



NWT CIMP

2013/14
ANNUAL REPORT



WHO WE ARE

The Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP) is a source of cumulative environmental impact information for decision-makers and communities in the NWT. NWT CIMP is guided by a committee of First Nations, Inuvialuit and Métis organizations, co-management boards, and federal and territorial government representatives. Staff in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) of the Government of Northwest Territories administers the program and conducts monitoring.

WHAT WE DO

NWT CIMP is guided by a five-year (2010-2015) Strategic Plan. The main activity areas of the Plan include:

1. Working with partners to identify key monitoring priorities
2. Funding, coordinating and conducting environmental monitoring, research and analysis
3. Communicating results to decision-makers and communities

NWT CIMP promotes the inclusion of communities, capacity-building and traditional knowledge in all aspects of the program.

DEVOLUTION

01/04/14

In April 2014 responsibility for the program devolved from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to the GNWT. Strong Aboriginal support and the work of NWT CIMP staff and Aboriginal partners made for a seamless program transfer to NWT CIMP's new home with ENR.

MONITORING PARTNERSHIPS



NWT CIMP engaged in 28 formal monitoring partnerships with Aboriginal governments, territorial and federal governments, co-management boards and universities.

USING SCIENCE AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

NWT CIMP uses science and traditional knowledge to monitor cumulative impacts in the NWT. For instance, over the last four years, NWT CIMP has supported a project that uses Inuvialuit observations to monitor environmental change in the Mackenzie Delta region. This collaborative project, lead by Trevor Lantz, University of Victoria in partnership with the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat, and the Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik and Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committees, uses photos and video to capture Inuvialuit observations on the land and stores them in an online spatial database. Registered users can access this database to learn, track changes and use this knowledge to help make decisions about the land.

SUPPORTING REGULATORY DECISIONS

NWT CIMP understands that regulatory decision-makers, such as co-management boards, often need information to be directly presented on the public registry for their consideration. In 2013, NWT CIMP staff monitored regulatory processes, and provided comments related to cumulative impact monitoring for the GNWT Department of Transportation Mackenzie Valley Highway Project, and the Dominion Diamond Jay Project. NWT CIMP-funded projects also directly impacted regulatory processes in 2013/14. For example, Gwich'in Harvest Study data collected by the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board was considered by the Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Board when making management recommendations at their 2013 annual meeting.

Cumulative impact monitoring is a statutory requirement in the NWT, and a prominent feature in the Gwich'in, Sahtú, and Tłı̨chǫ land claim agreements as well as in Part 6 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA).

CIMP STEERING COMMITTEE



Eight regional Aboriginal governments and organizations are represented on the NWT CIMP Steering Committee. The Committee, along with federal and territorial government representatives, provides recommendations that guide the program.

ABORIGINAL INVOLVEMENT

83%

of projects are partnered with an Aboriginal government or organization

31%

of projects are led by Aboriginal governments and organizations

1. WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO IDENTIFY KEY MONITORING PRIORITIES

Facilitated by NWT CIMP, CIMP Steering Committee provides advice that guides the program. Four NWT CIMP Steering Committee meetings were held in 2013/14. Members and observers reviewed NWT CIMP initiatives, provided program guidance and reviewed project proposals. NWT CIMP provided assistance for Aboriginal representatives of the Steering Committee to form a special team to work on their top priorities, including program governance, long-term capacity funding and the increased inclusion of traditional knowledge in the program. Their work resulted in a call for traditional knowledge proposals in 2014/15, the development of a capacity funding request to the GNWT, and renewed support for the program by regional Aboriginal organizations.

NWT CIMP, along with its partners, identified meaningful participation by community members in research and monitoring as a key priority. To meet this need NWT CIMP, in partnership with the Aurora Research Institute, developed a guidance document: *Working Together Towards Relevant Environmental Monitoring and Research in the NWT*. The document provides advice for northern researchers to engage with communities through all steps of the monitoring process. It was compiled based on input from a wide range of sources, including community members, government employees and academics. The guidance document targets all researchers applying for a scientific license and is available at nwtresearch.com/licensing-research/communicating-research/working-together-guide-researchers.



