



CEC  
CCA  
CCE

# 2023 Operational Plan Appendix I



## Table of Contents

Appendix I - Project descriptions (only those approved in 2023).....	2
Transitioning Remote Communities to Renewable Energy.....	2
Communities for Environmental Justice Network.....	7
Resilience of Indigenous Peoples Traditional Food Systems .....	7

## Appendix I - Project descriptions (only those approved in 2023)

### Transitioning Remote Communities to Renewable Energy

1. **Project duration:** 18–24 months
2. **Budget:** C\$500,000 (Including operational and administrative costs)
3. **Short statement of the issue(s) under this topic, need/gap identified, the project objective(s) and activities to address the issue, and expected outcomes and benefits/beneficiaries (max. 200 words):**

Providing access to affordable, reliable and clean energy to all is a global challenge. In North America (NA), isolated and remote communities often rely on small, mainly diesel-based, mini-grids for their electricity supply. These are inefficient, unreliable, expensive to operate and contribute to pollution that affects public health and the environment. Technology advancements in renewable energy sources and enabling technologies (e.g., storage), as well as their decentralized nature, represent available and realistic options for supplying access to low-cost and sustainable electricity in these communities. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is developing a Multi-stakeholder Platform for Transitioning Remote Communities to Renewable Energy that will enable a global discussion among countries about transitioning remote communities to clean energy.

In the framework of this initiative, the CEC will compile case studies to consolidate best practices and identify the common and contrasting elements that have allowed long-term community ownership of clean energy projects across the North American region. The project aims to identify and share common metrics and indicators, which have allowed the continuity and permanence of clean energy generation projects in diverse North American socioenvironmental landscapes and understand their local impacts. These case studies would provide models and strategies for countries around the world facing similar challenges.

4. **Select the strategic pillar(s) from the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan that the project addresses:**

- Clean Air, Land and Water
- Preventing and Reducing Pollution in the Marine Environment
- Circular Economy and Sustainable Materials Management
- Shared Ecosystems and Species
- Resilient Economies and Communities
- Effective Enforcement of Environmental Laws

5. **Describe how the project uses strategic cross-cutting approaches in its implementation: Innovative and Effective Solutions and/or Diverse and Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation (including gender and diversity effects and opportunities, and youth) (max. 100 words):**

The CEC-IRENA initiative will employ a collaborative approach, actively engaging the case study communities at all stages of project implementation. Identification and engagement of key community stakeholders will allow understanding each location's energy system choice, and the main drivers for implementation and technology adoption. Moreover, IRENA's multi-stakeholder platform will foster the exchange of experiences between countries and communities by recognizing the global nature of these challenges. Sharing each country's approaches, priorities, technologies, and challenges on the deployment of renewables in the wide range of North American landscapes will help other regional and global remote communities to build on the learned lessons and help to increase their climate resilience and sovereignty.

**6. Explain how the project can achieve more impact through trinational cooperation (max. 100 words):**

North America has demonstrated leadership in this area, with Canada, Mexico, and the United States all advancing different strategies to ensure communities have access to clean and reliable sources of electricity. Given the diverse nature of North America's communities, these established transition strategies offer valuable insights for communities across North America and would also provide models and strategies for other countries facing similar challenges.

**7. Describe how the project complements, or avoids duplication with, other national or international work (max. 100 words):**

The project aims to highlight North American case studies for transition to clean and renewable energy in IRENA's global platform, and in this way, add visibility and value to national efforts. While there are a number of different initiatives in Canada, Mexico and the United States aimed at deploying clean energy off-the-grid solutions in remote and underserved communities, this project represents the first coordinated North American effort to share knowledge and information on successful efforts, not only amongst the North American countries, but with countries around the world.

**8. Describe how the project engages traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) experts or Tribal/First Nations/Indigenous communities, if applicable (max. 100 words):**

The project will prioritize the selection of case studies in remote areas, which are often Indigenous communities.

**9. Describe how the project engages new audiences or partners, if applicable (max. 100 words):**

The project represents an opportunity to create synergies and foster partnerships and share North American experiences through IRENA's International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference (IOREC). This can translate into potential alliances and collaborations with organizations outside North American borders. On a regional scale, identifying community-based success experiences of transitioning to renewable energy, can open opportunities for community-to-community dialogue to enhance and disseminate this type of solutions and to take the next step towards achieving energy security in an inclusive, clean, and just transition.

