

Indigenous-led Climate Smart Forestry

Overview and Funding Opportunity



SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE

SFI-00001

SFI TEAM



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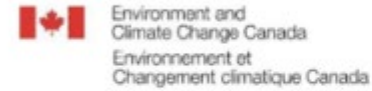
SFI CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY INITIATIVE



SFI has launched a **multi-year Climate Smart Forestry Initiative** focused on advancing the interpretation and implementation of climate smart forestry across the SFI footprint. This work focuses on *enhancing* carbon sinks and *reducing emissions* from the forest sector, while also addressing biodiversity and wildfire risks.

Working directly with experts and SFI-certified organizations to reduce net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by identifying, developing, and implementing practices that meet the SFI Forest Management Standard Climate Smart Forestry Objective.

IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR PARTNERS



Advancing Climate Informed
Principles and Practices (CLIPPs)



SFI 2022 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD OBJECTIVES



OBJECTIVE 1. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING



OBJECTIVE 2. FOREST HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY



OBJECTIVE 3. PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER RESOURCES



OBJECTIVE 4. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



OBJECTIVE 5. MANAGEMENT OF VISUAL QUALITY AND RECREATIONAL BENEFITS



OBJECTIVE 6. PROTECTION OF SPECIAL SITES



OBJECTIVE 7. EFFICIENT USE OF FIBER SOURCES



OBJECTIVE 8. RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS



OBJECTIVE 9. CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY



OBJECTIVE 10. FIRE RESILIENCE AND AWARENESS



OBJECTIVE 11. LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE



OBJECTIVE 12. FORESTRY RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



OBJECTIVE 13. TRAINING AND EDUCATION



OBJECTIVE 14. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LANDOWNER OUTREACH



OBJECTIVE 15. PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES



OBJECTIVE 16. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC REPORTING



OBJECTIVE 17. MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT



ECCC NATURE SMART CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FUND



And more....



Climate Smart Forestry (CSF) in Forest Management across Canada 2024-2027

OBJECTIVE:

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) has been awarded a grant by Environment and Climate Change Canada to advance climate smart forestry (CSF) in forest management across Canada. The overarching goal of this 3-year project (2024-2027) is to identify, develop, and implement climate smart practices and strategies across the forested landscape with a focus on certified organizations and Indigenous partners. The project will contribute to the reduction of Canada's net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using CSF in a sector-based approach.

CURRENT STATUS: Approved and signed (Oct 2024)

KEY ACTIVITIES:

Strategy I: Prioritize and interpret climate risk and opportunity

Strategy II: Develop science-based Principles and Practices for CSF

Strategy III: Workshop with experts, partners, forest managers, and decision-makers

Strategy IV: Establish metrics to track efforts and measure success

Strategy V: Pilot, Assess, and Measure – with a focus on Indigenous partners

Strategy VI: Communicate results and scale outputs

STRATEGIES

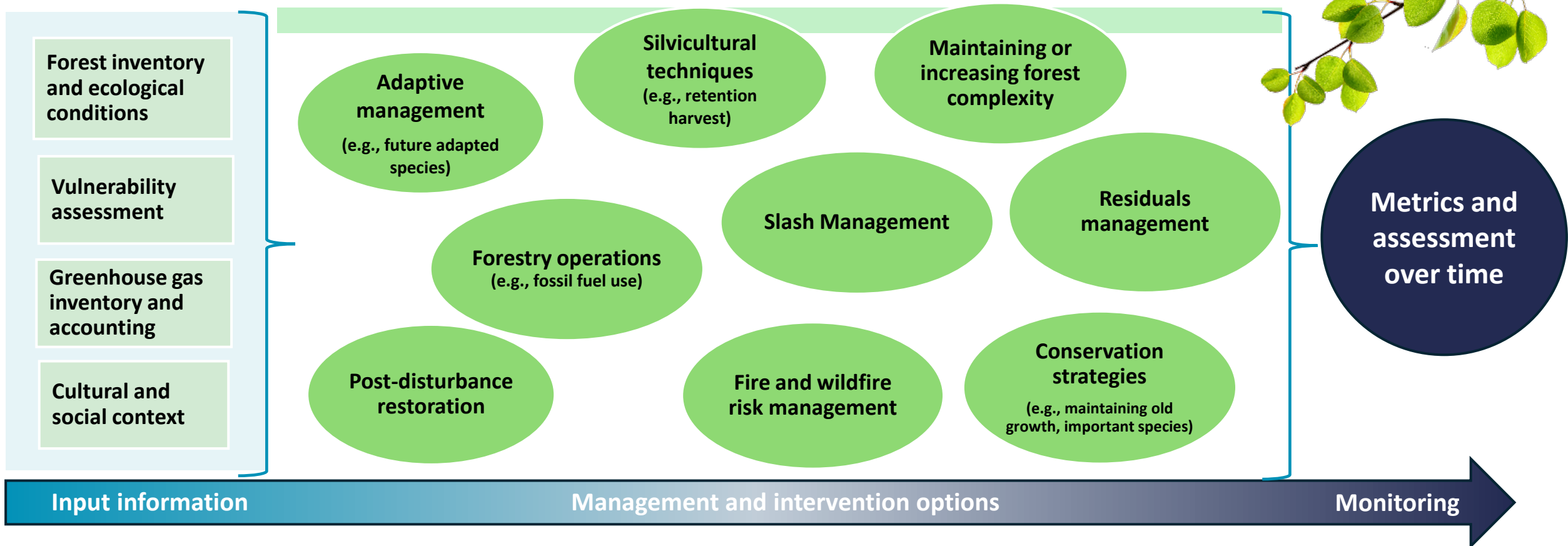
Strategy 5. Pilot, Assess, and Measure – a focus on Indigenous partners

