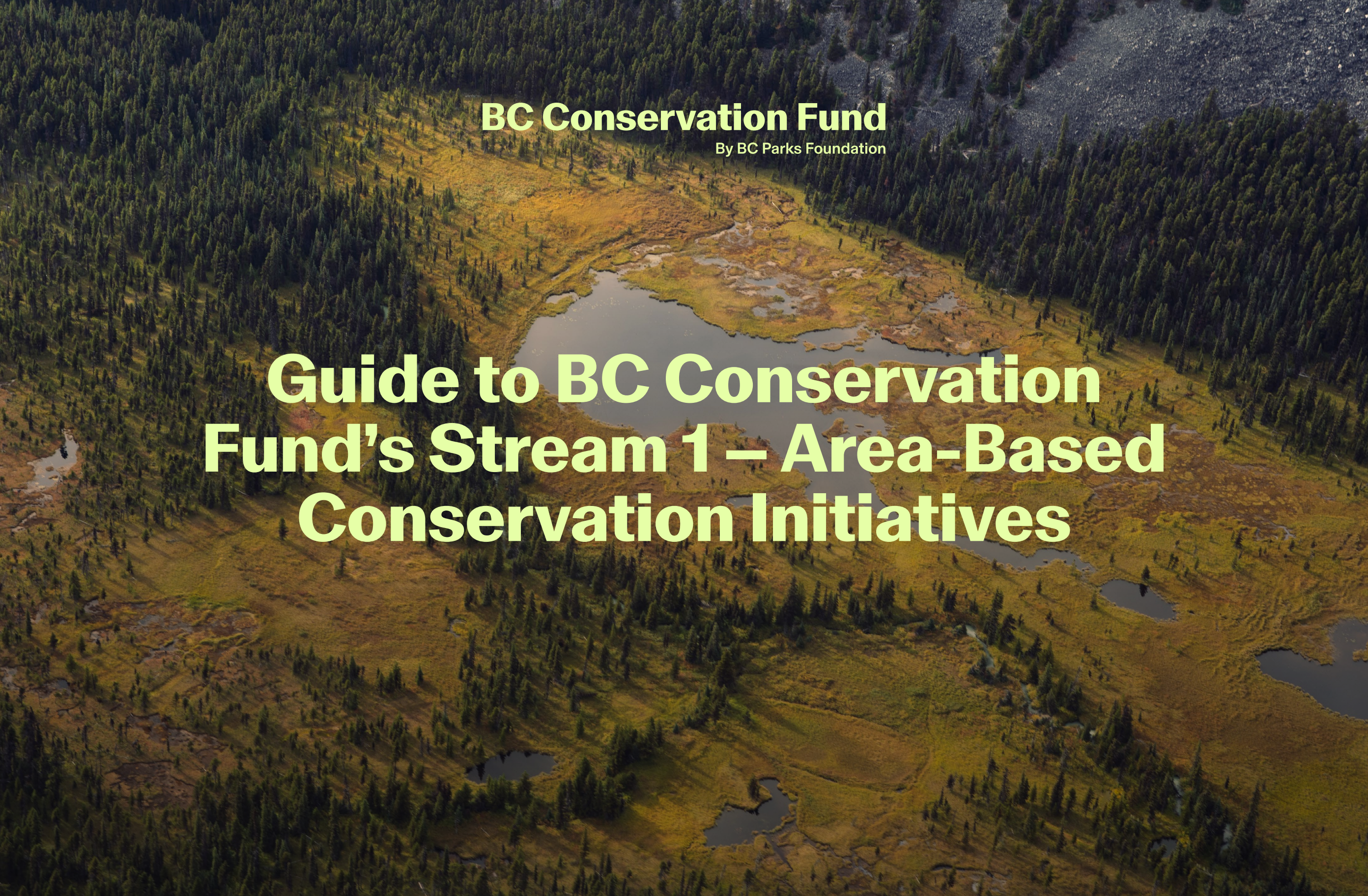


An aerial photograph of a natural landscape. The top half of the image shows a dense forest of evergreen trees. Below the forest, there is a large, irregularly shaped wetland or bog area. This area is characterized by a mix of brownish-yellow vegetation and several small, dark, reflective ponds. The bottom half of the image shows more forested land, with some smaller ponds scattered throughout. The overall scene is a mix of green, brown, and dark grey tones, suggesting a healthy but somewhat dry or late-season environment.