10. Identify the designated partner agencies or organizations committed to implementing this project, as well as other organizations that could be involved, or benefit from it, including through outreach efforts, collaborations or partnerships (e.g.: federal agencies; other levels of government; academia; NGOs; the private sector; civil society; and youth):

Lead agencies or organizations	Country
Natural Resources Canada	Canada
Secretariat of Energy ( <i>Secretaría de Energía</i> )	Mexico
US Environmental Protection Agency, US EPA	United States
International Renewable Energy Agency IRENA	<i>Intergovernmental</i>

Other organizations/individuals (if applicable)	Country
Environment Canada	Canada
Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada	Canada
Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE)	Canada
Federal Electricity Commission ( <i>Comisión Federal de Electricidad</i> )	Mexico
National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change ( <i>Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático —INECC</i> )	Mexico
Department of Energy	United States
Indigenous, isolated, and remote communities across North America	Canada, Mexico and the United States

11. In the following table, describe: the project objective(s) and the activities and subtasks planned to achieve the objective(s); the corresponding outputs, expected results and how they will be measured (performance measures); baselines (if known), and targets by end of the project; and the timeline and budget.

<b>OBJECTIVE 1</b>	<b>Document, consolidate, and share best practices from across North America on transitioning community-driven experiences to cleaner, more affordable, and reliable sources of energy</b>
<b>Activity 1</b> <b>Budget</b> <b>C\$50,000</b>	Identify at least one case per country as a model of community-driven ownership and maintenance of renewable energy projects.
<b>Output(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cases for each North American country are selected.</li> <li>- Agreement on content and elements to highlight in case studies.</li> </ul>
<b>Expected results, performance measures</b>	Selected cases reflect the diverse nature of the region regarding implementation strategies, challenges, and socio-environmental conditions in North America.
<b>Baseline (current status), if known</b>	N/A

<b>Target (by project end)</b>	At least three study cases—one per country—are selected as examples community-driven renewable energy projects in North America.	
<b>Subtask 1.1</b>	Establish information and documentation needs to determine common metrics and criteria to select and showcase at least one community's experience per country, in alignment with IRENA's multi-stakeholder platform initiative and <i>Guidebook for Decentralized Renewable Energy Solutions for Isolated and Remote Communities</i> .	<b>When:</b> 2023
<b>Subtask 1.2</b>	Select and engage three North American communities (at least one per country) interested in sharing renewable energy transition experiences and lessons learned.	<b>When:</b> 2023
<b>Activity 2 Budget C\$300,000</b>	Document North American community-driven renewable energy projects and integrate them into a regional case study.	
<b>Output(s)</b>	Documented North American case studies for inclusion in IRENA's multi-stakeholder platform.	
<b>Expected results, performance measures</b>	Case studies will present the diverse experiences and acknowledge the differences and similarities of past and current challenges for the transition to renewable energies. Case studies will be shared through IRENA's multi-stakeholder platform.	
<b>Baseline (current status), if known</b>	N/A	
<b>Target (by project end)</b>	Gathered information and community contacts feed IRENA "Multi-stakeholder Platform for Transitioning Remote Communities to Renewable Energy" to foster global capacity building in the development of decentralized renewable energy projects.	
<b>Subtask 2.1</b>	Compile information and document each case, based on the contents agreed upon in subtask 1.2. Information gathering and documentation may include shared experiences from interviews and participatory workshops to feed into the final project document.	<b>When:</b> 2023–2024
<b>Subtask 2.2</b>	Develop documents and information for integration into a multi-stakeholder platform.	<b>When:</b> 2023–2024
<b>Subtask 2.3</b>	Integrate the regional case study.	<b>When:</b> 2024
<b>Activity 3 Budget C\$150,000</b>	Dissemination of results	
<b>Subtask 3.1</b>	Conduct a campaign to disseminate and promote the findings of the CEC IRENA initiative and case studies.	<b>When:</b> 2024

**12. Describe post-project expected impacts:**

Expected impact (by when: month, year)	SMART performance measure(s)
By 2025, the project will have developed a common understanding of the key elements that have enabled remote community access and ownership of clean energy projects in North America.	Criteria for applicability and replicability of remote clean energy projects. Lessons learned and overcome barriers in each community.
By 2025, the case studies will highlight the impacts of clean energy access and/or transition on each community.	Metrics for understanding environmental and social benefits of access and energy transition for each community.
By 2025, the North American shared experiences will contribute to and collaborate with IRENA's Multi-stakeholder Platform for Transitioning Remote Communities to Renewable Energy.	Participation in collaborative events or workshops. Dissemination campaign of published case studies.

