

Request for Proposal

Project Title: Impacts of Invasive Species on Indigenous Values and Culturally Important Species

Program Partners: BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Invasive Species Council of BC (Charity Registration # 856131578RR0001)

Proposal Opening Date: July 25, 2023

Delivery of Proposals: Proposals must be received by 4:30 pm PST on August 21, 2023. Proposals must be in English and must be submitted via email to nwong@bcinvasives.ca. Proposals must identify the Proponent, provide contact details and include the proponent signature or that of an authorized representative (if applicable).

PROPONENT NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

CONTACT: Enquiries related to this RFP, including any requests for information or clarification may only be directed in writing to the following person who will respond within two business days and/or before the bid closing deadline.

Nicholas Wong

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1. Summary of the Opportunity

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals, or micro-organisms found outside their native locations that can negatively impact the environment, people (including human health) and the economy. They can spread quickly, compete for resources, prey upon native species, impact industry, dominate natural and managed areas, and alter ecosystem structure and functions.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, invasive species are one of the five main drivers of biodiversity loss along with changing use of sea and land, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, and pollution. Invasive species can also have significant impacts on Indigenous communities by impacting infrastructure, health and cultural practices, including traditional economies and harvesting, especially when culturally important species are affected. Many of the impacted plants and animals have special meanings and important cultural, spiritual and traditional significance. They are also important sources of wild foods.

The Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) has been working with Indigenous communities for many years to recognize their leadership and role in reducing the impacts of invasive species to their lands and waters. There are some important information gaps that need to be filled regarding how culturally important species – including species at risk – are directly or indirectly impacted by invasive species.

Indigenous-led research is the key to improving existing knowledge on the impacts of invasive species on native biodiversity and on culturally important species in particular. This research can help address priority threats and lead to increasing local stewardship planning and activities. The intent of this research is to determine how and to what extent various invasive species presently impact or could potentially impact species that have cultural importance to Indigenous communities throughout BC. ISCBC aims to contract a proponent(s) to complete this work.

2. Overview

Invasive Species Council of BC

ISCBC is a registered charity and non-profit society that helps coordinate and unite a wide variety of concerned stakeholders in the struggle against invasive species in BC. The ISCBC's mission is to take action to build healthy landscapes, including habitats and communities, through education and the adoption of responsible practices to prevent the spread of invasive species. Over the past 15 years, ISCBC has worked with a range of key partners across BC to inform all aspects of invasive species management and to recognize and reduce the negative effects of invasive species. The ISCBC will bring together a range of expert advisors who will help guide the research process and review the final product.

3. Scope

ISCBC is seeking an individual or organization in academia, research or consulting to conduct a research project, possibly in partnership with an MSc to determine invasive species' impacts on Indigenous values. The study should include a review of the scientific literature and include traditional ecological knowledge. It will also include directly contacting five or more Indigenous communities to explore and document specific invasive species impacts on culturally appropriate species and on traditional values and practices. The output will include a detailed report summarizing the impacts of invasive species on Indigenous values in British Columbia. It

will also include case studies from community work. The project will be awarded to a qualified and responsible individual or firm based on their background, expertise, value and professional capability.

4. Key Deliverables will include:

- » Confirm if and how specific invasive species are directly impacting Indigenous values.
- » Confirm a sub-selection of at least ten plant and animal species with culturally important values to Indigenous communities in BC. The selected species should be relevant to Indigenous communities to reflect a range of communities and regions across BC.
- » Complete a thorough literature review including both scientific and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) research on the documented and potential impacts invasive species have had/could have on species with culturally significant values to Indigenous communities in BC.
- » Identify specific case studies that illustrate specific invasive species impacts and/or potential impacts on Indigenous community values, traditional and/ or medicinal practices and traditionally important species – a minimum of five case studies are expected. Case studies should reflect diverse Indigenous communities across BC.
- » Summarize findings concisely including demonstrating clear linkages to impacts.
- » Identify where any additional important information gaps exist.
- » Communicate with the technical research advisory team and ISCBC's Indigenous Invasive Species Network as required, at least twice during the duration of the contract.
- » Submit a draft to the technical research advisors and complete updates or revisions based on their feedback.
- » Attend and present (in poster/plenary format) interim and final research findings at the ISCBC's annual Forums, held each year in February/March in BC's Lower Mainland. It is anticipated that the projects' interim approach and results would be featured at the 2024 ISCBC Research Forum, with the final results being presented at the 2025 ISCBC Annual Forum and AGM.
- » Produce a final document that includes an executive summary suitable for general public review.
- » Consider submission for peer review and publication in appropriate relevant journal.

5. Proponent Requirements

Capabilities and Relevant Experience

- » The successful applicant or organization will have expertise or lived experience within the Biological Sciences, Indigenous Studies, Environmental Science, Geography, Resource and Environmental Management disciplines, or other relevant disciplines.

- » The successful applicant or organization will have experience in completing research projects including experience working with Indigenous communities using techniques that are respectful and ensure that no cultural appropriation occurs. Applicants will be required to provide examples of past work.
- » Successful applicants will have excellent writing and research skills and be required to produce examples of their writing for review.
- » Successful applicants will ideally have submitted and/or produced peer-reviewed articles.
- » Please use the prompts in the above section as a basis to describe how the proponent and/or proponent's organization has the relevant experience and skill to address this opportunity. Describe your background and experience, list other similar projects you have completed, and any key areas of expertise.

6. References

References are mandatory. Please provide a minimum of two references (i.e., names and contact information) of individuals who can verify the quality of work provided specific to the relevant experience of the Proponent and of any subcontractors named in the proposal.

7. Anticipated Timeline

1. Bidding Opens: July 25, 2023
2. Bidding Closing Deadline: August 21, 2023 **If you cannot make this date and require an extension, please let us know*
3. Project Offer Date: September 1, 2023
4. Meetings with Research Advisors: TBD
5. First Draft Deadline: Please provide an anticipated date
6. Research Completion Date: Please provide an anticipated date
7. Final project Completion Date: September 24, 2024

8. Budget

The project's target budget is \$25,000. The proposal should be inclusive of all costs, such as research personnel, equipment, data collection, analysis, travel expenses, and report preparation. If you would like to propose a phased budget based on specific deliverables for \$25,000 or more, we would be willing to consider this.

9. Proposal Format

- » Proponents should ensure that they fully respond to all requirements in the RFP to ensure your proposal receives full consideration.
- » A signed cover page with the proponent contact information.
- » Proposal to be a maximum of two to three pages, not including the cover page.
- » Overall approach to the project and summary of the proponents' understanding of key features of the proposal.

- » A brief description of the proponent's experience and capabilities and what makes them suitable for the opportunity.
- » Budget
- » References

10. Proposal Review

Proposals will be awarded scoring on the following criteria:

- » Proponent's experience and capabilities - 30%
- » Proponent's overall approach and summary of understanding of the project - 50%
- » Budget - 20%