



Create a Recovery Plan

Planning is a critical part of protecting species at risk, and turning awareness into action. But it's also about reconciling the needs of wildlife and humans. These guidelines, modelled after the *National Recovery Process (NRP)*, will help you formulate a recovery strategy, using an action plan to achieve conservation goals.

1. Get to know the NRP. The classroom activity entitled "Recovery Discovery" is a good introduction to this method of promoting the comeback of species at risk. In essence, the NRP is a way to reconcile different interests in order to create an action plan agreed upon by multiple stakeholders.
2. Do Background Research. Learn all about the ecological needs, critical habitats, and threats to the survival of the turtles. This leatherback turtle profile is a good starting point.
3. Form a Recovery Team. Now that you've learned all about the leatherback, work with your classmates or on your own.
4. Brainstorm. Based on your research, come up with suggestions on how to help the leatherbacks. Share ideas with your classmates if you are working as a group. Choose the ones that everyone agrees are most suitable in light of the animal's ecological needs, critical habitats, and threats to its survival.
5. Create a Recovery Strategy. Using your brainstorming ideas, develop a recovery strategy that can serve as a framework for conservation efforts. Include all the components in the following checklist.

A recovery strategy:

- describes the species;
 - expresses its ecological needs;
 - identifies its critical habitats;
 - assesses threats to its survival;
 - defines long- and short-term recovery goals;
 - explains how these goals can be achieved; and
 - sets a date of completion.
6. Develop an Action Plan. To meet the objectives set out in the recovery strategy, your action plan should include a list of conservation projects and other initiatives. See Tackle Habitat Action Plans [link to following sub-section] for project ideas. At this stage, you should consider the

views of landowners, resource users, community members, native bands, conservation groups, and other stakeholders.

An action plan:

- identifies the species' critical habitats, including areas that are not protected;
 - defines activities likely to harm these habitats;
 - suggests measures to protect these habitats;
 - recommends projects that will meet the goals of the recovery strategy (above) and states where they are to take place;
 - identifies who will complete the projects and by when;
 - estimates the cost of the projects and how they will be funded; and
 - evaluates socioeconomic conditions and potentially negative impacts on people resulting from the action plan.
7. You Can Revise the Recovery Strategy and Action Plan at Any Time. Both can be updated regularly to take into account any new information and to guide the continuing recovery process.