## Communities for Environmental Justice Network

1. **Project duration:** From April 2023 to September 2024 (18 months)
2. **Budget (C\$):** 190,000
3. **Short statement of the issue(s) under this topic, need/gap identified; the project objective(s) and activities to address the issue; and expected outcomes and benefits/beneficiaries (max. 200 words):**

Environmental Justice (EJ) is a broad term used to describe a range of social movements and policy frameworks which address the heightened risk of environmental harm on marginalized communities. Seeking justice in this context implies an effort to increase and enable the fair and equitable treatment among the population, leading to the elimination of inequities. For the purposes of this project, the terms "environmental equity" and "environmental justice" refer both, indistinctly, to fair and equitable treatment among the population, leading to the elimination of inequities, subordination, discrimination and exclusion, recognizing and protecting cultural and gender differences, from a human rights perspective in actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change<sup>1</sup>.

The project "Communities for Environmental Justice Network" (CEJN), aims to create a network of Indigenous, local<sup>2</sup> vulnerable, disadvantaged, and/or underserved communities that have environmental justice concerns, in order to increase local capacity through the amplification and dissemination of community-based expertise, lessons learned, and guidance in the context of climate change. Through the Network, participating members will contribute to the facilitation of learning and knowledge exchange processes, in particular traditional knowledge and practices, and develop a virtual resource library with the goal of strengthening the climate adaptation, mitigation and other capacity building of Indigenous, local, and vulnerable communities in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

---

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Justice "Fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies". US EPA. *Environmental Protection Agency*, <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>. This is one government-centric definition, note that others exist from the NGO perspective. A historic, yet still highly recognized list of [17 Environmental Justice principles from NGOs may be found here](#).

<sup>2</sup> "The Parties recognize the importance of respecting, preserving and maintaining knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity" (USMCA, Article 24.15(3)). It is thus fundamental to guarantee their participation and interests in the efforts to confront climate change. For Mexico, Indigenous communities are descendants of the populations which inhabited the country's present territory when colonization commenced and which conserve their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, in whole or in part. The term "local communities" is considered to mean *ejidal* and communal agrarian settlements, or other recognized communities, in accordance with the provisions of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, that country's national legislation and international treaties.



**4. Select the strategic pillar(s) from the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan that the project addresses:**

- Clean Air, Land and Water
- Preventing and Reducing Pollution in the Marine Environment
- Circular Economy and Sustainable Materials Management
- Shared Ecosystems and Species
- Resilient Economies and Communities
- Effective Enforcement of Environmental Laws

**5. Describe how the project uses strategic, cross-cutting approaches in its implementation: Innovative and Effective Solutions and/or Diverse and Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation (including gender and diversity effects and opportunities, and youth) (max 100 words).**

This project supports strategic, cross-cutting approaches by engaging communities (local, Indigenous, and vulnerable—including low-income residents and people of color) through the development of an inclusive process of co-creation. As part of this process, community-led discussions, findings, and reflections are elevated through the promotion and facilitation of knowledge exchange, with the goal of advancing environmental justice to develop more healthy, sustainable, and climate-resilient communities.

**6. Explain how the project can achieve more impact through trinational cooperation (max 100 words):**

This project recognizes a trinational interest in and a need to support the participation of local, Indigenous and vulnerable communities in activities and strategies of adaptation to climate change and mitigation. This trinational model of network building offers an opportunity to enable greater capacity-building among communities by removing barriers to engagement, while also honoring the unique cultures, languages, and contexts each community brings to the Network. In this context, the project will benefit from a diversity of knowledge and experience that can contribute to the generation and dissemination of accessible tools and resources and that reflect different forms of knowledge and action.

**7. Describe how the project complements, or avoids duplication with, other national or international work (max 100 words):**

Through the creation of the Network, this trinational project will link local, Indigenous, and vulnerable communities that are addressing or would like to address climate change and adaptation challenges using an environmental justice framework. This Network will complement national efforts to engage local communities in knowledge exchange activities. In addition, this cross-cultural and collaborative process represents a unique approach and communications tool to help capture, facilitate, and amplify stories of local community action across the North American region (therefore enabling community capacity building beyond formal participation in the Network).

**8. Describe how the project engages traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)/Indigenous Knowledge (IK) experts or Tribal/First Nations/Indigenous communities, if applicable (max 100 words):**

This project will engage TEK and Indigenous Knowledge experts by engaging Indigenous communities with an acknowledgement of the ancestral knowledge that drives Indigenous-led forms of action in climate-related work. Across all activities, participating Indigenous communities and authorities are encouraged to participate in and meaningfully contribute to the generation of tools and resources for wide distribution. Indigenous communities that participate in the Network are invited to share insights from traditional knowledge foundations and perspectives.