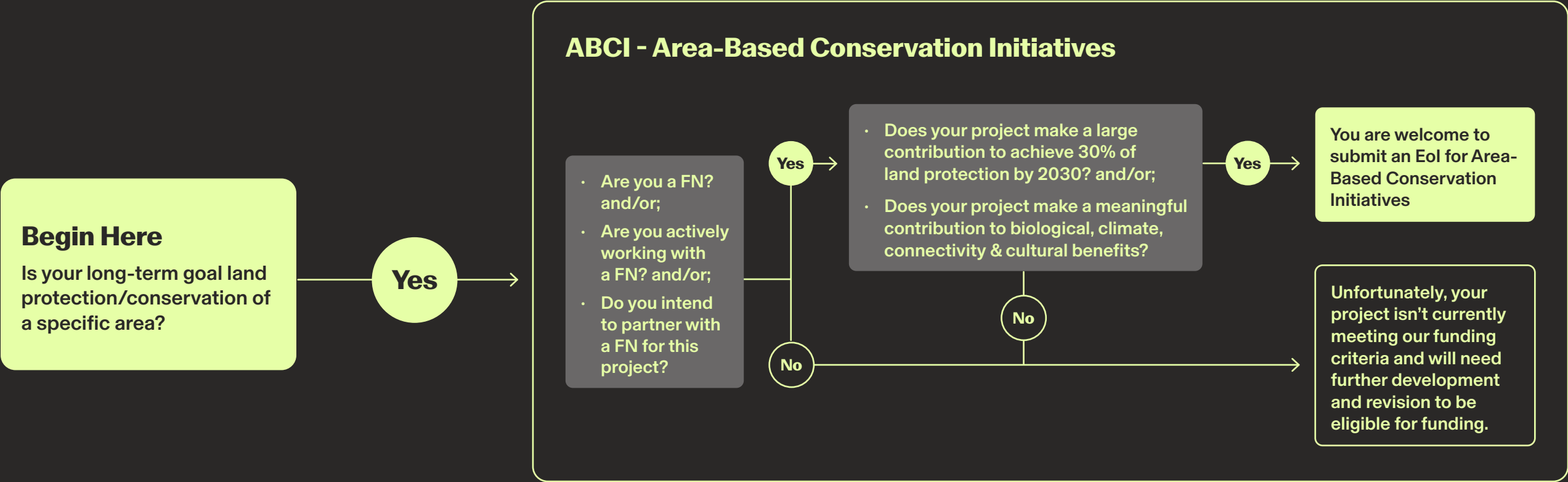
BC Conservation Fund

By BC Parks Foundation

Guide to BC Conservation Fund's Stream 1 – Area-Based Conservation Initiatives

Eol Application Process Decision Tree

This is a decision tree to help you understand if your project aligns with our Area Based Conservation funding stream. Fundamentally, an Area Based Conservation Initiative is focused on the work needed to protect/conserv



Stream 1 Funding Priorities Framework

This framework is meant to help First Nations and other organizations wishing to apply for a grant assess how their work aligns with the core interests of the BC Conservation Fund to conserve priority biodiverse areas. The Big Impacts and Desired Results outline the outcomes the Fund aims to work toward together in collaboration with First Nations and other grantees.

