



*Sharing **knowledge**
to inform **practice***

SIP Exchange (SIPex)
**STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK**
OCTOBER 2025

**Silviculture
Innovation
Program**





PHOTO // BC Community Forests Association Field Tour, near Mackenzie, BC (Gillian Chow-Fraser)

SIPex STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

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CONTENTS

Mission	2
Context.....	3
Purpose and Scope	4
Goal of SIPex	
Core functionality	
Values	7
Key Roles & Responsibilities	8
Structure of Project Team	
Information Governance	10
Ethics and Standards	
Risk Management	
Development Process	12
Knowledge Curation	14
Information Repository	
Community Curation Process	
Curation Realities	
Content Removals	
Continuous Improvement	16
Outcomes	16

[Strategic Framework Appendices](#)

Appendix 1: Functionality Scope & Prioritization

Appendix 2: Content Prioritization

VISION OF THE SILVICULTURE INNOVATION PROGRAM (SIP)



Innovative silvicultural systems are applied widely across British Columbia's forested ecosystems for the stewardship of multiple values. For more information on the SIP, visit <https://sip.bvcentre.ca>

**Silviculture
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PHOTO // Participants at a field tour near Nelson, BC (Gillian Chow-Fraser)

MISSION



// Mission Statement

The SIP Exchange (SIPex) knowledge hub will help forest practitioners find, access, and apply practical and curated information on innovative silviculture. By connecting people and knowledge, we will support better decision-making and adaptive forest management for the stewardship of multiple values.

// What will the SIPex do uniquely well?

What makes the SIPex unique is providing access to knowledge in multiple formats to meet the needs of forest practitioners. The knowledge hub will be a place where forest practitioners can obtain information and make connections with communities and other knowledge holders to support the implementation of innovative silviculture. This will also be a place where knowledge sharing is elevated to reach a wider audience and expand the field of innovative silviculture in BC. Forest practitioners often learn and connect through experiential learning (outside and in a forest). While the SIPex will not replace those experiences, it will be an accessible and centralized home to as much of the digital knowledge that exists, and that the SIP can ethically access and host on innovative practice, as well as provide the opportunity for people to connect to communities that can support their work and training to expand their knowledge and skills in informal, formal or accredited settings. The SIPex focuses on serving forest practitioners in BC, which means that the content is entirely focused on meeting the specific challenges faced by practitioners across this diverse province.

