

GUIDANCE FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The below does not apply to applicants whose project property is covered by an established Conservation Plan: NCC Natural Area Conservation Plan (NACP), a plan captured under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), another Federal, Provincial or Territorial plan, or other science-based plans developed by land trusts.

The following can be used by land trusts whose projects are not captured within any of the above noted Conservation Plans. In this case, the applicant is required to submit a case for conservation/conservation plan rationale. Note: the Conservation Planning Framework is a guidance tool for fulfilling the Conservation Planning requirement, in order to be eligible for the program.

NHCP-LTCF Strategic Conservation Planning Framework Guidance

The strategic identification and protection of priority land is a cornerstone of effective biodiversity conservation. To ensure that funding is being directed to priority projects, NHCP-LTCF applicants must demonstrate the following:

- 1) The project is contributing to the conservation of biodiversity that is significant from a national perspective; and,
- 2) The project is based on a strategic planning process and criteria that clearly justify and identify conservation priorities.

The following four criteria will be used to assess the strength of the Conservation Planning Framework adopted or used by the applicant. These criteria are based on nationally significant conservation features identified by NCC, and practices from the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Requirements Manual (Practice 8B, Project Selection and Criteria) ([LTA 2014](#)) and the [Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation](#).

Strategic Conservation Planning Criteria

- 1) Your land trust has a defined process for selecting land and conservation easement projects;
- 2) Your land trust has written project selection criteria that are consistent with its mission (please provide 1 and 2 with your application);
- 3) The project includes important occurrences of one or more of the following nationally significant conservation features;
 - a. species at risk ([COSEWIC](#) listed)
 - b. globally rare species or habitats (based on ranking by [NatureServe Canada](#))
 - c. migratory birds (priority species based on the [Bird Conservation Region](#))
 - d. wetlands
 - e. coasts (marine and Great Lakes)
- 4) The project is consistent with your land trust's project selection criteria.