FUNDING

APPLICATION GUIDE

Eeyou EcoFund – Application Guide (2025–2026)
(Currently open for Biodiversity Conservation Projects Only)

1. Introduction

Rooted in Cree values and supported through Nation-to-Nation agreements with the *Gouvernement du Québec,* the **Eeyou EcoFund** is a Cree Nation Government program that supports Cree-led biodiversity conservation projects in Eeyou Istchee and Québec's **2030 Nature Plan** and in line with international biodiversity goals. This vital initiative is funded through *Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs* (MELCCFP) financing for *Indigenous Leadership in Biodiversity Conservation*. All projects must be Cree-led and benefit Cree people, lands, waters, and way of life.

2. Eligibility

Eligible Applicants:

- Cree Nation Government entities
- Cree communities, organizations, or businesses*
- Recognized Cree partners with Cree leadership (Cree majority in partnerships)

Businesses must either have a NEQ (Numéro d'entreprise du Québec) and/or be listed in the Cree Business Registry

Eligibility Criteria:

- Projects must take place in **Eeyou Istchee James Bay region***.
- Projects must be **Cree-led** (majority Cree if partners are involved).
- Projects must align with at least one **2030 Nature Plan target** (see Annex 4).
- Project must align with eligible expenses (see below)

Ineligible Applicants:

- Federal or provincial ministries
- External organizations without Cree majority leadership
- Entities in default of prior Quebec aid obligations

Note - This may limit projects led by MoCreebec or undertaken in Whapmagoostui. For these specific instances, please consult us prior to submitting an application.

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3. Eligible & Ineligible Expenses

Eligible Expenses:

- Salaries, benefits, and professional fees (with preference for Cree capacity)
- Honoraria for Elders, Knowledge Holders, land users (250$/day)
- Workshops, ceremonies, meetings, and community engagement
- Travel and accommodation within Eeyou Istchee
- Equipment, tools, safety gear, communication, translation
- Administrative costs up to **10%** of project total.
- Professional fees should not surpass salaries.

Note that in the Budget Template you will find a Guidance tab which provides more examples of the types of expenses possible and under which expense category they fit.

Ineligible Expenses:

- General operating costs unrelated to the project
- Costs incurred before project approval
- Activities outside Québec
- Land purchases or real estate
- Greenhouse gas offsets
- Legal proceedings

4. Funding Amounts & Payments

- **Local Projects** (community-level): up to **$200,000 per year**
- **Regional Projects** (multi-community or territory-wide): up to **$500,000 per year**

Standard payment schedule:

- 50% on signing of Contribution Agreement
- 25% on approved progress report (or mid-journey if grant is less than $50k)
- 25% on approved final report

Applicants must disclose **total project costs**, including contributions from their own organization and other partners (cash or in-kind). *Using provincial funding for the same activities is not permitted.*

5. Examples of Eligible Biodiversity Projects

Species & Habitat Protection
- Protection and recovery of threatened or culturally significant species
- Habitat restoration projects (wetlands, forests, riparian zones)
- Control or prevention of invasive species

Knowledge & Capacity Building
- Traditional knowledge documentation with Elders and youth
- Community training and awareness campaigns on biodiversity
- Development of tools for monitoring and data collection
- Biodiversity research and inventories in partnership with communities

Protected Areas & Conservation Planning
- Inventories and mapping of biodiversity hotspots
- Development of protected area proposals under Cree leadership
- Planning for biodiversity corridors and ecological connectivity
- Community-led monitoring of protected areas

Community Engagement
- Youth programs for conservation and biodiversity awareness
- Intergenerational workshops with Elders, youth, and land users
- Cultural activities linked to biodiversity education
- Awareness campaigns on 2030 Nature Plan targets

6. Examples of Ineligible Projects

Projects that will **not** be funded include:

- General operational support for an organization (e.g., core salaries not tied to a project)
- Activities located outside of Québec
- Legal or political lobbying activities
- Purchase of land, buildings, or major infrastructure
- Greenhouse gas offset credits
- Projects unrelated to biodiversity/nature priorities
- Duplicated funding requests already supported by Québec for the same activities *

Although it is not acceptable to "double dip" from similar funds, it is permissible to combine funds from other sources/purposes in order to achieve project objectives.

