

CUMULATIVE IMPACT MONITORING PROGRAM (CIMP) AND AUDIT WORKSHOP

March 12 and 13, 2002
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

WORKSHOP REPORT

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

The Northwest Territories (NWT) is faced with increasing development pressure in many of its regions. As a result, there are corresponding concerns about the potential cumulative impact of activities, including those within the NWT and the potential transboundary effects of those in neighbouring provinces and territories. A number of needs have been identified, including:

- The need for an overall cumulative impact research and monitoring framework;
- The need for baseline and monitoring information (particularly from “other developments” in the case of project-specific cumulative effects assessment) to assist in the prediction, assessment and management of cumulative impacts;
- The need to define and agree upon Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs)/ Valued Social Components and associated cumulative impact indicators, thresholds, and carrying capacities;
- The need to better understand cause and effect linkages for many cumulative impacts;
- The need for a ‘state-of-the-environment’ reporting system that collects monitoring information and evaluates it in terms of environmental trends and thresholds/carrying capacity; and
- The need for an independent audit of the effectiveness of cumulative effects assessment and management activities and processes in the NWT.

An NWT-wide Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) and Audit would address the needs expressed by a number of organizations, as described above. It would also reflect the widespread sense that development of an NWT-wide monitoring program is desirable. The Gwich’in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992) and Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1994) require the development of a program to monitor the cumulative impacts of land and water uses on the environment in the Mackenzie Valley, as well as a periodic environmental audit. The Dogrib Agreement-in-Principle (January 2000) also anticipates the development of a cumulative impact monitoring program and audit. A cumulative impact monitoring program and audit are also requirements of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)* (Part 6, sections 146 and 148).

Elsewhere in the Mackenzie Valley¹, there are ongoing land claim and self-government discussions and negotiations between the Governments of Canada and the NWT, and Aboriginal

¹ For the purposes of this report, the term ‘Mackenzie Valley’ will be used to mean the area covered by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, i.e., the NWT not including the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) and Wood

organizations (i.e., Dogrib Treaty 11 Council (DRT11), Akaitcho Territory Government (ATG), Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN), South Slave Metis Tribal Council (SSMTC), North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA)). The outcomes of these processes will likely have implications for the future implementation of the CIMP; and certainly, the CIMP will have to respect the outcomes of these negotiations in terms of how they specifically deal with cumulative impact monitoring and auditing on a regional basis. The participation of regional organizations in the development and implementation of the CIMP and Audit is without prejudice to their positions regarding any land claim agreements that may be negotiated. The Deline and Beaufort Delta self-government negotiation processes may also have implications for CIMP implementation. The Inuvialuit have participated on the Working Group from the outset; however, the details of the Inuvialuit involvement in the CIMP and Audit will have to be further discussed and developed.

The CIMP and Audit will build upon and complement existing monitoring programs, rather than duplicating them, by utilizing information generated by others, and focusing program resources on filling the gaps that may exist with respect to the monitoring of cumulative effects in particular. The key products for the CIMP and the Audit include:

- Preparation of five-year monitoring plans (the first of these is expected to be complete by September 2002)
- Annual summary reports for the CIMP
- Comprehensive 'State-of-the-Environment' monitoring reports evaluating trends over the planning period (for use in the Audit) (the first report is anticipated by August 2002)
- Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Audit (anticipated for November 2002)
- Auditor's Report (at least every five years) (initial Audit anticipated for end of 2003; based on the initial State-of-the-Environment report), which will include:
 - (a) an evaluation of information, including the information collected or analyzed under the CIMP, in order to determine trends in environmental quality, potential contributing factors to changes in the environment, and the significance of those trends;
 - (b) a review of the effectiveness of methods used for carrying out the CIMP;
 - (c) a review of the effectiveness of the regulation of uses of land and water and deposits of waste on the protection of key components of the environment from significant adverse impact; and
 - (d) a review of the response to any recommendations of previous environmental audits.

