulfilling procedural requirements. Without ongoing and transparent performance assessments, Ontario's approach to species recovery remains inconsistent and reactive rather than strategic and adaptive.

7. AUTHORIZATIONS & EXEMPTIONS

The ESA was originally designed to ensure that species protection and recovery take precedence over industrial and economic activities. However, as discussed in Part 1 of this report, a series of legislative and regulatory amendments have significantly weakened this framework by granting broad exemptions for various industrial and development activities. These changes have allowed harmful activities to proceed with minimal oversight, undermining the Act's core objective of protecting species at risk and their habitats.

The ESA provides for two main types of authorizations: **permits and agreements**. It also allows for **conditional exemptions** that bypass the permitting process under certain circumstances.

WHAT REQUIRES AN AUTHORIZATION

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits:

- killing, harming, harassing, capturing and taking living members of species listed as endangered, threatened or extirpated on the SARO list;
- the possession, transportation, collection, buying, selling, leasing, trading or offering to buy, sell, lease or trade living or dead members of species that are listed on the SARO List, or something that is represented to be a member of a species listed on the SARO List;
- the possession, transportation, collection, buying, selling, leasing, trading of anything derived from a living or dead member of a species listed on the SARO List, and;
- damaging or destroying the habitat of species that are listed as endangered or threatened on the SARO list.

If an activity might be prohibited under the ESA, a proponent may need to:

- get a permit or agreement
- make sure that one of the conditional exemptions in [Ontario Regulation 242/08](#) or [Ontario Regulation 830/21](#) applies to the activity

TYPES OF AUTHORIZATIONS

1. PERMITS

The ESA authorizes MECP to issue permits to individuals, companies, or organizations conducting activities that may harm species at risk or their habitats. Permits may only be issued under certain circumstances and are subject to specific conditions, which can include:[52]

- Taking measures to minimize adverse effects on species at risk.
- Completing beneficial actions for the impacted species.
- Developing and following a mitigation plan.
- Monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

The purpose of these permits is to ensure that any harm caused to species is offset by actions that support their recovery. However, in practice, permit applications are seldom denied. The Auditor General of Ontario's 2021 report highlights that permits allowing harm to species or their habitats are almost always granted, with no permits being rejected between 2008 and 2021.[53] This approach has led to continued harm to species and their habitats. In fact, as early as 2018, the Ministry of Natural Resources acknowledged the need for clearer internal guidelines to determine when permits should be denied.[54]

2 . A G R E E M E N T S

The ESA also allows for authorizations to be issued through agreements, which function similarly to permits. Agreements may include conditions requiring:[55]

- Minimizing harm to species at risk.
- Undertaking beneficial recovery actions.
- Creating and following a mitigation plan.
- Monitoring and reporting on conservation outcomes.

There are three types of agreements permitted under the ESA: stewardship, landscape, and Aboriginal community agreements. Landscape agreements, in particular, have raised concerns because they authorize activities that could harm or destroy species at risk and their habitats in multiple locations.[56] Previously, permits were issued to single entities for specific activities, but now, landscape agreements allow multiple activities over broader regions without clear limits on project size or the number of detrimental activities.[57] Additionally, landscape agreements currently only hold parties accountable for the impact on one species, even if multiple species are affected.[58]

3 . C O N D I T I O N A L E X E M P T I O N S

One of the most significant changes to the ESA has been the expansion of conditional exemptions. Under amendments introduced in 2013 and 2019, proponents of potentially harmful activities—such as construction, mining, and forestry—can bypass the permitting process by registering their activities online through the Natural Resources Activity Registry (“NRAR”) and adhering to the basic conditions set out in Ontario Regulation 242/08 and Ontario Regulation 830/21. [59]

This process differs from the traditional permitting framework in several key ways:[60]

- **No Overall Benefit Requirement** – Permitting typically requires that the activity provide an overall benefit to the species, but this requirement does not apply to conditional exemptions.
- **Minimal Government Oversight** – Proponents are not required to submit mitigation plans to the Ministry unless explicitly requested.
- **Lack of Public Transparency** – The public is not notified when activities are registered, and the details of these activities are not made publicly available, limiting opportunities for community input or legal challenge.

