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

To fulfil the strategic goals of the Fram Centre the Ministry of Climate and Environment (KLD) is inviting expressions of interest for seven cooperation initiatives under four thematic areas within the Fram Centre:

- *Climate change and adaptation in the High North*
- *Cumulative impacts of multiple stressors*
- *Conservation and restoration of terrestrial and marine environments*
- *Business and industry development and impacts on the natural environment*

The full descriptions of the thematic areas and full application requirements are described below.

If you are considering applying, you must register your interest stating your theme and lead partner via this link, before 1st June 2026. You will be asked to state who the contact person is for your consortium (name and contact email) and which theme you are applying for. Once the deadline for registration of interest in submitting a proposal has passed, we will send this information to everyone who has registered interest to encourage cooperation between those interested in the same topics.

Instructions for all thematic areas for projects starting in 2027

Scope

The projects must be in line with the Fram Centre strategy. They must contribute with research-based knowledge that can contribute to improve the management of the environment and natural and cultural resources in the north. The projects must be interdisciplinary.

There should be a documented need from the Norwegian governance authorities for this research, which should be clearly communicated in the application.

Partners

A minimum number of cooperation members is four for the 3-year projects and three for the 2-year projects. Only Fram Centre members can be financed in the consortium.

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

Budget

The budget for projects is as follows:

- 3 three-year long projects of 4 MNOK per year and 12 MNOK in total, and
- 4 two-year long projects of 3 MNOK per year and 6 MNOK in total.

- The lead partner or partners will be permitted to have a higher % of the budget to facilitate management activities. This should be illustrated in the application. The table under shows the budget and max % for each partner.

Type/length of project	Total budget/budget per year/per project	Max* budget per partner
Projects 3 years	12 MNOK / 4 MNOK	25 %
Projects 2 years	6 MNOK / 3 MNOK	30 %
Administration and coordination	10 % in total	10 %

*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.

The Fram Centre steering group aims to finance at least one project independent of length under each of the themes (1-4).

Deliverables

There should be an appropriate number of deliverables which are clearly described in the appropriate section of the application. In addition to the deliverables described as part of the scientific outcomes there are mandatory deliverables described in the table below.

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 the Steering Group and the Ministry of Climate and Environment
Participation in incentive evaluation	Plan for two project participants to use ca. 20 hours per year for each year of the project.
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

Communication activities

All applications must take into account the following communication guidelines and clearly communicate how they will be fulfilled. The communication strategy 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 activities 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. 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 projects and 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 and funded by Fram Centre – High North Research Centre for Climate and the Environment.
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.

It is not acceptable 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

See the link at the end of this document in the appendix

Evaluation criteria

See the link at the end of this document in the appendix

All projects will be evaluated by international referees and be assessed by the Fram Centre Steering Group. Evaluation criteria can be found at the end of this document

Expected timeline

Date	What
5/5-2026	Call announced
1/6-2026	Deadline to register intention to submit a project proposal
2/6-2026	Overview of registered intentions to submit project proposals is distributed via email
15/9-2026	Deadline for submission of project proposals
30/10-2026	Deadline for external evaluation
30/11-2026	Final feedback to applicants (from KLD)

Thematic areas under which cooperation is invited

The following are the thematic areas under which you can apply (1-4)

1. Climate change and adaptation in the High North

Description of the challenges

The High North is experiencing more rapid warming due to climate change than observed anywhere else. This change has already significant impact on the environment, natural resources, agriculture and aquaculture. At the same time, the region is facing growing geopolitical pressures and demographic challenges. The population is in decline and ageing; the number of residents of working age is declining, and the region is losing labour. At the same time, activity in the north is also increasing, including tourism, research, business and industry. International interest in the Arctic is higher than ever.

Expected outcomes

Projects are expected to strengthen the knowledge base relevant for climate change adaptation, with particular emphasis on resilient infrastructure, sustainable industries and societal security and emergency preparedness in the High North. In addition, projects should support stronger collaboration between national and regional actors. Improved holistic situational awareness is needed in the high north, including environmental monitoring, critical infrastructure, and civil–military cooperation.

Relevant thematic areas include:

- Strengthening societal resilience to the effects of climate change, including but not limited to natural hazards, extreme weather events, increased flood risk, and slow-onset changes
- Improving the understanding of vulnerabilities in societal resilience related to climate change
- Enhancing climate change risk communication and the development of decision-support tools
- Increased understanding of vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure systems

2. Cumulative impacts of multiple stressors

Description of the challenges

Climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss constitute the 'Triple Planetary Crisis' threatening life on earth, and these pressures have an interlinked impact on Arctic ecosystems.

Global climate change is well documented in Arctic regions, where rapid environmental change is altering ecosystem structure and function on land and at sea, in addition to the threats from long range transported pollution from lower latitudes. Fram Centre–associated research shows that increasing temperatures, declining sea ice, and changing oceanographic conditions are driving northward shifts in species distributions and changes in feeding behavior among key species. These changes modify species interactions and habitat use and may act as additional stressors that reduce the health and resilience of organisms already exposed to environmental pressures.

