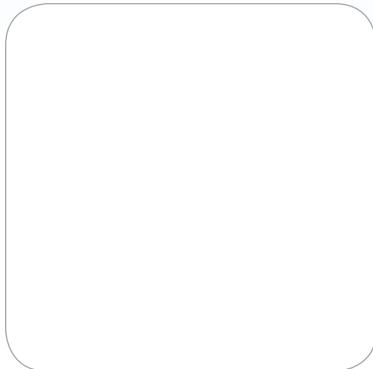


Framework for Action 2012-2016



Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources



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Photos: Muskox – Francois Rossow/ITI/GNWT; Fireweed – ENR/GNWT;
Champagne Hot Springs – Robert Foster; Water – Steve Schwarz

Minister's Message

I am pleased to provide the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) renewed Framework For Action (FFA) 2012-2016.

The mandate of ENR is to promote and support the sustainable use and development of natural resources and to protect, conserve and enhance our environment for the social and economic benefits of all residents. Making sound management decisions based on open and inclusive discussions with Aboriginal and community governments, co-management boards, communities and NWT residents is important to ensuring we meet this mandate.

Focusing on the 17th Legislative Assembly's goal of "an environment that will sustain present and future generations", activities include, protecting territorial waters, mitigating and adapting to climate change, improving environmental monitoring and stewardship, and proper management and conservation of wildlife and forests.

The GNWT is working proactively to adapt to the impacts of climate change through improved planning, coordination, monitoring and providing information to allow decision makers at all levels to incorporate climate change considerations into their activities.

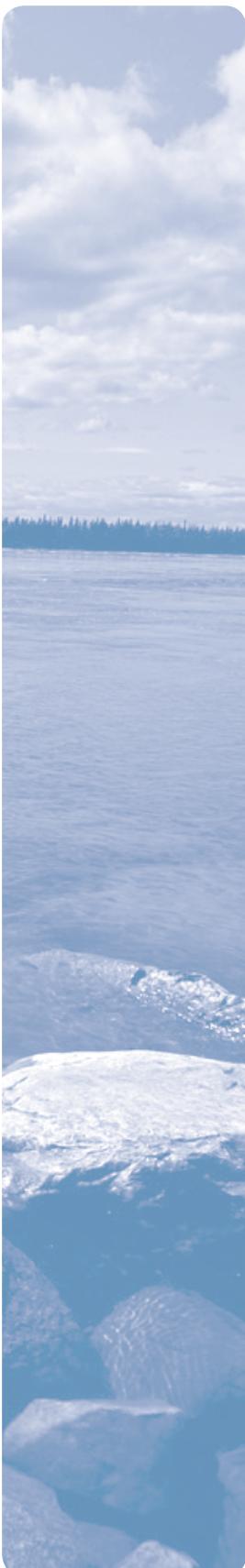
ENR is preparing an NWT Climate Change Adaptation Framework to support and coordinate actions departments, communities and regions are taking in their efforts to address problems and opportunities due to climate change.

In 2011, the Department released the Greenhouse Gas Strategy 2011-2015. The Strategy builds on lessons learned from the 2001 and 2007 Strategies and recognizes both the challenges and opportunities of addressing territorial greenhouse gas emissions.

ENR continues to support work with communities to identify projects that can assist in reducing their energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Supporting and promoting the use of alternative energy sources, such as biomass, solar, wind and geothermal, and energy conservation is key to addressing the high costs of energy in our communities.

In November 2012, ENR released the NWT Solar Strategy 2012-2016, and the NWT Biomass Energy Strategy 2012-2015.





Solar energy continues to be a viable alternative in remote locations and many NWT communities are interested in using this technology to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The NWT Solar Energy Strategy will guide the effective and efficient deployment of this technology in more of our communities.

With the help of its partners, ENR is tapping into the biomass potential afforded by the NWT's abundant forest resources. Forest resource inventories provide critical information for tracking change on the landscape and biomass and carbon stock assessments for climate change monitoring.

Implementation of the 2012-2015 Biomass Energy Strategy builds on progress gained in the past two years through the implementation of the NWT Biomass Energy Strategy in 2010. The 2012-2015 Biomass Energy Strategy will serve as a tool for the GNWT to lead and coordinate actions promoting the creation and use of biomass energy in the NWT.

ENR continues to work with Aboriginal organizations, industry and communities to develop forest resource management agreements and promote the sustainable use of forests for local economic development opportunities. ENR will be proposing amendments to the Forest Management Regulations to provide for permitting of incidental use of forests, in the interest of adopting an ecosystem-based management.

The GNWT is responsible for wildland fire management, including the protection of communities, infrastructure and other values-at-risk from the effects of wildland fire.

The continued ability of the GNWT to provide effective and efficient wildland fire response requires water skimmer aircraft as a fire response tool available to fire managers. The future of the air tanker program must consider efficiency, both in cost and operations, and effectiveness to protect the northern forest environment.

In December 2012, ENR conducted an inventory and feasibility assessment of e-waste recovery. E-waste is the final item to be considered as part of ENR's five-year plan to expand the Waste Reduction and Recovery Program, which began in 2008. ENR will also be developing a Waste Management Strategy for the NWT as part of a broader vision for waste management.

ENR has a leadership role to play in coordinating implementation of land and resource management. An important departmental priority is to ensure ecoregions of the Northwest Territories are represented in protected areas.

ENR continues to build partnerships with other parties involved in land and water management decisions. These partnerships will support further integration, collaboration and sharing of data and information needed to assess and make quality land use decisions.

In anticipation of devolution, priority has been given to participation in the development of the Land Use and Sustainability Framework (LUSF), led by Executive. The Framework sets out the principles that will guide future GNWT policy direction on land matters.

ENR undertakes initiatives to help protect public waters, including source water for drinking, maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems for a robust traditional economy and manage trans-boundary waters effectively. The NWT Water Stewardship Action Plan was released in 2011. The Action Plan lays out a partnership approach to improve and enhance water stewardship in the NWT.

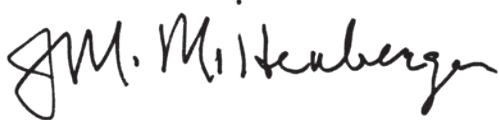
ENR continues to address the Traditional Knowledge Implementation Framework priorities, ensuring better overall coordination of TK Policy implementation; more consistent orientation, awareness and training opportunities relating to TK for employees and others; and development of stronger and more effective collaborative relationships with holders of TK through their Aboriginal governments and cultural agencies.

Most species in the NWT are secure. However, some are at risk of disappearing and need extra protection. On February 1, 2010, the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* came into force. This Act complements federal species at risk legislation and helps fulfill the GNWT's obligation under the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk* to establish legislation and programs for the protection of species at risk in Canada. Through the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, wildlife experts on the Species at Risk Committee work together to review and assess the biological status of species that may be at risk in the NWT. In December 2012, these wildlife experts assessed Peary caribou, boreal caribou and the hairy braya (a plant) as being 'threatened' and the polar bear as being a species of 'special concern' in the NWT. The decision on whether to list these species formally under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* and possibly develop conservation measures for them now rests with the Conference of Management Authorities, which consists of governments and co-management boards that share management responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT.

ENR is in the final stages of revising the draft legislation of the proposed new Wildlife Act. The new NWT Wildlife Act will provide the GNWT with tools to effectively manage and protect wildlife populations and their habitat. A new Act will reform wildlife management law by enacting legislation that is comprehensive, enforceable and respectful of Aboriginal and treaty harvesting rights.

Work continues on many less visible but no less important projects to protect and conserve our natural environment and its resources.

Community participation and involvement and public awareness are critical to ensuring ENR meets its goals over the next four years.



J. Michael Miltenberger





Why an ENR “Framework for Action 2012-2016”?

In 2012, Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly released their vision, goals and priorities in “Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners”. This set the direction for its operations through clearly defined priorities and specific actions.

“An environment that will sustain present and future generations” is one of the six goals set by this Government. The expected results associated with this goal fall primarily within the mandate of Environment and Natural Resources and include:

- responsible, coordinated management of the environment to protect the land, water and wildlife;
- respect for the land, water and traditional knowledge guiding decisions of government, industry and individuals;
- responsible consumption and conservation of resources and energy by all governments, industries and individuals;
- resource development that balances economic benefits, social impacts and environmental preservation and protection; and
- governments acting on their responsibilities to clean up contaminated environmental sites.

The FFA identifies the department’s current plans for the next four years. Funding required for the initiatives/actions listed will be sought through the regular business planning process. Adjustments to the FFA may also be required from time to time as circumstances and priorities change.

ENR's Principles

ENR's actions are based on the following principles:

1. A healthy environment should be recognized as necessary to maintain human health, prosperity and well-being.
2. Diverse and healthy ecosystems should be protected in a manner that maintains the integrity of ecosystems and biological diversity and contributes to long-term ecological, economic and social stability.
3. Natural resources should be managed and developed in a manner that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
4. Effective management of Northwest Territories natural resources should support import replacement and export development.
5. Decisions relating to the management and development of natural resources and the territorial economy should be directed towards enhancing territorial and community self-sufficiency and should incorporate public input, scientific knowledge, and traditional knowledge.
6. Programs and services should be delivered in an effective and accountable manner and as close as practical to the people being served.
7. The design and delivery of programs and services should be based on a clear demonstration of need, benefit, sustainability and shared risk.





ENR's Plans for Action

Ensuring our decisions and activities leave our children with a healthy environment, capable of supporting ongoing prosperity and well-being, is a shared responsibility. ENR works closely with Aboriginal governments, communities, boards and other bodies arising from land claim agreements in the course of their day-to-day operations. The Department has established a broad spectrum of initiatives to ensure its goals are met and its mandate is fulfilled.