**9. Describe how the project engages new audiences or partners, if applicable (max 100 words):**

This project aims to engage Network members by providing greater access to stories of resilience and collaboration in the context of environmental justice, climate adaptation, and mitigation. In addition, the project may engage, in support to Communities, a broad range of experts from academia, NGOs and international institutions, as well as other communities and organizations, whose skills can share experiences and strengthen these efforts. The project may also engage and collaborate with the EJ4Climate grantees and communities and stakeholders from other CEC projects (i.e., projects from the environmental quality unit).

**10. Identify the designated partner agencies or organizations committed to implementing this project, as well as other organizations that could be involved, or benefit from it, including through outreach efforts, collaborations or partnerships (e.g., federal agencies, other levels of government, academia, NGOs, the private sector, civil society, and youth):**

The organizations, institutions, and communities outlined below represent a mix of actors that may participate in, contribute to, or promote the Network. It should be noted, however, that the primary beneficiaries of the project will be the targeted communities for this CEJN. It is important that the designated partner agencies or organizations committed to implement this CEJN project, in and with communities, will do so in ways that are community-driven, coordinated, and collaborative; support equitable and resilient community development; provide for meaningful involvement and fair treatment of communities with environmental justice concerns; and honor the community’s vision and priorities.

Lead agencies or organizations	Country
Intact Center on Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo	Canada
<i>Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático (INECC)</i>	Mexico
Semarnat	Mexico
United States Environmental Protection Agency	United States

Other organizations/individuals (if applicable)	Country
Toronto Environmental Alliance (in collaboration with Community Resilience to Extreme Weather (CREW) (#EJ4Climate Grantee)	Canada

The Resilience Institute (in collaboration with Piikani First Nation) ( <i>#EJ4Climate Grantee</i> )	Canada
Watershed Watch Salmon Society (in collaboration with many organizations, including First Nations Emergency Planning Secretariat) ( <i>#EJ4Climate Grantee</i> )	Canada
Kikino Metis Settlement (in collaboration with FireSmart Alberta)	Canada
Canadian Poverty Institute (in collaboration with local community leaders and municipal staff)	Canada
Sahtú Renewable Resources Board ( <i>#EJ4Climate Grantee</i> )	Canada
Gitga'at First Nation ( <i>#EJ4Climate Grantee</i> )	Canada
Zapotec communities of Ocotlán and Zimatlán, Central Valleys of Oaxaca - Coordinator of Peoples United for the Care and Defense of Water (COPUDA)	Mexico
Indigenous community Nuevo San Juan Parangaricutiro	Mexico
Ejido Mesa de Andrade	Mexico
United Nahuatl Communities in Defense of Matlalcuéyatl	Mexico
Communities of the northeastern highlands of Puebla, municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso, Puebla - Cooperative "TosepanTitataniske" ("Unidos Venceremos")	Mexico
Ejido Úrsulo Galván, Baja California, is a local community that carries out conservation and restoration work in mangroves.	Mexico
Amatlan community of Quetzalcoatl, Tepoztlán, Morelos; is an indigenous community that manages forest resources, due to its location is considered a community vulnerable to climate change.	Mexico
Amealco and Humilpan, are indigenous communities that work in their community with forest harvesting, ecotourism, soil recovery (earthworms, among others), water use, in a community vulnerable to climate change.	Mexico
Tenkualli Cooperative, located in Chicontepepec, Veracruz; they carry out a territorial management work in a private protected natural area.	Mexico
Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition ( <i>#EJ4Climate Grantee</i> )	United States
Native Village of Eyak ( <i>#EJ4Climate Grantee</i> )	United States
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance ( <i>#EJ4Climate Grantee</i> )	United States
Conservation Trust for North Carolina ( <i>#EJ4Climate Grantee</i> )	United States
Common Ground Relief ( <i>#EJ4Climate Grantee</i> )	United States

**11. In the following table, describe the project objective(s) and the activities and subtasks planned to achieve the objective(s); the corresponding outputs, expected results, and how they will be measured (performance measures); baselines (if known) and targets by end of the project; and the timeline and budget:**

<b>OBJECTIVE 1</b>	Identify and engage leading environmental justice (EJ) communities in North America and create new links between them.
--------------------	--