Area-Based Conservation Initiatives			
Funding Priorities • • • • • • • •	Phase 1 	Phase 2 	Phase 3 
	Securing a Community Mandate	Conservation Planning and Agreements	Long Term Stewardship
	<i>Community vision, mandate, capacity and partnerships to conserve biodiverse areas and enter Government to Government (G2G) planning.</i>	<i>Government to Government planning results in agreements to conserve biodiverse areas and meet international standards.</i>	<i>Stable, long-term stewardship and restoration of newly conserved biodiverse areas.</i>
Big Impact			
Desired Results	• Community readiness advanced and internal mandates in place to proceed with G2G planning, including conserving biodiverse areas. • Community vision that aims to achieve a new land stewardship approach that includes conserving priority areas and managing for ecosystem health and biodiversity. • Expertise and partnership support needed is identified. • Projects supported include areas of high ecological and biodiversity value across the province.	• New conservation designation meets international standards and contribute to 30x30 targets. • First Nation leadership in governance or co-governance in conservation is strengthened, including demonstrably advancing First Nation self-determination. • Threats to biodiverse areas and ecosystem health are removed and/or mitigated, including tenure relinquishments or transfers. • G2G plans and agreement(s) align with ecosystem health and biodiversity frameworks and foster synergy between conservation, communities, and stable economies.	• First Nations governance or co-governance of the newly conserved area. • Indigenous land ethics and stewardship approaches integrated in plans to preserve and steward the ecological integrity of new conservation areas. • Long term stable stewardship financing, employment, and implementation plan is in place or significantly advanced. • Strong understanding of the baseline status of new conservation areas and desired outcomes for ecosystem health, biodiversity, and ecosystem services in place. • Ongoing monitoring with tangible improvements to ecosystem health and biodiversity achieved over time. • Community health, culture, pride, and well-being revitalized and/or improved.

Area-Based Conservation Initiatives				
Biological, Climate & Cultural Importance & Benefits (Applicable for phase 1-3 projects)	First Nations Leadership (Applicable for phase 1-3 projects)	Contribution to 30x30 (Applicable for phase 1-3 projects)	Supported by G2G Planning and Agreement (Applicable for phase 2 projects)	Durable Long-term Stewardship (Applicable for phase 3 projects)
The Area-Based Conservation Initiative provides meaningful biological, ecological, and cultural values and benefits and outcomes that are monitored over time, including the protection of ecosystem health and biodiversity values across the Biogeoclimatic regions of BC.	The Area-Based Conservation Initiative is led by First Nations or have the involvement and consent of First Nations and/or organizations delegated by First Nation and provides opportunities to advance First Nations governance or co-governance of newly conserved and Indigenous Protected Areas.	The Area-Based Conservation Initiative advances the goals of 30x30 through durable conservation designations that meet IUCN standards for Protected Areas and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs).	The Area-Based Conservation Initiative aligns with a government-to-government agreement related to land use to guide investments. Agreements may be defined through G2G planning processes including, but not limited to, modernized land use planning, forest landscape unit planning, watershed sustainability plans or other G2G agreements.	The Area-Based Conservation Initiative supports the ongoing, stewardship of the area, including activities such as First Nations guardians' programs, to monitor and steward, restore (as required) and maintain ecosystem health and ecological integrity.
What is the significance and/or importance of the biological, ecological, and cultural values and benefits of the area under consideration?	Is the project led by or have the involvement and consent of First Nations and/or organizations delegated by First Nations? Does the initiative provide opportunities to advance First Nations governance or co-governance of newly conserved and Indigenous Protected Areas?	To what extent does the project advance the goals of 30x30 through durable conservation designations that meet IUCN standards for Protected Areas and OECMs?		Is there a plan to support the ongoing and sustainable stewardship of the area?
			How does this Area-Based Conservation initiative align with an existing or planned G2G agreement related to land use and advance First Nations governance or co-governance of newly conserved and Indigenous Protected Areas?	- What is the quality and completeness of the stewardship implementation plan for long term stewardship of the new conserved area? - How does the plan develop an understanding of the baseline status of the new conservation area and desired outcomes for ecosystem health, biodiversity, and ecosystem services? - Extent to which community health, culture, pride, and well-being will be revitalized/ improved. - Extent to which Indigenous land ethics and stewardship approaches are integrated into the area's designation and stewardship plan. - Does it inspire a culture of stewardship? - How does it improve opportunities for learning and capacity building in conservation management? - Extent to which there is sufficient long term stable stewardship capacity, financing, and employment opportunities to effectively steward the area in the long term?
- Importance of the area for addressing biodiversity loss, including ecosystem representation of the biogeoclimatic regions of BC, primary forest and priority recruitment areas that are threatened, ecological integrity, diversity, vulnerability, rarity, or special role of species. - Importance of the area for climate resilience, including micro or macro refugia, connectivity/corridors and carbon sequestration value. - Importance of the area for community well-being and cultural revitalization, including food security, culturally important species or features, heritage/ archeological sites, other cultural values (traditional practices, inter-generational education).	- Extent of First Nations leadership in the initiative. First Nations led initiatives will be higher priority. - Level of demonstrated First Nation involvement, consent, and support. - Level of First Nation community interest and readiness. (Please include reference to any Nations that support your efforts.) - Additional capacity (or gaps) to deliver the Initiative (i.e. financial, expertise and/or partnerships) - How will the relationships built benefit the First Nations and non-Indigenous communities or partners involved.	- Size of the area, noting larger areas more likely to meet and sustain desired results/outcomes. - What is the relationship of the proposed conservation area to the First Nations' traditional territory and/or surrounding land/waterscapes and ecosystems? - Durability of designation and extent to which it meets necessary <u>IUCN standards</u>.	- Level of provincial government's willingness and capacity to engage in G2G planning and agreement making. - Extent of removal/mitigation of threats to values in the area. - Extent to which conservation agreement promotes whole landscape approach to ensure biodiversity and ecosystem health in the long term. - Level of commitment to and quality of long-term stewardship implementation plan. - Scope, magnitude and potential impact of any known risks and challenges to achieving project goals and objectives.	