The “Framework for Action 2012-2016” clarifies how ENR will move forward to fulfill our mandate, who our partners are, and when we can expect to see results. The eight Action Sections are built on the Ministerial accountabilities in ENR’s Establishment Policy. Only by working closely with NWT residents and involving them in key decision-making roles, can ENR best tackle these initiatives and actions aimed at meeting our shared responsibility for maintaining a healthy and prosperous northern environment.

The initiatives identified in this Framework for Action support the following goals and priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly outlined in *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*.

Goals:

- A strong and independent north built on partnerships
- An environment that will sustain present and future generations
- Effective and efficient government

Priorities:

- Build a strong and sustainable future for our Territory by strengthening our relationships with Aboriginal and other northern governments, negotiating and implementing a devolution final agreement, achieving an increase to our borrowing limit, and working with our partners to ensure responsible stewardship through our land and resource management regime.
- Strengthen and diversify our economy by making strategic infrastructure investments such as: the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway; the Mackenzie Fibre Optic Link and hydro initiative supporting the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline project; developing a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable economic development and mining strategy; supporting the traditional economy; and improving our regulatory processes.



1.0 Protecting Our Environment

“Developing, recommending and enforcing legislation, policies and agreements to maintain the integrity and biological diversity of natural ecosystems and thereby protect the condition and quality of the environment.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

Laws and policies help to ensure people, businesses and industry behave in ways that will maintain our valuable NWT environment. Aboriginal governments, land claims organizations, regional and community organizations and the public help ENR determine the best way to manage people’s activities, protect our forests and wildlife, and avoid contamination of the land and water. Working together, we decide on sustainable levels of resource use and steps needed to protect the environment. Through consultation with Aboriginal governments, communities, renewable resource management boards, land and water boards, and special interest groups, ENR can ensure well-defined policies and legislation to help maintain a healthy ecosystem.



1.1 Species at Risk Legislation

In October 1996, federal, provincial and territorial governments committed to a national approach to protect endangered species and their habitat. Canada passed its *Species at Risk Act* in December 2002. In 2003, the GNWT signed the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk which commits federal, provincial and territorial governments to a national approach to protect species at risk. Through the Accord, all Canadian jurisdictions agreed to establish legislation and programs to provide a seamless web of protection of species at risk throughout Canada. The *Species at Risk (NWT)* Act came into force February 1, 2010, and complements the federal legislation. A Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on Species at Risk defines how the GNWT and Canada will cooperate.

- Action 1.1.1 Sign Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on NWT Species at Risk.
- Action 1.1.2 Implement actions under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.
- Action 1.1.3 Update and approve a five-year species assessment schedule.



1.2 A New Wildlife Act

The *Wildlife Act* is the GNWT's main tool for protecting and managing wildlife. The current *Wildlife Act* was enacted in 1979. No major amendments have been made to the Act since its implementation over 33 years ago. A new NWT *Wildlife Act* will reform wildlife management law by enacting legislation that is comprehensive, enforceable and respectful of Aboriginal and treaty harvesting rights. The new Act will provide the GNWT with tools to effectively manage and protect wildlife populations and their habitat. It will also address the new requirements necessary to ensure consistency with federal legislation, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, settlement of lands, resources and self-government agreements and court decisions relating to Aboriginal harvesting rights. The fundamental principle underlying the legislation will be the conservation of wildlife.

- Action 1.2.1 Release a draft *Wildlife Act* for further public engagement and s.35 Aboriginal consultation.
- Action 1.2.2 Complete public engagement and s.35 Aboriginal consultation and a revised draft.
- Action 1.2.3 Introduce the *Wildlife Act*.
- Action 1.2.4 Implement the *Wildlife Act*.
- Action 1.2.5 Comprehensive Review of Regulations.

1.3 Forest Management Act

The existing *Forest Management Act* does not provide the tools necessary to manage forest resources consistent with the commitments of the Government of the Northwest Territories and its partners to sustainable forestry, the NWT Sustainable Development Policy and forest management principles in use today.

The *Forest Management Act* is prescriptive in nature and does not provide guidance about how forests should be managed. ENR also has no formal Forest Management Policy defining the GNWT's commitment to, and tools for, achieving sustainable forest management.

- Action 1.3.1 Develop draft action plan for new forest management legislation and policy.
- Action 1.3.2 Develop a draft Forest Management Policy.
- Action 1.3.3 s.35 Aboriginal consultation and public engagement on Forest Policy directions and legislative framework.
- Action 1.3.4 Complete s.35 Aboriginal consultation and public engagement and draft Forest Management Act.
- Action 1.3.5 Introduce Forest Management Act.



1.4 Forest Management Regulations

The Government of Canada transferred responsibility for management of forest resources throughout the NWT to the GNWT in 1987. Under the transfer, the GNWT received the authority and responsibility for management and conservation of forest resources on 75 million hectares of forested lands in the NWT. However, the GNWT's ability to manage forest resources is limited by the land use and land management authorities retained by Canada. Discussion with Canada has resulted in an agreement giving the GNWT authority to enable legislation addressing the impacts of large scale industrial development on forest resources in the NWT. The agreement with Canada requires ENR and Canada sign off on an amendment to the *Forest Resources Transfer Agreement (1987)* removing reference to legislative restriction on the GNWT mandate. ENR will be proposing amendments to the Forest Management Regulations to provide for permitting of incidental use of forests, in the interest of adopting an ecosystem-based management.

- Action 1.4.1 Complete s.35 Aboriginal public consultation and public engagement and draft Incidental Use of Forest Licence (IUFL) Regulations.
- Action 1.4.2 IUFL Regulations promulgated.



1.5 Forest Management Charges and Fees

Current forest management fees and charges do not reflect trends and concepts of sustainable forest resource management practiced across Canada. The GNWT introduced Forest Management Regulations in 1990 which included schedules of fees and charges. These schedules have not changed materially since then. ENR will be proposing an increased fee structure reflecting northern conditions and changes in values of forest products.

- Action 1.5.1 Develop options for the New Forest Management Charges and Fees.
- Action 1.5.2 Draft Forest Management Policy for Charges and Fees.
- Action 1.5.3 Complete public consultation and engagement on charges and fees.
- Action 1.5.4 Charges and fees Schedule to Forest Management Regulations Fee draft.
- Action 1.5.5 Fees Schedule in force.



1.6 Maintaining Forest Fire Management Services Program

ENR is responsible for providing wildland fire management services in the NWT. The cost of fighting wildland fires during the last several years has been considerably more than the total funding available to the program. The program is also facing challenges related to the replacement of aging infrastructure, the need to protect communities through risk mitigation approaches and increased costs associated with fire response. As the cost and impact of managing wildland fires continues to increase, coupled with the potential implications of climate change, there is a need to ensure a program is in place to meet the requirements for preparedness, while being cost effective. It is logical to assume that the frequency and intensity of fires will change as the climate changes. A longer fire season associated with changes in precipitation and temperature, drought, flooding, insects and disease, reinforce the need to identify how the program can effectively meet the challenges.

- Action 1.6.1** Develop a Forest Fire Management Action Plan to address issues or gaps identified through the Fire Program Review.
- Action 1.6.2** Conduct a review of ENR's Strategic approach to wildland fire management.
- Action 1.6.3** Implement Forest Fire Management Action Plan.

1.7 Forest Protection Act

The existing *Forest Protection Act* is outdated and does not support the NWT Fire Management Policy originally approved in 1990. The Act does not adequately address consultation with Aboriginal organizations, lands, resources and self-government agreement provisions and Aboriginal rights.

- Action 1.7.1** Develop draft action plan for new forest protection legislation.
- Action 1.7.2** Develop draft Forest Protection Policy.
- Action 1.7.3** s.35 Aboriginal consultation and public engagement on Forest Policy directions and legislative framework.



1.8 Environmental Statutes Amendments

Repeal the outdated *Pesticide Act* (1988) by incorporating modern provisions regulating pesticide use and *updated Pesticide Regulations into the Environmental Protection Act*; ensuring consistency with new *Federal Pest Control Products Act*.

Action 1.8.1 Repeal current *Pesticide Act*.

1.9 Wildland Fire Management Aviation Fleet Renewal

The GNWT is responsible for wildland fire management on 75 million hectares of forested areas, including the protection of communities, infrastructure and other values-at-risk from the effects of wildland fire.

The GNWT owns and operates a fleet of four CL-215 air tankers in support of the wildland fire management program. The fleet is aging and critical operational considerations require the GNWT give attention to replacement of the fleet.

The continued ability of the GNWT to provide effective and efficient wildland fire response requires water skimmer aircraft as a fire response tool available to fire managers. The future of the air tanker program must consider efficiency, both in cost and operations, and effectiveness to protect the northern forest environment.

Action 1.9.1 Develop a Fleet Renewal Plan.

Action 1.9.2 Develop aviation fleet renewal discussion paper for Cabinet consideration.



1.10 Sustainable Development Policy Implementation

The GNWT's Sustainable Development Policy promotes environmental stewardship and recognizes the need for environmental conservation as well as long-term economic prosperity in the NWT. In anticipation of devolution, priority has been given to participation in the development of the Land Use and Sustainability Framework (LUSF), led by Executive. The Framework sets out the principles that will guide future GNWT policy direction on land matters.

Action 1.10.1 Participate in the development of the LUSF.