<b>Activity 1</b>	Select communities for inclusion in the CEJN and engage them as founding members of the Network.	
<b>Budget C\$50, 000</b>		
<b>Output(s)</b>	Leading communities for EJ in North America have been identified and engaged and have accepted the invitation to be recognized as founding members of the Network.	
<b>Expected results, performance measures</b>	Communities have formally consented to participate in the Network as founding members and actively participate in the trinational workshop and are engaged in other related activities (see activities 2 and 3).	
<b>Baseline (current status), if known</b>	N/A	
<b>Target (by project end)</b>	A strong Network of communities has been identified that is prepared to exchange best practices and carry out Network activities to strengthen their capacity to address climate change adaptation and mitigation challenges, using an environmental justice framework.	
<b>Subtask 1.1</b>	Identify communities based on their experiences implementing and seeking out environmental justice/equity in their cultural and local contexts to address climate change adaptation and mitigation challenges.	<b>When:</b> Spring 2023
<b>Subtask 1.2</b>	Select consultant to organize and facilitate trinational workshop and develop associated materials (methodology for the workshop, presentations, reports, recommendations, etc.).	<b>When:</b> Spring 2023
<b>Subtask 1.3</b>	Design trinational workshop and coordinate the participation and engagement of key communities (see objective 2).	<b>When:</b> Spring 2023/ Summer 2023
<b>OBJECTIVE 2</b>	Identify and amplify effective strategies and methods developed by the Network founding members through the exchange of knowledge and practices, and strengthen their capacity to address climate change adaptation and mitigation challenges, using community-defined environmental justice frameworks.	
<b>Activity 2</b> <b>Budget C\$70, 000</b>	Host a trinational workshop to identify and disseminate stories, strategies, and lessons learned, as well as inform the development of knowledge-sharing tools from culturally and contextually diverse North American communities (founding members).	
<b>Output(s)</b>	A trinational workshop report and action plan that can be easily accessed by target communities (founding members plus other communities—tbd) and can support the application of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions through an environmental justice lens.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trinational workshop report will contain information related to the identification of knowledge, practices, and strategies, as well as descriptions of lessons exchanged and learned from the communities (founding members).</li> <li>○ Action plan will include the participants' recommendations regarding target communities (founding members plus additional communities—tbd) and culturally appropriate/relevant tools for knowledge-sharing, as well as methods for its dissemination.</li> </ul>	
<b>Expected results, performance measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A strong Network of environmental justice communities that has actively participated in trinational workshop and identified culturally and contextually relevant strategies, methods and tools for addressing climate adaptation and mitigation in North America.</li> </ul>	
<b>Baseline (current status), if known</b>	N/A	
<b>Target (by project end)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The identification and development of informed tools and resources</li> <li>● A preliminary database of community-led environmental justice approaches to climate mitigation and adaptation has been developed and informed the development of knowledge exchange tools</li> <li>● Action plan, including the participants' recommendations regarding target communities, culturally appropriate tools for knowledge-sharing, and methods for its dissemination.</li> </ul>	
<b>Subtask 2.1</b>	Conduct trinational workshop	<b>When:</b> Fall 2023
<b>Subtask 2.2</b>	Based on recommendations outlined in the action plan, develop and finalize a trinational workshop report which helps guide activities and deliverables in objective 3 (e.g., directives related to the creation of resource library.)	<b>When:</b> Fall 2023/Winter 2024
<b>OBJECTIVE 3</b>	Increase greater community access to resources, and culturally relevant information about community-led actions to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects based on environmental justice frameworks.	
<b>Activity 3</b>	Develop and disseminate CEJN toolkit and knowledge exchange tools and culturally relevant information.	
<b>Budget C\$70, 000</b>		
<b>Output(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community Environmental Justice Network (CEJN) Toolkit</li> <li>● Case studies and stories from selected communities</li> </ul>	
<b>Expected results, performance measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A recognizable and easily distributable information exchange tool that can be easily accessed online and in print and is available in English, French, and Spanish, which includes case studies and stories from selected communities (founding members)</li> </ul>	

<b>Baseline (current status), if known</b>	CEJN trilateral workshop report and action plan	
<b>Target (by project end)</b>	North American communities (founding members plus additional communities) will have direct access to culturally relevant mitigation and adaptation resources (based on a community-defined EJ framework) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CEJN toolkit serves as a reference document for North American communities.</li> <li>• The CEJN information exchange tool is made public and is easily accessible.</li> <li>• An action plan to maintain, make self sustain, and strengthen the Network and information exchange opportunities is outlined.</li> </ul>	
<b>Subtask 3.1</b>	Selection of consultant to design toolkit and information exchange tool (informed by discussions during trilateral workshop).	<b>When:</b> Fall 2023/Winter 2024
<b>Subtask 3.2</b>	Compile information for use within toolkit/information exchange platform and design toolkit (based on the advice from the consultant)	<b>When:</b> Winter 2024 to Fall 2024
<b>Subtask 3.3</b>	Materials to be printed and distributed as necessary.	<b>When:</b> Fall 2024