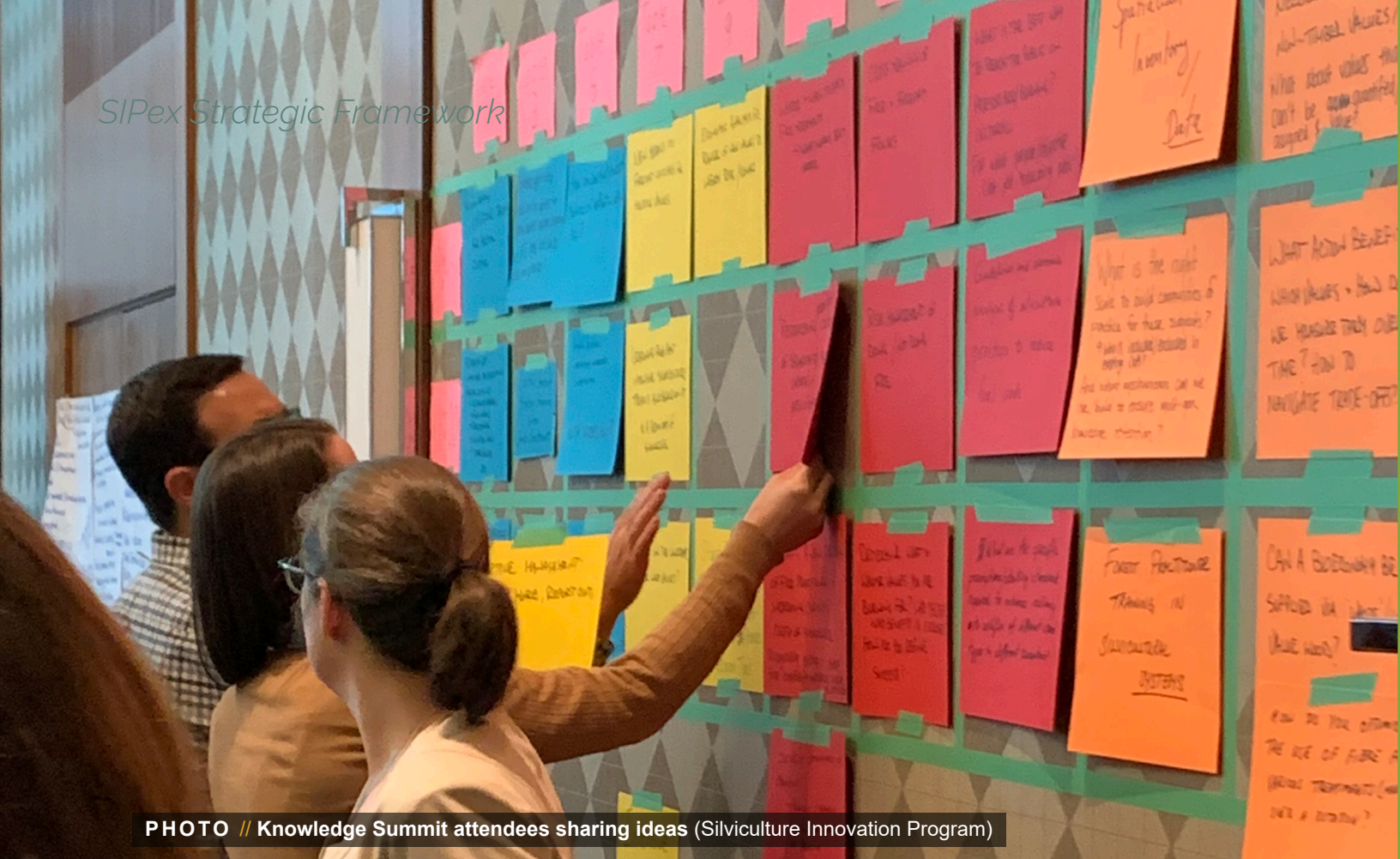


PHOTO // Knowledge Summit attendees sharing ideas (Silviculture Innovation Program)

CONTEXT

//History

Creating a searchable, open-access knowledge hub emerged as the top priority from the 2024 SIP Knowledge Summit. For more information on the Knowledge Summit click [here](#).

//Why is this an exchange?

Accessing knowledge, continually learning and building a foundation of relevant training and experience will support existing and inspire new innovators and adopters of a wide range of forest practices. Implementing innovative silviculture requires that the people within communities, organizations, companies and government agencies have the knowledge and experience to match the practices to the problems they are trying to solve. Individuals also come with pre-existing knowledge, skills and experiences that can help others learn. Forest practitioners strongly rely on their knowledge, experience, education, communities, networks, mentors and peers to shape their practice. To develop a knowledge hub that serves this community means reflecting the reciprocal relationship between learning new and sharing existing knowledge. As a result, we shifted the conceptual foundation of the design from a hub - to an exchange - to recognize that people can contribute to, or receive from the hub.

PURPOSE & SCOPE



// Why a strategic framework?

As a foundational project for the Silviculture Innovation Program, the SIP Exchange Strategic Framework is intended to provide transparency to development of the platform. This framework will guide scope, application, and prioritization as well as inform functional development (design and user experience). The Strategic Framework will be reviewed annually supported by the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and user engagement to guide development priorities.

// Goal

The goal of the SIPex is to facilitate access to knowledge, support evidence-based decision making, and increase the application of innovation through this knowledge of innovative practices, values and approaches.

// Who is SIPex for?

The primary audience of the knowledge hub is forest practitioners, land stewards, and those whose work influences, or is influenced by, forest practices. The SIPex is publicly available, meaning everyone has access to learn about forestry practices, but the material is not curated for a public or political audience.

KEY DEFINITIONS // FOREST PRACTITIONERS



Forest practitioners are professionals, researchers, Guardians and stewards involved in the management, conservation, and sustainable use of forest ecosystems. These individuals come from diverse backgrounds and knowledge systems, holding expertise in various aspects of forestry, from forest management, operations, ecology, wildlife and fire management to policy and community engagement. Forest practitioners work to ensure that forests are managed in a way that balances ecological health, economic needs, and cultural and social values, while addressing challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and disturbances such as wildfire.