Stream 1 Project Assessment Criteria¹

¹*Grant applicants do not need to answer or address all considerations and questions in your application but are encouraged to respond to all that are applicable to their project. All applications will also be evaluated on the reasonableness of budget and potential future costs, quality of the project plan, the extent of support and partnerships, value for investment in terms of fair market value and the level of funding leveraged and/ or matched, and the impact on the overall amount and sustainability of the Fund.

Stream 1 Project Eligible Activities

Funding Priorities



Eligible Activities

Area-Based Conservation Initiatives

Phase 1

Securing a Community Mandate



- Community engagement.
- Data gathering, analysis and mapping to identify values and baseline status in areas of conservation interest.
- Community visioning and planning for area [in context of traditional territory].
- Cultural activities related to beginning in a good way, connecting community to areas of conservation interest, and transferring knowledge for stewardship.

Phase 2

Conservation Planning and Agreements



- Costs associated with reaching conservation agreements (facilitation, negotiation, legal).
- Data gathering, analysis, and modelling related to scenarios and impacts.
- Public and stakeholder outreach and engagement.
- Private land acquisitions.
- Tenure relinquishments.

Phase 3

Long Term Stewardship



- Restoration or re-wilding activities.
- Research, data collection and analysis, monitoring, science, and engagement initiatives relating to land conservation and stewardship.
- Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge research, documentation, application, and training supporting conservation and stewardship planning and outcomes.
- Ecosystem resilience initiatives and research to understand and address climate change impacts.
- Developing protected area management plans and agreements.
- Educating and engaging visitors in protection and conservation.
- Land guardian and stewardship programs (including related training initiatives and capital assets).
- Intergenerational knowledge and culture transfer related to conservation and stewardship.
- Traditional and local food security, medicines and healing, restorative justice, nature-based education, and cultural practices reinforcing conservation and stewardship values and principles.
- Conservation-based jobs and economic opportunities and initiatives (i.e. ecotourism, etc.).
- Investments in Indigenous governance capacity, laws, and leadership training as they relate to land conservation and stewardship.
- Note asset acquisition to support stewardship may be considered.

An aerial photograph of a vast, forested landscape. The terrain is a mix of dense evergreen forests and open, yellowish-brown wetland areas. Several small, dark ponds are scattered throughout the landscape, particularly in the central and lower right portions. The lighting suggests a low sun, creating long shadows and highlighting the textures of the forest and wetland.

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