



## Southern First Nations Strategic Water Management Project (Water Atlas)

First Nations Water Protection Council  
Southern Chiefs' Organization

The goal of the ***Southern First Nations Strategic Water Management Project (The 'Water Atlas')*** is to provide a tool for communities to use in their efforts to protect and manage their water resources while recognizing the cultural importance of water to First Nation peoples. This tool includes ***Geographical Information System (GIS)*** technology that will enable communities to access, manage and distribute regional and local level environmental information for their own purposes.

Like any tool, it must be used to be effective. Although regionally managed, this project is truly a community-based and community-driven initiative. Community participation, therefore, is essential to the success and longevity of this project. The role of the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) is to ensure consistency over the long-term in methodologies, technologies, and in data collection, archiving, and management. It will also serve to make the information accessible to all southern First Nations. The SCO is committed to continue to seek funding over the long-term to support the ***Strategic Water Management Project*** provided communities are participating and benefiting from it.

### Project Details

**The Water Atlas, or GIS, will contain environmental datasets compiled from various sources, including:**

- Provincial and federal datasets
  - forestry, mining, water quality, land use, topographic etc
- Local/community level information, such as
  - previous studies in the form of reports carried out by, or for, a community
  - local and traditional knowledge
  - aerial imagery, such as aerial photographs and satellite images
- Other data holdings

The compilation of community information is an ***'inventory'*** and is intended to identify areas of importance and concern to the community. Once your community inventory is completed, the information will be added to the GIS database so it can be used in conjunction with the other datasets.

**Communities may use the GIS for many purposes. Some examples include, but are not limited to, the following.**

- Watershed management planning
- Local source water protection
- Resource management planning
- Educational purposes

**Additional information**

- Assistance will be provided to communities to develop their water inventories during the summer and fall of 2008
- We recommend that participating community members include water treatment plant operators, health officers, environment officers, land managers and interested Elders
- Training in GIS will be provided to participating communities
- Access to the GIS will be via the internet
- Interested communities do not need additional funding to participate

**To participate in the Strategic Water Management Project, or if you have questions, please contact:**

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