7. Application Process

1. **Download** the Application Form (Word) and Budget Template (Excel) at https://www.cngov.ca/ecofund/apply/
2. **Complete** the form and budget snapshot
3. **Attach** supporting documents (optional but encouraged)
4. **Submit by email** to ecofund@cngov.ca

8. Clarifying Application Requirements

- **Contact Information** is mandatory.
- **Applicant Name**: Enter name of person leading the work and authorized to apply on behalf of the organization. (Individuals must apply through a Cree-led entity).
- **Project Location**: Applicants must indicate where the project will take place by selecting one or more of the following:
  - Community (if community-wide)
  - Trapline (if trapline-based)
  - Coordinates or Address (if site-specific)

9. What Happens After You Apply

1. **Secretariat Review** – Applications are screened for eligibility and completeness.
2. **Selection Committee Review** – Applications are assessed for alignment, feasibility, budget clarity, capacity, knowledge integration, risk management, partnerships, and innovation. (See Annex 2 for the full list of evaluation criteria.)
3. **Steering Committee Review** – Recommendations are validated and funding amounts confirmed.
4. **Contribution Agreement** – Approved proponents will sign a funding agreement with the Cree Nation Government.
5. **Project Launch** – Funds are disbursed, and the project begins.

10. Reporting

- All projects must submit a **Final Report** within 45 days of completion.
- Projects over $50k must also submit a **Progress Report**.
- Templates and instructions are provided to successful applicants with their agreement.

11. Support

For assistance **Mail:** ecofund@cngov.ca or visit **Website FAQ:** www.cngov.ca/ecofund

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

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Annex 1 - Eligibility Checklist

- Is the project Cree-led (majority Cree in partnerships)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Does the project take place in Eeyou Istchee Bay James ? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Does the project align with at least one 2030 Nature Plan target? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Is the funding request within limits ($200k local / $500k regional)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Are costs limited to eligible expenses? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Are administrative costs within 10%? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Are reporting obligations accepted? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Projects that fail to meet any of these criteria will not proceed to evaluation.

Annex 2 – Applicant Checklist
Before submitting, ensure you have:

☐ Completed the Application Form (all sections filled)
☐ Selected the correct funding theme (Biodiversity Conservation/2030 Nature Plan)
☐ Identified Local or Regional project type
☐ Provided project location (community, trapline, category of land, or coordinates)
☐ Specified funding request, contributions, and **total project cost**
☐ Indicated primary and secondary **2030 Nature Plan** target(s) (see Annex 4 below)
☐ Attached Excel budget
☐ Attached supporting documents (optional: Council resolution, letters of support, proof of registry, maps, etc.)
☐ Signed the Declaration section of the Application Form
☐ Prepared to submit to ecofund@cngov.ca

Annex 3 – Evaluation Criteria
Projects are assessed by the Selection Committee on the following factors:

a) Alignment with 2030 Nature Plan goals (see Annex 4)
b) Community relevance (need, involvement of youth/Elders)
c) Technical feasibility (activities are realistic and achievable)
d) Budget clarity (reasonable, justified)
e) Environmental and social impact (long-term benefits, cultural integration)
f) Capacity and risk management (ability to deliver, contingency measures)
g) Partnerships and collaboration (local/regional synergies)
h) Innovation (creative or pilot project value)

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Annex 4 – 2030 Nature Plan Targets

Applicants must indicate the **Primary** and **Secondary** target(s) to which their project contributes

TARGET 1	**Land Use Planning**	Slow biodiversity loss through participatory and integrated land use planning across Quebec, aligned with climate and access goals
TARGET 2	**Restoration of Ecosystems**	Restore 30% of priority degraded ecosystems in collaboration with local and Indigenous communities
TARGET 3	**Protected & Conserved Areas**	Conserve 30% of Quebec's terrestrial and marine ecosystems by 2030
TARGET 4	**Threatened & Vulnerable Species**	Protect and recover threatened and vulnerable species
TARGET 5	**Invasive Species**	Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species
TARGET 6	**Agriculture & Aquaculture**	Promote sustainable agriculture and aquaculture
TARGET 7	**Forestry**	Ensure sustainable forest management and ecosystem services
TARGET 8	**Access to Nature & Sustainable Harvest**	Sustainably manage harvested species & improve access
TARGET 9	**Governance**	Integrate biodiversity into state interventions
TARGET 10	**Businesses**	Support businesses & investors
TARGET 11	**Sustainable Consumption**	Strengthen sustainable consumption
TARGET 12	**Biodiversity Financing**	Increase biodiversity financing
TARGET 13	**Indigenous Leadership**	Support Indigenous leadership in biodiversity conservation
TARGET 14	**Mobilization**	Mobilize stakeholders for biodiversity

This guide is part of the Eeyou EcoFund application package (2025–2026)

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