PURPOSE & SCOPE (*continued*)

// Core functionality

The SIPex will provide access to, and summarize, a searchable online database of knowledge and information across British Columbia on innovative silviculture practices. The SIPex will be a user-friendly information portal that supports practitioners accessing knowledge to improve understanding, decision making, and innovative practice. The SIPex will be used to help guide decisions about innovative silviculture for practitioners and decision-makers, and help make research more applicable on-the-ground. The SIPex will support identifying knowledge gaps in innovative silviculture including important topics, under-researched regions, and existing or developing research trials.

The SIPex design and function will focus on the multiple ecological, cultural and economic values driving innovative practices across the range of BC forested ecosystems. We will identify values, practices, approaches, regions and types of information that best support practitioners increasing the implementation of innovative practice.

The SIPex will be an information repository that collects and collates knowledge, and is an important tool in getting the knowledge back out to practitioners. Information types that can be included in the SIPex are best management practices, case studies (including innovative practice failures), syntheses, meta-analyses, management prescriptions, value monitoring methods and tools, risk reduction plans, templates, extension notes, technical reports, and scientific literature.

While the Hub includes a centralized repository of curated information, its purpose extends beyond storing documents. SIPex is intended to support learning through

PHOTO // Participants at the 2025 BCCFA Annual Conference, near Victoria, BC (Gillian Chow-Fraser)

community, and access to knowledge holders, acknowledging that meaningful learning in forestry is often collaborative, relational, and experiential.

The four pillars of the SIPex are:

1. A searchable repository of resources and information,
2. Visibility to existing and emerging communities of practice and knowledge holders,
3. Sharing training and learning opportunities beyond the website, and
4. Summarized and/or synthesized featured topics.



VALUES



The SIPex is grounded in values that reflect the team and its purpose. We believe that durable, community-driven knowledge systems are built on sound infrastructure and shared principles that guide everyday decisions and long-term vision.

- **Driven by forest practitioners** // The SIPex is shaped by the needs, insights, and priorities of those who use and may contribute to it. We center this community in design and content decisions, and engagement priorities. We are committed to providing SIPex users the training, documentation, and responsive guidance required to support using the platform with confidence.
- **Respect for knowledge in multiple forms** // We value scientific and experiential knowledge, and aim to honour diverse ways of knowing, including Indigenous knowledge systems, field-based expertise, and lived experience.
- **Adaptability** // The SIPex is developed using nimble and incremental delivery of progress. This core principle ensures that improvements are delivered to our users to move development forward through frequent user engagement and testing. We will embrace change as new technologies emerge, user needs evolve, and partnerships deepen.
- **Transparency** // We strive for openness in how we curate content, set priorities, and make decisions – building trust through clear communication and shared accountability.
- **Durability** // We are committed to technical and organizational long-term sustainability. This includes ensuring the SIPex remains relevant, usable, and well-supported over time.
- **Accessibility** // The SIPex is publicly accessible and free to use. We promote equitable access to knowledge across disciplines, geographies, and communities.



PHOTO // Participants at a field tour near Nelson, BC (Gillian Chow-Fraser)

KEY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES – □ ×

The SIPex project team includes a project leader, back-end developers, front-end designers (website look and feel), content manager, information curators and project and process advisors (Figure 1).

At the strategic level the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) is responsible to support an annual review of the Strategic Framework and provide advice and guidance on content curation and functionality prioritization. The SAG also brings a diversity of perspectives and experiences to help contextualize the work – building bridges and connections to other groups and initiatives in the province and beyond to ensure ongoing impact of the SIPex. The project team works collaboratively to uphold governance principles such as transparency, accountability, and user-centered design. Periodic reflection on governance practices will be integrated into annual reviews of the Strategic Framework, supported by the Strategic Advisory Group.

In addition to the core project team and the SAG, information governance that is essential to maintaining the integrity, consistency, and ethical use of information and content, are embedded within the roles of the project team, particularly the content manager and curators. These key information governance functions include defining metadata standards, evaluating content against standards, and ensuring content quality.

