

1. Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN)

An ACAN is a public notice indicating to the supplier community that a department or agency intends to award a contract for goods, services or construction to a pre-identified supplier, thereby allowing other suppliers to signal their interest in bidding, by submitting a statement of capabilities. If no supplier submits a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, on or before the closing date stated in the ACAN, the contracting officer may then proceed with the award to the pre-identified supplier.

2. Definition of the requirement

The Department of Environment Canada has a requirement to develop indicators for measuring freshwater connectivity from the perspective of protected areas that could be used consistently throughout Canada and potentially globally.

3. Scope of Work

The work will involve the following:

Work Plan

The contractor must submit a work plan by February 1st, 2020, in electronic format, outlining the elements of the work to be done with associated timelines. The plan must include sufficient details to facilitate quarterly progress reports.

Progress reports

The Contractor must submit short quarterly reports, in electronic format, on the progress of the Work, to the Technical Authority, that indicates whether or not the project is on schedule, within budget, and free of any areas of concern in which the assistance or guidance of Canada may be required. The reports are expected to be brief, yet sufficiently detailed to enable the Technical Authority to evaluate the progress of the Work, containing as a minimum:

- (i) A description of the progress of each task and of the Work as a whole during the period of the report. Sufficient sketches, diagrams, photographs, etc., must be included, if necessary, to describe the progress accomplished.
- (ii) An explanation of any variation from the work plan.

Webinar

The contractor must present a webinar to the Connectivity Working Group (CWG) to describe a global methodology to assess aquatic connectivity in river networks in November 2019 (to be organized by the CWG).

Application of Upland Protection Metric to at least Three Regions

The contractor must apply the Upland Protection metric (*sensu* Abell et al. 2017) and assess the amount of upland protection from the perspective of protected areas within at least three case study regions in Canada.

Modify and Apply Connectivity Status Index to at least Three Regions

The contractor must modify the Connectivity Status Index (*sensu* Grill et al. 2019) to measure freshwater connectivity from the perspective of protected areas and apply the modified index to all protected areas within three case study regions in Canada.

Interim Report

The contractor must provide an interim report and PowerPoint presentation, describing the methodology used and results of the applications of the Upland Protection metric and modified Connectivity Status Indicator to protected areas in three case study regions by March 15th, 2020.

Draft and Final Report

The Contractor must submit a draft of the final report in electronic format to the Technical Authority for approval by September 20th, 2020.

The Contractor must provide the final report by December 1st; the report must include:

- A description of the methodology sufficiently detailed so that it can be repeated,
- A description of the results of the Canada-wide application of the Upland Protection metric and the modified Connectivity Status Indicator, and
- Suggestions for potential further refinements to the methodology.

The Contractor must also summarize the final report in a presentation format.

Application of Upland Protection Metric Canada-wide

The contractor must apply the Upland Protection metric and assess the amount of upland protection from the perspective of all protected areas throughout Canada by December 1st, 2020.

Application of Modified Connectivity Status Indicator Canada-wide

The contractor must apply the modified Connectivity Status Indicator and assess freshwater connectivity from the perspective of all protected areas throughout Canada by December 1st, 2020.

Provide GIS Database

The contractor must provide, by December 1st, 2020, a GIS database with results from the:

- Canada-wide application of the Upland Protection metric
- Canada-wide application of the modified Connectivity Status Indicator

Provide the Source Code for the Indicator

The contractor must provide, by December 1st, 2020, the source code for the modified Connectivity Status Indicator for future use.

Content for the Conservation Toolbox

The contractor will provide content for the Pathway's Conservation Toolbox, such as links to spatial data, best practices, and/or tools that can be used to advance freshwater connectivity. This is not the main purpose of the contract, but it is expected that the contractor will, through the course of the work, come across material that could be useful as content in the Toolbox.

4. Criteria for assessment of the Statement of Capabilities (Minimum Essential Requirements)

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements:

The contractor(s) must

- Have an acceptable Masters or Doctoral degree from a recognized post-secondary institution in a field of ecology, conservation biology, physical geography, or with a specialization related to the duties of the position;
- Have proven experience collaborating with domestic and international experts in freshwater ecology;
- Have an understanding of freshwater ecology;
- Have a proven record of publishing in ecological journals;
- Have access to data necessary to complete a Canada-wide analysis within the necessary timeline;
- Have access to and the skill (e.g., programming) necessary to adapt the Connectivity Status Index (*sensu* Grill et al. 2019) and the Upland Protection metric (*sensu* Abell et al. 2017) within the timeline of the contract;
- Be available and able to complete all analyses and provide all deliverables within the timelines of the contract; and
- Provide brief quarterly updates to the Technical Authority, be capable of conducting work independently, and be available to participate in teleconferences with the Pathway Connectivity Working Group when necessary.

5. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement

This procurement is NOT subject to trade agreements.

6. Set-aside under the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business

This procurement is NOT subject to a set-aside.

7. Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement

This procurement is NOT subject to the CLCA.

8. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

The selected provider meets all requirements and could develop an indicator by the spring of 2020 and apply it throughout Canada with the necessary data before the end of 2020. The contractor is the only person that has the necessary spatial data assembled and geocorrected for Canada that is required to analyze freshwater connectivity from the perspective of protected and conserved areas. No other potential contractor has consulted as widely (i.e., globally) nor published results in top journals. The proposed contractor comes with well-established credentials that will make it easier to have the indicator adopted by governments across Canada.

9. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception(s) to the *Government Contracts Regulations* is (are) invoked for this procurement under subsection 6(d), Only One Supplier is Capable of Performing the Work.

10. Trade Agreement-Exclusions and/or Limited Tendering Reasons

This Procurement is not subject to Trade Agreements.

11. Ownership of Intellectual Property

The contractor will retain Intellectual property on all products created through this contract. However, the Crown will be granted a non-exclusive license to use any products created through the contract, following the standard Treasury Board – IP Terms and Conditions for a Contractor-Owns Scenario.

12. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date

The proposed contract is for a period of approx. 11 months, from January 13, 2020 to December 1, 2020.

13. Cost estimate of the proposed contract

The estimated value of the contract is \$57,000 + GST/HST.

14. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

Confluvio Geospatial
4808 Avenue Du Parc, Porte A
Montreal, QC H2V 4E6

15. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the goods, services or construction services described in the ACAN may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contact person identified in this notice on or before the closing date of this notice. The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

16. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is 14:00 Eastern Standard Time on January 6, 2020.

17. Inquiries and submissions of statement of capabilities

Any inquiries or submissions of statement of capabilities can be submitted to:

Anthony De Flavis
Procurement Officer
Procurement & Contracting Services
Environment and Climate Change Canada
105 McGill, 5e étage, Montréal QC H2Y 2E7
anthony.deflavis@canada.ca
Téléphone 514-283-5958