

PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. **Project name: North American TEK Atlas/Inventory and Case Studies on Best Practices in Integrating TEK in Decision-making in the Three Countries**
2. **Two-year budget: C\$600,000**
3. **Short statement on the need identified (including current status), the project objective and the outcomes (achievable by June 2019) to address it:** Develop an Atlas/Inventory identifying and mapping traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) within North America. For this activity, TEK is defined as the cumulative body of Indigenous peoples' knowledge of, practice of and belief about the relationship of living beings with one another and with their environment, this body evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission. Mapping would include, for example, the location of TEK experts and their areas of expertise, based on the principles of ownership, respect and rights protection. Additionally, develop case studies to demonstrate legally and culturally appropriate, and practical and ethical engagements of TEK in decision-making processes. The studies would reflect the need for social inclusion of Indigenous peoples and vulnerable communities in such processes, operations and policy recommendations in response to the changing environment in North America. Dissemination of these case studies will seek to advance diversity and inclusion in the decision-making processes related to the work to be accomplished.
4. **Strategic priority(ies) that the project addresses:**

2015–2020 Strategic Priorities	Priority Areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade and the Environment (e.g., environment and innovations; movement of environmental goods and services)
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Growth	<input type="checkbox"/> Methane emissions reduction
XX Sustainable Communities and Ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce and recover food waste
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black carbon inventory
	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority species and ecosystems (e.g., transboundary invasive species)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Health of oceans (e.g., marine litter; ocean acidification; protected area)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Syndromic surveillance systems
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mexican Emissions Control Area (ECA)
	XX TEK case studies

5. **Explain how the project can achieve more impact by working trinationally, and why the CEC is the most effective vehicle to undertake this work:**
 The CEC serves as an ideal convener, given its ability to coordinate across national boundaries. The case studies are directly linked to the Parties' stated strategic priorities of sustainable communities and ecosystems, green growth, and climate-change mitigation and adaptation and respond to the need to work collaboratively to tackle threats affecting shared resources and ecosystems, as well

as resources and ecosystems that are similar in nature and face similar persisting and emerging threats and challenges even though they are far apart. The Atlas/Inventory will address the importance of voluntary participation of Indigenous peoples; the different national legal regimes and their relationships to Indigenous peoples and local communities; the varied circumstances of Indigenous knowledge; the varying levels of management capacity; and how the work is accomplished through collaborative methods that can be easily duplicated.

6. Describe how the project may capitalize on, or advance, the relationship between ecosystems, job creation, gender impacts, and income generation:

Sustainable development can only be achieved through long-term investments in economic, human and environmental capital. Discussion of human capital includes issues related to local, underserved and undervalued communities, in which, like the world over, it is often the young, the elderly, and females in need. Work to support Indigenous peoples and local and underserved Indigenous communities in North America will necessarily involve issues of gender equality, job creation and income generation. Social inclusion issues for women and other marginalized groups depend on enlightened government policies that take into account those divides. These case studies will look for ways to emphasize the important role of women TEK practitioners, for example, whose difference in the practice arises from the different roles they perform in a given community, such as harvesting and preparing food, and gathering medicinal plants. The studies will look for gender impacts and for effective means of youth engagement. The case studies can provide a possible way forward to better provide for those with greater needs.

7. List the objectives and activities to be conducted to achieve measurable results:

Objectives (must be SMART¹)	Main activities to achieve objectives (by 30 June 2019)	Measurable results
North American TEK Atlas/Inventory	Review existing mechanisms currently in place in each of the three countries which engage Indigenous peoples TEK: such mechanisms may be through mutually agreed-upon terms, through land claim agreement processes, or which implement free, prior and informed consent through other means. (Efforts will be made to inventory the tools, legal frameworks, customary law authorities and frameworks of engagement, including contract clauses, access and benefit sharing agreements, etc.) Undertake a series of interviews with	A TEK inventory/map, which includes geolocated sites showcasing best practices and standards for engaging Indigenous peoples and local Indigenous community leaders through legally and culturally appropriate methods for data collection; ethics for long-term use of TEK (including recognition of Indigenous authorities, control, dissemination and access); and mechanisms established where TEK practitioner participation would be supported.

¹ SMART: Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.

	<p>Indigenous peoples and local Indigenous communities who engage their TEK in partnership with universities or other research or public institutions or private-sector partners to identify best practice models, and identify core tools and mechanisms for engagement of TEK.</p> <p>Develop a series of indicia and gather related tools and mechanisms which, from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and local Indigenous communities, advance fair and equitable engagement of TEK in keeping with international and domestic human rights standards and the rights of Indigenous peoples.</p>	
<p>Three case studies (one per country) on best practices in integrating TEK in decision-making in the three countries to enhance the outreach capacity of policy-makers, Indigenous peoples and local communities, program practitioners, interested parties, scientists and researchers, and to identify legally and culturally appropriate tools that will contribute to sustainable solutions.</p>	<p>Objectives will be accomplished through a series of workshops, outreach campaigns, and interviews that will identify existing mechanisms and tools which recognize national and regional differences and in so gathering contribute to the development of an inventory which identifies local and regional partnership opportunities. Such participation shall be on a voluntary and self-identification basis.</p>	

8. Describe how the project complements or avoids duplication with other national or international work:

The TEK Roster identified the need for an inventory of best practices in TEK models used across North America as the next crucial step to accomplish Council’s commitment to design mechanisms for full engagement of Indigenous peoples and local communities and their respective institutions, in the decision-making process of the CEC.

9. Describe opportunities for inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), if applicable, and how these opportunities are incorporated into the project:

The case studies/ project will focus on TEK. The project will focus on multiple considerations, including consideration of those studies/projects/mechanisms which: 1) engage Indigenous peoples and their institutions through free, prior and informed consent

and on mutually agreed-upon terms; 2) engage Indigenous women and youth; and 3) have given equal weight and inclusion of TEK. It is recognized that there are different legal regimes in each country and such frameworks will be acknowledged in determining best practices in the protection and engagement of traditional ecological knowledge.

10. Describe opportunities for youth engagement, if applicable, and how these opportunities are incorporated into the project:

Outreach focusing on youth participation will be prioritized through special training workshops and through promoting the collection of information on TEK that will serve to open a dialogue between generations. Also, the potential use of online platforms and mobile apps through the local environmental observer network will appeal to today's youth, who maintain an active social media presence and who naturally enjoy documenting their experiences.

11. List significant involvement of other levels of government, Indigenous peoples, local communities, experts, private sector, civil society and others, as applicable:

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12. Identify relevant committee members and their federal agencies in each country committed to developing this project, and implementing it, if approved:

See above.