1.11 Internal Aboriginal Consultation and Engagement Guideline for ENR

ENR engages and consults with Aboriginal governments, organizations, co-management boards, communities and NWT residents as part of its ongoing business. Aboriginal consultation and engagement help shape legislation, policy and programming. Engagement is a key aspect of good governance that enables ENR to ensure Aboriginal concerns, contributions, information, knowledge and interests are considered and respected in decision-making processes. Consultation ensures management decisions integrate the provisions in interim measures agreements and lands, resources and self-government agreements; and respect Aboriginal and Treaty rights. ENR will build on the August 2007 *Government of the Northwest Territories' Approach to Consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations*, and the 2012 *Strategy – Respect, Recognition, Responsibility: The Government of the Northwest Territories' Approach to Engaging with Aboriginal Governments*, to develop an internal departmental Aboriginal Consultation and Engagement Guideline.

Action 1.11.1 Develop an internal Aboriginal Consultation and Engagement Guideline for ENR.

1.12 Review and Improve the Beverage Container Program

Waste reduction and recovery programs protect and enhance the environment by reducing our use of raw materials, preventing and minimizing contamination, saving landfill space, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and providing local business opportunities. The *Waste Reduction and Recovery Act* provides the legislative framework for programs resulting in the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste materials.

The first territory-wide recycling program, the Beverage Container Program (BCP), was created under the Act in 2005. It focused on the recovery of ready-to-serve beverage containers. In early 2010, ENR expanded the BCP to include milk containers. Since program inception, approximately 182 million beverage containers have been returned to NWT depots instead of ending up in landfills or as litter. To ensure ENR operates an effective, efficient, accountable and self-sustaining program, the Department initiated a review of the BCP in 2011. The objective of the review was to determine areas that could be improved to better deliver the program in the NWT.

Action 1.12.1 Assess recommended changes to the Beverage Container Program.

Action 1.12.2 Stakeholder engagement on proposed changes to the Beverage Container Program.

Action 1.12.3 Draft amendments to the Beverage Container Regulations.

Action 1.12.4 Implement revised regulations.



1.13 Develop an Electronic-waste Recovery Program

Electronic-waste (e-waste) is the fastest growing waste stream. It contains hazardous chemicals and heavy metals that are harmful to humans and the environment if not disposed of properly. E-waste is the final item to be considered part of ENR's five year plan to expand the Waste Reduction and Recovery Program, which began in 2008. In Canada, regulated e-waste recycling programs already exist in seven provinces, and two additional provinces are in the process of developing regulations.

In the spring of 2012, a survey was conducted with NWT residents for information on household electronic product use and purchasing habits. An inventory and feasibility assessment of e-waste recovery was completed in December 2012. The study estimated: quantities and types of e-waste in the NWT; logistics and infrastructure requirements; financing and funding mechanisms; regulatory framework; social benefits; and cost-benefit analysis.

Action 1.13.1 Stakeholder engagement.

Action 1.13.2 Program design.

Action 1.13.3 Draft regulations.

Action 1.13.4 Program implementation.





1.14 Develop and Implement a Waste Management Strategy for the NWT

According to a recent report by the Conference Board of Canada, Canadians dispose of more waste per year than any other developed country in the world at 777 kg/capita/year and a waste diversion rate of only about 24 percent. In the NWT, our waste generation rate is a little over 1,000 kg/capita/year, with a much lower waste diversion rate. In an effort to achieve our goal of protecting and enhancing the environment, the NWT needs to look at waste as part of an integrated system. Integrated waste management systems look at the entire waste hierarchy including waste prevention, waste reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal.

ENR will be developing a Waste Management Strategy for the NWT as part of a broader vision for waste management. This strategy will provide a framework for how we manage our waste and will lay a foundation for future policies and standards in waste management. The strategy will focus on key areas including solid waste management, waste minimization, waste diversion, and partnerships and collaboration between GNWT departments and local governments.

- Action 1.14.1** Research best practices and different components to be included in the Waste Management Strategy.
- Action 1.14.2** Stakeholder engagement.
- Action 1.14.3** Develop partnerships and collaboration with local governments and other GNWT departments.

1.15 Protected Areas

ENR has a leadership role to play in coordinating implementation of land and resource management. An important departmental priority is to ensure ecoregions of the Northwest Territories are represented in protected areas.

ENR has taken a lead role in identifying core representative areas within each of the NWT's 42 ecoregions. To date, 13 ecoregions have little to no protection of representative areas, and in several other ecoregions protection is only on an interim basis.

- Action 1.15.1 Create an ecological representation network plan for protected areas.
- Action 1.15.2 Develop regulations and policies for Conservation Areas under the new Wildlife Act.
- Action 1.15.3 Use GNWT legislation to sponsor candidate areas under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy.
- Action 1.15.4 Establish new areas to fill prioritized gaps in ecological representation.
- Action 1.15.5 Complete Ejié Túé Ndáde (Buffalo Lake) working group reporting (Step 5), including a comparison of tools.
- Action 1.15.6 State of the NWT Protected Areas Report.





2.0 With Our Partners

“Representing the Government of the Northwest Territories and coordinating the Government’s involvement in territorial, national and international matters related to conservation and protection of the natural environment, climate change and the sustainable use of wildlife, habitat and forest resources.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

NWT residents want healthy, self-reliant communities where individuals and families are able to share the rewards and responsibilities of a prosperous NWT. We recognize that a healthy environment is necessary to maintain human health, prosperity and well-being. Cooperation and coordination between all governments and organizations involved with the protection and preservation of our environment and the sustainable development of our natural resources are required to achieve this goal. ENR will continue to voice the concerns and aspirations of NWT residents as a member of joint committees and intergovernmental bodies dealing with these issues on a local, territorial, national or international level.

2.1 Climate Change Mitigation

Reliable, affordable and clean energy is key to the sustainable development of our economy, lowering our cost of living, and enhancing our quality of life. A carefully planned and coordinated approach is required to develop low cost sources of renewable energy, manage our demands through energy efficiency and conservation measures, track and report our emissions, and meet our obligations to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in ways that support national and international initiatives to reduce global emissions. Working with our federal, community and Aboriginal government partners, we need to build on our knowledge about clean energy, such as solar and biomass, look at options for using these energy sources, and develop plans to do so.

The GNWT’s energy development strategy *Energy for the Future*, is closely linked to the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy. The Greenhouse Gas Strategy has been effective in identifying and implementing northern actions to control greenhouse gas emissions and commits to undertaking further work towards new actions including carbon pricing mechanisms, renewable energy portfolios and efficiency standards.

Several NWT communities have prepared community energy plans to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, reduce environmental impacts of energy use, and keep money spent on energy in the community. The Arctic Energy Alliance assists energy producers, distributors and consumers to reduce the costs and environmental impacts of energy and utility services in the Northwest Territories.



- Action 2.1.1 Work with energy partners to implement the NWT Solar and Biomass Energy Strategies.
- Action 2.1.2 Support actions identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and report progress annually.
- Action 2.1.3 Support NWT residents, businesses and communities to reduce energy consumption and continue to identify and implement further alternative energy solutions.

2.2 Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change is a key issue facing all levels of government and all people. The GNWT is working proactively to adapt to the impacts of climate change through improved planning, coordination, monitoring and providing information to allow decision makers at all levels to incorporate climate change considerations into their activities. ENR is preparing an NWT Climate Change Adaptation Framework to support and coordinate actions departments, communities and regions are taking in their efforts to address problems and opportunities due to climate change.

- Action 2.2.1 Work with GNWT departments to support and coordinate departmental adaptation projects including securing federal adaptation funding.
- Action 2.2.2 Collaborate with the Nunavut Department of Environment and Environment Yukon to implement the Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy of April 2011.
- Action 2.2.3 Organize, with Environment Yukon and the Nunavut Department of Environment, a Pan-Territorial Permafrost Conference to be held in Yellowknife in November 2013.
- Action 2.2.4 Develop a draft Climate Change Adaptation Framework.



2.3 Giant Mine Reclamation

Gold mining and milling began at Giant Mine in 1948. In 1999, the owner of the Giant Mine went into receivership and the courts assigned the responsibility for the site to the Government of Canada. In 2005, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the GNWT entered into a Cooperation Agreement, for the care, maintenance and remediation of the site. ENR is the GNWT lead on the Giant Mine Remediation Project and is part of the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team.

In 2007, the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team applied to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for a Type A Water License for the Remediation Plan. At that time the application was referred to Environmental Assessment by the City of Yellowknife due to public concern. The Remediation Plan is currently in Environmental Assessment. A decision from the Board via the Report of Environmental Assessment, is anticipated in Spring 2013.

- Action 2.3.1** **Participate in the review and response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment.**
- Action 2.3.2** **Participate in engagement activities with the public and interested parties on future land use of the Giant Mine Site, finalizing detailed design elements in the Remediation Plan and environmental management and monitoring of the site.**
- Action 2.3.3** **Participate in regulatory processes necessary to secure a Type A Water License for the remediation project (application to be submitted Fall 2014).**

2.4 Historic Uranium Transportation Route Clean-up

Beginning in the 1930s, the Northern Transportation Route (the Route) was used to transport uranium ore from Port Radium Mine on Great Bear Lake to the railhead at Waterways, Alberta. The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) manages abandoned uranium-contaminated sites on behalf of Canada. In 1992, NRCan began to survey the Route and identified elevated levels of radioactivity in soil at various locations along the Great Bear, Mackenzie and Slave Rivers systems.

- Action 2.4.1** **Work with the federal government to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for managing contaminated soil along the Northern Transportation Route (NTR).**



2.5 Protecting Territorial Waters

The quality and quantity of water resources and the health of aquatic ecosystems are of growing concern as pressures increase in the NWT and elsewhere. For these reasons, the GNWT has made protecting territorial waters a priority.

In 2008, the GNWT and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) began working with representatives from Aboriginal governments to develop a water stewardship strategy focusing on freshwater in the NWT. In 2010 the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy was released, followed by the Action Plan in 2011.

