**Integrating multiple knowledge systems and frameworks in the application of relevant tools and, models for both the conservation of biodiversity and carbon-rich ecosystems in the Hudson Bay-James Bay Lowlands (HBJBL)**

GEOBON – Parks Canada

**Year 1 report**

# Planning meeting (February 2023)

On February 21st, 2023, teams from Parks Canada and GEOBON team met to discuss project’s objectives, scope, expectations, and timelines (see [meeting notes here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EYX9nHKfswSf6VUbHksxarFqIVTFsMoHrOjj2EvtniU/edit)).

Karen Richardson form Parks Canada made a presentation, including following topics:

* Parks Canada general goals
* HBJBL project objectives
* Area of interest and some data set available.
* Potential partners (local and national).
* Expected outcomes and outputs.
* GEOBON tasks and expected results.
* Key milestones and deadlines

Andrew Gonzalez presented his vision of a regional BON to produce policy relevant outputs. GEOBON team suggested some data sets, approaches, methods, and tools on ecosystems services (carbon storage and local food security, in particular fish) and biodiversity that can be included in this initiative.

The final discussion revolved around the workshop (potential date and dynamics) and activities pre-workshop.

To fully operationalized the initiative, it was decided that:

Contact information Adriana Radulovici will manage the administrative component and Juan Zuloaga will be the science coordinator.

# Planning e-meetings

We have had several planning meetings to inform/discuss strategic topics:

## Juan Zuloaga and Karen Richardson met on Friday March 24th, 2023

We discussed the following topics:

1. **Workshop date**: It seems that May is too early for the workshop and July and August people might be on vacation. So, there are at least two options for your consideration:

* **September** (semester starts, so any suggestions)
* **October**, taking advantage of the GEOBON Conference (10-13), let's say Monday and Tuesday (**16-17**). We can ask invitees to stay in Montreal after the conference.

1. **Activities before workshop**: there is a need to redirect the working document that I shared with you to focus more on the original objectives in the proposal. For instance,

* Phase 1: Compile and review relevant tools, approaches, and models developed in other countries and/or by other organizations.
* Phase 2: Compile example case studies of application of relevant tools and approaches.

1. **Operational groups**: We have identified three operational groups for the workshop:

* **GEOBON-International experts**. What we have learned (frameworks/models).
* **Regional experts.** Does the data we have work in the system/framework/models we are proposing?
* **Implementers/users**: PC, ECCC, Indigenous partners, Provincial (MB, ON, QC). How can we implement/use these frameworks/models? Pros/con/trade-offs/assumptions. What can we do now(tactical) and in the future? How can we inform conservation decisions based on the best available data?

Diagram

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1. **Integrating frameworks/models**: this is a challenge, but we want to integrate them.
2. **Integrate knowledge systems.**
3. **We want a data/information driven process that is simple and robust.**
4. **Hands-on workshop**: we want to test frameworks/models using data we have for the region in the workshop and evaluate implementation, outputs and how to inform decision making.

Juan Zuloaga will start working on the compilation of frameworks, models, and case studies.

# Pre-workshop activities

## Phase 1: Compile and review relevant tools, approaches, and models developed in other countries and/or by other organizations.

Juan Zuloaga and GEOBON team started to compile frameworks, methods and tools for carbon storage and biodiversity that can be applied in the HBJBL. A preliminary list will be available in the coming weeks.

Juan will organize a document to summarize our findings. This summary will be part of the white paper.

## Potential list of GEOBON international experts’ invitees

Juan Zuloaga and GEO BON team is organizing a preliminary list of potential invitees for the workshop. We will distribute this list to the planning team in the coming weeks for evaluation and then send invitation for the workshop.

## Phase 2: Compile example case studies of application of relevant tools and approaches.

Juan Zuloaga and the GEO bon team will start compiling potential case studies that can be used in the workshop.