A central challenge is that multiple stressors act simultaneously and interact across biological levels. Effects observed at the individual level—such as altered physiology, reduced fitness, or behavioural change—can propagate to populations, communities, and entire ecosystems. Research within and in collaboration with the Fram Centre demonstrates that combined pressures from environmental contaminants, microplastics, climate change, ecosystem change, and ocean acidification may amplify ecological impacts in ways that are difficult to predict when stressors are studied in isolation. This complicates risk assessment, conservation planning, and sustainable resource management in Arctic and subarctic environments.

Cumulative impacts are closely linked to human activities such as fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, industrial development coastal land use and ecosystem services. Ensuring safe and sustainable harvesting of natural resources under changing environmental conditions requires improved understanding of how multiple stressors affect ecosystem productivity, food web dynamics, and the socioeconomic foundations of Arctic communities.

Insights from Fram Centre research, further highlight challenges related to knowledge gaps and decision support. Research and dialogue with users reveal a lack of integrated frameworks and

practical tools for assessing cumulative impacts across environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability. At the same time, national and international obligations related to climate, biodiversity, Indigenous rights, and human wellbeing place increasing demands on governance systems, while authorities particularly at the municipal level report limited analytical tools, knowledge, and capacity.

Expected outcomes

Projects are expected to advance system oriented and interdisciplinary research approaches that improve understanding of cumulative impacts of multiple stressors in Arctic and sub-Arctic ecosystems. Research should integrate natural and social sciences.

Expected outcomes include improved frameworks and tools for assessing cumulative impacts, strengthened decision support for ecosystem management, and enhanced capacity for risk assessment, conservation planning, and sustainable resource use. Projects should contribute to holistic assessments, inclusive knowledge production processes, and improved governance frameworks, ensuring that scientific knowledge is effectively translated into informed decision-making in both public and private sectors.

3. Conservation and restoration of terrestrial and marine environments

Description of the challenges

Research conducted within and in collaboration with the Fram Centre shows that conservation and restoration of terrestrial and marine environments in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions face a set of interconnected challenges driven by rapid environmental change and increasing human activity in the High North.

Climate change is causing profound ecosystem transformations, including rising temperatures, atmospheric changes, loss of sea ice, thawing permafrost, and altered hydrological regimes.

These changes affect species distributions, ecosystem structure, and ecological interactions on land and at sea, making it difficult to define stable reference conditions for conservation and restoration efforts.

At the same time, ecosystems are increasingly exposed to multiple, interacting stressors such as environmental contaminants, microplastics, ocean acidification, and physical disturbance and intervention from human activities. Research demonstrates that these cumulative pressures can amplify ecological impacts and reduce ecosystem resilience, complicating both conservation planning and restoration outcomes Inadequate integration of environmental knowledge into management may undermine longtermly ecosystem sustainability.

Restoration efforts are additionally constrained by harsh climatic conditions, short growing seasons, limited accessibility, and high logistical costs. In marine systems, restoration of

habitats, such as kelp forests and coastal ecosystems, faces technical challenges related to scaling up methods and ensuring longterm recovery under changing environmental conditions.

Documentation of conservation and restoration also depends on long term, integrated monitoring. However, large spatial scales, remote locations, and rapidly changing conditions often result in limited or fragmented data. Governance and management complexity, involving multiple sectors and levels with overlapping objectives, further complicates the design and implementation of effective area-based management and restoration measures.

Expected outcomes

Projects are expected to strengthen knowledge and capacity for conservation and restoration of terrestrial and marine environments in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions under conditions of rapid environmental change.

Research should advance interdisciplinary approaches and improve understanding of how climate change, cumulative pressures, and human activities affect ecosystem structure, function, and resilience.

Expected outcomes include;

- Improved scientific foundations for conservation planning and restoration strategies
- Enhanced tools and methods for ecosystem monitoring and assessment
- Better integration of terrestrial and marine knowledge to support evidence-based management
- Projects should contribute to developing scalable and robust restoration approaches suited to harsh and remote environments

In addition, projects should support improved governance and management by strengthening the integration of scientific knowledge into decision making processes, promoting adaptive and knowledge-based management frameworks, and enhancing cooperation across sectors and governance levels.

Together, these outcomes will contribute to long term ecosystem sustainability and more effective conservation and restoration efforts in the High North.

4. Business and industry development and impacts on the natural environment

In this topic (4), projects can address any type of business and industry development which are taking place in the geographical areas covered by the Fram Centre.

Description of the challenges

- Creating an understanding of business and industry development impacts in the high north (all sorts, i.e. a wind power plant will not only affect reindeer herding, but waterways, flow of ground water, changing the paths of small rivers, insects, vegetation and affect ecosystem services provided by the area
- Creating an understanding of the impacts of business and industry development on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in the high north.
- A better understand of the challenges around co-existence and multiuse of the high north with minimal ecosystem impacts.

Expected outcomes

- New knowledge, new datasets, new models, and tools to better understand and manage impacts on nature. Results should be relevant input to decision making for stakeholders (industry as well as environmental managers)
- Contribute to improved area management and reduced area conflicts
- Achieve industrial development and positive societal impacts with acceptable and minimal impacts on nature and other stakeholders

Appendix

Application template link https://iframe.no/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/fram-centre-application-template-programmes-spring-2026.docx

Evaluation criteria link https://iframe.no/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/assessment-criteria-framsenteret-spring-2026.pdf