



## SFI CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

# INDIGENOUS-LED CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY

### PURPOSE:

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is currently [managing a grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada](#) which has a funding mechanism to support on the ground implementation for Indigenous partners on nature-based climate solutions. To support this aspect of the project, SFI is offering seed funding to First Nations and Indigenous organizations (territorial governments, tribal councils, and/or development corporations) to advance Indigenous-led proposals and on-the-ground projects related to climate smart forestry. The primary goal of the funding is to help SFI identify, develop, and implement climate smart practices and strategies with Indigenous partners to ensure forests managed by our Indigenous partners are more resilient to a changing climate.

If you meet eligibility requirements (see below) and are interested in applying, please send an expression of interest (EOI) to the contact(s) provided herein. For this initial opportunity, the EOI must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. PST on **March 21, 2025**. Your EOI should be no more than **three pages** and contain:

- A brief introduction to your project,
- project lead contact information,
- a description of your organization and eligibility,
- a statement of need (including a cost estimate and statement of financial need),
- proposed activity and methods (connections to climate-related benefits/practices),
- expected outcomes for forests and community, and
- a brief discussion of other funding sources.

There are two tiers of funding available.

- I) Projects in *need of seed funding* to support development of a proposal can receive up to \$15,000 to help offset the cost of analysis and related scoping costs. This funding is intended to cover items including hiring consultants/experts to help with proposal development and related analysis, staff time, GIS/Mapping, reasonable travel and office expenses, and honoraria for knowledge keepers, if used. Project leads will be required to submit a final product describing the developed project.
- II) Projects that are *shovel ready* can apply for up to \$50,000 from this initial round of funding. This funding is intended to cover costs to implement activities in adjusting forest management plans, field staff, material costs, and data collection. Project leads will be required to submit specific reporting information to SFI and will engage collaboratively with SFI on their project.

Note that additional funding will be available later in 2025, and submission of an EOI now does not guarantee nor preclude future funding.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Applicants must be either:
  - 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);
- Forested lands need to be sufficient in size to implement on the ground projects that are relevant for forest managers and decision-makers, particularly on large 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. However, those considering certifying their forests or already certified through the SFI Standard may receive priority consideration.

**Examples of potential nature-based climate solutions practices with climate and community benefits:**

Sustainable forest management, examples like:

- 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 First Nation priorities

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** Applications that meet the minimum eligibility requirements will be evaluated based on the following differentiating criteria:

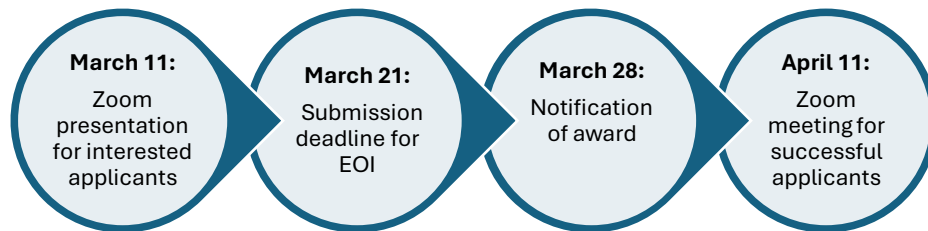
- Demonstrated knowledge, experience, and expertise of project team members;
- Quality, excellence, and rigour of the proposed forestry project;
- Feasibility of the proposed project, including cost of project implementation;
- Scalability and applicability of the practices for forest managers;

- Alignment with SFI Climate Smart Forestry objective, its [5-year strategic direction](#), and the funded project by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) – see project overview in this PDF;
- Capacity and preparedness to collaborate with SFI, knowledge keepers, and other experts;
- Demonstrable connection to climate benefit (note that applicants will not be required to quantify climate benefits; this potential will be assessed by the review team); and
- Evidence of project co-benefits such as cultural values, sustained forest health, increased biodiversity, or other ecosystem benefits.

Projects that best align with the above criteria will be selected by SFI staff. Further details about final award amounts and expectations for reporting will be shared with recipients.

### EOI TIMELINE:

**For more information, please contact:**



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**For application submission and to register for the informational webinars, please contact:**

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