



It is important that the information collected through CIMP is relevant to Northerners, therefore the program is largely guided by the expertise and efforts of northern residents.

Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program

Who participates in the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program?

A CIMP Working Group with representatives from Aboriginal, territorial and federal governments, along with observers from other organizations, is guiding the design and implementation of the program.

Working Group Members:

Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
 Gwich'in Tribal Council
 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
 Inuvialuit Game Council
 North Slave Metis Alliance
 Northwest Territory Metis Nation
 Tłı̨chǫ Government

Observer Organizations:

Akaitcho Territory Government
 Dehcho First Nations
 Environment Canada
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
 Parks Canada
 Sahtu Secretariat Inc.

Alternates:

Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada provides secretariat support, technical expertise and scientific guidance to the NWT CIMP Working Group and NWT CIMP projects. To contact the CIMP Coordinator, please email cimp@inac.gc.ca or phone 867-669-2597.

How is the information collected used?

CIMP promotes the use of data collection and reporting protocols to ensure environmental information can, as much as possible, be included in existing databases. Where appropriate, the program will encourage regulators to implement CIMP-endorsed protocols for data collection and reporting.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories are developing an NWT Monitoring Portal. When fully implemented, this web-based information management portal will support CIMP by making environmental data from varied sources – including program funded projects - available to the public.



CIMP produces a State of Knowledge Report intended to document baseline data and identify significant information gaps. The first report was released in 2002 and was updated in 2005, 2007 and 2009. The VC Advisory Teams are responsible for updating the reference list related to each VC annually. The report provides a starting place for environmental auditors to assess changes in environmental conditions as they may relate to each VC. The summary and full reports are available on the CIMP website at www.nwtcimp.ca.

How do we make sure the monitoring program is effective?

Every five years the NWT Environmental Audit is conducted by an independent auditor to check on the health of the environment, the efficiency of environmental management processes, the status of the implementation of recommendations from previous audits and the effectiveness of CIMP. The audit helps ensure that monitoring activities gather the information necessary for decision-makers to better understand the environment. Long-term monitoring and regular audits are good environmental management practices that help protect the environment. The first audit was conducted in 2005.

How does the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program select projects to support?

CIMP projects are selected annually by the CIMP Working Group based on a 'request for proposal' process. Activities should promote community capacity building, environmental monitoring, scientific research and/or traditional knowledge studies. Recipients of program funding can include Aboriginal organizations, communities, government departments, non-government organizations and academics.

Projects may also be determined based on identified or known gaps in environmental monitoring and research in the NWT. These types of initiatives are included as operational components of program planning.



What are cumulative impacts?

Cumulative impacts are changes to the biophysical, social, economic, and cultural environments caused by the combination of past, present and “reasonably foreseeable” future actions. Cumulative impacts can be positive or negative.

CIMP aims to achieve excellence in environmental management and stewardship through effective monitoring and assessment of cumulative impacts in the NWT.

What is the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program?

The Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) aims to achieve excellence in environmental management and stewardship through effective monitoring and assessment of cumulative impacts in the NWT.

CIMP and the NWT Environmental Audit are requirements of the Gwich'in and Sahtu land claim agreements, the Tłı̨ch̓ Agreement, and Part 6 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Monitoring programs and audits are also recognized in the NWT Environmental Stewardship Framework.

This NWT-focused monitoring program is intended to:

1. Provide high-level guidance and coordination support to monitoring and research activities.
 - Identify priority information gaps relevant to cumulative impact monitoring.
 - Provide strategic support to monitoring and research projects that will yield results relevant to making decisions about environmental and resource management.
 - Ensure the NWT Environmental Audit is completed and recommendations are addressed.
 - Fulfill environmental monitoring-related land claim and statutory obligations.
2. Ensure that regulatory, scientific and traditional knowledge information related to cumulative impacts is effectively and efficiently collected through enhanced partnerships.
 - Ensure a standardized, tiered system of data collection and reporting is applied in the NWT using common protocols (for government baseline, community-based and regulatory monitoring).
 - Enhance partnerships and coordinate monitoring activities amongst public, private and community-based organizations.
 - Increase the capacity of NWT partners to participate in monitoring programs.
3. Ensure that information related to cumulative impacts is effectively and efficiently managed, analysed and reported.
 - Improve data management, analysis and reporting capacity.
 - Increase accessibility of environmental information for project planning, environmental review and impact assessment.
 - Increase reporting and overall understanding of the NWT environment.



What kinds of things are monitored?

Important parts of the environment that need to be monitored are called “Valued Components” (VCs). These include:

- water
- wildlife and birds
- vegetation and fire
- fish
- air and climate
- human health and wellness
- marine life
- snow, ice and permafrost

Each VC is monitored in the NWT using programs developed by communities, governments, industry and other organizations. These programs often require different groups to work closely together. CIMP staff have engaged experts in their respective fields to form VC Advisory Teams for each of the VCs. These individuals are experts from Aboriginal governments, territorial and federal governments, academia, co-management bodies, industry and environmental non-government organizations. Based on the best available scientific and traditional knowledge, VC Advisory Teams provide information and advice to the CIMP Secretariat that is used to develop the most effective monitoring programs for each VC.