These documents were collaboratively developed with NWT water partners including Aboriginal governments, communities, NGOs, Land and Water Boards, Industry and academics, and serve as a basis to define specific roles and commitments for the future.

ENR undertakes initiatives to help protect public waters, including source water for drinking, maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems for a robust traditional economy and manage trans-boundary waters effectively.

- Action 2.5.1 Work with interested parties to develop community-based monitoring partnerships.
- Action 2.5.2 Work with communities to support them to develop source water protection plans.
- Action 2.5.3 Work with the federal government, land and water boards, communities and other to develop an implementation plan and inter-jurisdictional agreement, and implement the Canada – Wide Strategy for Municipal Wastewater Effluent.
- Action 2.5.4 Develop effective resources, management and assessment tools, to help NWT communities participate in water stewardship initiatives.
- Action 2.5.5 Complete trans-boundary water management agreement negotiations with Alberta.





2.6 Community Wildland Fires Risk Management

The NWT has adopted a collaborative FireSmart approach to reducing community wildland fire risk. Proactively identifying and mitigating wildland fire risk in NWT communities improves public safety and helps protect infrastructure, valuable natural resources, and may reduce economic impact from wildland fire.

Action 2.6.1 Work with MACA to develop community hazard and risk mitigation plans reflecting Community Wildland Fire Protection Plans.

Action 2.6.2 Funding model and implementation process for Community Wildland Fire hazard and risk mitigation projects (with MACA).

2.7 Protected Areas Strategy

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) was developed in partnership with communities, Aboriginal governments, federal agencies, industry and environmental non-government organizations to identify and establish a network of protected areas in the NWT. The PAS identifies two goals:

1. To protect special natural and cultural areas.
2. To protect representative core areas within each ecoregion.

Since 1999, the partners have worked to implement the PAS. The Mackenzie Valley Five-Year Action Plan was released in 2004-05 to ensure a network of culturally significant and ecologically representative protected areas is reserved prior to, or concurrently with pipeline development. The Action Plan ended March 2010 but some related activities carry over. In 2010, the NWT PAS Establishment Action Plan (2010-2015) was released; the Plan outlines a process to complete the establishment of areas identified under the PAS.

Action 2.7.1 Work with PAS partners on objectives of the PAS Establishment Action Plan (2010-2015).

Action 2.7.2 Work with PAS partners on a post-devolution Action Plan.



2.8 Develop a Greening Government Strategy

The GNWT is the largest employer, employing approximately 4,700 people in the NWT. In 2010, the GNWT purchased approximately \$254 million dollars in goods and services in the NWT. As one of the largest organizations in the NWT, we have tremendous buying power and a high level of influence over the NWT market. As such, the infrastructure we build, the products we buy, the services we procure, and the manner in which we manage our operations as an organization can have a significant environmental impact.

The GNWT needs to lead the way in implementing best environmental business practices. A Greening Government Strategy will provide a formal commitment to ensure the GNWT continuously reduces, in concrete and measureable ways, environmental impacts resulting from its operations and overall procurement practices.

ENR will work with other GNWT departments and the Interdepartmental Green Advisory Committee (IGAC) to develop a greening government strategy.

Action 2.8.1 Develop partnerships with key departments.

Action 2.8.2 Determine baseline data.

Action 2.8.3 Stakeholder engagement.

Action 2.8.4 Development of a greening government strategy.





3.0 Managing Human Activity to Sustain the Environment

“Maintaining and protecting the condition, quality, diversity and abundance of the environment, including wildlife, habitat and forest resources, in the Northwest Territories through comprehensive assessment and evaluation, monitoring and compliance measures.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

The condition of the NWT environment is always changing as a result of human actions, fire, floods and other weather or climate related events. To ensure our dynamic ecosystems remain healthy and northern resources are conserved, good planning and management is essential. ENR’s legislation, policy, guidelines and educational publications and programs help to ensure those who use the NWT landscape do so responsibly. ENR issues forest, wildlife and pesticide authorizations. As well, ENR routinely reviews and provides advice on other authorizations or participates in environmental impact assessment processes, including the development of environmental agreements. Over time and throughout an area it is inevitable that human activities result in detrimental change to the environment. Governments throughout Canada and the world recognize the need for a comprehensive approach to address these changes to avoid “death by a thousand cuts”. To promote environmental protection and wise use of the land, ENR participates in the development of the GNWT’s Land Use and Sustainability Framework and regional land use plans.

3.1 Best Management Practices

“Best management practices” guide industry and regulatory agencies in the prevention and reduction of impacts to the environment, forests and wildlife, and encourage the use of innovative practices. These are particularly important to manage mineral and oil and gas development in the NWT and reduce cumulative impacts. As development activities increase on the land, the greater the potential for environmental degradation if up-to-date best management practices are not used.

ENR has prepared environmental guidelines for handling waste products, remediating contaminated sites, suppressing dust and maintaining air quality. ENR has also developed standard operating procedures for commercial forest harvesting. As the pace of development increases, guidance is needed to ensure development proceeds in a manner that minimizes impacts to the environment.

Action 3.1.1 Identify additional ‘best management practices’ guidance documents for minerals, oil and gas development, and other industrial activities to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts, especially on forest, wildlife and habitat.

Action 3.1.2 Develop best practices sustainable management plan formats, guidelines and procedures for implementation of significant biomass harvesting operations.



3.2 Managing Human Activities to Reduce Cumulative Effects

Harmful or sudden changes to the landscape are often not the result of a single human activity. Rather, they arise from numerous activities or natural events over time, such as fire or rainfall. Knowing when people and the environment can no longer handle these changes without catastrophic results is complex and requires collaboration to better understand the necessary steps to take before a significant risk is posed to people or wildlife. To assess the accumulated impacts community and industrial development has on the NWT environment, a solid understanding of landscape level change is needed to better manage our activities and adapt to change. ENR will work with GNWT departments, Aboriginal governments and federal departments to ensure a comprehensive approach to cumulative effects. This means that ENR will continue its participation in the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP), led by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

- Action 3.2.1** Develop an overarching ENR framework to address cumulative effects in mandated areas that can guide future participation and collaborations.
- Action 3.2.2** Through effective partnerships, develop a comprehensive approach to cumulative effects in the NWT.



3.3 A Forest Renewal Strategy for the NWT

Adequate and timely regeneration following the removal of forest vegetation is necessary to maintain the long-term sustainability of NWT forests. Failure to ensure adequate regeneration will negatively impact the long-term availability of forest resources and has the potential to result in a forest resource with lessened values for future generations. There has been considerable loss to forest vegetation due to increased interest in commercial forestry; continued use of forest vegetation for fuel wood and other domestic purposes; and, use related to oil and gas exploration and development. All of these activities have implications for forest renewal. There is a need to explore alternatives to ensure forests are renewed and sustainable management can be achieved. More cost-effective approaches for forest renewal programs will be developed and implemented.

Development of a forest renewal strategy that identifies the information and management requirements needed to address issues surrounding disturbance and forest renewal is the next step.

- Action 3.3.1** Prepare a Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT to ensure sustainability of forest resources.



3.4 Species at Risk

Effective protection is required for species of plants and animals living in the NWT listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). ENR is working with other management authorities, such as wildlife co-management boards established under lands, resources and self-government agreements, to prepare and implement action or management plans for species that are listed or may be listed under SARA. These include northern mountain caribou, boreal caribou, wood bison, Peary caribou, leopard frog, western toad, grizzly bear, polar bear and wolverine. Completing and implementing these plans will help industry identify the actions needed to eliminate or minimize impacts on these species and their habitats. Once species are added to the NWT List of Species at Risk under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, recovery strategies or management plans will be needed for these as well. These include polar bear, Peary caribou, boreal caribou, and the hairy braya (a plant). ENR also tracks which species may be at risk by publishing a report every five years on the general status of all species in the NWT (see 4.3).

Action 3.4.1 Complete NWT Action Plans for Boreal Caribou.

Action 3.4.2 Complete Develop Wood Bison Management Plans for the Liard, Mackenzie, and Slave River Lowland Populations.

Action 3.4.3 Implement National Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.

3.5 Land Use Decision Support Tools

The process to complete and approve a Land Use Plan is lengthy. Considerable information must be gathered and shared; and a wide variety of land use interests must be reconciled in a manner respecting existing rights and government responsibilities.

A government wide approach to managing information is underway. This is supported by information technology and systems (including geographical information systems); and related policies, standards, guidelines and processes. This will improve decision support, understanding and alignment across those departments active in issues related to land use and land management.

To be successful, this information management approach and the underlying technologies will need to grow and adapt over time.

The information holdings of interest to the GNWT are held by multiple departments, other governments, regulatory authorities, and NGOs. There is a large increase in the requirement to coordinate data and information related activities for efficient exchange in an appropriate and secure manner consistent with the nature of the information. This will enable the government to generate greater value from its information holdings.

- Action 3.5.1** In partnership with the Department of Executive conduct preliminary analysis into key business objectives and scope for Land Use Decision Support Tools.
- Action 3.5.2** Identify priority areas for collaboration between government agencies for the sharing and acquisition of new data and information.
- Action 3.5.3** Develop data information inventory methodologies and tools.





3.6 Use of NWT forests in support of the Biomass Strategy

The NWT enjoys a land area of 75 million hectares (ha) with some level of forest cover over 67 million hectares. Of that, approximately 30 million ha are considered productive forests. Forest resource inventories are a primary source of forest information. Satellite imagery, aerial photography, and ground information is used to collect forest, vegetation, and landscape information at different scales. Forest resource inventories provide critical information for tracking change on the landscape and biomass and carbon stock assessments for climate change monitoring. Forest resource inventories are used for resource management planning by the GNWT and Aboriginal governments and organizations. Inventory work includes a focus on the potential for woody biomass in northern forests.