The expanded use of conditional exemptions has shifted the responsibility for species protection from the government to private proponents, reducing accountability and weakening conservation outcomes.

ISSUES WITH AUTHORIZATIONS & EXEMPTIONS

The 2021 report from the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario identified several critical failures in the Ministry's management of species at risk authorizations and exemptions, including:

1. FAILURE TO ASSESS CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The Ministry evaluates each approval in isolation, without considering the cumulative effects of multiple approvals on species survival. This failure to assess broader ecological impacts has led to significant population declines. For example:

- Over 1,400 approvals have impacted Blanding's turtles, contributing to a 60% population decline in Ontario.^[61]
- Over 2,000 approvals have affected bobolink habitats, contributing to a 77% population decline since 1970.^[62]

2. OVERRELIANCE ON CONDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS

In 2020, **96% of approvals were granted through conditional exemptions**, which the Ministry cannot refuse or modify as long as the proponent meets the basic registration requirements.^[63] For example, the Ministry approved the destruction of 9.6 hectares of Blanding's turtle habitat on the condition that a new wetland be created. However, after two years, no turtles had occupied the newly created habitat.^[64] This highlights the failure of mitigation measures to deliver meaningful conservation outcomes.

Data obtained by AEL Advocacy through freedom of information requests sheds light on the extent of activities registered under Ontario's conditional exemption framework (O. Reg. 242/08).

Since 2014, proponents have used the NRAR to register their activities. Between 2014 and 2023, approximately **6,650 registrations** were made. Of these, the following relate to the four research and conservation exemptions for species at risk under the ESA:

Exemption Provision	Activity	Number of Registrations (2014–2023)
s. 23.15	Possession for educational purposes	57
s. 23.17	Species protection and recovery activity	523
s. 23.17.1	Incubation of turtle eggs	11
s. 23.17.2	Species at risk surveys	146
s. 23.11	Ecosystem protection	132

The remaining **5,781 registrations**—approximately **87%**—relate to development and infrastructure projects. These include activities that directly harm fish and mussel habitats, remove critical habitats created for species at risk, and facilitate land development, mineral exploration, and pits and quarries. These activities are unlikely to positively impact the conservation of endangered species and may exacerbate the threats they already face.

The disproportionate number of registrations for development-related activities raises a critical concern: the conditional exemption framework appears to be facilitating the continued degradation of natural habitats rather than promoting the long-term recovery of species at risk. While development is a necessary part of economic progress, it should not come at the expense of Ontario's biodiversity. The current system relies too heavily on untested mitigation measures and fails to ensure that conservation goals are met.

The overuse of conditional exemptions under Ontario's ESA calls into question the true commitment to species protection. Without a more stringent review process and robust enforcement mechanisms, the conditional exemption framework risks becoming a tool that prioritizes development interests over meaningful conservation efforts, ultimately undermining the ESA's objectives.

CONCLUSION

Ontario's ESA was designed to establish a strong legal framework for identifying, protecting, and recovering species at risk. However, as outlined above, significant gaps in implementation and enforcement have severely undermined its effectiveness. Inconsistent species assessments, prolonged delays in developing recovery strategies and management plans, and a policy shift that prioritizes development over conservation have left many species increasingly vulnerable. The weakening of automatic habitat protections has further exacerbated these threats. Additionally, the government's broad discretion over listing and protection decisions—combined with the frequent use of exemptions—has allowed economic and political interests to override scientific evidence, further weakening the Act's ability to fulfill its purpose.

To restore the ESA's effectiveness and improve outcomes for species at risk, the following key actions are recommended:



01. Restore Automatic Protection for Listed Species and Their Habitats

- Repeal provisions that allow the government to delay prohibitions upon listing for up to 12 months and suspend protections for up to 3 years based on social and economic considerations (sections 8.1 and 8.2).
- Reinstate immediate legal protections for all species classified as endangered or threatened, along with their critical habitats.

