

Tracking Change...

Tracking Change... Local and Traditional Knowledge
in Watershed Governance

Terms of Reference for Project Governance

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These Terms of Reference summarize the mission, purpose, objectives, guiding principles, meeting procedures and governance structure of the SSHRC Partnership project **Tracking Change: The Role of Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance**. These terms of references specifically are intended to guide the Project Team (See Appendix A) in carrying out the work defined in the SSHRC approved proposal (2015) and in accordance with the Tracking Change Research Partnership Agreement (Appendix B).

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Tracking Change Project Team, Tracking Change Management Committee and the Tracking Change Executive Committee is to work together to facilitate the creation, documentation and sharing of Local and Traditional Knowledge about social-ecological change in the Mackenzie, Lower Amazon, Lower Mekong river basins in ways that can contribute to improved sustainability of these important fresh water ecosystems and the communities that depend on them for their current and livelihood and well-being.

Objectives of the Project:

Partnership Objectives:

- (i) Build a multi-scale, multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural network for social science research that is meaningful locally and globally.
- (ii) Build research capacity in the Mackenzie, Mekong and Amazon Basins
- (iii) Build global partnerships for mobilizing knowledge relevant to the governance of the Mackenzie River Basin:
- (iv) Foster global collaboration and knowledge sharing on common issues of watershed governance.

Thematic Objectives:

Develop and facilitate knowledge sharing related to the Mackenzie River Basin, the Lower Amazon Basin and the Lower Mekong Basin on the following themes:

- i) Sustainability of River Fisheries and Fishing Livelihoods;
- ii) Meaning and Well-being;
- iii) Watershed Governance.

Legacy Objectives

The project will aim to create a legacy materials and processes (knowledge and practices) for community involvement and Local and Traditional knowledge in the monitoring and management of social-ecological change in the Mackenzie, Amazon and Mekong river as well as other freshwater ecosystems globally.

Guiding Principles of Collaboration:

- (I) Collaborate to achieve the objectives of the proposed SSHRC Partnership project, “Tracking Change: Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance”.
- (II) Commitment to participate in the Partnership with interest in contributing to the long-term sustainability of the Mackenzie River Basin, the Lower Mekong and the Lower Amazonian Basin and the livelihoods and well-being of current and future generations; Respect for the socio-cultural diversity of all members of the Partnership;
- (III) Respect for and commitment to consideration of input of all Partner Organizations and Project Team members into decisions made by the TKSC in respect of the Partnership (See Terms of Reference for Advising the TKSC);
- (IV) Respect for any relevant policies and legal requirements related to research licensing and research ethics including those of Canadian Tri-Council, the University of Alberta Government of the Yukon and Government of the Northwest Territories;
- (V) Respect for principles of culturally appropriate and meaningful research with Aboriginal partners including: broad recognition of the value of local and traditional knowledge, broad respect for local and regional protocols for working with LTK holders, and honouring of communities and regional government/organization decisions about the documentation, use and long term storage of LTK in respect of their communities and regions.
- (VI) Agreement to carry out work related to the partnership according to the proposal and in a manner that does not contradict the terms or conditions of the funding agency’s agreement on the use of the funds.

Governance Structure and Decision Making Process

1. The Tracking Change project is a partnership led and administered at the University of Alberta in partnership with multiple community, government, university partners as well as academics and students living and working in the Mackenzie, Lower Mekong and Lower Amazon Basins (See Appendix B);
2. The Tracking Change Management Committee is composed of the Principal Investigator, the Mackenzie River Basin Board Traditional Knowledge and Strengthening Partnerships Committee (See Appendix B), and Academic Sub-Basin Leads (See Appendix B);
3. The Tracking Change Management Committee and its decisions will be informed by all members of the Project Team (Appendix).
4. Decision making in meetings will be guided by a consensus process. If consensus cannot be reached, the TCMC members will have voting privileges, with a two-thirds majority needed for agreement.
5. New partners may be invited to join the Project if nominated by an existing TCMC member. They can formally become partners by signing onto the principles of the MOU and through administrative processes defined by SSHRC.
6. An Executive of the Management Committee will comprise a member of the TKSC, the UofA Project Director, and other member of the Management Committee. This committee will be able to react quickly to make decisions about, e.g.: Allocation of funds under \$5,000; Media and communications about the project fundraising; Other matters not considered relevant to the management committee

For More information see:

www.trackingchange.ca



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