

Table 1. Summary of recommendations in response to the “10th year review of Ontario’s Endangered Species Act: Discussion Paper” proposal. “(Area(s) of Focus)” refer to the four areas of focus in the discussion paper.

KEY ACTIONS	
<p>Use a “risk” map of the distributions, range, and occupation probability of species at risk. AND Create a standardized open-access database of past environmental assessment reports, including known information of all species and their habitats. TO Help inform species-protection decisions with more accuracy and transparency. Improve public awareness. Facilitate authorization and permit applications, while minimizing economic costs, risks and liabilities.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	REASONING
<p>1) Maintain automatic habitat protection, and retain or shorten current time periods for implementation. <i>(Areas of Focus 2 & 3)</i></p>	<p>Delaying recovery strategies and government actions will not enable positive outcomes for species at risk. Species-at-risk protection is very time-sensitive—protection delays increase costs as habitat becomes more critical. Scientific certainty is impossible, and taking actions in favour of protection is less risky than not taking action while waiting for new biological studies to be conducted.</p>
<p>2) Mandate the creation of a “risk” map at the listing phase to guide developers - Create an open-access database of all species reports and studies to ensure species information quality, accuracy and transparency. <i>(Areas of Focus 1 & 2)</i></p>	<p>- The “risk” map would allow permit applicants to be better informed about the risks of developing at specific locations. - The open-access database would allow species assessment reports to be more accurate and transparent. - These two tools would facilitate permit applications and provide awareness to the public about species at risk while minimizing surprise interruptions for economic development.</p>
<p>3) Use a 1:1 replacement ratio of any habitat if the damage or destruction of this habitat is inevitable. <i>(Area of Focus 4)</i></p>	<p>Our greatest challenge is stopping the loss and degradation of critical habitat for species at risk—critical habitats are species-specific and conservation funds will not be able to help species at risk without habitat left.</p>

4) Create multi-species recovery action plans, but individual species listing and protection.

(Areas of Focus 1 & 2)

Recovery Plans can incorporate multiple species, but they need to be case-by-case decisions based on the habitat requirements of individual species. Species must be listed individually.