02. Eliminate Authorizations and Exemptions That Weaken Species Protections

- Repeal conditional exemptions under O. Reg. 242/08 that permit harmful industrial and development activities in habitats of species at risk, particularly for forestry, mining, pits and quarries, and construction.
- Repeal provisions that allow the use of landscape agreements, which allow proponents conducting harmful activities in multiple locations to bypass site-

specific and species-specific protections (section 16.1).

- Restore the requirement that all activities impacting species at risk must demonstrate an "overall benefit" to affected species.

03. Address Gaps in Recovery Strategies, Management Plans and Government Response Statements

- Develop a plan to clear the backlog of overdue recovery strategies, management plans and government response statements, prioritizing species facing the highest risk of decline.

04. Redirect the Species at Risk Conservation Fund

- Amend sections 20.1 – 20.18 of the ESA and associated regulations to ensure that funds from the Species at Risk Conservation Fund are allocated to direct, measurable conservation efforts that provide tangible benefits to affected species and their habitats.

05. Strengthen the Integrity and Independence of COSSARO and SARPAC

- Repeal provisions that allow the Minister to require COSSARO to reconsider its science-based listing decisions (sections 8(2) - 8(5)).
- Ensure COSSARO operates with a full complement of qualified members.
- Remove "community knowledge" as a qualification for membership in COSSARO, unless it is clearly defined to align with the Act's species protection and recovery goals, and to safeguard the scientific integrity and independence of COSSARO's decision-making (section 3(4)(b)).
- Improve transparency in SARPAC's appointment process to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure a balanced representation of scientific, Indigenous, and environmental perspectives.
- Mandate public reporting of SARPAC recommendations and decision-making processes to enhance accountability and public trust.

By implementing these reforms, Ontario can restore the ESA's role as a meaningful tool for protecting and recovering species at risk, recognizing not only their ecological importance but also their intrinsic worth. Strengthening the Act will ensure that conservation efforts are guided by science, accountability, and a genuine commitment to preserving biodiversity for its own sake and for future generations.

Appendix A:

Current Status of Listed Species by Classification

Legend

The Requirements of the Act Have Been Met
The Requirements of the Act Have Not Been Met
The Requirements of the Act May Not Have Been Met (reflecting the uncertainty outlined in the subsection on assessment reports of assessments made between 2007-2009)

Extirpated Species

Species Name	Date added to Species at Risk in Ontario List	ON Assessment Completed?
American Burying Beetle	2013	Yes (2023)
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	2008	Yes (2011)
Eastern Box Turtle	2016	Yes (2015)
Eastern Persius Duskywing	2008 Re-assessed 2016	Yes (2016)
Eastern Tiger Salamander	2008 Re-assessed 2013	Yes (2013)
Eskimo Curlew	2008 Re-assessed 2010	Yes (2010)
Frosted Elfin	2008	Yes (2020)

	Re-assessed 2009	
Gravel Chub	2008	Yes (2020)
Greater Prairie-Chicken	2008	Yes (2010)
Illinois Tick-trefoil	2008	No
Incurved Grizzled Moss	2008	Yes (2012)
Karner Blue	2008 Re-assessed 2009	Yes (2020)
Paddlefish	2008	Yes (2020)
Spring Blue-eyed Mary	2008	No
Timber Rattlesnake	2008	Yes (2011)

Endangered Species

Species Name	Date added to Species at Risk in Ontario List	ON Assessment Completed?	ON Recovery Strategy Completed?	Government Response Statement Completed?	Review of Progress Completed ?
Acadian Flycatcher	2008	Yes (2010)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2022)
Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander	2008	Yes (2021)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
American Badger (Northwestern Ontario population)	2008 Re-assessed 2015	Yes (2014)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)
American Badger (Southwestern Ontario population)	2008 Re-assessed 2015	Yes (2014)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)

