Only priority projects determined through documented conservation planning process are eligible under the NHCP-LTCF. Projects must be in a **Key Conservation Area (KCA),** which means that the project falls under an existing Conservation Plan that identifies the land/project area as a priority for conservation.

**Key Conservation Areas** include areas identified under:

1. An **NCC Natural Area Conservation** **Plan** (NACP). Applicants who wish to adopt an NCC NACP should contact NCC to ensure their project falls within the boundaries of an NCC NACP;
2. DUC’s target landscapes as articulated by the habitat joint ventures of the **[North American Waterfowl Management Plan](http://nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca/nawmp-plan-documents/);**
3. **Priority Places and other Federal, Provincial or Territorial government plans**; or,
4. **Other science-based plans developed by land trusts**.

 just of a KCA, but within close proximity, the Applicantclearly identify the connection between the Conservation PlanThe onus is on the Adefendin association with the identified

* A mapthat overlays the must be included with the application submission.

**Guidance for Conservation Planning Framework**

The following only applies to projects that **do not fall within a Key Conservation Area (KCA).**

If the project does not fall within a KCA, please call WHC before proceeding with an application.

In situations where a proposed project property does not fall within a KCA, the Applicant will be required to provide:

* A sufficient case for conservation, which defends how the project property:
	1. meets the Canada Target 1 criteria;
	2. links to conservation initiatives;
	3. identifies the presence of critical habitat for species at risk, etc.; and,

A sufficient rationale that demonstrates the prioritization of the property/project land from a conservation planning standpoint and the significance of the project.

Note: The Conservation Planning Framework assists the Applicant in describing priority areas for acquisition and long-term stewardship. The Conservation Planning Framework is a guidance tool for fulfilling the Conservation Plan requirement, in order to be eligible for the NHCP-LTCF program.

***Please complete the following template and upload it to your Application Form:***

**Conservation Planning Framework:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Case for Conservation** The strategic identification and protection of priority land is a cornerstone of effective biodiversity conservation. |
| 1. **How does the project land(s) meet the Canada Target 1 criteria?** (Describe)
 |
|  |
| 1. **Does the land meet nationally or provincially significant ecological criteria?**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Does the land protect habitat:**
* for **species at risk** (per Schedule 1 of the federal Species at Risk Act, COSEWIC-listed species or provincially listed species and ecosystems); or,
* **migratory birds**?
 |
|  |
| 1. **Does the land create or enhance connections or corridors between protected areas or conserved land?**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Does the land occur in an ecoregion with relatively high biodiversity and/or threat values?**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Does the land create, expand, connect or complete an existing public, private or Indigenous protected or conserved area?**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Does the land have restoration potential that will further the conservation goals of the land trust and/or ECCC?**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Is the land an Ecological Gift?**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Is the land an ECCC priority?**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Describe how the project includes important occurrences of one or more of the following nationally significant conservation features:**
	* globally rare species or habitats (based on ranking by [NatureServe Canada)](http://www.natureserve.org/natureserve-network/canada)
	* wetlands
	* coasts (marine and Great Lakes)
 |
|  |
| 1. **Why has the project land(s) been identified by the land trust as a high priority for conservation?**
 |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Priority Land - Conservation Planning CriteriaThe following will be used to assess the strength of the Conservation Planning Framework adopted or used by the applicant. |
| 1. **Describe your land trust’splanning . How does your land trust identify conservation priorities?**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Summarize the land trust’s defined project selection criteria and describe how they are consistent with the organization’s mission.**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Explain how the project being proposed is consistent with your land trust’s project selection process/criteria.**
 |
|  |
| 1. **Attach a map that overlays the project land(s) within the land trust’s priority areas for conservation.**
 |
|  |