ENR is working with communities and First Nations to develop forest industry opportunities and local biomass fuels production by supporting the creation of forest management agreements, investing in building local capacity in forestry and biomass businesses and business planning for pellet production.

- Action 3.6.1** Conduct inventory of forest resources for partners and stakeholders.
- Action 3.6.2** Develop Forest Management Agreement (FMA – Forest Resource Agreement) with Aboriginal partners.

3.7 Land Use Planning

Land Use Plans (LUPs) are an instrument for land management. Commonly, these plans designate specific “zones” that define prohibitions or conditional development circumstances for particular land use activities.

The process to complete and approve a regional LUP is lengthy. Considerable information must be gathered and shared, and a wide variety of land use interests must be reconciled in a manner that respects existing rights and government responsibilities. The regional Aboriginal government, the GNWT, and the Government of Canada must approve the Plans.

- Action 3.7.1** Coordinate GNWT review of the Final Draft Sahtu Land Use Plan.
- Action 3.7.2** Coordinate GNWT input into the Draft Tlicho Land Use Plan.
- Action 3.7.3** Coordinate GNWT input into the Draft Interim Dehcho Land Use Plan.
- Action 3.7.4** Coordinate GNWT input into the Finalized Revised Gwich'in Land Use Plan.
- Action 3.7.5** Coordinate the review of GNWT input into Gwich'in Regional Plan of Action.
- Action 3.7.6** Work with other departments to create guidance documents for GNWT authorizations that are subject to LUPs.



3.8 Environmental Assessment

ENR coordinates GNWT participation in environmental assessments, environmental impact reviews, and environmental agreements and acts as an expert advisor to review agencies doing environmental impact assessment and regulatory reviews. The number and complexity of development projects undergoing environmental scrutiny has increased. A consistent and strategic approach is required to assess, and attain GNWT interests through environmental assessment (EA) processes. Due diligence must be in place to ensure environmental and other liabilities are minimal, follow-up occurs and legal obligations are met.

- Action 3.8.1** Develop internal GNWT protocol for GNWT intervention in environmental impact assessments.
- Action 3.8.2** Intervene and provide expert advice for NWT environmental assessments and environmental impact reviews.
- Action 3.8.3** Implement Environmental Assessment Tracking System Commitments Project across all GNWT departments.
- Action 3.8.4** Meet the follow up requirements for Environmental Agreements for projects as required.
- Action 3.8.5** Standardize comments for GNWT mandated areas for inclusion to regulatory permits.





3.9 Air Quality Management System

Air is one of our most precious resources and is vital to life on earth. Maintaining good air quality in the NWT is an important factor in environmental protection and the protection of human health. Sources of air pollution affecting our air quality are both natural, such as emission from forest fires, and anthropogenic (man-made) such as industrial, vehicular and home heating emissions.

Air quality in the NWT is governed by federal and territorial jurisdictions. ENR regulates air quality activities on commissioner's land under the Environmental Protection Act. National and territorial standards establish limits for the maximum amount of particles and gases that can be in ambient air. Actual measured concentrations are compared to these standards to determine the quality of our ambient air.

Industrial development is expected to increase in the NWT with the continued exploration of mineral and oil and gas resources. It is reasonable to assume the air emissions associated with these activities and accompanying community growth will also increase. Tracking levels of the most common contaminants, (air pollutants), provides an indication of air quality and the impacts of emissions from industrial and community development.

- Action 3.9.1** Implement Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards in accordance with the national Air Quality Management System (AQMS) developed through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.
- Action 3.9.2** Develop Air Zone Management Plans in accordance with AQMS.
- Action 3.9.3** Airshed coordination.

4.0 Building On What We Know

“Promoting and supporting the use of scientific research, traditional knowledge and public education to support decision-making and increase understanding of ecosystem integrity and biological diversity, climate change, integrated resource management and sustainable development in the Northwest Territories.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

Our northern lands and waters are complex. Sensitive northern ecosystems are changing constantly. A considerable amount of land in the NWT is being developed. Development beyond NWT borders can affect the NWT environment. Better management decisions can be made when we know more about our environment. If we understand how ecosystems function and the nature of the stresses human activities place on ecosystems, we can more accurately predict possible impacts on the environment. This helps with planning and environmental impact assessments of resource development to ensure impacts are avoided or dealt with in an appropriate way.

To plan and manage our actions, we must use all available sources of knowledge and experience to understand how human activities affect our land and our people. Working with local residents, land claims organizations, regulatory agencies, and specialists in various government and non-government agencies helps us make good forest, wildlife and environmental protection decisions. ENR gathers information about the environment and its resources to form a base to track changes over time. Ideally this “baseline data” can be used to compare the environment before development to during, and once development has occurred. When unacceptable changes are detected, management actions can be taken.





4.1 Traditional Knowledge

The GNWT's Traditional Knowledge Policy was approved in 1997. It "recognizes that Aboriginal traditional knowledge is a valid and essential source of information about the natural environment and its resources, the use of natural resources and the relationship of people to the land and to each other". This policy formalized the GNWT's commitment to "incorporate traditional knowledge (TK) into government decisions and actions where appropriate".

ENR is responsible for coordinating the implementation of government-wide TK initiatives and ensuring that traditional knowledge about the environment is considered in all related management actions and decisions. ENR has reviewed the TK Policy and developed a plan to strengthen the role of TK within the GNWT.

In 2009, ENR developed a Traditional Knowledge Implementation Framework (TKIF). The TKIF focuses on the following priorities: better overall coordination of TK Policy implementation; more consistent orientation, awareness and training opportunities relating to TK for employees and others; and development of stronger and more effective collaborative relationships with holders of TK through their Aboriginal governments and cultural agencies. It is important that any access and use of TK acknowledge and respect cultural ownership and control over TK by the holders of this knowledge. Successes and protocols developed regarding TK will be shared with other GNWT departments for review and use as appropriate.

Action 4.1.1 **Develop and implement protocols with regional Aboriginal governments and agencies to access and share TK.**

4.2 Classifying and Mapping Ecosystems

An ecological land classification for the NWT, based on landscape, climate zones and vegetation, is being developed. Forest, wildlife and land use managers can use it as a basis to identify areas to be protected. It also helps assess the impacts of human activities and wildland fires on wildlife habitat, forest productivity and changes in the plant community.

Action 4.2.1 **Complete and publish ecological land classification for the High Arctic Islands.**

4.3 Gathering Baseline Information and Monitoring Cumulative Effects

Human activities on the land may be regulated through leases, permits, zoning, water licences, or other means. All of these activities have a cumulative effect on NWT ecosystems and can determine how the land and its resources can be used in the future. To know how the land is reacting, it is important to have good sense of its current condition.

Governments have been monitoring air quality in the NWT since 1974. Air quality monitoring stations measure a variety of priority air pollutants. In anticipation of the oil and gas development, the Yellowknife-based system of air quality monitoring stations was expanded in 1998 by installing state-of-the-art stations in the communities of Fort Liard, Norman Wells and Inuvik.

The Western NWT Biophysical Study collects information on the environment and wildlife in the Mackenzie Valley. Information forms the baseline for the next phase of monitoring and managing impacts from resource development.

The General Status Ranking Program's main objectives are to develop comprehensive inventories of wild species in the NWT, to rank the biological status of each species every five years, to help prioritise further studies on species, and to help track changes in NWT biodiversity. The program's results are used by all agencies with responsibilities for wildlife in the NWT and are shared with other jurisdictions in Canada to develop Canada-wide ranks. The program is also part of NatureServe Canada, the Canadian section of an organization designed to rank the biological status of species in the world.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources works with partners towards a coordinated approach to collecting baseline information in the Sahtu. Environmental monitoring will ensure that the GNWT has appropriate information to make informed decisions related to oil and gas development in the Sahtu.

- Action 4.3.1 Review available baseline data on wildlife and vegetation and develop a plan to address data gaps to ensure cumulative impacts and landscape changes are well monitored and assessed.
- Action 4.3.2 Implement programs through the Western NWT Biophysical Study to address gaps in baseline data and information and enhance monitoring of cumulative impact indicators.
- Action 4.3.3 Expand the existing GNWT air quality monitoring network to include Fort Smith to monitor emissions from community sources and downwind emitters, such as Alberta's oil sands.
- Action 4.3.4 Strengthen the existing air quality monitoring network to reduce downtime and satisfy our partnership with the National Air Pollution Surveillance NAPS network and the requirements of AQMS.
- Action 4.3.5 Work with Environment Canada to expand the existing Canadian Air and Precipitation Monitoring Network (CAPMoN) to the South Slave.





5.0 Getting Information to Those Who Need It

"Providing timely, relevant and accessible information to support sustainable development in the Northwest Territories."

– ENR Establishment Policy

Many Aboriginal and community governments, boards and agencies need to assess and analyze information about the land, water and wildlife in order to do their jobs. This is a first step to ensure effective management of our natural resources. Up-to-date information is important to ensure that development proposals are rigorously reviewed. Sound information is also a vital component in the independent monitoring of resource development projects. Environment and natural resource information needs to be current and relevant.

Information should be abundant, easily accessible and understandable to all interested parties. A number of information systems and reporting initiatives will be well-linked and facilitate the use of environmental and natural resource information by others.

5.1 Upgrading Compliance and Licencing Databases

The web-based compliance and licencing databases require updates. The Compliance Management Information System (CMIS) will provide timely historical compliance data; assist in the exchange of compliance activities between regions; and support the planning, monitoring and reporting responsibilities of ENR.

CMIS will ensure new and existing legislation is enforced. CMIS will enhance the ability for the Department to effectively carry out the compliance duties of its Officers through enhanced case management and intelligence collection functions.

Action 5.1.1 Design, build and implement the Compliance Management information System (CMIS).