American Chestnut	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
American Columbo	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
American Eel	2008	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	No	No
Barn Owl	2008	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)
Bent Spike-rush	2009	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Bird's-foot Violet	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Black Ash	2022	Yes (2020)	Yes (2022)	Yes (2024)	No
Blue Racer	2008	Yes (2012)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2022)
Bluehearts	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Blunt-lobed Woodsia	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)
Bogbean Buckmoth	2010	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2017)
Broad-banded Forestsnail	2016	Yes (2015)	No	No	No

Butler's Gartersnake	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Butternut	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Cherry Birch	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Colicroot	2008 Re-assessed 2016	Yes (2016)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)
Common Five-lined Skink (Carolinian population)	2009	Yes (2021)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Cucumber Tree	2008	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Downy Yellow False Foxglove	2022	Yes (2020)	No	No	No
Drooping Trillium	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Eastern Banded Tigersnail	2018	Yes (2017)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Eastern Flowering Dogwood	2009	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)
Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid	2008	No COSSARO	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)

		Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)			
Eastern Prickly-pear Cactus	2008	Yes (2010)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Eastern Sand Darter (West Lake population)	2022	Yes (2022)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Eastern Small-footed Myotis	2014	Yes (2010)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)
Engelmann's Quillwort	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)
False Hop Sedge	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)
False-foxglove Sun Moth	2022	Yes (2020)	No	No	No
Fawnsfoot	2009	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2023)	No
Few-flowered Club-rush	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)
Forked Three-awned Grass	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Four-leaved Milkweed	2010	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2017)

Fowler's Toad	2008 Re-assessed 2010	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Gattinger's Agalinis	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Gillman's Goldenrod	2022	Yes (2020)	Yes (2022)	Yes (2023)	No
Golden Eagle	2008	Yes (2022)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Golden-eye Lichen (Great Lakes population)	2018	Yes (2017)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Gray Ratsnake (Carolinian population)	2008	Yes (2020)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee	2014	Yes (2014)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)
Heart-leaved Plantain	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Henslow's Sparrow	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Hickorynut	2012	Yes (2011)	No	No	No
Hine's Emerald	2012	Yes (2011)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Hoary Mountain-mint	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Hoptree Borer	2017	Yes (2016)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2024)
Horsetail Spike-rush	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2017)

Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle	2012	Yes (2011)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Jefferson Salamander	2008 Re-assessed 2011	Yes (2016)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2015)
Juniper Sedge	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Kidneyshell	2008 Re-assessed 2013	Yes (2013)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
King Rail	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2022)
Kirtland's Warbler	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2022)
Lake Chubsucker	2008	Yes (2021)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence Populations)	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	Yes (2011)	No	No
Large Whorled Pogonia	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Laura's Clubtail	2010	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2017)
Little Brown Myotis	2013	Yes (2012)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Loggerhead Shrike	2014	Yes (2014)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2022)
Lowland Toothcup	2008 Re-assessed 2016	Yes (2015)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)

Massasauga (Carolinian population)	2008 Re-assessed 2014	Yes (2013)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)
Mottled Duskywing	2014	Yes (2013)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Nine-spotted Lady Beetle	2017	Yes (2016)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
Nodding Pogonia	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle	2010	Yes (2009)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Northern Bobwhite	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Northern Dusky Salamander	2008	Yes (2012)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Northern Madtom	2008	Yes (2012)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Northern Myotis	2013	Yes (2012)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Northern Riffleshell	2008	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Ogden's Pondweed	2009	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)
Pale-bellied Frost Lichen	2010	Yes (2009)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Pink Milkwort	2008	Yes (2009)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)

Piping Plover	2008	Yes (2014)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Prothonotary Warbler	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Proud Globelet	2016	Yes (2016)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
Pumpkin Ash	2022	Yes (2022)	No	No	No
Pygmy Snaketail	2012	Yes (2020)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Queensnake	2010	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Rayed Bean	2008	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Red Knot — rufa subspecies (Southeastern USA / Gulf of Mexico / Caribbean wintering population)	2009	Yes (2021)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
Red Knot — rufa subspecies (Tierra del Fuego / Patagonia wintering population)	2009	Yes (2021)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
Red Mulberry	2008 Re-assessed 2015	Yes (2016)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Red-headed Woodpecker	2008	Yes (2020)	Yes (2022)	Yes (2023)	No
Redside Dace	2009	Yes (2020)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)
River Darter (Great Lakes -	2017	Yes (2016)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No

