

Invitation to cooperation within the Fram Centre for Programmes starting in 2027.

The Ministry of Climate and Environment (KLD) is announcing research funding for two research programmes within the Fram Centre.

- *Coastal sustainable development in the northern areas*
- *GreenNorth – just and sustainable green transition in the North*

In order to participate,

1. *Potential consortia need to register their interest in participating in a programme as soon as possible and no later than 18.5.2026 16:00h. [New Programmes Register Your Interest – Fill out form](#)*
2. *The registered consortia will be published on iFram.no to foster coordination and collaboration among Fram Centre institutions*
3. *Ideas for a programme outline must be submitted by 29.5.26 by using the following link [New Programmes Initial Consortium Proposal Submission Form – Fill out form](#)*
4. *These ideas will be assessed by the Steering Group (SG) and the Fram reference group. Guidance for the further process will be given in advance of the workshop.*
5. *The consortia must send participants to one to two workshops (15-16 June, and if needed in early September)*
6. *Following the workshop the Steering Group will invite ideally just one consortium to submit a proposal (see information further down about the full proposal template)*

Guidance regarding evaluation of these stages can be found in the evaluation criteria found in the appendix of this pdf.

Please be aware that there are some differences between the invitation documentation for the Fram Centre “Programmes” and “Projects”. If in doubt, please contact the Steering Group or the secretariat to clarify.

Scope

The proposed programmes must be in line with the Fram Centre mandate and strategy of producing interdisciplinary research contributing to management of the environment and natural and cultural resources in the north.

Fram research strategy: <https://framsenteret.no/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/framsenterets-strategi.pdf>

Partners

The programmes will be based on and implemented in close cooperation among the Fram Centre member institutions, which will serve as core partners. The programmes may also include other research institutions, industry actors, municipalities, county authorities and Indigenous representatives where relevant. Funding can only be given to Fram Centre members. Management agencies should be involved in the development and implementation of the research programme and project work in an appropriate manner. Management agencies must finance their own participation but are also not expected to provide funding for Fram Centre institutes.

All programmes must be led and co-led by Fram Centre member institutions. The minimum number of Fram Centre partner institutions in a programme is five.

We expect a leader and co-leader in each programme from different institutions. Please note that earlier leaders of current programmes (persons, not institutions) cannot lead future programmes in consecutive calls, this to ensure broad participation and build competence at the Fram Centre.

The expectation is that within the finally financed projects and programmes the same institute shall not be a lead partner on more than 2 initiatives, i.e. the same institute can either lead up to one programme and one project or two projects.

Budget

Duration	Total budget / budget per year	Max budget per partner *
5 years	62,5 MNOK / 12,5 MNOK	20 %

*) This is of net budget after management and coordination costs are subtracted. 10 % of total program budget is to be allocated for management and coordination, to be distributed to project lead and co-lead partners, and other partners as relevant.

Deliverables

There should be an appropriate number of deliverables which are clearly described in the appropriate section of the application.

Deliverable	Description
Communication plan	A communication plan in accordance with the description provided under "communication" activities.
Project reporting	Economic and scientific reporting as describe by Steering group and Ministry of Climate and Environment

Participation in incentive evaluation	Plan for 2 programme participants to use ca. 20 hours per year for each year of the programmes
Description of ethics, IPR and open access policies and data management within the project	A report documenting how these will be addressed within the project should be delivered within the first financed month of the project
Management plan and budget	Plans for how the 10 % budget will be handled

Communication activities

All applications must take into account the following communication guidelines and clearly communicate how they will be fulfilled as well as the communication strategy which can be found here "[kommunikasjonsstrategi-for-fram-nordomradesenter-for-klima-og-miljoforskning-2021-2026.pdf](#)"

To ensure good and consistent communication of activities and research results from the research programmes within the Fram Centre research collaboration, the Steering Group emphasises the following:

1. In applications for funding for programmes and projects, there must be a plan for communication/dissemination of activities and results. For multi-year programmes, a dedicated communication contact must be appointed. The plan shall, as far as possible, specify prioritised target groups and be anchored in the current communication strategy for the research collaboration (attached). It must also state what percentage of the total requested amount is planned to be used for dissemination activities.
2. At the conclusion of the programmes, a final report and/or synthesis shall be prepared and published as part of the Fram Centre report series.
3. In all communication from the research programmes and associated projects, it must be clearly stated that this is organised by the Fram Centre.
4. In addition to the name of the research programme, the Fram Centre's logo shall be used in communications. In addition, the logos of the institution leading the programme and the other participating institutions shall be used where appropriate. No separate logo shall be developed for each programme.
5. The programmes shall use existing websites for external communication: www.framsenteret.no, www.framforum.com, in addition to the respective platforms of the participating institutions. Communication resources/communication contacts will be granted administrative access to the websites. For an internal document repository,

we can facilitate this via www.iFram.no. For internal communication within research programmes, it is recommended to use “turn-key” solutions, such as Teams.

