

## Species at risk

While the Budget 2021 Enhanced Nature Legacy investment added \$377 million over five years to support recovery actions for priority species, renewal of the main program in Budget 2023 was at a much lower level and shorter time frame compared to 2018 levels – \$184 million over three years. Meanwhile populations of species at risk continue to decline, threats to wildlife populations across the country are increasing, and the list of Schedule 1 species under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) continues to grow. A top-up of resources is needed in the 2024 budget, along with stronger action at the political level, to fulfill legal responsibilities under SARA and commitments in the KMGBC.

**Recommended Investment:**  
**\$313 million over two years, then**  
**\$293 million per year, ongoing**  
 [ECCC, DFO, PC]

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## Ecological connectivity

Ecological connectivity is vitally important to ensuring effective protected area networks that conserve nature. It is also critical to tackle top threats to biodiversity: habitat loss, fragmentation, and climate change. A number of goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Framework emphasize the fundamental contribution that ecological connectivity makes to healthy functioning ecosystems and species, and achieving the framework’s objectives. Federal investment is needed for a nation-wide connectivity fund to support work by Crown and Indigenous governments, NGOs, and private interests to conserve areas identified as important for ecological connectivity, create effective mitigation measures to improve connectivity of fragmented landscapes, and to advance connectivity conservation.

**Recommended Investment:**  
**\$500 million over five years** [ECCC, PC]

### Contact

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## Key Biodiversity Areas

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity, and are essential to meeting targets in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.<sup>103</sup> Many KBAs will be in southern Canada, including in and around urban areas, and their conservation will provide benefits to Canadians (Targets 11 & 12). An initiative to identify KBAs in Canada began in 2019, and work to identify additional ecosystem KBAs will continue until December 2025. As the identification period of the program winds down, efforts to develop and implement national monitoring and stewardship plans for KBAs will increase. Canada’s Nature Legacy renewal should include funding to finalize the identification of Canada’s Key Biodiversity Areas. It should also implement a monitoring and stewardship

<sup>103</sup> KBAs are a critical component of spatial planning (Target 1) to ensure that we direct conservation action to the most critical places for nature. The identification of KBAs will support the strategic design of protected and conserved areas (Target 3), focus restoration efforts to priority ecosystems (Target 2), and support the recovery of threatened species (Target 4) by conserving critical habitats.



Photo: Jeremy Hines