Upper St. Lawrence populations)					
Riverine Clubtail	2014	Yes (2013)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Round Hickorynut	2008 Re-assessed 2013	Yes (2013)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Round Pigtoe	2008 Re-assessed 2014	Yes (2014)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	2010	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2017)
Salamander Mussel	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Scarlet Ammannia	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)
Shagreen	2020	Yes (2020)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2023)	No
Shortnose Cisco	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
Skinner's Agalinis	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Slender Bush-clover	2008 Re-assessed 2013	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Small White Lady's-slipper	2008 Re-assessed 2015	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Small Whorled Pogonia	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)

Small-mouthed Salamander	2014	Yes (2014)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2022)
Snuffbox	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Spiny Softshell	2008 Re-assessed 2016	Yes (2016)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Spotted Gar	2008 Re-assessed 2016	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Spotted Turtle	2008 Re-assessed 2015	Yes (2015)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Stiff-leaved Showy Goldenrod	2011	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	No
Striped Whitelip	2023	Yes (2021)	No	No	No
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	2021	Yes (2021)	Yes (2024)	No	No
Toothed Globe	2022	Yes (2020)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2023)	No
Transverse Lady Beetle	2017	Yes (2017)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Tri-colored Bat	2015	Yes (2015)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Unisexual Ambystoma (Jefferson Salamander dependent population)	2016	Yes (2016)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
Unisexual Ambystoma (Small-mouthed Salamander)	2017	Yes (2016)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2022)

dependent population)					
Virginia Goat's-rue	2008	Yes (2009)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)
Virginia Mallow	2008	Yes (2009)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Warmouth	2008 Re-assessed 2016	Yes (2016)	No	No	No
White Prairie Gentian	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
White-rimmed Shingle Lichen	2022	Yes (2020)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2023)	No
Wood Turtle	2008	Yes (2020)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)
Wood-poppy	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Yellow-breasted Chat	2011	Yes (2011)	Yes (2020)	Yes (2021)	No

Threatened Species

Species Name	Date added to Species at Risk in Ontario List	ON Assessment Completed?	ON Recovery Strategy Completed?	Government Response Statement Completed?	Review of Progress Completed?
American Ginseng	2022	Yes (2022)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
American Water-willow	2008	Yes (2021)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)

American White Pelican	2008 Re-assessed 2009	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Bank Swallow	2014	Yes (2014)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2022)
Black Redhorse	2008 Re-assessed 2016	Yes (2016)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2024)	No
Blanding's Turtle	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Blue Ash	2008 Re-assessed 2016	Yes (2016)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)
Bobolink	2010	Yes (2010)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2020)
Branched Bartonian	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
Caribou (Boreal population)	2008	Yes (2015)	Yes (2008)	No	No
Carolina Mantleslug	2022	Yes (2020)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2024)	No
Cerulean Warbler	2011	Yes (2011)	Yes (2022)	Yes (2023)	No
Chimney Swift	2009	Yes (2020)	Yes (2024)	No	No
Cutlip Minnow	2008 Re-assessed 2014	Yes (2014)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Davis's Shieldback	2021	Yes (2021)	Yes (2024)	No	No
Deerberry	2008	Yes (2021)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)

Dense Blazing Star	2008	Yes (2010)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Dwarf Hackberry	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Eastern Foxsnake (Carolinian population)	2022	Yes (2022)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Eastern Foxsnake (Georgian Bay population)	2009	Yes (2022)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake	2008	Yes (2021)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2012)	Yes (2017)
Eastern Meadowlark	2012	Yes (2011)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2020)
Eastern Sand Darter (Southwestern Ontario population)	2022	Yes (2022)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Eastern Whip-poor-will	2023	Yes (2023)	No (only a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2020)	No
Eastern Wolf	2008 Re-assessed 2016 Re-assessed 2022	Yes (2022)	No	No	No
Fern-leaved Yellow False Foxglove	2020	Yes (2020)	No	No	No
Gray Fox	2008	Yes (2016)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No

