



NFWF

Questions and Answers about the June 26, 2023 Request for Proposals: NFWF Data Taxonomy and Ontology

July 14, 2023

NFWF accepted questions about the RFP in writing through July 11, 2023. All questions and answers have been posted on NFWF's website so that all offerors have access to them at the same time. Similar questions have been combined.

KPIs AT NFWF

1. *Is it possible to give an example of a KPI or two?*

Many metrics have a hierarchical structure in that they need to be aggregated at higher levels, despite being defined with unique attributes at lower levels. One example of such a KPI would be acres under improved management. Since this KPI does not define a specific type of improved management, we can further define this KPI to acres under improved grazing management. A further refinement for this KPI might include the specific type of improved grazing management, such as adaptive multi-paddock grazing. Other KPIs include number of stream barriers removed, stream miles opened, number of people contacted via outreach, acres of forest planted, acres of wetland treated for removal of invasive species. We require a structure that allows more granular KPIs to be aggregated at various higher levels.

2. *Can you provide some examples of the types of entities that the Taxonomy & Ontology are expected to contain?*

The KPIs will cover all ecosystems occurring in the United States, and need to reconcile the many variations of these KPIs that are used by our numerous partners (e.g., government agencies, NGOs, corporate partners.)

3. *Is there a concise list of KPIs for NFWF that transcend all grant programs, or are the KPIs grant-specific?*

There is an extensive list that covers all grant programs. However, some KPIs are inherently geared toward specialized needs of a particular program.

4. *Is it possible to provide them to potential bidders?*

No

5. *Can NFWF provide a little more information on the long-term goals of this project. For example, is NFWF looking at this project to:*

Define how NFWF might use existing data to show more compelling impacts from your work

Yes. In general, NFWF seeks to structure KPIs in a format that better facilitates aggregation into summary statistics. However, this RFP is only intended to develop a taxonomy and ontology to facilitate this goal; implementation and the suggested use of KPIs need to be considered for this contract, but are not deliverables.

Inform new potential solutions for data reporting / management

Yes. This is perhaps the primary reason we need a rigorously defined taxonomy and ontology that can be more easily aggregated at multiple hierarchical levels. However, this RFP is only intended to develop a taxonomy and ontology to facilitate this goal; implementation and the suggested use of KPIs need to be considered for this contract, but are not deliverables.

Create dashboards/business analytics tools for stakeholders

Yes. However, this RFP does not include implementation of any dashboards or analytical tools.

Others?

NFWF has a large group of stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, NGOs, corporate partners.). While the KPIs used by these organizations are similar at a coarse level, there are many variations in how these KPIs are defined and measured. The taxonomy and ontology must develop a schema to relate across these variations.

6. *Are there publicly available reports that discuss the datasets and KPIs that are the scope of this effort?*

Some examples of KPI's used in our strategic business plans are available on NFWF's website: <https://www.nfwf.org/strategies-results/business-plans>. Note that NFWF has many other programs that use both similar and different KPIs but are not covered by a business plan.

7. *If there are not public reports available, are there brief descriptions of these datasets that is available?*

NFWF will provide a full, foundation-wide list of KPIs to the selected contractor.

8. *Can NFWF provide the number of NFWF program datasets that are the scope of this effort?*

This effort is foundation wide and includes KPIs used by all NFWF programs. A list of NFWF programs can be found on our website: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs>.

DATA TAXONOMY & ONTOLOGY

9. *Do you have an existing Taxonomy & Ontology that you would like expanded, or will this one be built out from scratch?*

It needs to be built out from scratch. We do have extensive material to support the work, but we do not have an existing formalized taxonomy or ontology to revise.

10. *Has NFWF worked with a consultant previously on the Data Taxonomy and Ontology project?*

No

TIMELINE/LOGISTICS

11. *The period of performance for this contract is October 2023 through January 2024. With holidays and anticipated availability, this leaves approximately three months to conduct interviews and do two iterations of deliverable reviews with NFWF. Do you anticipate this to be enough time to have all stakeholders available and ready to meet/review deliverables? Is there a mechanism for extension if scheduling conflicts impact the project timeline?*

NFWF is open to extending the completion date. The Offeror can submit an alternative timeline if they believe it will better allow for completion of the desired work.

12. *For the selection process, will NFWF be interviewing or shortlisting teams for interviews that meet the initial requirements?*

Yes

13. *Could NFWF share the budget for this project?*

We cannot share information about the budget for this project. The proposed cost should be adequate for the level of effort necessary for developing the data taxonomy and ontology as specified in the RFP. The final scope and budget for the project will be negotiated between NFWF and the selected contractor.

14. *How many stakeholders do you anticipate being involved in this project? Are they all NFWF staff?*

The selected contractor will work exclusively with NFWF staff. However, NFWF works with a large number of stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, NGOs, corporate partners) and the selected contractor will need to consider their reporting needs and how KPIs may vary slightly across all the stakeholders.

SOFTWARE/HARDWARE/SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE/EXTERNAL DATASETS

15. *Are there specific tools or software applications in which you expect the Taxonomy & Ontology to be saved and presented?*

We are open to considering any software application that makes the saving and display of the resulting taxonomy and ontology effective and efficient. Preference would be a program we already have (Office 365) or is freely available or inexpensive (LucidChart). Note that, while implementation is not part of this RFP, KPIs will be obtained from many tools and software applications.

16. *The RFP notes ‘The contractor will need a sufficient understanding of geographic information systems and spatial data to understand KPIs that are currently measured through spatial analyses and identify additional KPIs that could be collected more efficiently and objectively through spatial analyses.’ Given that the KPIs are inherently spatial, we expect that NFWF may like the final Data Taxonomy and Ontology recommendation to be a GIS System (the documentation for one would include data formatting, tools, softwares, etc). Is that the preference, or if NFWF would prefer another format for the Data Taxonomy and Ontology?*

Many, but not all, KPI’s can be measured with spatial data. However, this RFP is only intended to define a taxonomy and ontology. While the selected contractor may need to consider platforms that could be used for implementation, implementation is not a deliverable for this project.

17. *Is all the data that NFWF manages related to grants, awards, impacts, and accomplishments held in a single system or multiple systems? If multiple systems are involved, could you provide a list and brief description of each?*

NFWF has one centralized grants management system where general project information (e.g., grantee organization, period of performance, award amount) and grantee-reported KPIs are stored and managed. However, NFWF anticipates the need to further integrate this with a number of external data sources and specialized tools that measure such things as water quality improvement, tons of carbon dioxide sequestered, and the number of jobs created.

18. *Can NFWF provide the number of external data sources that are related to the program datasets that are the scope of this effort?*

There are dozens of external data sources that we use to measure KPIs. Note, however, that implementation is not part of this RFP, the selected contractor only needs to define a taxonomy and ontology.