“Leveling Up” the GGGI Project Blueprint

Request for Proposals

Issued on October 27, 2026

Overview

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative® (GGGI) is the world’s largest cross-sectoral alliance committed to driving solutions to the problem of lost, abandoned, and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG, more commonly known as “ghost gear”) worldwide. Hosted by Ocean Conservancy, the GGGI comprises more than 190 members from the fishing industry, private sector, academia, governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Every participant plays a critical role in mitigating the effects of ghost gear locally, regionally and globally.

Since 2015, GGGI has implemented “Signature Projects” worldwide to tackle ghost gear head-on. These projects are implemented by local, on-the-ground partners, and integrate GGGI’s Best Practices to build the evidence base on the causes, impacts, and volume of ghost gear; define best practices and inform policy to mitigate impacts; and catalyze and replicate solutions tailored to local geographies.

Our team refers to our suite of possible tools as the GGGI “Project Blueprint.” We engage with local stakeholders to develop a deep understanding of circumstances and conditions on the ground and use that information to identify the most effective intervention points to maximize our conservation impact. From there, we implement a variety of solutions, including educational workshops, technology trials, scientific surveys and gear removals, to create solutions involving members from across all stakeholder categories. The GGGI uniquely tailors its solution projects using the Project Blueprint as a guide and based on the characteristics and needs of the communities in which it works: no two projects are the same, but they are built from the same set of best practices.



Figure 1 - the GGGI Project Blueprint. Click the image to see the image to see it on the GGGI website.

In 2019, the Global Ghost Gear Initiative launched its North American Net Collection Initiative (NANCI) project with collaborators in Mexico, the United States and Canada. This represented the world's first trilateral effort to address lost and abandoned fishing gear and the first time GGGI was able to implement its full Project Blueprint, rather than just individual components. Since then, we have expanded the NANCI approach to Costa Rica, and have our sights set on Ecuador, Colombia and Panama. Additionally, GGGI has identified Latin America, Southeast Asia, Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Caribbean as priority geographies for future work.

As GGGI works to achieve an ambitious set of goals by 2030, our team is working to identify the locations where we can have the greatest impact, understand which components of our Project Blueprint should be prioritized in each location, and which partnerships we should cultivate in order to achieve our objectives.

Project Summary

With the launch of the North American Net Collection Initiative (NANCI), GGGI implemented its full Project Blueprint for addressing lost and abandoned fishing gear. As we look to build on past success and expand our impact, we're seeking a contractor to conduct an internal program evaluation and external landscape analysis and deliver a comprehensive report that:

- Identifies and prioritizes target countries uniquely suited to adapt the "NANCI" model and implement GGGI's comprehensive Project Blueprint focusing on these key geographies (Latin America, Caribbean, Southeast Asia, and Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)).

- Pinpoints which elements of the GGGI Project Blueprint we should prioritize and how best to sequence Blueprint elements over a 5-year timeframe in the identified geographies.
- Highlights which strategic partnerships we should cultivate to achieve our objectives.

Through interviews with GGGI staff and partners, a review of historical project information and critical analysis of the ALDFG landscape, the contractor will identify key lessons learned, opportunities to increase impact, and provide recommendations to guide the next phase of GGGI's work.

Scope of Work

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative seeks a contractor to conduct an internal program evaluation and external landscape analysis and develop a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations. This internal document will analyze opportunities to increase the impact of existing GGGI efforts, identify target countries within the identified key geographies, and identify priority partnerships and Project Blueprint components for future expansion.

Expected Activities

- Conduct interviews with GGGI staff and external stakeholders/partners to identify the key strengths, challenges and opportunities of the GGGI's comprehensive approach to addressing ALDFG at scale.
- Based on information gathered in the interviews, as well as past project information and a critical analysis of the ALDFG landscape, provide recommendations for increasing the impact of GGGI's existing and future work.
- Develop a matrix identifying and prioritizing locations most suited to the adaptation of GGGI's NANCI model to support country-wide efforts to address ghost gear. For the highest-priority geographies, identify the partnerships that should be cultivated, the Project Blueprint components that should be prioritized, and the recommended sequencing of those components over a five-year timeframe.