	Re-assessed 2016				
Gray Ratsnake (Frontenac Axis population)	2008	Yes (2020)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Hairy Valerian	2020	Yes (2020)	No	No	No
Hill's Thistle	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Houghton's Goldenrod	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Hudsonian Godwit	2022	Yes (2020)	Yes (2024)	No	No
Kentucky Coffee-tree	2008	Yes (2021)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2018)	No
Lake Huron Grasshopper	2016	Yes (2016)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchew an - Nelson River populations)	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	Yes (2011)	No	No
Lake Whitefish (Opeongo Lake large-bodied populations)	2020	Yes (2020)	Yes (2024)	No	No
Lake Whitefish	2020	Yes (2020)	Yes (2024)	No	No

(Opeongo Lake small-bodied populations)					
Least Bittern	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2022)
Lesser Yellowlegs	2021	Yes (2021)	Yes (2024)	No	No
Lilliput	2014	Yes (2013)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2023)	No
Louisiana Waterthrush	2008 Re-assessed 2016	Yes (2016)	No	No	No
Massasauga (Great Lakes - St. Lawrence population)	2008	Yes (2013)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2023)
Northern Oak Hairstreak	2022	Yes (2022)	No	No	No
Pale Showy Goldenrod	2011	Yes (2011)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2020)
Pitcher's Thistle	2011	Yes (2011)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Polar Bear	2021	Yes (2021)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)
Pugnose Minnow	2008 Re-assessed 2012	Yes (2012)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2024)	No
Pugnose Shiner	2008 Re-assessed 2013	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Purple Twayblade	2008	Yes (2011)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No

Purple Wartyback	2023	Yes (2021)	No	No	No
Rapids Clubtail	2009	Yes (2022)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Reversed Haploa Moth	2021	Yes (2021)	No	No	No
Round-leaved Greenbrier	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
Short-eared Owl	2021	Yes (2021)	No	No	No
Shortjaw Cisco	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	No	No	No
Silver Chub	2008 Re-assessed 2012	Yes (2012)	No	No	No
Silver Shiner	2012	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2024)	No
Skillet Clubtail	2022	Yes (2022)	No	No	No
Small-flowered Lipocarpha	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Smooth Yellow False Foxglove	2020	Yes (2020)	No	No	No
Spoon-leaved Moss	2008	Yes (2020)	Yes (2022)	Yes (2023)	No
Spotted Wintergreen	2008	Yes (2017)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)

	Re-assessed 2017				
Threehorn Wartyback	2013	Yes (2013)	Yes (2023)	Yes (2023)	No
Wavy-rayed Lampmussel	2008	Yes (2010)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Western Silvery Aster	2008	Yes (2021)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2019)	No
White Wood Aster	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2020)	No
Wild Hyacinth	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2018)
Willowleaf Aster	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Wolverine	2008 Re-assessed 2014	Yes (2014)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2016)	Yes (2021)

Special Concern

Species Name	Date added to Species at Risk in Ontario List	ON Assessment Completed?	ON Management Plan Completed?	Government Response Statement Completed?	Review of Progress Completed?
American Bumble Bee	2023	Yes (2021)	No	No	No
American Hart's Tongue Fern	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	No (Federal, 2013)	No	No

Barn Swallow	2012 Re-assessed 2021	Yes (2021)	No (only a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2015)	Yes (2020)
Black Tern	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	No
Blackstripe Topminnow	2009	Yes (2012)	No (Federal, 2009)	No	No
Bridle Shiner	2008 Re-assessed 2013	Yes (2013)	No (Federal, 2011)	No	No
Broad Beech Fern	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	No
Canada Warbler	2009	Yes (2021)	No (only a Recovery Strategy)	No	No
Caribou (Eastern Migratory population)	2018	Yes (2017)	No	No	No
Channel Darter	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	No (only a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2022)
Climbing Prairie Rose	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	No (Federal, 2014)	No	No
Common Five-lined Skink (Southern Shield population)	2009	Yes (2021)	No (only a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2011)	Yes (2016)
Common Hoptree	2008 Re-assessed 2015	Yes (2015)	No (only a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Common Nighthawk	2009	Yes (2020)	No	No	No