**12. Describe post-project expected impacts:**

<b>Expected impact (by when: month, year)</b>	<b>SMART performance measure(s)</b>
By March 2025, a self-sustaining and active Network of leading and culturally diverse environmental justice communities will manage and update the toolkit, information exchange tool, and other associated materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of continued diversification of Network leadership, partnership, content, and engagement</li> </ul>
By March 2025, identified EJ strategies and methodologies will serve as reference points and building blocks for community action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that toolkit has been implemented by communities outside of the founding membership</li> <li>• Evidence that the virtual toolkit and information exchange platform are being consulted</li> </ul>

## Resilience of Indigenous Peoples Traditional Food Systems

1. **Project duration: 24 months**
2. **Two-year budget (C\$): C\$300,000**
3. **Short statement of the issue(s) under this topic, need/gap identified; the project objective(s) and activities to address the issue; and expected outcomes and benefits/beneficiaries:**

Food security is one of the major global challenges facing humanity today. The climate crisis and the depletion of natural resources have put an increased strain on food production. Therefore, promoting and ensuring diverse and sustainable food systems that contribute to human well-being and avoid the deterioration of nature are now more than ever top priorities. The food systems of Indigenous Peoples have existed for thousands of years and are recognized for being sustainable and respectful of nature. While Indigenous peoples have demonstrated resilience and leadership in maintaining their traditional food systems, most North American Indigenous communities face traditional food system shortages and crises. Through the activities below, the CEC will support the greater inclusion of Indigenous leadership and Indigenous Knowledge, often referred to as Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), in activities and decisions affecting Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems.

The main objectives of this initiative will be to:

- 1) Better understand the current state of traditional food systems of Indigenous Peoples in North America;
- 2) Support the revitalization of networks and relationships among Indigenous Peoples across North America to foster knowledge exchange and partnerships; and
- 3) Raise awareness and promote the respect of Indigenous resiliency and leadership in policies, activities, and decisions affecting Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems.

The project's activities will include:

- a) A research report on the state of Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems across North America, including an overview of these systems, examples, challenges, and opportunities (note: the report will not be exhaustive but will provide a snapshot that includes proportional geographic representation in all three countries);
- b) An Indigenous-led Forum on North American Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems; and
- c) A final project report, with a summary of activities, findings, and recommendations, including possible areas of work for the CEC on the integration of Indigenous Knowledge (IK), Indigenous perspectives, and food system resiliency.

**4. Select the strategic pillar(s) from the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan that the project addresses:**

- Clean air, water, and soil
- Pollution prevention and abatement in the marine environment
- Circular economy and sustainable materials management
- Shared ecosystems and species
- Resilient economies and communities
- Effective enforcement of environmental legislation

**5. Describe how the project uses strategic cross-cutting approaches in its implementation: Innovative and effective solutions and/or diverse and inclusive stakeholder engagement and public participation (including gender and diversity effects and opportunities, and youth):**

This project will focus not only on the identification of the resilient strategies and approaches taken by Indigenous peoples to maintain and advance their traditional food systems, but will take an innovative approach in fostering dialogue, relationships, and potential collaboration among Indigenous peoples in the three countries. These efforts will lead to strengthened and unified Indigenous voices that can improve the integration of IK into environmental activities and decisions.

The North American Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Food Systems Forum will allow for the exchange of experiences and knowledge related to traditional food systems and the appropriate inclusion and protection of IK, that encourages the participation of women, youth, children and elders. In particular, since many Indigenous cultures and communities have gender-specific roles and responsibilities related to land, water, ice, wildlife, and food, a gender-based approach that distinguishes and emphasizes the important role of women and elders in traditional food systems will be incorporated into the Forum.

**6. Explain how the project can achieve more impact through trinational cooperation:**

Based on the secondary research project and analysis of the current state of Indigenous Peoples traditional food systems in North America, the research will assist the three countries in identifying potential opportunities for shifts in policy and for collaboration. Under a trilateral ethical framework of reciprocity and respect, and with the participation of different Indigenous communities and other key actors, the Forum will provide a space for dialogue to promote knowledge regarding Indigenous food systems and allowing participants the opportunity to exchange their knowledge, experiences, and strategies for the recovery and preservation of their IK.

