

Visioning and Capacity Building for Thaidene Nënë Operations

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

Thaidene Nënë – “The Land of the Ancestors” in Dënesųhné Yatı – is an Indigenous protected area in the Northwest Territories that consists of a national park reserve, a territorial protected area, and a wildlife conservation area.

The governance and management of the Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area is shared between Indigenous governments who have a cultural connection to the landscape – Łutsël K’é Dene First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Deninu Kųé First Nation, and Yellowknives Dene First Nation – the Government of Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Work is conducted collaboratively.

Governance

Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáłtı is the operational management board of the Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area. Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáłtı means “those who speak for Thaidene Nënë” in Dene Yatı.

Board members are appointed by the Łutsël K’é Dene First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Parks Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Following their appointment, these individuals no longer represent the parties that appointed them; they speak only for Thaidene Nënë.

Tasked with long-term thinking for the land and the people, board members are expected to provide the parties with their best advice on subjects such as cultural promotion, ecological protection, access and use permits, and research and monitoring.

In addition to Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáłtı, there is a regional management board for the Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area, which includes representatives from Łutsël K’e Dene First Nation, Deninu Kųé First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Parks Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The regional management board’s role is to review and provide recommendations on the management plan and policies developed by Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáłtı.

Operations

Although decision-making is shared, the parties have different operational responsibilities and capacities.

As the operational parties work to implement the vision for Thaidene Nënë set out in the establishment agreements, ensuring operational coordination, growth, and efficiencies is a key priority. However, aligning the work of all the parties is challenging, especially when current operational demands stretch existing capacities.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this contract are:

- To develop a mutually agreed upon operational vision for Thaidene Nënë that sets out the roles and responsibilities for each of the parties, as well as strategies to support the achievement of this vision.
- To present the operational vision and strategies to Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáłtı.

SCOPE OF WORK

The contract scope includes the following:

1. Background research: The contractor will perform background research to become familiar with operational requirements for protected areas in northern and remote locations with functional similarities, including:
 - a. Delivery of visitor services, cultural programming and interpretation;
 - b. Conservation of natural and cultural resources including research and monitoring;
 - c. Fire management and public safety response; and
 - d. Law enforcement and use management, including licensing and permitting.
2. Interviews: The contractor will conduct interviews with staff from Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Parks Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, to understand each organization's current operations, capacity, challenges, and vision.
3. Workshop: Building on the understanding gained from the interviews, the contractor will design and facilitate a collaborative workshop with staff from each of the parties to discuss and develop a medium to long term operational vision.
4. Operational Vision and Capacity Building Report: The contractor will develop a short, visually focused report outlining an operational vision and strategies for the parties to employ in working together to build capacity.
5. Review: Parties will have the opportunity to review the draft and provide input.

BUDGET

The initial budget available for this Contract is \$10,000, further funding may be available if required to complete the project.

CONSTRAINTS

Contractor will have to work around the schedules of staff when setting up interviews and workshop dates.

DELIVERABLES

The contractor will provide:

1. Summary Report of an operational vision for Thaidene Nëné as set out in Item 4 from the Scope of Work above that includes:
 - a. key roles and responsibilities for each party to support complementary operations,
 - b. communications requirements between the parties for key roles and responsibilities,
 - c. strategies and recommendations for how the parties can work together and independently to support capacity building that will support the achievement of this vision.

TERM OF THE CONTRACT

It is anticipated that the contract will commence as soon as possible with a target completion of Fall 2023. The contract may be extended, at the mutual agreement of both parties, for a further term if required.

CONTACT

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