

Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative 2021 – Call for Proposals

1. Background

Ganawenim Meshkiki ("GMI") is the Trustee of the Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative ("EGBI"), a program to support conservation projects and the advancement of scientific knowledge that will benefit species at risk ("SAR") and biodiversity in the Eastern Georgian Bay Region. Priorities for EGBI were established to address residual impacts to SAR from the construction and operation of the Henvey Inlet Wind Energy Centre. EGBI-supported projects must contribute to the survival and recovery of the following targeted species:

- Kirtland's warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*);
- Massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*);
- Eastern foxsnake (*Pantherophis gloydi*);
- Eastern hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*);
- Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*);
- Eastern musk turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*); and
- Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*).

2. Call for Proposals

GMI is seeking project proposals that contribute to the survival and recovery of the targeted snake, turtle and avian SAR species. The following is a non-exhaustive list of the types of projects that GMI is seeking to support:

- Projects that address threats to affected SAR species within their Ontario range (e.g. installation of eco-passages for reptiles on roads with high mortality);
- Acquiring or stewarding new habitat for the benefit of SAR;
- Enhancing biodiversity to support the targeted SAR on First Nations reserves in the region (e.g. restoration of degraded habitat); and
- Supporting public education programs related to SAR (e.g. anti-persecution initiatives) and preserving Indigenous SAR-related ecological knowledge.

Projects that address physical threats on the landscape will be prioritized for funding over research-based projects.

GMI may award project funding of up to \$750,000 to one or more projects in each calendar year. In addition to this call for proposals, GMI may provide direct awards to projects that fill a gap or meet a need of the EGBI mandate. Up to 5 years of consecutive funding may be available under a single approval.

3. Reporting Requirements

Project deliverables, including interim reports, should be clearly defined in the proposal. Project information and results may be made publicly available. Project specific reporting requirements will be confirmed in the final funding agreement.

4. Eligibility

Proposals may be submitted by Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, non-government organizations, researchers, communities, municipalities, individuals, landowners or students. Proposals from Indigenous organizations or communities are strongly encouraged.

5. Ineligible Expenditures

GMI will not fund the following project expenditures:

- Administrative costs above 15%;
- Costs incurred outside of the proposed project timeline, including those associated with preparing proposals;
- Costs for cancelled projects;
- Capital expenditures not directly related to the purpose of the project;
- Any taxes associated with fees or disbursements or any other costs for which the applicant is eligible for a rebate; or
- Any other costs deemed outside of the scope of this funding opportunity.

6. Priority Projects

In addition to the priorities set above in sections 1 and 2, and in federal and provincial recovery strategies for the target species, GMI has identified the following as priorities for 2020:

- Projects that address physical threats on the landscape will be prioritized for funding over research-based projects.
- Identifying priority locations and implementing actions to maintain and/or increase connectivity including assessing which roads/road segments require mortality mitigation, identifying the magnitude of the population threat (e.g. poaching, disease, persecution, etc.) and implementing corresponding actions;
- Projects that implement actions that directly reduce mortality of Eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes in (e.g. road mortality, human persecution, subsidized predation, etc.) in areas of demonstrated need in eastern Georgian Bay;
- Activities that result in increasing population size of the target species over time in eastern Georgian Bay or any populations likely to become extirpated over time in Ontario (e.g.

habitat creation/restoration using proven methods, creating or restoring connections between high quality habitat parcels, etc.);

- Habitat restoration, creation or invasive species management in areas with reduced connectivity for migration or high abundance and diversity; and
- Securing high priority areas through stewardship, land acquisition or other conservation measures.

Proposals will score highly in the evaluation process if they:

- Directly impact species recovery;
- Demonstrate that there is a need for the activity in the proposed location;
- Involve or are to be carried out on the reserves and traditional lands of Henvey Inlet First Nation or other First Nations in the Eastern Georgian Bay Region;
- Are supported by other institutions and governments, including those of First Nations;
- Incorporate and preserve Indigenous knowledge associated with the targeted species; and
- Build capacity for First Nations and Indigenous individuals and organizations to lead, coordinate and participate in SAR recovery initiatives.

7. Proposal Guidelines

Interested proponents must submit a statement of work, including:

- Project Overview and Purpose** – Provide a brief overview of the proposed project and identify the project's proposed contribution to the survival and recovery of SAR. Identify the proposed project's fit with EGBI's priorities.
- Project Team** – Identify key project team members noting the project lead and any partners or sub-consultants. Brief (maximum 2 pages each) CVs may be included in an appendix.
- Workplan** – Identify key tasks including the approach and methodology for completing each task. The roles and responsibilities of any partners or subcontractors should be noted to clarify responsibilities by task.
- Project Schedule** – Identify major milestones, reporting and deliverable deadlines.
- Budget** – Provide a time task breakdown noting staff rates/salary/stipend and estimated expenses. The budget should identify any in-kind or other funding that will be leveraged.

Proposals should be no more than 8 pages. A covering letter and appendices are excluded from the page limit. Appendices may include CVs, references, a detailed budget, or other reference material.

Proposals are due by December 11, 2020 and can be sent electronically to gmi@henveyinlet.com. Questions about the application process may also be sent to gmi@henveyinlet.com and must be received by November 27, 2020.

8. Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation table will guide GMI's review. Each criterion will be scored and weighted for a possible score of 100%.

Criteria	Score
The Project Overview and Purpose demonstrates relevance to one or more of the objectives of the EGBI and the priorities identified in the call for proposals	/25
The Project prioritizes addressing physical threats on the landscape	/10
The Project Team has the relevant technical expertise and capacity to deliver the project	/20
The Workplan is clear and schedule is achievable	/25
The proposed project contributes to capacity building for First Nations and their members	/10
The proposed budget demonstrates value for investment and where possible, leverages external or in-kind funding contributions	/5
The proposal is clearly written and follows the proposal guidelines	/5