5.2 Reporting on the NWT State of the Environment

Information presented in a clear, concise and understandable manner is key to making informed decisions. The Northwest Territories' "State of the Environment Report" is designed to periodically update residents and decision-makers on the state of their environment, biodiversity and natural resources. It will help create a knowledgeable and informed public able to effectively participate in ensuring the sustainability of the northern ecosystem.

Action 5.2.1 Develop a "State of the Environment" highlights summary report.

5.3 NWT Science Agenda

ENR's mandate demands the Department maintain a significant capacity for research. Wildlife and forest management studies carried out by ENR are often done in partnership with universities to take advantage of new tools or techniques. ENR relies heavily on research conducted by others; southern-based academic institutions have a strong interest in working in the North. However, their research focus often does not address research questions from ENR.

ENR focuses on applied research activities in the forest resources management sector and works with partnership agencies to develop tools and information management systems supporting decisions and operations in the forest management and forest fire management realms.

Other GNWT departments have research needs, but no scientific capacity. The GNWT recognizes scientific knowledge and understanding is essential when planning policy and actions to address the dynamic change in the territory. In November 2009, *Building a Path for Northern Science: Government of the Northwest Territories' Science Agenda* was released. The Science Agenda establishes a strategic framework for science and identifies science priorities, which will guide future research and science integration for the GNWT. Although NWT scientific needs will evolve as the territory grows and changes, the importance of reliable, timely and accessible information will remain essential to ensure wise and effective decision-making processes.

Action 5.3.1 Identify ENR research needs and research priorities.

Action 5.3.2 Initiate the development and publishing of best practices and standards for community consultation on science projects.

5.4 Workforce Planning and Knowledge Transfer (Succession Plan)

The GNWT needs a strong public service to carry out effective governance strategies and actions to manage the environment and natural resources. With 27 percent of ENR's total workforce and 86 percent¹ of ENR's senior managers eligible for retirement within the next decade, succession planning will ensure gaps in the workforce are minimized.

For the longer term, ENR must ensure the right staff is in the right place at the right time. Gaps in the workforce must be addressed. Present and future staff must have sound knowledge, skills and abilities required for their positions.

Action 5.4.1 Work with the Department of Human Resources to develop a Succession Plan.

¹ Percentages as per HR Metrics, as at March 31, 2012 provided by the Department of Human Resources for Main Estimates 2012/13.



5.5 Renewal of the Wildlife Management Information System

The Wildlife Management Information System (WMIS) stores wildlife research and monitoring data and incidental wildlife observations reported to ENR. Data from this system is available under database sharing agreements with co-management partners, the public, academic researchers and industry. A custom systems development project is underway to improve support of WMIS and provide better integration and flexibility in storing, documenting, extending and accessing data necessary to make and substantiate wildlife management decisions.

Action 5.5.1 Redevelop the Wildlife Management Information System.

5.6 Implement Digital Integrated Information Management System (DIIMS)

DIIMS is an electronic content management system that stores and manages corporate information. Information stored within the DIIMS repository enables GNWT business users to access, share, search, and collaborate on corporate information.

Action 5.6.1 Implement the GNWT DIIMS.

5.7 Public Education

The role of Public Education is to inform NWT residents about environmental issues. This is done through school programs, experiential camps and public education focussing on wildlife, forestry, land, water and the environment.

As hunting plays a significant role in the NWT, ENR is developing a Hunter Education Program for NWT residents to learn about responsible and safe hunting.

Action 5.7.1 Develop and implement a Hunter Education Program.

5.8 Training

A well trained workforce enhances the Department's ability to carry out its mandate. ENR has developed standards for staff and ensuring they receive the proper training.

Action 5.8.1 Implement ENR-wide training database, Training Partner.

Action 5.8.2 Develop and implement standard procedures for staff training.



6.0 Managing Shared Resources Cooperatively

“Negotiating and recommending agreements with the federal, provincial and other governments concerning the environment and the sustainable use of wildlife, habitat and forest resources.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

Political borders do not confine air, water and wildlife. Forest ecosystems extend beyond borders. We must work with neighbouring territories and provinces to influence management decisions that may affect the abundance and quality of NWT resources. Total harvest and the impacts of development on the entire range of a species can affect its population health. Upstream water use and contaminant sources affect the downstream aquatic environment. Cooperative agreements among relevant jurisdictions help to better manage people’s actions for the benefit of all. Our shared responsibilities help maintain the quality and abundance of these resources to ensure they meet the needs of NWT residents today and in the future. ENR works through cooperative agreements and councils, such as the Species at Risk Accord, National Forest Accord, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, and the Canadian Council of Wildlife Ministers.



6.1 Managing Shared Wildlife Populations

The NWT shares responsibility for managing several wildlife populations, including a number of endangered or threatened species, with neighbouring jurisdictions. Shared populations include Barren-ground, Mountain and Woodland caribou and polar bear. These species play an important role in the cultural, economic and spiritual lives of many NWT residents. ENR is working with our neighbours to develop common management plans and actions that ensure human activities do not impact the health or productivity of these wildlife species.

- Action 6.1.1 Develop an agreement with the Governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut on management of shared wildlife populations including polar bears, barren-ground caribou and boreal caribou.
- Action 6.1.2 Implement actions in the 2011-2015 Barren-Ground Caribou Management Strategy.
- Action 6.1.3 Develop management plans for Bathurst and Beverly/Ahiak herd with co-management partners.



7.0 Promoting NWT Management of its Resources

“Planning and facilitating the devolution of provincial-type responsibilities within the departmental mandate.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

A devolution agreement with the Government of Canada (Canada) is essential in developing a healthy, sustainable and self-reliant society in the NWT. The GNWT is currently in negotiations to transfer administrative authority and control over Crown lands, resources and waters in the NWT from Canada to the GNWT. In 2011, Canada, the GNWT, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Northwest Territory Metis Nation signed the NWT Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) and began negotiations on a final agreement. In 2012, two more Aboriginal groups, the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and the Gwich'in Tribal Council signed the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) and began negotiations on a final agreement.

7.1 Participation in Devolution Negotiations and Implementation

ENR is providing significant support for the negotiations to transfer legislative powers, programs and responsibility for the management of natural resources to the GNWT. ENR is committed to the creation of a resource management regime that manages and regulates resources and developments in the NWT in an effective, efficient and coordinated manner, and is consistent with land claim and self-government agreements. Devolution will help to address resource management issues in a more integrated manner linking various planning, management and regulatory initiatives more effectively. Clear process and timelines will assist developers and managers.

ENR will participate in the development of the new organizational design that will involve changes to existing GNWT departments and the establishment of two new departments in order to accommodate the transfer of programs and services from AANDC. ENR will also participate in a number of Devolution intergovernmental implementation working groups (Environment/Water, MOG, PARRC and Lands) where the GNWT and Canada will work together to ensure that program and services are transferred as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Action 7.1.1 Facilitate the transfer of administration of lands and regulatory systems from the federal government.



8.0 Supporting Our Partners

"Providing financial and administrative support to other government agencies."
– ENR Establishment Policy

ENR supports residents who take on efforts to help themselves better manage their actions and those of others, to protect the environment. ENR can provide a secretariat function to support these collaborative efforts as is done for the Waste Recovery Committee and the Protected Areas Strategy Secretariat. ENR contributes funding through programs to support active agencies helping to manage wildlife or protect the environment. Resources from federal, territorial and Aboriginal governments sources are pooled to ensure residents have what is needed to accomplish our common goals.

8.1 Implementing the Protected Areas Strategy

Protecting lands with ecological and cultural significance to NWT residents is a key policy commitment of the GNWT. The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) was signed by the territorial and federal governments in 1999 and provides an effective community-based tool for advancing culturally and ecologically significant areas to long term legislated protection.

Implementation of the PAS is a joint responsibility of the GNWT and AANDC. The PAS is guided by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from regional Aboriginal organizations, industry, environmental non-government organizations, and federal and territorial governments. The PAS Secretariat is staffed and funded by AANDC and ENR.

ENR has taken a lead role in identifying core representative areas within each of the NWT's 42 ecoregions. To date, 13 ecoregions have little to no protection of representative areas, and in several other ecoregions protection is only on an interim basis.

- Action 8.1.1 Maintain a PAS Secretariat to support communities and other PAS partners in the implementation of the PAS.
- Action 8.1.2 Participate on all PAS candidate areas working groups.
- Action 8.1.3 Support and participate on the PAS Steering Committee.





8.2 Supporting Community based Forestry Development

Forest industry development is supported with appropriate consideration of the sustainable management of forest resources, community interests and aspirations, and recognizing the need for forest-based development that not only builds economic stability within communities, but is also culturally acceptable.

ENR continues to support emerging and existing forest industry players with its programs and services, providing essential forest planning support, resource information and advice to communities and entrepreneurs on sustainable development and management of forest resources.

Action 8.2.1 Work with communities interested in forest development initiatives.