**7. Describe how the project complements, or avoids duplication with, other national or international work:**

Although there is information on the resilience of traditional food systems worldwide, there are few reports with a trilateral focus. Indigenous peoples across North America historically had trading routes and relations with other Indigenous peoples that were not limited to the current boundaries of Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Most initiatives, forums, or gatherings on this topic are domestic in scope, which limits the ability to foster transboundary dialogue and collaboration. This project provides an opportunity for Indigenous peoples across North America to learn from one another and revitalize historic transboundary connections.



**8. Describe how the project engages Indigenous Knowledge (IK) experts or Indigenous Peoples and communities, if applicable:**

The project will be driven by the priorities, interests, rights, leadership, and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples of North America. Indigenous cultures, languages, and ceremony will be featured throughout the project, including the Forum. Through the North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems Forum, ideas and best practices will be generated and promoted to support and promote the resilience of Indigenous traditional food systems, which will generate a better appreciation of Indigenous perspectives for environmental management in North America.

**9. Describe how the project engages new audiences or partners, if applicable:**

The project, and specifically the Forum, will help create a broader platform for dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and other key actors, including nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, government, and research agencies, around the resilience of Indigenous food systems, while recognizing their needs and aspirations. In this initiative, women will play a crucial role in food systems, as they are often the ones who learn traditional practices and pass the knowledge along. The CEC can support the implementation of outreach activities with women and girls.

The project, including the Forum, will also engage and examine economic Indigenous businesses (i.e., Indigenous agricultural and farming industries) that focus on traditional food systems. These partners could raise awareness of opportunities for trade and the appropriate inclusion of IK in trilateral trade affecting Indigenous traditional food systems.

**10. Identify the designated partner agencies or organizations committed to implementing this project, as well as other organizations that could be involved or benefit from it, including through outreach efforts, collaborations or partnerships (e.g., federal agencies, other levels of government, academia, NGOs, the private sector, civil society, and youth):**

Lead agencies or organizations	Country
Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat)	Mexico
National Institute for Indigenous Peoples (INPI)	Mexico

Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development	Mexico
National Water Commission (Conagua)	Mexico
Undersecretary of Food Self-Sufficiency, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Mexico
National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research (INIFAP)	Mexico
Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	United States
Natural Resources Canada	Canada

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	Canada

Other potential organizations or individuals, such as:	Country
Research centers and universities on Indigenous Peoples and food sovereignty [Ecosur, Cinvestav]	Canada, Mexico, United States
NGOs	Canada, Mexico, United States
Provincial and state agencies and organizations	Canada, Mexico, United States
Private sector representatives (to be determined)	Canada, Mexico, United States
Assembly of First Nations	Canada
Métis National Council	Canada
National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change ( <i>Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático—INECC, Semarnat</i> )	Mexico
Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada	Canada
The Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE), McGill University	Canada
Center for Indigenous and Environmental Studies	Canada

11. In the following table, describe: the project objective(s) and the activities and subtasks planned to achieve the objective(s); the corresponding outputs, expected results and how they will be measured (performance measures); baselines (if known), and targets by end of the project; and the timeline and budget:

<b>OBJECTIVE 1</b>	<b>Document the state of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems in North America, including examples of challenges currently experienced by Indigenous Peoples with respect to their traditional food systems.</b>
<b>Activity 1</b> <b>Budget</b> <b>\$60,000</b>	Compile existing literature regarding the use of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) in Indigenous Peoples' food systems throughout North America.

<b>Output(s)</b>	Report on Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems: Secondary research will be conducted highlighting the importance of Indigenous traditional food systems across North America, their current states, plans and approaches for maintaining the food systems, identifying challenges, opportunities, and successful examples.	
<b>Expected results, performance measures</b>	Recommendations on how IK, wisdom, and practices of Indigenous Peoples can be applied to food processes in North America. This report will also help define the main topics to be addressed during the Indigenous Forum.	
<b>Baseline (current status), if known</b>	Indigenous Peoples, their knowledge, wisdom, and practices, provide evidence on the importance of resilient food systems and how they may help to preserve biodiversity, ecosystems, linguistic diversity, and traditions. However, we are lacking a general overview of the state of Indigenous traditional food systems in North America.	
<b>Target</b>	An analysis that illustrates the current state of traditional Indigenous food systems in North America.  Recommendations for the North American Indigenous Peoples Traditional Food Systems Forum's participants, objectives and design.	
<b>Subtask 1.1</b>	Collect and document existing information that is developed by or in partnership with Indigenous Peoples regarding traditional food systems of Indigenous Peoples in the three North American countries.	<b>Estimated period:</b> January–October 2024
<b>OBJECTIVE 2</b>	<b>Create a space for dialogue to promote traditional Indigenous practices, and the sharing of traditional knowledge on food systems through a Forum on North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems.</b>	
<b>Activity 2 Budget \$210,000</b>	Organization of the North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems Forum.	
<b>Output(s)</b>	An Indigenous partner to host the Forum will be sought in one of the three countries. The public Forum will serve as a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences on Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems in North America.	
<b>Expected results, performance measures</b>	Participation of Indigenous communities and governments, nongovernmental organizations, academia, national and subnational government representatives, and other key actors in the Forum.	