1.2 Workshop Purpose and Objectives

Since 1999, a Working Group with representation from Aboriginal, federal and territorial governments has been undertaking a number of initiatives in order to move forward with the design and implementation of the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP). The workshop was intended to bring together the CIMP Working Group members with representatives of communities, regional Aboriginal organizations, co-management bodies, federal and territorial governments, industry, environmental non-government organizations, and other groups in the NWT and Nunavut.

On behalf of the Working Group, DIAND sponsored a workshop in Yellowknife March 12 and 13, 2002, which was intended as an initial step in the Working Group's efforts to consult within its member organizations, with the regions and communities, and others. It will be followed by more detailed community and regional consultations in the coming months to talk further about the design and implementation of the CIMP and Audit. The workshop intended to provide

Buffalo National Park. However, it is recognized that the ISR is in fact part of the Mackenzie Valley proper, due to its location at the mouth of the River.

participants with information about the various initiatives currently underway. The Working Group was also seeking feedback from a wider audience on the steps that need to be taken towards finalizing the draft Five-Year Strategic Plan and Work Program for the CIMP and the Audit.

Four main objectives had been identified for the workshop (Refer to Appendix A for a full description of the workshop purpose and objectives):



1. To provide participants with a brief background on the CIMP and Audit
2. To provide an overview of some of the recent activities/projects of the Working Group
3. To review and obtain feedback from participants on the Working Group's key products to date
4. To discuss the 'next steps' in moving ahead with the implementation of the CIMP and the Audit.

1.3 Workshop Organization and Structure

The workshop was structured to provide participants with an understanding of the background to and need for the CIMP and Audit, an update on the activities that have taken place to date towards establishing the CIMP and Audit, and the proposed framework for implementation of the CIMP and Audit. The workshop was also intended to provide the CIMP Working Group with constructive feedback from the participants on next steps, particularly with regards to the upcoming regional and community consultations. The workshop agenda is included in Appendix A; a list of workshop participants is provided in Appendix B. During the morning of the first day, several presentations were given to provide participants with background and updated information on work conducted to date:

- Background on the CIMP and Audit
- Options for an Information Management System (IMS)
- The CIMP/Tariuq ('Oceans') Monitoring Inventory Database
- Overview of Community-based Projects (including a presentation on the Peel River Fish Study)

A presentation was then provided on the Draft Framework for Implementation of the CIMP and Audit. In the afternoon, two working group discussions were held to discuss aspects of the draft implementation framework, specifically the role and structure of the "Responsible Authority" (RA), and the structure of the audit and role of the auditor.

During the second day of the workshop, a presentation was provided on the work that has been undertaken by the Valued Ecosystem Component (VEC) Teams, and how these activities further the development of a Cumulative Impact Monitoring Plan. Two working sessions were held to provide both general feedback on the VEC Team activities and specific feedback on how regional and community involvement may be linked with the VEC activities. In the afternoon of the

second day, a presentation was provided on the draft five-year strategic plan and work program for the CIMP and Audit. The workshop concluded with an open plenary discussion on next steps and advice to the Working Group on future regional and community consultations.



Participants' comments during the working sessions were documented on flip-charts. The plenary discussions were also recorded on tape. In addition, participants were asked to provide their detailed comments and ideas on individual worksheets, submitted to the Working Group secretariat (copies of the blank worksheets are included in Appendix C)².

1.4 Workshop Background Materials

In preparation for the workshop, a comprehensive resource binder was prepared and distributed to participants prior to the workshop. Additional reference materials for the various speakers were distributed during the workshop.

The Table of Contents of the Participant Resource Binder is included in Appendix D.

1.5 Organization of Workshop Report

This report documents the key findings of the March 12-13 2002 workshop. Section 2 provides summaries of the main discussion points of each of the three working groups, as presented back to the plenary, as well as the main points during the final plenary session discussions. Summaries of the worksheet responses related to each of the working group discussion topics are also included in this section. Section 3 provides a summary of the general conclusions of the workshop, as well as participants' feedback on the 'next steps' that the CIMP Working Group should take.

² To obtain the worksheet response summary report, flipchart notes, or a copy of the participant resource binder, contact Meredith Seabrook (CIMP Secretariat), Environment and Conservation, DIAND, at (867) 669-2594 or e-mail seabrookm@inac.gc.ca.