APPENDIX A

1.0 Protecting Our Environment

“Developing, recommending and enforcing legislation, policies and agreements to maintain the integrity and biological diversity of natural ecosystems and thereby protect the condition and quality of the environment.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

Initiative	Action	Deliverable
1.1 Species at Risk Legislation	<i>1.1.1 Sign Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on NWT Species at Risk.</i>	Bilateral Cooperation Agreement signed.
	<i>1.1.2 Implement actions under the Species at Risk (NWT) Act.</i>	Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) and Species at Risk Committee (SARC) Annual Reports
	<i>1.1.3 Update and approve a five-year species assessment schedule.</i>	Assessment schedule updated by SARC and approved by CMA
1.2 A New Wildlife Act	<i>1.2.1 Release a draft Wildlife Act for further public engagement and s.35 Aboriginal consultation.</i>	Draft Wildlife Act completed and released.
	<i>1.2.2 Complete public consultation and a revised draft.</i>	Revisions to draft made following consultation
	<i>1.2.3 Introduce the Wildlife Act.</i>	New Wildlife Act introduced in the Legislative Assembly.
	<i>1.2.4. Implement the Wildlife Act.</i>	Actions to implement the Act are initiated.
	<i>1.2.5. Comprehensive Review of Regulations.</i>	Wildlife regulations are updated
1.3 Forest Management Legislation	<i>1.3.1 Develop draft action plan for new forest management legislation and policy.</i>	Draft action plan is completed
	<i>1.3.2 Develop a draft Forest Management Policy.</i>	Draft is complete for internal review
	<i>1.3.3 s. 35 Aboriginal Consultation and public engagement on Forest Policy directions and legislative framework.</i>	Consultation completed
	<i>1.3.4 Complete s.35 Aboriginal consultation and public engagement and draft Forest Management Act.</i>	Draft Act
	<i>1.3.5 Introduce Forest Management Act.</i>	New Forest Management Act introduced in the Legislative Assembly
1.4 Forest Management Regulations	<i>1.4.1 Complete s.35 Aboriginal consultation and public engagement and draft Regulations IUFL.</i>	Consultation and Regulations Complete
	<i>1.4.2. IUFL Regulations promulgated.</i>	New Regulations in place
1.5 Forest Management Charges and Fees	<i>1.5.1 Develop options for new Forest Management Charges and Fees.</i>	Options Paper developed
	<i>1.5.2 Draft Forest Management Policy for Charges and Fees.</i>	Draft completed.
	<i>1.5.3 Complete public consultation and engagement on charges and fees.</i>	Consultation and Regulations Complete
	<i>1.5.4 Charges and fees Schedule to Forest Management Regulations Fee draft.</i>	New Regulations in place
	<i>1.5.5 Fees Schedule in force.</i>	New Schedule in Place
1.6 Maintaining Forest Fire Management Services Program Effectiveness	<i>1.6.1 Develop a Forest Fire Management Action Plan to address issues or gaps identified through the Fire Program review.</i>	Forest Fire management Action Plan complete
	<i>1.6.2 Conduct a review of ENR’s Strategic approach to wildland fire management.</i>	Discussion Paper
	<i>1.6.3 Implement Forest Fire Management Action Plan.</i>	Actions that address the review’s recommendation are implemented

Initiative	Action	Deliverable
1.7 Forest Protection Act	1.7.1 <i>Develop draft action plan for new forest protection legislation.</i>	Action plan is completed
	1.7.2 <i>Develop draft Forest Protection Policy.</i>	Draft is complete for internal review
	1.7.3 <i>s.35 Aboriginal consultation and public engagement on Forest Policy directions and legislative framework.</i>	Consultation completed
1.8 Environmental Statutes Amendments	1.8.1 <i>Repeal current Pesticide Act by incorporating modern provisions regulating pesticide use in the Environmental Protection Act.</i>	Pesticide Act repealed; Environmental Protection Act amended.
1.9 Wildland Fire Management Aviation Fleet Renewal	1.9.1 <i>Develop a Fleet Renewal Plan.</i>	Contract Aviation and Fire Expertise
	1.9.2 <i>Develop aviation fleet renewal discussion paper for Cabinet consideration.</i>	Aviation Fleet and Renewal Plan submitted to Cabinet
1.10 Sustainable Development Policy Implementation	1.10.1 <i>Participate in the development of the Land Use and Sustainability Framework.</i>	LUSF is completed
1.11 Consultation Framework for ENR	1.11.1 <i>Develop an internal Aboriginal Consultation and Engagement Guideline for ENR.</i>	Consultation framework is completed.
1.12 Review and Improve the Beverage Container Program	1.12.1 <i>Assess recommended changes to the Beverage Container Program.</i>	Assessment is completed
	1.12.2 <i>Stakeholder engagement on proposed changes to the Beverage Container Program.</i>	Engagement completed
	1.12.3 <i>Draft amendments to the Beverage Container Regulations.</i>	Amendments to Beverage Container Regulations submitted to Cabinet
	1.12.4 <i>Implement revised regulations.</i>	Implement revised regulations
1.13 Develop an Electronic Waste Recovery Program	1.13.1 <i>Stakeholder engagement.</i>	Engagement is completed
	1.13.2 <i>Program design.</i>	Electronic waste recovery program design is completed and discussion paper prepared
	1.13.3 <i>Draft regulations.</i>	Draft regulations complete
	1.13.4 <i>Program implementation.</i>	Implement program (if no change to the WRRA is proposed)
1.14 Develop and implement a waste management strategy for the NWT	1.14.1 <i>Research best practices and different components to be included in the Waste Management Strategy.</i>	Research is completed
	1.14.2 <i>Stakeholder engagement.</i>	Begin Engagement
	1.14.3 <i>Develop partnerships and collaboration with local governments and other GNWT departments.</i>	Engage and work with Municipal and Community Affairs, NWT communities and NWT Association of Communities
1.15 Protected Areas	1.15.1 <i>Create an ecological representation network plan for protected areas.</i>	Plan Created
	1.15.2 <i>Develop regulations and policies for Conservation Areas under the new Wildlife Act.</i>	Policy developed
	1.15.3 <i>Use GNWT legislation to sponsor candidate sites under the NWT PAS.</i>	Candidate site(s) process underway using ENR legislation
	1.15.4 <i>Establish new areas to fill prioritized gaps in ecological representation.</i>	Fewer gaps in ecological representation
	1.15.5 <i>Complete Ejé Túé Ndáde (Buffalo Lake) working group reporting (Step 5), including a comparison of tools.</i>	Working Group reporting complete
	1.15.6 <i>State of NWT Protected Areas Report.</i>	Report

2.0 Working With Our Partners

“Representing the Government of the Northwest Territories and coordinating the Government’s involvement in territorial, national and international matters related to conservation and protection of the natural environment, climate change and the sustainable use of wildlife, habitat and forest resources.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

Initiative	Action	Deliverable
2.1 Energy and Climate Change	<i>2.1.1 Work with energy partners to implement the NWT Solar and Biomass Energy Strategies.</i>	Biomass – doubled the current (14%) total space heating demand Solar – displaced 10 percent of diesel electricity generation in the NWT
	<i>2.1.2 Support Actions identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and report progress annually.</i>	Progress report
	<i>2.1.3 Support NWT residents, businesses and communities to reduce energy consumption and implement alternative energy solutions.</i>	Support Programs Alternative Energy Technologies Program (AETP); Energy Conservation Program; and Energy Efficiency Incentive Program
2.2 Climate Change	<i>2.2.1 Work with GNWT departments to support and coordinate departmental adaptation projects including securing federal adaptation funding.</i>	Adaptation projects are developed
	<i>2.2.2 In collaboration with Nunavut and Yukon implement the Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy.</i>	Territorial Adaptation Strategy is implemented
	<i>2.2.3 In collaboration with Nunavut and Yukon, organize a Pan-Territorial Permafrost Conference.</i>	Conference is organized and conference publications completed.
	<i>2.2.4 Develop a draft Climate Change Adaptation Framework.</i>	Framework completed
2.3 Giant Mine Reclamation	<i>2.3.1. Participate in the review and response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board’s Report of Environmental Assessment.</i>	N/A
	<i>2.3.2 Participate in engagement activities with the public and interested parties on future land use of the Giant Mine Site, finalizing detailed design elements in the Remediation Plan and environmental management and monitoring of the site.</i>	N/A
	<i>2.3.3. Participate in regulatory processes necessary to secure a Type A Water License for the remediation project.</i>	N/A

Initiative	Action	Deliverable
2.4 Historic Uranium Transportation Route Clean-Up	<i>2.4.1 Work with the federal government to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for managing contaminated soil along the Northern Transportation Route (NTR).</i>	Soil Management Plan
2.5 Protecting Territorial Waters	<i>2.5.1 Work with interested parties to develop community based monitoring partnerships.</i>	Establishing watershed-level community based partnerships.
	<i>2.5.2 Work with communities to support them to develop source water protection plans.</i>	Source Water Protection Plans for interested communities.
	<i>2.5.3 Work with the federal government, land and water boards, communities and other to develop an implementation plan and inter-jurisdictional agreement, and implement the Canada -Wide Strategy for Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE).</i>	Implementation Plan and Jurisdictional Agreement
	<i>2.5.4 Develop effective resources, management and assessment tools, to help NWT communities participate in water stewardship initiatives.</i>	Website and geomatics tools
	<i>2.5.5 Complete transboundary water management agreement negotiations with Alberta.</i>	Bilateral water management agreement with Alberta.
2.6 Community Wildland Fire Risk Management	<i>2.6.1 Work with MACA to develop community hazard and risk mitigation plans reflecting Community Wildland Fire Protection Plans.</i>	Implementation plans for communities at risk.
	<i>2.6.2 Funding model and implementation process for Community Wildland Fire hazard and risk mitigation projects. (in conjunction with MACA).</i>	Funding model and process submitted to cabinet
2.7 Protected Areas Strategy	<i>2.7.1 Work with PAS partners to complete objectives of the PAS Establishment Action Plan (2010-2015).</i>	Objectives implemented
	<i>2.7.2 Work with PAS partners on a post-devolution Action Plan.</i>	Action Plan released
2.8 Develop a Greening Government Strategy	<i>2.8.1 Develop partnerships with key departments.</i>	Formal commitments with key departments
	<i>2.8.2 Determine baseline data.</i>	Report summarizing findings
	<i>2.8.3 Stakeholder engagement.</i>	Engagement completed
	<i>2.8.4 Development of a greening government strategy.</i>	Greening Government Strategy submitted for Cabinet consideration