<b>Baseline (current status), if known</b>	N/A	
<b>Target</b>	By creating a platform for dialogue, the Forum will disseminate efforts to conserve and revitalize traditional Indigenous food systems. It will provide an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to share their knowledge, experiences, and best practices, and to learn from each other. This exchange of knowledge can lead to the development of innovative solutions and strategies to address the challenges facing Indigenous food systems in the region.	
<b>Subtask 2.1</b>	Open call to Indigenous communities and representatives to participate in the Forum and share their experiences.	<b>Estimated period:</b> October–December 2024
<b>Subtask 2.2</b>	Selection of topics of interest	<b>Estimated period:</b> January–February 2025
<b>Subtask 2.3</b>	Organization of the Forum	<b>Estimated period:</b> Mid-late October 2025
<b>OBJECTIVE 3</b>	<b>Assess potential opportunities to integrate TEK, Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and traditional food practices in CEC operations and across North America</b>	
<b>Activity 3 Budget \$30,000</b>	Compile, analyze information and prepare a final report describing the outcomes and findings obtained from the previous activities, including experiences shared during the Forum.	
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>The report will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The analysis of Activity 1 and Activity 2.</li> <li>- Specific recommendations to the CEC on how to become more involved in Traditional Ecological Knowledge and issues pertaining to traditional Indigenous food systems</li> </ul>	
<b>Expected results and performance indicators</b>	The final report will provide next steps for applying Indigenous perspectives and participation in relation to food systems and their implementation in the three countries, including challenges and opportunities, and help inform future CEC initiatives.	
<b>Baseline (current status), if known</b>	N/A	
<b>Target</b>	To have a clearer picture on how to integrate Indigenous approaches and IK in the projects and activities of the organization.	

<b>Subtask 3.1</b>	Disseminate information on the work carried out by participating Indigenous communities—with prior authorization/permissions, including the final report, throughout the CEC’s communication platforms.	<b>Estimated period:</b> November-December 2025
--------------------	---	---

**12. Describe post-project expected impacts:**

<b>Expected impact (by when: month, year)</b>	<b>SMART performance measure(s)</b>
The project will ensure a better understanding of the key elements that have enabled or limited the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and practices related to food systems, in North American political and scientific spheres.	<p>Number of publications that have used Indigenous approaches and perspectives.</p> <p>Number of times Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and IK have been used as part of CEC activities and policy recommendations.</p>
<p>The Forum will highlight Indigenous food systems perspectives in relation to their traditional knowledge in the North American region.</p> <p>The Forum will be a gathering of Indigenous peoples across North America to showcase and celebrate their resiliency in protecting or revitalizing their traditional food systems and foster collaborative relationships between Indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>Number of participating North American Indigenous groups in the Forum.</p> <p>Number of partnerships, networking or collaboration opportunities stemming from the Forum.</p>
<p>By the end of 2024, shared experiences will contribute to a multi-stakeholder project platform for the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge.</p> <p>Recommendations to Indigenous peoples, national and subnational government governments, academia, industry, and stakeholders will be provided to promote greater inclusion of Indigenous voices and IK in environmental activities and decisions.</p>	<p>Lessons learned, challenges, and ways to overcome barriers for the integration of Indigenous knowledge, wisdom, and practices are put into action.</p> <p>Statistics and traffic reports from the TEKEG online portal.</p> <p>Outreach campaigns are implemented, with emphasis placed on women and girls.</p> <p>Strategic considerations and recommendations to promote the respect of Indigenous resiliency and leadership in CEC and national and subnational government policies, activities, and decisions affecting Indigenous Peoples’ traditional food systems.</p> <p>Implementation plans for the forthcoming CEC Indigenous Strategy</p>

	and Protocol will include reporting requirements for CEC activities and policy recommendations.
--	---