Cougar	2008	Yes (2022)	No	No	No
Crooked-stem Aster	2008 Re-assessed 2014	Yes (2014)	No (Federal, 2020)	No	No
Dukes' Skipper	2024	Yes (2022)	No	No	No
Dwarf Lake Iris	2008 Re-assessed 2011	Yes (2011)	No (Federal, 2023)	No	No
Eastern False Rue-anemone	2022	Yes (2022)	No (only a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2024)
Eastern Mole	2008	Yes (2011)	No (Federal, 2015)	No	No
Eastern Musk Turtle	2008 Re-assessed 2013	Yes (2013)	No (Federal, 2024)	No	No
Eastern Pondmussel	2009 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	No (Federal, 2023)	No	No
Eastern Ribbonsnake	2008 Re-assessed 2013	Yes (2013)	No (Federal, 2015)	No	No
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2014	Yes (2013)	No (Proposed Federal Plan, 2023)	No	No
Evening Grosbeak	2018	Yes (2017)	No (Federal, 2022)	No	No
Golden-winged Warbler	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	No	No	No
Goldenseal	2008	Yes (2020)	No (only a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2017)	Yes (2022)
Grass Pickerel	2008	Yes (2015)	No (Federal, 2012)	No	No
Grasshopper Sparrow	2015	Yes (2014)	No	No	No

Green Dragon	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	No
Hill's Pondweed	2005	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	No (Federal, 2014)	No	No
Horned Grebe	2009	Yes (2023)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2015)	No
Lake Erie Watersnake	2008 Re-assessment 2016	Yes (2016)	No (Federal Plan, 2020 and Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2019)	Yes (2022)
Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay - James Bay populations)	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	No (Recovery Strategy)	No	No
Lakeside Daisy	2008	Yes (2021)	No (only a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2014)	Yes (2019)
Mapleleaf	2008 Re-assessed 2017	Yes (2017)	No (Federal, 2023)	No	No
Monarch	2008	Yes (2020)	No (Federal, 2016)	No	No
Northern Brook Lamprey	2008	Yes (2021)	No (Federal, 2018)	No	No
Northern Map Turtle	2008 Re-assessed 2013	Yes (2013)	No (Federal, 2019)	No	No
Northern Sunfish (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations)	2017	Yes (2016)	No (Federal, 2024)	No	No
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2009	Yes (2020)	No	No	No

Peregrine Falcon	2011	Yes (2020)	No (only a Federal Plan, 2017 and a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2010)	Yes (2015)
Rainbow	2016	Yes (2016)	No (only a Federal Plan, 2023 and a Recovery Strategy)	No	No
Red Knot — rufa subspecies (Northeastern South America wintering population)	2023	Yes (2021)	No (only a Federal Plan, 2017 and a Recovery Strategy)	Yes (2019)	No
Red-necked Phalarope	2016	Yes (2015)	No (Federal, 2023)	No	No
Red-tailed Leafhopper	2022	Yes (2020)	No	No	No
Riddell's Goldenrod	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	No (Federal, 2015)	No	No
River Redhorse	2016	Yes (2016)	No (Federal, 2018)	No	No
Rusty Blackbird	2018	Yes (2017)	No (Federal, 2015)	No	No
Shumard Oak	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	No
Silver Lamprey (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence River population)	2013	Yes (2021)	No (Federal, 2024)	No	No

Snapping Turtle	2009	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	No (Federal, 2020)	No	No
Spotted Sucker	2008 Re-assessed 2015	Yes (2015)	No (Federal, 2009)	No	No
Swamp Rose-mallow	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	No (Federal, 2013)	No	No
Tuberous Indian-plant ain	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	No (Federal, 2015)	No	No
Upper Great Lakes Kiyi	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	No (Federal, 2016)	No	No
West Virginia White	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information)	Yes (2013)	Yes (2014)	No
Wood Thrush	2014	Yes (2013)	No	No	No
Woodland Vole	2008	Yes (2011)	No (Federal, 2015)	No	No
Yellow Rail	2008	No COSSARO Assessment (Information + COSEWIC)	No (Federal, 2013)	No	No
Yellow-banded Bumble Bee	2016	Yes (2016)	No (Federal, 2023)	No	No

APPENDIX B:

ENDNOTES

[1] Endangered Species Act, 2007, SO 2007, c 6, s 1 [ESA].