3.0 Managing Development to Sustain the Environment

“Maintaining and protecting the condition, quality, diversity and abundance of the environment, including wildlife, habitat and forest resources, in the Northwest Territories through comprehensive assessment and evaluation, monitoring and compliance measures.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

Initiative	Action	Deliverable
3.1 Best Management Practices	3.1.1 Identify additional ‘best management practices’ guidance documents for minerals, oil and gas development, and other industrial activities to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts, especially on forest, wildlife and habitat.	Review of guidance documents. Guidance documents to develop or update include: developing Standard Terms and Conditions to mitigate the impact of human activities on wildlife and wildlife habitat and Best Management Practices (BMP) for Mines.
	3.1.2 Develop best practices sustainable management plan formats, guidelines and procedures for implementation of significant biomass harvesting operations	Guidelines developed
3.2 Managing Human Activities to Reduce Cumulative Effects	3.2.1 Develop an overarching ENR framework to address cumulative effects in mandated areas that can guide future participation and collaborations.	Framework completed
	3.2.2 Develop a comprehensive approach to cumulative effects.	A strategy and framework for cumulative effects on wildlife and forests is completed
3.3 A Forest Renewal Strategy for the NWT	3.3.1 Prepare a Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT to ensure sustainability of forest resources.	A Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT is completed.
3.4 Species At Risk	3.4.1 NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou.	A management plan and a range management plan for Boreal Caribou is developed
	3.4.2 Develop Wood Bison Management Plans for the Liard, Mackenzie, and Slave River Lowland Populations.	Management Plans for each population
	3.4.3 Implement National Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.	Action Plans completed
3.5 Land Use Decision Support Tools	3.5.1 In partnership with the Department of Executive conduct preliminary analysis into key business objectives and scope for Land Use Decision Support Tools.	Analysis completed.
	3.5.2 Identify priority areas for collaboration between government agencies for the sharing and acquisition of new data and information.	GNWT Land Information Acquisition Report
	3.5.3. Develop data information inventory methodologies and tools.	Data information inventory and methodologies completed
3.6 Forest Management Practices in support of the Biomass Strategy	3.6.1 Inventory of forest resources for partners and stakeholders.	Complete new inventory listing for Tlicho settlement area.
	3.6.2 Develop Forest Management Agreement (FMA – Forest Resource Agreement) with Aboriginal partners..	1. Forest Management Agreement Template 2. Agreements in place as opportunity presents itself

Initiative	Action	Deliverable
3.7 Land Use Planning	3.7.1 Coordinate GNWT input into the Draft Sahtu Land Use Plan.	GNWT written comments to the SLUPB
	3.7.2 Coordinate GNWT input into the Draft Tlicho Land Use Plan.	GNWT written comments to the Tlicho Government
	3.7.3 Coordinate GNWT input into the draft interim Dehcho land Use Plan.	GNWT participation in DLUPC meetings
	3.7.4 Coordinate GNWT input into the Finalized Revised Gwich'in Land Use Plan.	GNWT written comments to the GLUPB
	3.7.5 Coordinate the review of the GNWT's input into the Regional Plan of Action.	GNWT Written Comments
	3.7.6 Work with other department to create guidance documents for GNWT authorizations that are subject to LUPs.	Draft GNWT LUP Guidance Documents
3.8 Environmental Assessment	3.8.1 Develop internal GNWT protocol for GNWT interventions in environmental impact assessments.	Protocol developed
	3.8.2 Intervene and provide expert advice for NWT environmental assessments and environmental impact reviews.	GNWT submissions throughout the assessment process
	3.8.3 Implement Environmental Assessment Tracking System Commitments Project across all GNWT departments.	Enter all relevant commitments and tasks/ follow-up on these commitments into EATS.
	3.8.4 Meet the follow up requirements for environmental agreements for projects as required.	Follow up requirements met.
	3.8.5 Standardize comments for GNWT mandated areas for inclusion in regulatory permits.	Standardization of comments (i.e. wildlife, waste management)
3.9 Air Quality Management System	3.9.1 Implement Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards in accordance with AQMS developed through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.	1. Update Guideline for Ambient Air Quality Standards and Reporting requirements 2. CAAQS Achievement
	3.9.2 Develop Air Zone Management Plans in accordance with AQMS.	1. Delineate Air Zones 2. Management Plans (inventory, monitoring, reporting)
	3.9.3 Airshed coordination	Develop process between Yukon, Nunavut and Environment Canada

4.0 Tools for Decision Making

“Promoting and supporting the use of scientific research, traditional knowledge and public education to support decision-making and increase understanding of ecosystem integrity and biological diversity, climate change, integrated resource management and sustainable development in the Northwest Territories.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

Initiative	Action	Deliverable
4.1 Traditional Knowledge Policy Review	4.1.1 <i>Develop and implement protocols with regional Aboriginal governments and agencies to access and share TK.</i>	Protocols for information access and sharing.
4.2 Classifying and mapping ecosystems	4.2.1 <i>Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Southern High Arctic Ecozones and High Arctic Islands.</i>	Ecozone classifications map and descriptors
4.3 Gathering Baseline Information and Monitoring Cumulative Effects	4.3.1 <i>Review available baseline data on wildlife and vegetation and develop a plan to address data gaps to ensure cumulative impacts and landscape changes are well monitored and assessed.</i>	Action plan to address data gaps
	4.3.2 <i>Implement programs through the Western NWT Biophysical Study to address gaps in baseline data and information and enhance monitoring of cumulative impact indicators.</i>	Implementation of program(s) produce Annual Report on results
	4.3.3 <i>Expand the existing air quality network to include Fort Smith to monitor impacts from tar sands.</i>	Air quality monitoring program in Fort Smith
	4.3.4 <i>Strengthen the existing air quality monitoring network to reduce downtime and satisfy our partnership with NAPS and the requirements of AQMS.</i>	Air quality monitoring program across NWT
	4.3.5 <i>Work with EC to expand the existing CAPMoN Network to the South Slave.</i>	CAPMoN station in the South Slave

5.0 Getting Information to Those Who Need It

“Providing timely, relevant and accessible information to support sustainable development in the Northwest Territories.”

– ENR Establishment Policy

FFA Initiative	Action	Deliverable
5.1 Upgrading compliance and licencing databases	5.1.1 <i>Design, build and implement the Compliance Management information System (CMIS).</i>	CMIS is operational.
5.2 Reporting on the NWT State of the Environment	5.2.1 <i>Develop a “State of the Environment” highlights summary report.</i>	Highlights report completed
5.3 NWT Science Agenda	5.3.1 <i>Identify ENR research needs and research priorities.</i>	Annual action plan and status report
	5.3.2 <i>Initiate the development and publishing of best practices and standards for community consultation on science projects.</i>	Best practices and standards guidelines published
5.4 Workforce Planning and Knowledge Transfer	5.4.1 <i>Work with the Department of Human Resources to develop a Succession Plan.</i>	Succession Plan
5.5 Renewal of the Wildlife Management Information System	5.5.1 <i>Redevelop the Wildlife Management Information System.</i>	Successfully develop and implement a modern new information management system to support ENR’s wildlife management programs and services
5.6 Implement Digital Integrated Information Management System (DIIMS)	5.6.1 <i>Implement the GNWT DIIMS to support improved records management practices, more efficient storage of information and allow for improved efficiency in handling electronic information. This will be essential to enable the effective transfer of records from the Government of Canada as a result of Devolution.</i>	System is implemented
5.7 Public Education	5.7.1 <i>Develop and implement a Hunter Education Program.</i>	Program is developed
5.8 Training	5.8.1. <i>Implement an ENR wide training database – Training Partner.</i>	Database is implemented
	5.8.2 <i>Develop and implement standard procedures for staff training.</i>	Procedures developed and implemented.

6.0 Managing Shared Resources Cooperatively

"Negotiating and recommending agreements with the federal, provincial and other governments concerning the environment and the sustainable use of wildlife, habitat and forest resources."

– ENR Establishment Policy

FFA Initiative	Action	Deliverable
6.1 Managing Shared Wildlife Populations	6.1.1 <i>Develop an agreement with the Governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut on management of shared wildlife populations including polar bears, barren-ground caribou and boreal caribou.</i>	Bilateral agreements on shared wildlife populations for each jurisdiction
	6.1.2 <i>Implement actions in the 2011-2015 Barren-Ground Caribou Management Strategy.</i>	Actions being implemented
	6.1.3 <i>Develop management plans for Bathurst and Beverly/Ahiak herd with co-management partners.</i>	Management plans developed

7.0 Promoting NWT Management of Its Resources

"Planning and facilitating the devolution of provincial-type responsibilities within the departmental mandate."

– ENR Establishment Policy

FFA Initiative	Action	Deliverable
7.1 Participation in Devolution Negotiations	7.1.1 <i>Facilitate the transfer of administration of lands and regulatory systems from the federal government.</i>	Support development of: a Land Use Planning Framework; Best Management Practices

8.0 Supporting Our Partners

"Providing financial and administrative support to other government agencies or secretariats when required."

– ENR Establishment Policy

FFA Initiative	Action	Deliverable
8.1 Implementing the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS)	8.1.1 <i>Maintain a PAS Secretariat to support communities and other PAS partners in the implementation of the PAS.</i>	PAS Secretariat
	8.1.2 <i>Participate on all PAS candidate areas working groups.</i>	N/A
	8.1.3 <i>Support and participate on the PAS Steering Committee.</i>	N/A
8.2 Supporting Community based Forestry Development	8.2.1. <i>Work with communities interested in forest development initiatives.</i>	Develop woodlots in North Slave, South Slave and Dehcho; willow field management plan in Fort McPherson