- Co-create implementation tactics based on the priorities and practices
- Pilot key in-forest implementation tactics with Indigenous leadership
 - Financial resources to partnering Indigenous-led entities to advance CSF
 - Assessment of costs and other barriers of implementation
 - Recommendations to embrace both cultural values and traditional ecologic knowledges
- Support participation in Indigenous-led peer-learning and engagement (e.g., workshops between partnering Indigenous entities, side events at key meetings)



SFI CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY THEMES

Objective: Distill research and knowledges into highly communicable principles and practices with recommendations, cases, and tools to implement them. Elevate current and experimental on-the-ground interventions, emerging research, and traditional knowledges.



FIRST ROUND OF INDIGENOUS-LED CSF FUNDING

- Released call for Expressions of Interest in March 2025
- Funded 8 Indigenous Organizations
 - Smaller projects – seed funding and project investments
- Funded projects related to:
 - Assess opportunities to reduce windthrow through retention harvest
 - Silviculture practices for Caribou habitat
 - Alternatives to slash pile burning
 - Alternatives to herbicide use through manual brushing



EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL PRACTICES WITH CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Sustainable forest management, examples include:
 - Improving forestry operational efficiency
 - Handling of residuals
 - Retention harvests
- Selection of tree species (e.g., fire resistant, future adapted)
- Forest restoration, including post-disturbance and increasing forest complexity
- Enhancements of special forests (e.g., coastal cedar stands)
- Other practices that are a priority to First Nation such as cultural burning, creation of reserves for culturally significant trees species, or protection and enhancement of non-timber forest products/values.



RFP FUNDING DETAILS

Objective: Financially support Indigenous-led forest interventions that have measurable climate benefits. The primary goal is to identify, develop, and implement climate smart practices and strategies with Indigenous partners to reduce emissions from forestry and to ensure forests managed by our Indigenous partners are more resilient to a changing climate.

SFI will support in assessing the climate benefits of projects, utilizing data and information from partners.

Funding amount:	Up to \$150,000 CAD
Time Period:	Up to 2 years
Intent of project:	Implementation (shovel-ready)
Examples of costs covered:	• adjusting forest management plans • field staff • material costs • data collection
Data and information (reporting under development now)	Forest and Land Use Information Biodiversity and Ecosystem Impacts Socioeconomic and Cultural Outcomes Financial and Implementation Summary
Deliverables:	Submission of report on project progression (template to be provided) Sharing information on activities, costs, successes, challenges, lessons learned



ELIGIBILITY

Applicant

- A First Nation or Indigenous community with forest tenure or access to tenured forestland and has responsibility for managing forested lands in Canada
- An Indigenous representative organization such as a territorial government, tribal council, or development corporation that either has access to tenure and has responsibility for managing forested lands, or is partnering with First Nations or Indigenous communities meeting these criteria (Note: Development Corporations or similar entities must be 50% Indigenous owned to be eligible);

Forestland and practices

- Projects should be relevant for forest managers and decision-makers of large forest parcels (e.g. 20,000+ hectares). Projects with a small footprint may be considered if the methodology shows that the project can feasibly and economically be scaled up to larger landscapes.
- Practices that can create a climate benefit are necessary for the ECCC funded project. Projects that have forest health, climate adaption and/or mitigation benefits, as well as social (including cultural and economic) benefits will likely meet these criteria.
- Forests managed by First Nations and/or Indigenous partners do not need to be SFI certified to be eligible to apply for this funding.



SELECTION CRITERIA (detailed in RFP)

- **Eligibility** (previous slide)
- **Alignment with programmatic priorities**
 - ECCC and SFI climate smart forestry priorities, including Objective 9 of the SFI Forest Management Standard
- **Demonstrate measurable climate benefits**
- **Technical merit** including quality, excellence, and rigour of the proposed project
 - Demonstrated knowledge, experience, and expertise of project team members
 - Scalability and applicability of the practices for forest managers, including the ability to replicate or amplify impacts at regional or national scales
 - Capacity and preparedness to collaborate
- **Budget and cost-effectiveness**



TIMELINE



THANK YOU

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