6. It is not desirable for the programmes to establish their own social media channels; instead, they should use the existing channels of the Fram Centre and the participating institutions. In all information from the programmes, the Fram Centre must be clearly acknowledged.

Application template

Please see link to the document in the appendix.

Description of the “competitive collaboration design”-process

We have chosen to employ a well-established process “competitive collaboration design” (used e.g. in EU missions) for research funding where the objective is to foster cooperation rather than competition between institutions, while still encouraging competition between high-quality ideas.

The process enables combining the best ideas from multiple consortia, avoiding situations where strong projects are rejected or important ideas are lost. The process enables also maximum inclusion and reduces time and resources used in proposal writing and evaluation.

Consortia are used in the initial phase to develop ideas, but the aim is to merge the best ideas into build a single, integrated programme through the process. Please note that the initial consortia might not be the final consortia and please be assured that the owners of the ideas that will be used, will go further with their ideas in the process.

Expected timeline

Date	What
5/5-26	Invitation for programme outlines
18/5-26	Deadline for announcing initial consortia
29/5-26	Submission of programme outlines
1/6-26	Invitation to workshop to all leaders of initial consortia
15&16/6-26	workshops
Sept.	One additional co design workshop if needed
After WS	One joint consortium invited to create a proposal for each of the two programmes
30/9-26	Deadline for submission of full programme proposals
1/10-26	Distribution to external evaluators
30/10-26	Deadline for external evaluation
30/11-26	Final feedback to applicants (from the KLD - Ministry of Climate and Environment)

Coastal sustainable development in the Northern Areas

Duration: 5 years (2027–2031),

Budget: ca. 62,5 million NOK in total / ca. 12,5 million NOK yearly

Purpose

The Coastal Programme for Northern Norway will build on previous Fram Centre flagships, projects and programmes to strengthen the knowledge base for sustainable spatial and resource management and biodiversity conservation along Norway's northern coastline.

Its goal is to provide management-relevant, interdisciplinary knowledge that will enable management authorities to find balance between coastal economic activities and biodiversity conservation and the maintenance of ecosystem services.

Management authorities seek concrete, usable products (indicators, monitoring protocols, models and decision-support tools based on up-to-date knowledge) and insights for area-planning and nature management, preparedness and revisions (as needed) to regulations. The programme will fund and coordinate research to deliver clear, user-oriented results. The programme should build on and integrate with empirical research activities (demonstration cases) as appropriate to maximise benefits from the research funding.

Geographic scope and challenges

The programme includes Northern Norway's coastal areas – in the counties Nordland, Troms, Finnmark and Svalbard. The coast in these areas has high natural value and vulnerable ecosystems, sparse settlements, and Sami use areas, as well as growing commercial interest. The region faces rapid environmental change and rising interest in new industries, while traditional coastal livelihoods, indigenous rights and resident species must be protected. Climate change (warming, shifts in sea ice and permafrost, altered storm and wave regimes) and increased human activities are creating elevated risk of environmental damage and demand fast, coordinated responses.

Governance issues and knowledge gaps

Norwegian targets for industrial development and the green transition, ocean policy, climate and biodiversity objectives — together with international commitments (Arctic cooperation, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Paris Agreement) — require improved knowledge and tools for sustainable coastal management. Coastal management in (Northern) Norway is not well enough integrated across government levels (municipal, county, national), sectors (environment, fisheries, aquaculture, transport, tourism, oil and gas, emergency response) and stakeholder interests (local communities, Indigenous peoples, industry). This fragmentation undermines integrated nature management, preparedness and sustainable development.

Measures that can give better protection of the environment and societal interests through improved policy coherence across the management of individual sectors, areas and ecosystems are needed. This may be facilitated through new or improved mechanisms and technologies for knowledge-production and -sharing, research-management interactions, and changes to regulatory frameworks and agency practices.

Key knowledge gaps include: fragmented monitoring and limited data access; poor integration of cumulative impacts; uncertainty about local consequences of climate change; need for decision support that connects ecology, industry and communities; and insufficient integration of Sami and local knowledge in management.

Programme priority themes (include minimum three)

1. Approaches for monitoring of ecosystem status in coastal and fjord areas
2. Sustainable coastal development and conflict management, including nature inclusive designs
3. Methods and tools for biodiversity and habitat mapping and vulnerability assessments
4. Climate impacts and ecosystem responses
5. Cumulative impacts, risk assessment and decision support
6. Preparedness, environmental incidents and restoration
7. Better inclusion of local and indigenous knowledge and concerns in the governance of the coast.