Figure 1. Structure of SIPex project team.



**Silviculture
Innovation
Program**



Project Lead

**Technical
Team**

**Back-end
Developers**

*(Infrastructure and
architecture)*

**Front-end
Developers**

(UI, UX, visual style)

**Content
Curation Team**

**Content
Manager**

*(Metadata, ethical
content approvals,
governance)*

**Content
Curators**

**Repository
Community Experts**

*(Acquire, organize,
assess, tag)*

**Extension
Team**

**Outcomes and
Outputs**

**Communication
and Outreach**

**Strategy &
Advice**

**SIP Strategic
Advisory Group**

SIP Team

Expert Advisors

Practitioners

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE



The SIPex is committed to ethical and transparent information governance to ensure that goals and objectives are met while core values are maintained.

// Ethics and Standards

// Content credibility, quality and completeness

All information hosted or linked to from the SIP Exchange must be from a credible source (peer-reviewed, practitioner-vetted, government-published, or community-trusted), with clear identification of authorship and/or organization/community that produced the work, as well as a date of publication, and evidence that ideas within the work are appropriately attributed. An inclusion flowchart is used to assess all information hosted on the SIPex, including documents, communities of practice etc. The content within each piece of information hosted in the SIPex will not be universally accepted by practitioners, academics, government or communities. Through the curation process, the SIPex will ensure that information housed in the knowledge hub is credible and relevant to practitioners, and ethical to share. The expectation is for practitioners to then evaluate the information given their knowledge and experience. We will avoid hosting or linking to materials that could cause harm if misused or misinterpreted. The SIPex is unable to review every resource for updates, corrections or corrigendums, published responses, or verify/advise on whether and how knowledge gained from a resource should be applied. The SIPex is also unable to curate all information, but will aim to curate priority content as fully as resources allow.

// Privacy and sensitive information

No personal data will be collected or shared as part of the development of the SIP Exchange unless explicitly anonymized and consented to, except that which may have been included in the credible source. Any use of operational, field, trial, experimental or cultural data will be protected. We will only share these data with express permission from the data owners and presented in formats that are mutually agreed upon and appropriate.

The SIPex project team commit to respect the principles of OCAP®/PCAP®¹ where information from, on and about First Nations, including land and resources, is only shared with consent and with an understanding that First Nations have sovereignty over their data, including the right to own, control, access and possess their data.

¹OCAP® is a registered trademark of the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC; <https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/>)

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE (*continued*)

// Licensing and intellectual property

We will disclose licenses associated with all resources hosted by or linked to the knowledge hub, respecting copyright and licensing permissions. Any users that contribute resources must also share permissions for the SIPex to host or link to that information. Copyright is a legal protection that applies to a range of cultural works including written materials, music, art and audiovisual work (SFU 2025). The three key requirements for copyright protection are: (1) the work must be fixed in material form (e.g., written, recorded, photographed), (2) the work must have been created by a specific author or authors, (3) the work must be original and not a copy (SFU 2025). As such, copyright law in Canada often lacks the framework to allow for Indigenous peoples' "right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures..." (United Nations, 2007, Article 31;). Given the various ways that Indigenous Knowledge and sovereignty may conflict with copyright protection, the SIP will do its due diligence to contact and consult communities who own or share Indigenous Knowledge and follow related protocols and requirements.

The SIP aims to adhere to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (with specific attention to Article 31) and will uphold the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act which received Royal Assent in British Columbia in July 2021.

// Equity

We will aim to include diverse forms of knowledge, and knowledge from a range of practitioners, regions and cultural contexts. While we strive for inclusion, it is not our place to host or hold knowledge without consent or context. We will regularly assess whose voices are over- or underrepresented within the SIP Exchange and adjust our curation as necessary.

// Accessibility

While information hosted and linked on the SIPex can contain complex ideas and language, we will supplement resources with plain language summaries and overviews to increase accessibility when possible. If information is not understandable, findable, or usable by a range of users, the SIPex risks becoming exclusionary, underused, or misinterpreted. We commit to applying and regularly reviewing accessibility standards across language, metadata, format, and design.

