

Taking Care of the NWT's Natural Environment

What are the differences among the ESF, CIMP and Audit?

The NWT Environmental Stewardship Framework (ESF), NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) and NWT Environmental Audit are three initiatives that support integrated environmental stewardship in the Northwest Territories. All are founded on a broad definition of the environment – including social, cultural, economic, biological, physical aspects.

Name	NWT Environmental Stewardship Framework (ESF) (formerly called the Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Framework and Strategy, CEAMF)	NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) and Audit (formerly called the Mackenzie Valley Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, MVCIMP)	
Origin	Ministerial commitment from INAC, EC and the GNWT following the environmental assessment of the Diavik Diamonds Project (December 1999)	Land claims and self-government agreements: Gwich'in (1992), Sahtu (1994), Tlicho (2005) Legislation: <i>Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)</i> , Part 6 (1998)	
Main Activities and Goals	<p>ESF</p> <p>In order to improve environmental stewardship in the NWT, the ESF Steering Committee sets a context for decision-makers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the protection of ecological integrity; Support the building of sustainable communities, including social and cultural dimensions; and Ensure responsible economic development occurs within the context of sound environmental stewardship. <p>Specific recommendations are set out in the <i>Blueprint</i> for implementation and in "<i>Regional Plans of Action</i>" for areas with high development pressures.</p>	<p>CIMP</p> <p>CIMP is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor cumulative impacts of land and water uses and waste deposits; Fund and support projects to fill key gaps in monitoring; Report to decision-makers and the public on the state of the NWT environment; Build community capacity; and Provide information to the independent audit. 	<p>INDEPENDENT AUDIT</p> <p>The first audit was completed in 2005 and will occur at least once every 5 years. Each Audit is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine what changes are occurring in the environment (how, why, and the significance); Recommend improvements to CIMP; Recommend improvements to land and water management ; and Review responses to recommendations of previous audits.
Key Relationships	The ESF <i>Blueprint</i> for implementation identifies monitoring and auditing as essential components of cumulative effects management, and recognizes the major roles that CIMP and the Audit can play in improving management practices.	CIMP and the Audit are stand-alone components of the overall ESF. The ESF can be seen as a "toolkit" of separate but linked programs; the Audit and CIMP are important tools in this toolkit.	
Managing Group	<p>The ESF Steering Committee includes representatives from INAC, EC, GNWT-ENR, Aboriginal governments, MVEIRB, environmental non-government organizations, mining and oil and gas industries. This committee annually reviews progress on <i>Blueprint</i> recommendations and reports its findings to the responsible ministers and other parties.</p> <p>ESF Observers include several Nunavut organizations.</p>	<p>The CIMP Working Group includes INAC, GNWT-ENR, regional Aboriginal governments.</p> <p>CIMP Observers include DFO, EC, PC and MVEIRB.</p> <p>The Auditor must be independent of all key NWT resource management decision-makers, including the CIMP Responsible Authority, and must not have been contracted to such a body on cumulative effects-related tasks or employed by such a body within the two years before being appointed.</p>	
Current Funding	INAC and EC	INAC	
Future Funding	Detailed costing for the implementation of the <i>Blueprint</i> recommendations is updated regularly. Areas where existing resources can be used more effectively are identified, as well as areas where new money may be required.	CIMP and the Audit are projected to cost about \$3 -5 million annually. This amount does not overlap with ESF implementation costs. The funding will be sought from the Government of Canada.	
Geographical Area	<p>Entire NWT – implementation will vary to reflect regional differences.</p> <p>Regional Plans of Action have been developed for the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slave Geological Province – Nunavut organizations are equal partners; Deh Cho through land use planning; and Beaufort-Delta. 	<p>Entire NWT – the Inuvialuit Game Council has chosen to participate in CIMP and the Audit although the MVRMA does not apply to the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.</p> <p>Implementation will vary to reflect differences in community and regional priorities.</p> <p>Exact monitoring programs and locations will be determined as implementation proceeds.</p>	
Contact	<p>Website: www.ceamf.ca</p> <p>Email: ceam@inac.gc.ca</p> <p>Phone: (867) 669-2594</p>	<p>Website: www.nwtcimp.ca</p> <p>Email: cimp@inac.gc.ca</p> <p>Phone: (867) 669-2594</p>	

Abbreviations: Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC), Environment Canada (EC), Parks Canada (PC), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR), Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB), Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)