

YEAR THREE GEORGINA ISLAND COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAM

1. Objectives

Year Three of this project includes project initiation and four objectives that will allow for the seamless transition into Year Three.

Project Initiation

Objective 1: Develop adaptation recommendations, adaptation plan, and implementation plan

Objective 2: Conduct Band policy review to find opportunities to mainstream climate change into existing policies for the Georgina Island First Nation

Objective 3: Finalize Adaptation Plan

Objective 4: Community Engagement and Workshops

1. Methodology

Similar to the point of progress at the end of Year One, the project team has furthered their knowledge of the key impacts, vulnerabilities and risks in the community. The project team is well equipped to make the important next step of responding to the threats that have been identified. This proposal represents the third year of the three year project **Climate Change Adaptation Planning within the Chippewas of Georgina Island**. Year three will see the results of Year One and Year Two culminate with the development of adaptation recommendations and plans to address the impacts of current and future climate change. Developing the adaptation recommendations to address the impacts of climate change is seen as critically important to the Georgina Island First Nation and this project has been fully endorsed by the Chief and Council, and community members.

Year Three - Project Initiation

To initiate this phase (Year Three), the Community Adaptation Liaison and the project team (which includes the Georgina Island First Nation, Ontario Centre for Impacts and Adaptation Resources, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority) will meet to review objectives for Year Three. The Community Adaptation Liaison will also meet with the Advisory Committee to provide an overview of the objectives and the Terms of Reference, including the role of the Advisory Committee in Year Three.

Community engagement and involvement has been a critical component of this project from the beginning and will continue in Year Three. The Community Adaptation Liaison and project team will organize and host a community meeting

provide an overview of the project for Year Three; explain how the adaptation recommendations will be developed, the process for turning the recommendations into an adaptation plan, an overview of what will be included in the implementation plan, the reason for looking for ways to mainstream climate change into existing Band Policies, and the role of the Advisory Committee and community members in Year Three.

The Community Adaptation Liaison will continue to provide regular updates to the Advisory Committee, community members and Elders, as well as field any questions about the project on a day to day basis.

Objective 1: Develop adaptation recommendations, adaptation plan, and implementation plan

The Community Adaptation Liaison and project team, with guidance from the Advisory Committee, will develop a series of adaptation recommendations to respond to the risks associated with current and future climate change identified and prioritized in Year Two. Emphasis will be placed on the highest priority risks identified in Year Two. The adaptation recommendations may be in a variety of areas such as policy development/adjustment, adaptive natural resource management, monitoring, outreach and communication, economic development, infrastructure renewal/upgrades, etc.

Coping strategies that have been previously employed by community members will be evaluated for effectiveness, appropriateness and feasibility. They will also be evaluated for long term effectiveness and ability to withstand continued (future) changes in climate. This will help the project team understand the limitations of current coping and community capacity to adapt to climate change. This information will be derived both from TEK survey results, but also by the development and dissemination of a survey for community members, Elders, and the Advisory Committee.

The project team will also develop screening criteria to apply to the adaptation recommendations. These could include cost, benefit, effectiveness, priority, acceptability, community support, and Band Council support, etc.

Once the list of adaptation recommendations is developed, the list will be presented to the Advisory Committee for discussion and comment. The project team will incorporate the advice of the committee, and then will present the list to Chief and Council for approval. Once the list of adaptation recommendations is approved, a Draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan will be assembled.

In addition, the team will develop an implementation plan which will include suggested assignments of responsibility for each recommendation, tracking of

progress, tracking of effectiveness and timeframe (short-term, medium-term, long-term) for implementation. However, actual implementation of the recommendations is beyond the scope of this project. Both draft plans will be presented to the Advisory Committee for comment, and to the Chief and Council for approval and endorsement (see objective 3).

If the Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Lake Simcoe Watershed is finalized and publicly available at this stage of the project, the actions within the Strategy will also be reviewed for potential overlap (supportive).

Objective 2: Conduct Band policy review to find opportunities to mainstream climate change into existing policies for the Georgina Island First Nation

Following the approval of the adaptation recommendations, the Community Adaptation Liaison and the project team will conduct an overview of select Georgina Island First Nation policies to determine whether they enable or provide a barrier to effective adaptation. The project team will also note parts of the policies where adaptation may be included. The goal will be to find opportunities to mainstream climate change into existing policies for the Georgina Island First Nation.

