Species at Risk Recovery Information Management System
Species at Risk 2004, Victoria, BC, Canada

Canadian Wildlife Service, Place Vincent-Massey, 4th Floor. , 351 St-Joseph Boul., Gatineau, QC

The Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada is developing a data management system related to species at risk in Canada. The system integrates information from COSEWIC, the SARA legal list, CITES and the recovery community. CWS is currently testing the Recovery Information Management System (IMS), and will pilot the first modules in spring 2004 to gather information for the RENEW Annual Report and to update the Species at Risk Web site.

The Recovery IMS will be used to maintain and manage species at risk information in a dynamic database. It will facilitate data sharing and communication among partners, improve tracking, and simplify reporting. Recovery teams, provincial and territorial governments, federal departments and other partners with access to the database will be able to maintain and retrieve information on strategy development, progress towards achieving recovery goals, team membership, financial support, recovery implementation projects and much more.

The Recovery IMS is a ColdFusion Web interface that may be accessed and used by recovery teams, implementation groups, and jurisdictions. Seven modules designed for recovery teams will be launched in 2004.

Module 1: My Profile

The profile module is a convenient place to maintain your contact information, especially if you are a member of several recovery teams. You have to change your profile in only one place, and the system will automatically update it throughout the database

Every team member can maintain their own profile and contact information in the database. Users can also add or remove themselves from the RENEW mailing list.

- This year, we will ask *recovery team chairs* to update their own profile, and the profiles of their team members. Later in the year, we will invite all users to verify their own information, and to add or remove themselves from the RENEW mailing list.

Module 2: Teams/RIGS

In this module recovery team chairs can maintain information about their team and its membership. Only the team chair can add new members or remove former members. The system is being expanded for use by RIGs, or Recovery Implementation Groups.

- This year, we will ask recovery team chairs to update the team membership, and provide the name the team wishes to use.

Module 3: Strategies

The “Strategies” module is extremely important and will continue to develop and grow. We are currently creating a strategy template, modeled after the template in ROMAN (the Recovery guidelines manual), that will help teams develop their strategies. In the meantime, the module allows chairs to report on the status and development of their recovery strategies. In this module you can also provide the Web address (e.g. to your team’s Web site) where the draft can be located. This will help CWS and other jurisdiction re-direct persons enquiring about any pre-SARA Registry consultations. Teams can also upload their draft strategy into the system so that team members can share it. Uploading the draft strategy into the database will ensure that all fund (ESRF, IRF and HSP) managers have access to the most current version.

- This year, we will ask recovery team chairs to provide the correct title for their strategy, report on the status of the strategy, and provide the Web site where the draft can be accessed. Teams are encouraged, but not required to upload their draft strategy.

Modules 4 & 5: The Annual Workplan & Progress
These two modules are designed to facilitate your reporting for this year’s annual report and to update our Web pages. This information will also be used to communicate with and respond to the public and will be incorporated into future SARA reporting materials.

- We will ask team chairs to complete 4 short forms and:
  1) Describe the recovery objectives for 2004-2005
  2) Provide a brief summary of progress for 2003-2004
  3) Provide a brief summary of research and monitoring activities for 2003-2004
  4) Provide a brief summary of recovery activities for 2003-2004

Module 6: Financials

This module allows teams to accurately represent and acknowledge partner and volunteer contributions. This information will be used for the annual report, and can be displayed and updated for your own purposes.

- This year, jurisdictions and the IRF, ESRF and HSP fund administrators will input their own contributions. We will ask team chairs to report all other contributions made toward recovery.

Module 7: What’s New
This module provides easy access to the latest information on recovery. We will post reference materials such as the latest version of the recovery guidelines manual (ROMAN) in this portion of the system. Members of recovery teams can check the site when it is convenient for them, and know that the documents they have are the latest.

Some Final Points:
- The database is designed with recovery teams in mind. We will need your help and cooperation to improve this tool.
- The system is password protected and has security features.
- We will invite recovery team chairs to login and use the modules in April and May.
- We will provide instructions on using the system, and will also provide user support.
- As other modules are developed and launched, we will arrange training session and develop online help tools and tutorials.
- We are developing and refining query functions that allow the user to easily retrieve and summarize information about recovery for their own tracking and reporting purposes.

Please contact Lorraine.Standing@ec.gc.ca or Danika.Kearny@ec.gc.ca if you would like more information about the Recovery Information Management System.