

# Forests as Climate Solutions – Pilots

## Project Context & Overview

The Climate and Landscape Solutions Program Area was launched by FSC Canada in 2023. It focuses on enhancing the resilience of Canadian-managed forest landscapes and unlocking value in conservation for forest managers while advancing biodiversity and climate solutions across Canadian forests and communities. With 46.6 million hectares of FSC-certified forests across Canada, the program supports enhanced forest management standards that integrate carbon management and biodiversity conservation. FSC Canada seeks to enhance its tools and guidance to capitalize on emerging conservation finance mechanisms through FSC's Verified Impact, aiming to fully recognize and incentivize investments that drive measurable climate and biodiversity benefits.

FSC Canada recognizes and honours the central role of Indigenous Nations in forest management and climate resilience across Canada and is committed to understanding how Indigenous knowledge informs stewardship, carbon and resilience strategies in forested lands. This project acknowledges Indigenous land rights and respects the deep cultural, spiritual, and environmental connections that Indigenous Peoples have with territorial lands.

## Forests as Climate Solutions (FaCS) Project

FSC Canada has been awarded a multi-year (2024-2027) grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to explore how responsible forest management practices can help ensure forests are more resilient in the face of a changing climate.

The Forests as Climate Solutions (FaCS) project focuses on how forest management can prepare and manage for the impacts of climate change, and how greenhouse gases can be reduced through carbon and fire management. This includes working with Indigenous communities and forest managers to better understand Indigenous land management practices and Traditional Knowledge that will inform a holistic understanding of approaches to enhancing the resilience of forests and the communities that steward them.

The Forests as Climate Solutions project has three key goals:

1. Improve the capacity of certificate holders and communities to adapt and respond to climate change.
2. Stabilize or reduce greenhouse gas emissions by enhancing and maintaining stored carbon in FSC-certified forests and enhance climate resilience by improving forest health.
3. Incentivize climate action by accessing market mechanisms that support communities and reward certificate holders for adopting climate-smart practices.

## Pilot Projects

We are seeking applications from forest managers, Indigenous communities and other groups to participate in these projects and help improve responsible forest management practices in Canada, with funding available for involvement in select pilots. Project proposals must demonstrate how they contribute to one or more of the [program goals](#) listed above.

Through pilots, FSC Canada will fund and support projects to implement, test and measure best practices, and tools and methodologies related to fire and carbon management.

## Key Dates:

Application Deadline: June 16<sup>th</sup> 2025

Pilot Period: July 1st, 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2026

## Pilot Categories & Eligibility

The FaCS Pilots are organized into three distinct categories to ensure diverse perspectives and approaches:

[Indigenous-led Pilots](#): Must be led by an Indigenous organization, community, or collective.

[Smallholder and Community Pilots](#): Must involve smallholders, woodlots, community-based forestry operations, or other forest management entities working on a smaller scale.

[FSC Canada Forest Management Certificate Holder Pilots](#): Must be an existing FSC Forest Management certificate holder or in the process of becoming certified.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be an existing FSC forest management forest certificate holder or in the process of becoming certified.
- Commit to active participation in the project for its full duration
- Have an identified project lead responsible for the implementation, management, and reporting of project activities.
- The ability to manage the project effectively, including financial and operational capacity (availability of staff with the necessary expertise to engage with the project).

## Funding Overview:

A total of \$99,000 in funding will be available for the pilots, with funding allocated as follows:

- Indigenous-led Pilots: \$33,000
- Smallholder and Community Pilots: \$33,000
- FSC Certificate Holders: \$33,000

Funding will be distributed to 1-2 successful applicants per category.

Applicants are required to provide at a minimum a 50% in-kind match in the form of contributions such as:

- Work already completed or underway.
- Indigenous knowledge.
- Additional technical expertise, staff time, or other resources.

This in-kind contribution will help recognize and build on the work and knowledge that applicants have already invested in their forest management practices.

## **Deliverables**

Successful applicants will be required to provide a final report at the end of the pilot period that summarises project outcomes, future opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned.

Applicants will be given the opportunity to participate in a knowledge-sharing session (virtual or in-person) to discuss pilot results and lessons learned with other FSC certificate holders and relevant stakeholders. Successful projects may be featured as case studies.

## **Application Process:**

To apply for participation in the FaCS pilots, interested organizations should complete the application form with detailed information about your project, including:

- Project objectives related to carbon and fire management.
- Expected outcomes and how they align with the overall goals of the FaCS Project.
- Methodologies and tools you plan to implement and test.
- Partnerships or collaborations (if applicable).
- Project budget (including in-kind contribution).
- Project risks.
- Reporting metrics.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the relevance of their project to program goals, their ability to measure and report on results, and their commitment to knowledge-sharing and collaboration with other FSC certificate holders and organizations.

**Application Form:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FaCS-Pilots>