

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR
CO-CHAIRS OF THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES SPECIALIST
SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE IN CANADA (COSEWIC)**

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 27, 2006

Expressions of interest are requested for two (2) individuals to serve as co-chairs of the Amphibians and Reptiles Specialist Subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

In this search, we are especially interested in applicants with expertise in the assessment of the status of reptiles and amphibians. To ensure staggered terms of office, as is the practice for all Co-chairs of the same Species Specialist Subcommittee, one appointment will be for a 4-year term, and one for a 2-year term. COSEWIC will likely select one applicant with specific expertise with amphibians and one with specific expertise with reptiles. Demonstrated ability to work in a consensus based environment will be important.

COSEWIC is a committee of qualified experts from jurisdictional (provincial, territorial and federal) agencies and non-government organizations, independent scientists, and members of the academic community. On June 5, 2003, the Species at Risk Act (SARA) was proclaimed. SARA establishes COSEWIC as an advisory committee ensuring that species will continue to be assessed under a rigorous and independent scientific process.

The principal functions of COSEWIC are as follows:

- to assess the status of wildlife species considered potentially to be at risk in Canada, identifying existing and potential threats to the species;
- to periodically reassess the status of species currently considered to be at risk and, as necessary, reclassify them, and;
- to report the results of its assessments and the reasons for the designations to the federal Minister of the Environment, the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC) and the Canadian public.

COSEWIC carries out its functions on the basis of the best available information, including scientific knowledge, community knowledge, and aboriginal traditional knowledge.

Species Specialist Subcommittees

The Species Specialist Subcommittees (SSCs) of COSEWIC are fundamental to the COSEWIC process. The primary functions of all SSC members are to review and ensure the scientific quality of all species status reports under the responsibility of their respective SSC and to recommend status designations to COSEWIC.

Each SSC has two co-chairs who must have expertise in the conservation biology, population dynamics, taxonomy, systematic, population genetics, and/or traditional knowledge of the taxonomic group in question, particularly in Canada. They must also otherwise satisfy the requirements of membership on COSEWIC (see the [Statement of Qualifications for COSEWIC Members](#) which follows).

Co-chairs of SSCs serve as members of COSEWIC, subject to the approval of the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC) and appointment by the Minister of the Environment.

Duties of SSC Co-chairs

The SSC co-chairs' responsibilities include the following:

- Soliciting authors for status reports;
- reviewing and editing status reports and any other actions required to bring status reports to completion (normally between 5 and 8 reports a year);
- recommending candidate species for the preparation of new status reports
- meeting annually with the SSC;
- preparing for and participating in Co-chairs Subcommittee and COSEWIC meetings, (in recent years, COSEWIC has assessed approximately 60 species per year) and;
- preparing annual reports of SSC activities

COSEWIC SSC co-chairs are appointed to hold office for renewable terms of not more than four years. SSC co-chairs do not become part of the public service of Canada as a result of this appointment. SSC co-chairs may be remunerated for their services in amounts that the Minister may set and reimbursed for related expenses according to Treasury Board guidelines.

How to apply

Applicants are required to immediately send by e-mail an expression of interest ([see template attached](#)), including a statement of qualifications, and curriculum vitae to:

COSEWIC Secretariat
c/o Canadian Wildlife
Service
Environment Canada
OTTAWA ON K1A 0H3

E-mail: cosewicsecretariat/secretariatcosepac@ec.gc.ca

Should you not have access to e-mail, you can fax your application to 819 994-3684.

DEADLINE: February 27, 2006 (at midnight EST)

Submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee of COSEWIC, who will forward the statements of qualifications to COSEWIC along with a recommendation. COSEWIC will, in turn, make a recommendation during its April 2006 meeting, and forward it to the CESCC and the Minister of the Environment. The successful applicants will be appointed by the Minister of the Environment by November 2006. All candidates who applied will be notified of the decision following the appointments. The term of office for the successful applicants will commence on January 1, 2007.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR COSEWIC MEMBERS

Committee members are recognized to be experts in relevant fields and have broad knowledge and experience in ecological and/or conservation theory and practice, They also must display sound judgment, professional objectivity, and a demonstrated commitment to wildlife conservation.

Accordingly, technical suitability should be demonstrated by:

1. a post-graduate degree in one of the relevant biological sciences (conservation biology, systematics/taxonomy, ecology, population biology and genetics, natural resource management, **or** another relevant field);
OR
a university degree and several years of experience in accountable positions related to the biology, conservation and/or management of living resources;
OR
extensive traditional or local ecological knowledge covering a broad geographic area or a number of species.
2. evidence of work requiring professional application of: current knowledge of conservation biology, systematics/taxonomy, ecology, population biology and genetics, natural resource management, or related fields;
OR
traditional or local ecological knowledge in management contexts.
3. evidence of expert knowledge of regional species or species in a specific taxonomic group (birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, etc.) as well as a reasonably broad knowledge of a significant portion of Canada's flora or fauna.
4. evidence of a good knowledge of concepts and techniques related to the assessment and conservation of species at risk, and general knowledge of the legal provisions for designation and protection of species at risk at the federal and/or provincial level.
5. evidence of ability to follow complex and technical discussions, summarise results, and formulate recommendations based on the discussions.

In addition to meeting the technical requirements, personal suitability should be demonstrated by evidence of ability to:

6. assimilate and use effectively large amounts of material, sometimes technical in nature, in areas outside the individual's area of professional expertise.

7. make objective and impartial decisions, on the basis of scientific information and considering uncertainties.
8. work constructively within a consensus-based decision-making process.