

# Ganawenim Meshkiki

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## The Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative – 2020 Call for Proposals

### 1. Background

Ganawenim Meshkiki ("**GMI**") is the Trustee of the Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative ("**EGBI**"), a program of funding to support conservation projects and environmental knowledge to benefit species at risk ("**SAR**") and biodiversity in the Eastern Georgian Bay Region. Priorities for EGBI were established to address potential and residual impacts of the Henvey Inlet Wind Energy Centre.

Priorities for EGBI funding are based on the predicted residual impacts on certain species through the Henvey Inlet Wind Energy Centre environmental assessment process. 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 odouratus*); 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 in the region (e.g. installation of ecopassages for reptiles on roads with high mortality);
- Supporting public education programs related to SAR (e.g. anti-persecution initiatives) and preserving Indigenous SAR-related ecological knowledge;
- Acquiring or stewarding new habitat for the benefit of SAR; and/or,
- Enhancing biodiversity to support the targeted SAR on First Nations reserves in the region.

Projects that address physical threats on the landscape will be prioritized ahead of 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 particular 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:

- Costs incurred outside of the proposed project timeline, including those associated with preparing proposals;
- Costs for cancelled projects;
- 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:

- Activities that directly reduce mortality of Eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes in and around Henvey Inlet First Nation land (e.g. road mortality, human persecution, subsidized predation, etc.);
- Activities that result in increasing population size of the target species over time in and around Henvey Inlet First Nation land or any populations likely to become extirpated over time in Ontario (e.g. habitat creation/restoration using proven methods, etc.);
- Continuation of long-term population monitoring for target species in and around Henvey Inlet First Nation;
- Development of new best management practices document for threat mitigation of target species or training to effectively use existing guidance;
- Assessment of habitat connectivity throughout the Eastern Georgian Bay region;

- Identifying priority locations for maintaining and/or increasing connectivity;
- Securing high priority areas through stewardship, land acquisition or other conservation measures; and/or
- Conducting targeted species inventories in priority areas with high quality habitat but no records within the past 40 years.
- Habitat restoration, creation or invasive species management in areas with reduced connectivity for migration or high abundance and diversity;
- Outreach targeted to reducing persecution, predation and poaching of reptiles;
- Research that informs more effective threat reduction or fills critical knowledge gaps (e.g. effectiveness of novel habitat improvement techniques, road mitigation methods, species recovery after a fire, effect of Phragmites or other invasive species on target species, turtle aestivation, habitat use of juvenile reptiles, etc.); and/or
- Research that assesses the impacts of range-wide effects (e.g. climate change, human persecution, disease, forest management, etc.).

Proposals will score highly in the 2020 evaluation process if they:

- Directly impact species recovery;
- 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:

- A) 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.
- B) Project Team** – Identify key project team members noting the project lead and any partners or subconsultants. Brief (maximum 2 pages each) CVs may be included in an appendix.
- C) 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.
- D) Project Schedule** – Identify major milestones, reporting and deliverable deadlines.

- E) **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, 12-point font, single spaced and double sided. 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 October 31, 2019 and can be sent via email to [gmi@henveyinlet.com](mailto:gmi@henveyinlet.com). Questions about the application process may also be sent to [gmi@henveyinlet.com](mailto:gmi@henveyinlet.com) and must be received by October 11, 2019.

## 8. Evaluation Criteria

GMI decision-making is supported by a Scientific and Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Panel (SIKAP), which serves to provide independent advice on project proposals. SIKAP assists GMI in the design of RFP's and in evaluating proposals received. The following evaluation table will guide SIKAP's review. Each criterion will be scored and weighted for a possible score of 100%.

Criteria	Score	Weighting
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	/10	25%
The Project Team has the relevant technical expertise and capacity to deliver the project	/10	20%
The Workplan is clear and schedule is achievable	/10	30%
The proposed project contributes to capacity building for First Nations and their members	/10	10%
The proposed budget demonstrates value for investment and where possible, leverages external or in-kind funding contributions	/10	10%
The proposal is clearly written and follows the proposal guidelines	/10	5%