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Northwest Territories

Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program

CIMP and Audit

What are Cumulative Impacts?

Cumulative impacts are changes to the environment caused by an activity, combined with other past, present and future activities. The environment is broadly defined to include social, economic, cultural, in addition to natural/biophysical aspects.

What is the Monitoring Program?

The NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) will look at how all uses of land and water, and deposits of waste, affect the environment of the NWT now and in the future.

The monitoring program will:

- encourage community-based monitoring and community capacity-building
- "fill the gaps" in current monitoring activities
- report on the health of the environment, including ecology and community wellness and other socio-economic factors
- help with better decision-making to protect the environment
- include both scientific and traditional knowledge
- help coordinate monitoring and reporting in the NWT

What is the Audit?

The independent environmental audit will evaluate and review the:

- health of the environment;
- effectiveness of the NWT CIMP;
- effectiveness of environmental management processes and the organizations responsible for them in the NWT; and
- response to recommendations of previous environmental audits.

The audit is to be performed at least every five years by independent individuals or bodies. The first audit will be conducted in 2003.

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Basic information on the CIMP is posted to www.NWTCIMP.ca

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Why do we have the NWT CIMP and Audit?

Long-term monitoring and regular audits are good environmental management practices that help protect the environment. The information from the program will be useful for land use planning, environmental regulation and assessment, and other resource management activities.

The need for monitoring programs and audits is recognized in the NWT Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management (CEAM) Strategy and Framework. The monitoring program and audit are also requirements of the Gwich'in and Sahtu land claim agreements, the Tlicho [Dogrib] Agreement, and Part 6 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.



Where will monitoring be done?

Monitoring will take place throughout the Northwest Territories. The exact locations of monitoring programs will be determined through an extensive consultation and partnership process.

LEGEND

- Water
- Communities
- NWT boundary
- Inuvialuit Settlement Region (NWT portion only)
- Mackenzie Valley as per MVRMA
- Gwich'in Settlement Area
- Sahtu Settlement Area
- Unsettled claim areas: North Slave, Deh Cho, South Slave (does not include Wood Buffalo National Park)
- Wood Buffalo National Park
- Territorial or Provincial Boundary

The boundaries on this map may not be exactly as shown. DIAND is not responsible for any errors or discrepancies occurring in this map.

What will be monitored?

Important areas of the environment called "Valued Ecosystem Components" that could be monitored include:

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

Each of the Valued Ecosystem Components will be monitored using programs developed by communities, governments, and other groups and organizations. An information management system will keep track of results of these programs so information is available to the public. The program will be coordinated with research programs and other monitoring programs that are already in place.

Who is designing and implementing the Monitoring Program?

Through partnerships, a Working Group of Aboriginal governments and organizations, and federal and territorial governments, in consultation with community representatives, is completing the design of the program.

