
Appendix B: Glossary and Acronyms

Aboriginal Organizations: refers non-specifically / in a general way to groups or organizations representing Dene, Metis and / or Inuvialuit interests in the NWT.

Community-based Monitoring: A 'community-based' approach to monitoring may have several aspects. Monitoring could include not only Elders' Traditional Knowledge, but also the local knowledge and experience of those currently involved in harvesting and gathering (i.e., the collection of observations of land users). Community-based monitoring may also involve community members being involved in the collection, analysis/ interpretation, and reporting of traditional or science-based monitoring information. School-based monitoring may be an important component. Community-based monitoring also focuses on the questions and issues of priority to the community itself; in this sense, the monitoring undertaken to address such concerns may not always be conducted by community members, or utilize traditional/local knowledge. For example – the monitoring needed to address water or food contamination concerns may be science-based, conducted by government organizations.

Cumulative Impact: The Working Group has defined cumulative impacts as “changes to the environment caused by an activity, combined with other past, present and future activities”. The term 'cumulative impact' has been used interchangeably with 'cumulative effect' in this document. The *MVRMA* does not define the term 'cumulative impact'.

Environment: “Environment means the Earth, and how land, water and air and all living and non-living things depend on each other.” (June 9, 1999 Working Group Terms of Reference). This definition embraces the social, cultural, economic and biophysical aspects of environment.

First Nations: means the Gwich'in First Nation, the Sahtu First Nation or bodies representing other Dene or Metis of the North Slave, South Slave or Deh Cho regions of the NWT.

Indicator: Anything that is used to measure the condition of something of interest. Indicators are often used as variables in the modeling of changes in complex environmental systems. (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, 1999). An indicator represents a key aspect of the environment that, when tracked over time, can provide trends in the condition of the environment beyond the properties of the indicator itself. Indicators may be used as variables in the conceptual modeling of changes in complex environmental systems, linking various stressors to indicators and ultimately to VCs. Indicators may be assessed using traditional knowledge, conventional science, or both.

Information Management: The system of collecting, processing, and storing diverse types of information (quantitative and qualitative, including traditional knowledge) from different sources, and sharing it with a range of users for the purpose of analysis and reporting.

Mackenzie Valley: as defined by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, is the NWT not including the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) and Wood Buffalo National Park. However, it is recognized that portions of the ISR lie within the Mackenzie Valley watershed (i.e. they are located at the mouth of the Mackenzie River).

Monitoring: A consistent method of measuring or watching something to detect changes, using scientific or traditional knowledge; a continuing assessment of environmental indicators in a repetitive and systematic way. It may occur at a number of different levels (e.g., project-

specific, local/community, regional, territorial, national, international). Monitoring can have a number of purposes, including:

- assessment of the current state of the environment
- trend analysis over time (e.g., quality, quantity, distribution of environmental components or resources)
- 'early warning'
- diagnostic ('cause and effect')
- demonstration of linkages
- compliance with conditions of approval/environmental standards

Traditional Knowledge (TK): A cumulative body of knowledge and beliefs, handed down through generations by cultural transmission, about the relationship of living things (including humans) with one another and with their environment. It includes the knowledge of elders, current land users, and other community members. Further, TK is an attribute of societies with historical continuity in resource use practices. Other terms include 'indigenous knowledge', 'local knowledge', traditional ecological knowledge', 'indigenous science', and 'ecological wisdom'.

Valued Component (VC): The Working Group is now using the term 'Valued Components', rather than 'Valued Ecosystem Components', to emphasize the broad definition of the environment being used – to include the social, cultural and economic aspects in addition to the biophysical. VCs are aspects of the environment that are considered important, on the basis of economic, social, cultural, community, ecological, legal or political concern. They provide a focus for the collection and reporting of monitoring information. A VC is not an indicator in itself, although impacts on or trends in some characteristic of a VC may be used as an indicator. For example, caribou may be chosen as a VC, although it is not the caribou itself that is an indicator (e.g., the indicator may be caribou body fat).

Acronyms

AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (Working Group of Arctic Council)
ATG	Akaiicho Territory Government
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (Working Group of Arctic Council)
CEAM	Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management
CIMP	Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program
DIAND	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
EIRB	Environmental Impact Review Board (Inuvialuit Settlement Region)
EISC	Environmental Impact Screening Committee (Inuvialuit Settlement Region)
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GSA	Gwich'in Settlement Area
GTC	Gwich'in Tribal Council
IMS	Information Management System
ISR	Inuvialuit Settlement Region
MVCIMP	Mackenzie Valley Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program [now called the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program]
MVEIRB	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
MVLWB	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
MVRMA	Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
NWT	Northwest Territories
RA	Responsible Authority
RWED	Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
SOE	State of the Environment
TK	Traditional Knowledge
ToR	Terms of Reference
VC	Valued Component