// Risk Management

Our risk tolerance is **low** for risks related to **credibility, licensing, ethics and privacy**, and **moderate** for **accessibility, equity, and completeness**. This means we prioritize ethics, privacy, quality, clarity, and licensing compliance over including all available material. Decisions about content inclusion and metadata structure are made with this risk lens in mind. As the knowledge hub evolves, this framework will be updated to reflect emerging risks and changes in how users engage with content.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The functionality of the SIPex knowledge hub has been defined and prioritized through multiple, practitioner-centered needs assessment engagement processes and the advisory team. These include:



Interviews with attendees conducted prior to the Knowledge Summit



Outcomes of the Knowledge Summit, including the *What We Heard* report and other supporting materials



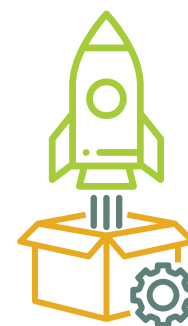
A survey of how Communities of Practice can serve practitioners



Guidance from the SIP Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)



A targeted survey delivered to forest practitioners, specifically on content and functionality prioritization



A beta-launch survey and focus group

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS (*continued*)



// Scope and Priorities

The production principle behind the SIPex is iterative development, enabling early and frequent engagement with the primary user group to support continuous improvement. Initial development of SIPex will prioritize a searchable resource repository functionality and content priorities that directly serve forest practitioners, land stewards and forest managers, the groups identified as having the most immediate need for accessible and actionable information. For in depth analyses of the needs assessments guiding early development see the Strategic Framework Appendices.

Based on these needs assessments, in the first year of production, the SIPex team will prioritize curating resources on ecosystems throughout the province, focusing on ecosystems with higher resource and disturbance stress (i.e. dry, interior ecosystems). We will prioritize content on thinning, variable retention, reforestation and fuel or waste management, emphasizing economics, implementation and effectiveness. We will prioritize values of climate change resilience, impacts of silviculture on wildlife, water, wildfire, cultural plants, and timber or bioeconomy. We will prioritize resources that support implementation through case studies, webinars, extension notes, guidance documents and prescriptions.

We will prioritize the development of a searchable database of information, that is fast and flexible across platforms, and includes structures such as biophysical context (ecosystem/BEC zone), refined filtering and search options, and we will also create connection to knowledge through community and knowledge holders.

Content prioritization will occur annually in consultation with the SIP Strategic Advisory Group, engagements with practitioners and feedback from use of the SIPex (i.e. content interaction by users).

PHOTO // Cultural burning (Kira Hoffman)

KNOWLEDGE CURATION



// Information Repository

// Content curation process

Curation will focus on set priority areas developed through the process outlined above and will be verified and adjusted throughout the year using tag frequency against the priority areas. With priority areas defined, initial potential content and links were provided by the SIP team, followed by extensive web searching, reviewing references contained in curated content, ongoing input from the community of practitioners, strategic and advisory teams, and through awareness of emerging resources facilitated by other organizations. The scope and depth of information across topic areas will be continually assessed by the content manager in discussion with the information curator.

In future phases, the SIPex may evolve to include user-contributed content (i.e. uploaded directly). As this functionality is developed, the SIP team will establish standards for contributions to ensure content integrity, standards and relevance. If contributions from outside the program are accepted, information standards will be revisited and adapted accordingly.

// Metadata and tagging

We used multiple needs assessments to determine the structure of information housed in SIPex: break-out sessions from the Knowledge Summit, a Communities of Practice Survey, SAG discussions and a targeted survey to test early concepts of metadata and tagging structure. We identified that to determine whether information was relevant, forest practitioners and land stewards require information about the geographic and ecological context, the nature of the resource, which would impact the scope, audience and detail of the information, as well as who created it.

We use both metadata and structured tagging to curate information in the SIPex. Metadata in this case includes information about who created and owns the knowledge, and what form or other specifics that describe the information, while tags and a description provide context for the resource. Updates to metadata and tagging standards will be evaluated after launch, and annually in review with the Strategic Advisory Group.

KEY DEFINITIONS // METADATA



Metadata is data about data. It is structured to share information about the content, context and characteristics of the information or data being shared. In other words, metadata can describe the what, who, when, where, how or why the information was created.