The Community Adaptation Liaison will develop a list of potential policies to be included in the analysis, and the project team will develop a set of criteria to help conduct the analysis. Once complete, the findings will be summarized in a report. The summary will be presented to the Advisory Committee and Chief and Council.

Objective 3: Finalize Adaptation, and Implementation Plan

Once the Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Implementation Plan for Georgina Island is complete in draft form, the project team will meet with Chief and Council to present the results. Comments and suggested edits by the Chief and Council will lead to revisions of the plan.

The final Adaptation Plan will also include a schedule for update and revision and will contain flexibility for adjustments if adaptive measures are not effective.

Objective 4: Community Engagement and Workshops

Following Chief and Council endorsement, and finalization of the plans, the project team will hold a community meeting to present the results of the project.

In addition to the community meeting, a larger workshop will be held to provide an overview of the entire project and the results. In an effort to share the knowledge

and work accomplished throughout the project, invitations for the final workshop will be extended to all Georgina Island community members, as well as other First Nation communities in the area.

During the final year (3) of the project and beyond, the project team will seek opportunities to communicate the adaptation planning process and the results that were undertaken by the Georgina Island First Nation. Venues include webinars, workshops and symposia.

The project will be delivered collaboratively by the Georgina Island First Nation (Project Lead) and the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources at MIRARCO/Laurentian University (Project Partner), and supported by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. OCCIAR will provide climate change adaptation expertise throughout the project, and guidance on how to use the results of YR1 and YR2 to develop an adaptation plan and implementation plan to address the impacts of current and future climate change. OCCIAR will also assist with the development of communication material, and assist the Community Adaptation Liaison in the organization of community meetings. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority will play an advisory role in the project, providing advice, reviewing documents, and attending community meetings and conference calls.

5. Deliverables

Year One and Two Project deliverables

- a. Project Information Package – developed for community members will be posted on project page on the OCCIAR website¹, the GIFN Website² and linked to the My Community App as well as and included in the Year Three final report.
 - b. Traditional Ecological Knowledge Survey – will be posted on project page on the OCCIAR website, the GIFN Website and linked to the My Community App, as well as be included in the Year Three final report.
 - c. Traditional Ecological Knowledge survey results will be included in the Year Three final report, as well as be posted to the GIFN Website and linked to the My Community App.
 - d. Historical and Projected Climate Data Report - will be posted on project page on the OCCIAR website, the GIFN Website and linked to the My Community App, as well as be included in the Year Three final report.
-

- e. Climate Change Adaptation Assessment Framework - will be posted on project page on the OCCIAR website, the GIFN Website and linked to the My Community App, as well as be included in the Year Three final report.
- f. Impact trees and risk matrix will be included in the Year Three final report, be posted to the GIFN Website and linked to the My Community App.
- g. Year One and Two Final Reports

Year Three Project Deliverables

- h. A report on policy opportunities for inclusion (mainstreaming) of climate change into existing Georgina Island First Nation policy. This report will remain with the Georgina Island First Nation and be used to incorporate climate change into existing policies. A copy will be included in the Year Three final report.
- i. A list of adaptation recommendations evaluated for various criteria; an implementation plan for the Adaptation plan; references to where the Georgina Island First Nation adaptive responses align with Provincial Strategy. These documents will remain with the Georgina Island First Nation, and copies will be included in the Year Three final report.
- j. The final Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Georgina Island First Nation which incorporates feedback from Chief, Council and the community. A copy of the Adaptation Plan and the Implementation Plan will be given to the Chief and Council, and those responsible for implementing the recommendations. The Adaptation Plan will also be posted on the Georgina Island First Nation website and the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources website. A copy will also be included in the Year Three final report.
- k. Final workshop to present results to the Georgina Island First Nation. To share information about the process and the results with other First Nation communities, invitations to the final workshop will be extended to other communities in the area. Final workshop material will be posted on the OCCIAR website.
- l. All deliverables will be combined and a paper and digital version will be presented to the Chief and Council, and remain in the Band Office.

¹OCCIAR – Climate Change Adaptation Planning with the Georgina Island First Nation
<http://www.climateontario.ca>