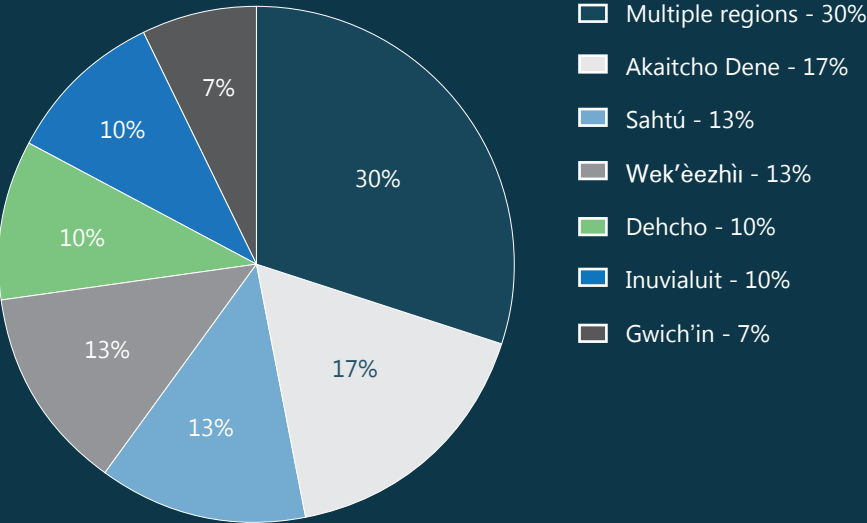
2. FUNDING, COORDINATING AND CONDUCTING ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

NWT CIMP and its partners engaged in a number of initiatives to monitor cumulative effects.

INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE

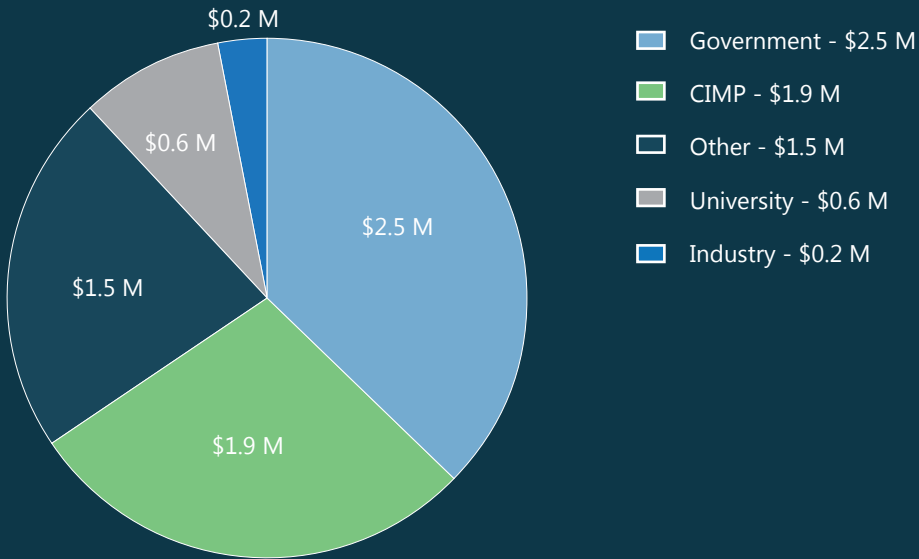
NWT CIMP and its partners identified that it is key to understand how much of the landscape is already disturbed, and to what extent, in order to understand cumulative environmental impacts in the NWT. This understanding will allow decision-makers to consider cumulative impacts when making decisions about future developments. Planning to undertake this major initiative, called the *Inventory of Landscape Change*, began with two workshops in May 2013 that included 20 project stakeholders. A strategic plan was produced in collaboration with partners, outlining a step-based process NWT CIMP and its partners will use to build this spatial tool. Work to develop disturbance datasets and a user interface has begun. In the meantime, current landscape change datasets created by NWT CIMP and its partners are available on the NWT Discovery Portal nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca.

REGIONAL FUNDING



Ever wonder where NWT CIMP funding goes?
This chart shows the projects funded by region during 2013/14.

LEVERAGED FUNDING



Last year for each NWT CIMP dollar spent, \$3 was leveraged from other funding sources, including other government, university and industry partners.

2013/14 PROJECT FUNDING

In 2013/14, NWT CIMP funding of \$1.9M supported 31 projects focused on caribou, fish and water. Over 75% of the projects were long-term, lasting three or more years. All of the projects responded to a community or decision-maker concern, and over half made a new contribution to our understanding of cumulative impacts in the NWT through publications, presentations and workshops. For a complete list of NWT CIMP projects from 1999-2014 please visit www.enr.gov.nt.ca/programs/nwt-cimp/other-resources.

\$1.9M

Funding to 31 projects in 2013/14

MONITORING RESULTS FOR 2013-2014

26

projects resulted in new or enhanced knowledge of cumulative impacts in the NWT

10

projects had a direct impact on 10 current decision-making processes

29

reports were published, 15 in peer-reviewed literature

29

meetings were held to present results directly to communities

PRIORITY VALUED COMPONENTS



Caribou



Fish



Water

NWT CIMP's three priority Valued Components for 2010-2015 were chosen by a broad group of NWT decision-makers.