KNOWLEDGE CURATION (*continued*)

// Community Curation Process

// Community Pages

The Community pages (i.e., the directories for Communities of Practice and experts) will be curated lists of relevant information to support network building and access to knowledge holders. The curation for Communities of Practice will follow broad principles to ensure that those included on the list reflect ones that:

- May support forest practitioners in implementing innovative silviculture; **and**,
- Participate in knowledge sharing, knowledge exchange or knowledge creation, **or**,
- Facilitate a gathering of people around a specific topic/area of focus within forest management or forest stewardship (online or in-person), **or**,
- Align with the core values and principles of the SIP, particularly supporting diversity in the forestry sector, which may indirectly contribute to non-traditional approaches to forestry and innovation.

// Experts directory

The curation of individuals in the experts directory will be guided by principles to ensure it reflects those that:

- Possess a high level of knowledge or skill in an area of focus, gained through experience, education and/or training, **and/or**,
- May be viewed as a knowledge holder or mentor, or valued as having a specialized skillset, unique experiences, or niche understanding of a topic, **and/or**,
- Can provide advice, recommendations or feedback within their area of expertise.

PHOTO // BCCFA Field Tour participants (Gillian Chow-Fraser)

// Curation Realities

While the SIPex is committed to the values and standards outlined above and aims to represent diverse forms of and systems of knowledge, we acknowledge that a web-based platform and the curation process favours written knowledge. Oral histories, personal lived experiences, and land-based learnings are not as easily curated into SIPex and, in many cases, are not meant to be shared publically. Where possible, following standards above, we have sought to include podcasts, videos, and presentations to represent these forms of knowledge, but recognize this is incomplete. Furthermore, historical information, while foundational and still relevant, is not always as easily accessible (e.g., may only exist in paper format in archives), and thus the curation tends to reflect more modern resources. We acknowledge that there is knowledge and information that is fundamental for forest practitioners that is not curated on SIPex, and SIPex does not intend to be fully comprehensive nor privilege certain resources / forms of knowledge above others.

// Content Removals

Any resources or information shared on SIPex that may violate the values, ethics and standards of this project can be reported to the SIP team at: sip.learn@bvcentre.ca

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The SIP team is committed to iterative development, ensuring that the SIPex continues to evolve in alignment with user needs and realities. Functionality updates and content curation priorities will be guided by ongoing user testing and practitioner feedback and reviewed annually.

OUTCOMES

We aim for the SIPex to impact the implementation of innovative silviculture across British Columbia, as a major project supporting the vision and mission of the SIP. Short-term outcomes include raising awareness through increased participation. Medium-term outcomes include actions by practitioners to engage with the variety of resources and incorporate their new knowledge into practice. We anticipate this will lead to longer-term impacts with knowledge creating opportunities for application of innovative practices, and in the long-term support the larger social, economic, cultural, and ecological conditions required to support innovation. A pathway to these anticipated outcomes, building from resources and main outputs (functionalities) of SIPex, is provided (Figure 2; Table 1).