[2] *Ibid* at s 2.

[3] *Ibid* at ss 9-10.

[4] *Ibid* at s 11.

[5] Rachel Plotkin et al, "WITHOUT A TRACE? Reflecting on the 10th anniversary of Ontario's Endangered Species Act, 2007" David Suzuki Foundation and Ontario Nature and Ecojustice at 4.

[6] *Ibid*.

[7] Canadian Environmental Law Association, Linter Law and Ecojustice, "SUBMISSION REGARDING 10th YEAR REVIEW OF ONTARIO'S ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: DISCUSSION PAPER ERO NUMBER: 013-4143" at 1.

[8] *Ibid*.

[9] *Supra* note 5 at 5.

[10] Office of the Auditor General of Ontario, "Laying Siege to the Last Line of Defence: A Review of Ontario's Weakened Protections for Species at Risk" at 22.

[11] *Ibid*.

[12] *Ibid*.

[13] *Ibid*.

[14] *Ibid* at 6.

[15] *Supra* note 7 at 2.

[16] Office of the Auditor General of Ontario, "Value for Money Audit: Protecting and Recovering Species at Risk" at 51.

[17] *Ibid* at 1.

[18] Jordanna N. Bergman et al, "How to rescue Ontario's Endangered Species Act: a biologist's perspective" Facets (2020) online:

<<https://carleton.ca/fahriglab/wp-content/uploads/Bergmanetal2020FACETS.pdf>> at 427.

[19] ESA, *supra* note 1 at s 4.

[20] *Ibid* at s 17.

[21] Species at risk in Ontario.

[22] ESA, *supra* note 1 at s 11.

[23] *Ibid* at s 12.

- [24] Categorizing and Protecting Habitat under the Endangered Species Act.
- [25] O. Reg. 832/21: HABITAT.
- [26] *Supra* note 24.
- [27] *Ibid.*
- [28] *Ibid.*
- [29] *Supra* note 16 at 68.
- [30] *Ibid* at 3.
- [31] *Ibid* at 4.
- [32] Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee.
- [33] *Supra* note 16 at 25.
- [34] *Ibid* at 26.
- [35] *Ibid.*
- [36] About COSSARO.
- [37] *ESA, supra note 1 at s 3.*
- [38] *Supra* note 16 at 11.
- [39] 2024 review of progress towards the protection and recovery of Ontario's species at risk.
- [40] *Supra* note 36.
- [41] *Supra* note 16 at 26.
- [42] COSSARO|Species.
- [43] *Supra* note 39.
- [44] *Supra* note 16 at 32.
- [45] Provincial Management Plan Data, *supra* note 21; Federal Management Plan Data, Government of Canada Species at Risk Public Registry.
- [46] *Supra* note 16 at 34.
- [47] *Ibid.*
- [48] *Supra* note 39.
- [49] *Supra* note 16 at 39.
- [50] *Ibid* at 40.
- [51] *Ibid.*
- [52] *Supra* note 20.
- [53] *Supra* note 16 at 42.
- [54] *Ibid* at 41.
- [55] *ESA, supra note 1 at s 16.*
- [56] *Supra* note 18 at 426.
- [57] *Ibid.*
- [58] *Ibid* at 426-427.
- [59] How to get an Endangered Species Act permit or authorization.
- [60] *Supra* note 16 at 43.
- [61] *Ibid* at 50.
- [62] *Ibid.*
- [63] *Ibid* at 42.
- [64] *Ibid* at 45-46.



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