Deliverables

- Inception Report: A brief overview outlining proposed methodology, data sources, stakeholder consultation approach, program evaluation and country-prioritization criteria, and work plan for GGGI approval.

- First Comprehensive Draft: A substantive draft presenting the internal program evaluation, external landscape analysis, and a prioritized matrix identifying target countries in each identified geography (Latin America, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, and Pacific Small Island Developing States). It must include actionable recommendations on partnerships, Project Blueprint components, and five-year sequencing sufficient to inform GGGI's FY28 budget planning.
- Second Comprehensive Draft: A revised report and prioritization matrix incorporating GGGI's consolidated feedback on the first draft, for final review.
- Final Report and Prioritization Matrix: Completed deliverables incorporating GGGI's final consolidated feedback, including key findings, recommendations, a prioritized matrix of target countries, stakeholders and potential partnerships, Project Blueprint components, and recommended sequencing over five years.

Reports must be provided in editable Word format, with the final report also supplied as a PDF. The prioritization matrix must be provided as an editable spreadsheet.

Budget Parameters

The total proposed cost for completing all required activities and deliverables must not exceed US $20,000, inclusive of all fees and expenses. Bidders should provide an itemized budget covering the complete scope of work.

This project is restricted to desk research and remote stakeholder consultations. It does not include additional reimbursement for travel or other expenses.

Estimated Timeline

Project start date: December 1st, 2026

Project completion: April 15th, 2027

Milestone / Deliverable	**Proposed timeline**
RFP published	October 26, 2026
Proposal submission period — two weeks	October 26–November 9, 2026
Proposal review and preferred contractor selection — one week	November 10–16, 2026
Contract negotiation and signature — two weeks	November 17–30, 2026
Project kickoff and file transfer	December 1, 2026
Inception report submitted	December 11, 2026

GGGI feedback and methodology approval	December 14–18, 2026
Data collection, stakeholder interviews, and analysis	December 2026–January 2027, with availability confirmed around the holidays
First comprehensive draft, including recommendations needed for budget planning	February 15, 2027
GGGI review and consolidated feedback	February 16–26, 2027
Contractor revisions and second comprehensive draft	March 1–15, 2027
GGGI final review and consolidated feedback	March 16–19, 2027
Final revisions and report submission	March 22–31, 2027
Final acceptance and administrative closeout	By April 15, 2027

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of Ocean Conservancy staff to determine the approach that best fits the needs of the program and the available budget. The criteria will assess relevant experience, methodology quality, feasibility of the work plan, and value for money.

Submission Guidelines

Please prepare a proposal addressing the requirements below. No application form or questionnaire is required. Questions may be emailed to jmcgarry@oceanconservancy.org, copying jbaziuk@oceanconservancy.org.

Submission Deadline: November 9, 2026 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time.

How to submit: Email your proposal in PDF format to jmcgarry@oceanconservancy.org, copying jbaziuk@oceanconservancy.org. Use the subject line: "GGGI Project Blueprint Proposal: [APPLICANT NAME]."

Proposals must not exceed 10 single-spaced pages, excluding budget tables, previous work samples, and other supporting documentation.

Proposals must include the following details:

- Relevant experience and qualifications of the applicant and proposed project team, including personnel roles and availability.

- Proposed approach and activities for each deliverable listed in the included SOW.
- Estimated Timeline and Milestones.
- Itemized budget by activity.

Legal and Compliance

Any contract awarded under this RFP and all activities performed under it must comply with applicable laws and regulations, including applicable U.S. sanctions and export control requirements. Ocean Conservancy will conduct appropriate compliance screening of the proposed contractor and, as applicable, proposed subcontractors before awarding a contract.

Contract award is conditional upon satisfactory completion of these reviews and execution of a written agreement. Ocean Conservancy will not enter into a contract, make payments, or provide other support where doing so would violate applicable U.S. laws or regulations. The contractor must remain in compliance with applicable requirements throughout the engagement.

Next Steps

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of Ocean Conservancy staff and evaluated according to the listed criteria. A member of the GGGI team may reach out to the listed applicant's designated contact with follow-up questions about the information provided.

Review is anticipated to take one week, and all applicants will be contacted about the final decision on their submission, regardless of outcome.