KEY CUMULATIVE IMPACT MONITORING PROJECTS

NWT CIMP science staff support and coordinate key cumulative impact monitoring projects. For example:

LEGACY CONTAMINATION NEAR YELLOWKNIFE

NWT CIMP engaged with university researchers to support and coordinate monitoring on the extent and fate of legacy contamination from mining in the Yellowknife region. The cumulative impact of these contaminants on aquatic systems is of particular importance in this area, given the relatively large population in close proximity to Giant Mine and Con Mine. NWT CIMP staff presented monitoring results to local decision-makers, including the Giant Mine Remediation Team, GNWT Department of Transportation and GNWT Municipal and Community Affairs.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IN THE SAHTÚ

Environmental baseline monitoring in the Sahtú region is an NWT CIMP priority, given increased interest in oil and gas exploration in the central Mackenzie Valley. NWT CIMP staff, in collaboration with university and government researchers, initiated a surface water quality monitoring project in the Sahtú region designed to collect baseline data complementary with industry studies.

NWT CIMP partnered with the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board to determine sample sites of community interest and to ensure local participation. NWT CIMP staff provided advice to the Sahtú Land and Water Board on surface water quality sampling design that could be used by government, industry and others to detect regional cumulative effects. Given the importance of collecting baseline information in the region, NWT CIMP funded three new projects in the central Mackenzie Valley last year.

Information on other projects is available at nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca.

REPORTING

686

NWT environmental monitoring records resulting from NWT CIMP funding are available on the NWT Discovery Portal.



172

people participated in the 2nd annual NWT Environmental Monitoring Results Workshop co-hosted by NWT CIMP, GNWT-ENR and Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

NWT CIMP also co-hosted a regional results workshop in the Sahtú Region with the Sahtú Renewable Resource Board and the Northern Contaminants Program.

NWT DISCOVERY PORTAL

2500 environmental monitoring entries



nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca

3. COMMUNICATING RESULTS TO DECISION MAKERS AND COMMUNITIES

One of the goals of NWT CIMP is to ensure environmental monitoring data for the NWT, including all NWT CIMP-funded project results, is easily accessible to decision-makers and communities on the NWT Discovery Portal nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca/. Last year, the NWT Discovery Portal was upgraded with better spatial and keyword search functions, and a more user-friendly layout. The Polar Data Catalogue, another major online source of NWT environmental monitoring information, is now searchable on the site.

NWT CIMP hosts territorial and regional gatherings to share environmental monitoring results. In December 2013, NWT CIMP co-hosted the 2nd Annual NWT Environmental Monitoring Results Workshop in Yellowknife, with the GNWT ENR and DFO. The main objective was to discuss environmental monitoring and research projects that address cumulative impacts, speak to decision-makers' needs, and incorporate meaningful community involvement and capacity building. The workshop attracted 44 presenters and 172 participants. Over 75% of surveyed participants were satisfied that the workshop objectives were met. NWT CIMP funding assisted the participation of researchers and community members from each region.

In November, NWT CIMP co-hosted a Sahtú region environmental monitoring results workshop in Tulita with the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board and the AANDC Northern Contaminants Program. Twenty participants from communities across the region engaged in discussions with researchers about current results and future monitoring priorities.

NWT CIMP wishes to thank its Steering Committee members and observers for their continued work in guiding the program.

Members:

Gwich'in Tribal Council - Tsatsiye Catholique
Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated - Cindy Gilday
Tłıchq Government - Sjoerd van der Wielen
GNWT - Julian Kanigan
Inuvialuit Game Council - Richard Binder
North Slave Métis Alliance - Matt Hoover
Northwest Territory Métis Nation - Tim Heron
Parks Canada - Jonathan Tsetso

Observers:

Note that regional Aboriginal organizations listed as observers have a standing offer to become an active member at any time.

Akaitcho Territory Government - Stephanie Poole
Dehcho First Nations - Dahti Tsetso
Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Ellen Lea
Environment Canada - Vicky Johnston
MVEIRB - Alan Ehrlich
Aurora Research Institute - Jonathan Michel
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers - Aaron Miller

NWT CIMP also thanks past members and observers: Mardy Semmler, Kerri Garner, Jason McNeill, Jane McMullen, Doug Tate, Deanna Leonard, Doug Meade

For more information, please email us at: nwtcimp@gov.nt.ca

For monitoring results please visit nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca

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