

Request for Proposal

Coastal First Nations' Regional Monitoring System Research and Monitoring Framework

1.0 Opportunity

Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative (CFN-GBI) is seeking an external contractor with experience in Indigenous Knowledge and western science to develop a Research and Monitoring Framework to address regional-scale environmental stewardship monitoring priorities so Nations can continue to strengthen their stewardship planning, decision making, and self-determination.

Expected project completion date: March 2024

2.0 Project Overview

2.1 Background

[Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative](#) (CFN-GBI) is a non-profit organization formed from an alliance of First Nations living on BC's Central and North Coasts and Haida Gwaii. The [Coastal Stewardship Network](#) is a program of CFN-GBI that works to support the stewardship offices and [Coastal Guardian Watchmen](#) of CFN-GBI member nations.

An integral part of the CSN's work has been the creation of a Regional Monitoring System (RMS) <https://coastalfirstnations.ca/our-environment/programs/regional-monitoring-system/>. The RMS is a regional-scale system for collecting and applying information to support stewardship planning and implementation by CFN-GBI member nations. The RMS comprises three digital data collection tools including 1) the CoastTracker App, used by Coastal Guardian Watchmen and other stewardship staff for field data collection, 2) a data management system, and 3) member-only online access to data through a web portal. These tools are used to monitor species, habitats, and activities within the Nations' territories in response to increased environmental pressures (e.g., climate change, resource extraction, and other human activities).

Because of these increasing pressures, the need has arisen to scope and draft a Research and Monitoring Framework including 1) articulation of the natural resource and environmental management needs of the stewardship offices; 2) identification of the key knowledge outputs to support these needs; and 3) a plan for data collection¹ and analysis to create the necessary outputs². This framework should be scalable across other CFN-GBI program work (e.g., Marine Protected Area Network, community-based fisheries etc.).

¹ Using the RMS tools where appropriate.

² Some knowledge outputs may not be empirical data and may reflect e.g., cultural values, ethics, traditional knowledge and ways of knowing.

2.2 Scope of Work

2.2.1 Vision

A Research and Monitoring Framework, visioned, led, and used by CFN-GBI member Nations, that clearly articulates the intertwined roles of Traditional Knowledge and western science in providing understandable answers to well-defined questions to address priority environmental and natural resource management issues raised by the Nations. The Research and Monitoring Framework should be replicable and scalable to other CFN-GBI programs.

2.2.2 The Process

The successful contractor could inform this work through a combination of: conducting informational interviews with key Stewardship Office staff; attending a workshop hosted and facilitated by the CSN team; conducting desktop research; using their own prior experience; and using any other methods needed to collect, collate, and distill the required information.

2.2.2 Deliverables

1. A clear process for helping Stewardship Offices articulate and answer their natural resource and environmental management questions.
2. Application of this process to each of the identified natural resource and environmental management needs.
3. A final report, including an executive summary and a briefing note that includes a data collection and analysis plan to create necessary knowledge outputs.
4. A presentation of this work to CFN-GBI contractors/staff and CFN-GBI member Nation representatives.

3.0 Other Considerations

3.1 The process for drafting a Research and Monitoring Framework will be collaborative and iterative with select CSN team members and other CFN-GBI contractors/staff and Nation representatives.

3.2 The final product needs to be easy to implement using the current RMS tools.

4.0 Proposal Requirements

1. Description of the proponent's understanding of the project.
2. Proposed approach to the project.
3. Proposed timelines and associated costs for the workplan.
4. Statement of the proponent's qualifications outlining experience relevant to the project, including experience/relationships with First Nations (preferably BC Coastal First Nations).
5. References - names and contact information for 3 clients for whom the proponent has performed similar work in the last 5 years.
6. Resumes (< 3 pages) highlighting relevant experience of the proponent and any subcontractors.
7. Maximum page count is 15 (not including resumes).

5.0 Submission Process

5.1 Submit your RfP as a Word or PDF document to Aroha Miller, Program Manager, Coastal First Nations miller.aroha@gmail.com with the subject line "RfP R&M Framework"

5.2 Proposal Submission Deadline: **September 4th, 2023 at 11:59 pm PST.**

5.3 Notification of selection: The Program Manager will notify the successful proponent by email.