Figure 2. SIPex: Pathway to Outcomes

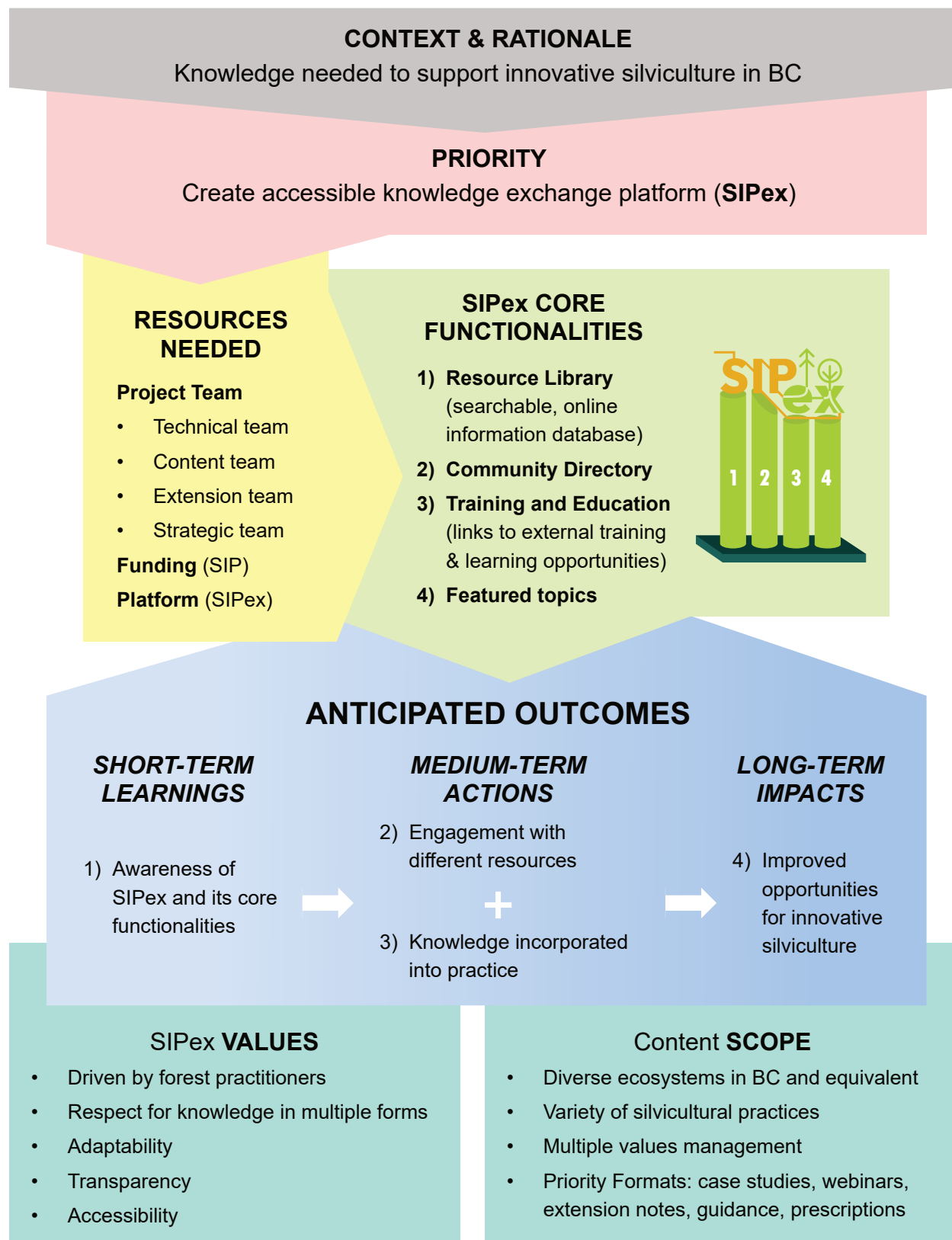


Table 1. SIPex: Core functionalities, audiences, and anticipated outcomes.

Functionality	Audience	Anticipated Outcomes
1) Resource Library Searchable, online information database	All practitioners	1) Awareness
	Practitioners expanding scope of practice	2) Engagement
	New practitioners	<i>3) Knowledge to Practice</i>
	Researchers	<i>4) Improved opportunities</i>
	Government	
2) Community Directory Communities of Practice hub, Knowledge holders hub	All practitioners	1) Awareness
	Practitioners expanding scope of practice	<i>2) Engagement</i>
	New practitioners	3) Knowledge to Practice
	Researchers	<i>4) Improved opportunities</i>
	Government	
3) Training and Education Links to external training, learning opportunities, etc.)	All practitioners	1) Awareness
	Practitioners expanding scope of practice	<i>2) Engagement</i>
	New practitioners	3) Knowledge to Practice
	Researchers	4) Improved opportunities
	Government	
4) Featured Topics Topical Syntheses	All practitioners	<i>1) Awareness</i>
	Practitioners expanding scope of practice	2) Engagement
	New practitioners	3) Knowledge to Practice
	Researchers	4) Improved opportunities
	Government	
Alignment with other activities of the Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP)	All practitioners	1) Awareness
	Practitioners expanding scope of practice	<i>2) Engagement</i>
	New practitioners	<i>3) Knowledge to Practice</i>
	Researchers	4) Improved opportunities
	Government	



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