Impact

The programme proposal must clearly explain how the programme activities, demonstration cases and its outputs, including collaboration and dissemination with user groups, will fulfil the purpose of the call and contribute to fulfilling the overarching goals in the strategy of the Fram Centre. This must include how the programme covers and integrates large-scale drivers of change, assessment and management of cumulative impacts on nature, and management-relevant knowledge support, tools and advice for changes in the management system and practice, including products, validation and handover/implementation of these.

2. GreenNorth - just and sustainable green transition in the North

Duration: 5 years (2027-2031)

Budget: ca. 62,5 million NOK in total / ca. 12,5 million NOK yearly

Purpose

Nationally and internationally, there is broad agreement that a green transition is necessary to limit climate change and protect nature and society. There is also a growing recognition of the social and environmental conflicts inherent in a green transition.

The GreenNorth research programme will provide solution-oriented research for a just and sustainable green transition that benefits society and nature in the north. The research will contribute towards a green transition that safeguards climate and nature, sustainable societal development and resilient local communities. The programme will support a green transition that has legitimacy and trust amongst populations in the north.

The call seeks interdisciplinary research that links social sciences and humanities, law, natural sciences and public management. The overarching research questions must be rooted in social science issues and solutions but should include knowledge and competence from other disciplines and fields.

The GreenNorth programme is inspired by a pre-project at Fram Centre. Some major knowledge gaps are described in the report referenced in the footnote.¹

Geographic scope and societal challenges

The north is of particular interest in the green transition as it holds key resources such as renewable energy (wind, hydropower), critical minerals and metals and otherwise a broad range of terrestrial, marine and coastal natural resources. In this perspective, the north is a resource bank for society at large.

Northern regions host communities, ways of life, industries, habitats and ecosystems under pressure from climate change, resource use, industry and infrastructure development, increased military presence and more. Limiting climate change will benefit society and nature. Concurrently, further utilization of resources will generate further social and environmental conflicts and challenges, e.g. impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, industries like reindeer herding and fisheries, cultural heritage and local communities. The green transition holds dilemmas linked to distribution and redistribution of advantages and disadvantages.

Green transition in GreenNorth

The programme is to be based on an understanding (definition) of green transition as: "Society is to undergo a transition towards reduced resource use, lower climate and environmental impact,

and better protection of biodiversity. This will entail advantages and disadvantages for different groups, for nature, for individuals, and may both strengthen and weaken justice/fairness”.¹

A justice perspective is central to this transition and can be understood through several key dimensions, including procedural justice, distributive justice, recognitional justice and knowledge justice. In a Northern Norwegian context, these dimensions are particularly relevant and often expressed through underlying tensions or dichotomies, such as national interests versus local communities, majority versus minority perspectives, human needs versus nature, existing industries versus emerging industries, and present-day resource use versus the foundation for future livelihoods.

Thematic priorities (address minimum three)

1. Cumulative effects of measures to achieve green transition on society and nature in the north
2. Long-term burdens and benefits of measures to achieve green transition for local communities and groups in the north
3. Trade-offs between different objectives (i.e. climate change-related, biodiversity protection, social and economic aspects)
4. Land- and resource use-management in a just green transition
5. The mitigation hierarchy as a tool for nature-based and nature-positive solutions
6. Measures and solutions for a circular economy
7. Processes and solutions for implementing a just green transition
8. Developing and safeguarding local communities and vulnerable groups through the green transition

Impact

The programme proposal must clearly explain how the research activities, collaborations and outputs, will fulfil the purpose of the call and contribute to fulfilling the overarching goals in the Fram Centre strategy. This includes showing realistic management and local involvement, ethical considerations, elucidating the green transition in different local and regional contexts (potential cases) as well as having sound theoretical and methodological frameworks and solutions to deliver management-oriented and community-building knowledge and tools, including deliverables, validation and handover/implementation of these.

Appendix

[Evaluation criteria](https://ifram.no/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/evaluation-criteria-spring-2026.pdf) <https://ifram.no/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/evaluation-criteria-spring-2026.pdf>

[Application template](https://ifram.no/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/fram-centre-application-template-programmes-spring-2026.docx) <https://ifram.no/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/fram-centre-application-template-programmes-spring-2026.docx>

¹ Mikkelsen, Eirik, Ingrid Solstad Andreassen, Lena Gross, Sanne Bech Holmgaard, Ingrid Kvalvik, Cornelya Klutsch, Lena Schøning og Jukka Nyssönen 2025: Rettferdig grønn omstilling i nord? Kunnskapsgrunnlag for Framsenter program Grønt skifte i Nord. Foreløpig rapport fra forprosjekt. NIKU rapport XX. Tromsø. NIKU.