

# DE BEERS GROUP

31 March 2026

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Via Email: WMMP@gov.nt.ca

Dear Mr. Cott:

**RE: Gahcho Kué 2025 Annual Wildlife Report**

De Beers Canada is pleased to provide Gahcho Kué Mine's 2024 Annual Wildlife Report, in accordance with the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP), Ver.1.2, which was approved by the Government of Northwest Territories on March 31, 2022. This report is also submitted to fulfill the reporting requirement in the Wildlife Research Permit (Permit #: WL501343).

De Beers trusts that this document addresses GNWT requirements in a clear and fulsome manner. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the content of the report, please contact the undersigned at 403-466-5967 or [kurtis.trefry@debeersgroup.com](mailto:kurtis.trefry@debeersgroup.com).

Sincerely,



Kurtis Trefry M.SEM, P.Ag  
Environment and Permitting Superintendent  
De Beers Canada Inc.

cc:

Wildlife Management Information System  
Greg Look – GNWT-ECC  
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A member of the Anglo American plc group

**DE BEERS GROUP**

**Gahcho Kué Mine**  
**2025 Annual Wildlife Report**

**March 2026**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1	Content .....	1-5
1.2	Engagement .....	1-7
<b>2</b>	<b>SPECIES OF CONCERN .....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>MONITORING AND RESULTS .....</b>	<b>3-4</b>
3.1	Local and Regional Study Areas.....	3-4
3.2	Direct Habitat Loss.....	3-4
3.2.1	Mine Development Area.....	3-4
3.3	Indirect Habitat Loss.....	3-6
3.3.1	Noise .....	3-6
3.3.2	Dust.....	3-8
3.3.3	Wildlife Sightings Log .....	3-12
3.3.4	Site Surveillance.....	3-17
3.3.5	Public Use of the Winter Access Road .....	3-22
3.3.6	Wildlife Incidents .....	3-22
3.4	Caribou .....	3-25
3.4.1	Aerial Surveys .....	3-26
3.4.2	Behaviour Monitoring.....	3-26
3.4.3	Snow Berm Management .....	3-28
3.5	Arctic Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring Surveys.....	3-29
3.6	Raptors .....	3-29
3.6.1	Regional Raptor Nest Monitoring Program .....	3-30
3.6.2	Pit-nest and Raptor Monitoring and Deterrence Program .....	3-30
3.7	Upland Breeding Birds .....	3-34
3.7.1	Nest Management Program.....	3-34
3.8	Small Mammals .....	3-36
3.9	Environmental Indicators.....	3-38
3.10	Mine Activity .....	3-39
<b>4</b>	<b>WILDLIFE MITIGATION AND MONITORING PLAN AUDIT .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>UNITS OF MEASURE .....</b>	<b>7-1</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>8-1</b>

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### LIST OF MAPS

Map 1-1	Location of the Gahcho Kué Mine .....	1-3
Map 1-2	2024 Gahcho Kué Mine Site Infrastructure .....	1-4
Map 3-1	Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan Study Areas.....	3-5
Map 3-2	Collection Pond Survey Locations, 2025 .....	3-18

### LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1	Schedule of Wildlife Monitoring under each Relevant Management Plan .....	1-5
Table 2-1	Species of Concern for the Mine, Potential Effects, and Related Monitoring Components in the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan .....	2-2
Table 3-1	Expected and Actual Loss of Habitat Types Associated with the Mine Footprint to the end of 2025 .....	3-6
Table 3-2	Year 8 Noise Monitoring Locations .....	3-7
Table 3-3	Summary Statistics for the Fixed Dust Deposition Rates Across Years .....	3-10
Table 3-4	Summary of Dust Monitoring Results - Dustfall, 2025 .....	3-11
Table 3-5	Wildlife Sightings Log Summary of Observations, 2013 to 2025 .....	3-13
Table 3-6	Locations of Collection Pond Stations, 2025 .....	3-18
Table 3-7	Wildlife and Wildlife Signs Observed during Site Surveillance Surveys, 2025 .....	3-19
Table 3-8	Bird Observations during Collection Pond Surveys, 2025 .....	3-20
Table 3-9	Bird Species Observed during Collection Pond Surveys, 2025 .....	3-21
Table 3-10	Snow Berm Monitoring Results for the Winter Access Road, 2025 .....	3-29
Table 3-11	Proportion of Snow Berm Height Measurements for the Winter Access Road, 2025.....	3-29
Table 3-12	Recorded Observations of Individual Species Count and Total Number of Observations, 2025.....	3-33
Table 3-13	Predicted Timing and Extent of Predicted and Actual Flooding at Lakes D2/D3, and E1 .....	3-35
Table 3-14	Small Mammal Monitoring Program Catch Summary, 2025.....	3-37
Table 3-15	Gahcho Kué Environmental Indicators, 2025 .....	3-38
Table 3-16	Gahcho Kué Camp Occupancy, 2025 .....	3-39
Table 4-1	Summary of Mitigations Implemented in 2025.....	4-2

### LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	2025 Caribou Monitoring Data
APPENDIX B	Gahcho Kué Mine – 2025 Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan Audit – Summary Table

# 1 INTRODUCTION

De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) operates the Gahcho Kué Mine (Mine), located at Kennady Lake about 280 kilometres (km) northeast of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (NT). Kennady Lake is north of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and the small community of Łutsel K'e by approximately 140 km (Map 1-1). Commercial operation of the Mine began in September of 2016. The construction and operation of the Mine are currently under Type A Water Licence (MV2005L2-0015) and Type A Land Use Permit (MV2021D0009), issued by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB). Mine activities and infrastructure include dewatering of Kennady Lake, open pit mining of three kimberlite pipes, construction and operation of Coarse and Fine Processed Kimberlite (PK) Facilities, Mine Rock Piles, accommodation and maintenance facilities, all-season airstrip, site roads and annual Winter Access Road (Map 1-2).

In August 2019, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) issued a new guidance document for development of wildlife management plans (GNWT-ECC 2019) to meet requirements of the NWT *Wildlife Act*. The GNWT then issued a directive to De Beers in October 2020 instructing De Beers that a Tier 3 Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) for the Gahcho Kué Mine would be required to meet compliance with the NWT *Wildlife Act*. This WMMP was developed from the existing Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan (WWHPP) and Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP) and updated to align with the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) Process and Content Guidelines (GNWT-ECC 2019). In compliance with the *Wildlife Act* and Land Use Permit MV2005C0032 (expired on August 10, 2021), Version 1 of the WMMP was submitted to the GNWT and MVLWB on April 26, 2021, and was subsequently issued for public review. On June 29, 2021, as part of the issuance of the renewed Land Use Permit MV2021D0009 (MVLWB 2021), the MVLWB determined the WMMP is no longer required in the Land Use Permit. Version 1.1 of the WMMP was submitted to the GNWT addressing reviewer comments from the GNWT, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Ni Hadi Xa, and MVLWB in January 2022. The Mine's Tier 3 WMMP (Version 1.2, De Beers 2022) was approved by the GNWT-ECC on March 31, 2022 (GNWT-ECC 2022).

The WMMP outlines the policies, practices, designs, and procedures aimed at preventing and reducing Mine-related effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat, and providing Mine managers with information for making environmental management decisions. The WMMP also provides opportunities for regulators and Indigenous groups and communities to participate in the development of protection, mitigation, and monitoring of wildlife at the Mine site.

This WMMP draws together lessons learned from other mine sites in the NT including the De Beers Snap Lake Mine, Ekati and Diavik mines, as well as Traditional Knowledge (TK). In doing so, the WMMP will meet the requirements of the *Species at Risk Act*, the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations, the NWT *Wildlife Act*, and the Migratory Bird Convention Act, 1994 and Migratory Bird Regulations, as well as Review Panel Measures and corporate commitments.

Pursuant to the WMMP (De Beers 2022), this report describes mitigation and monitoring activities at the Mine and in the Regional Study Area (RSA) from January to December of the current reporting year and includes:

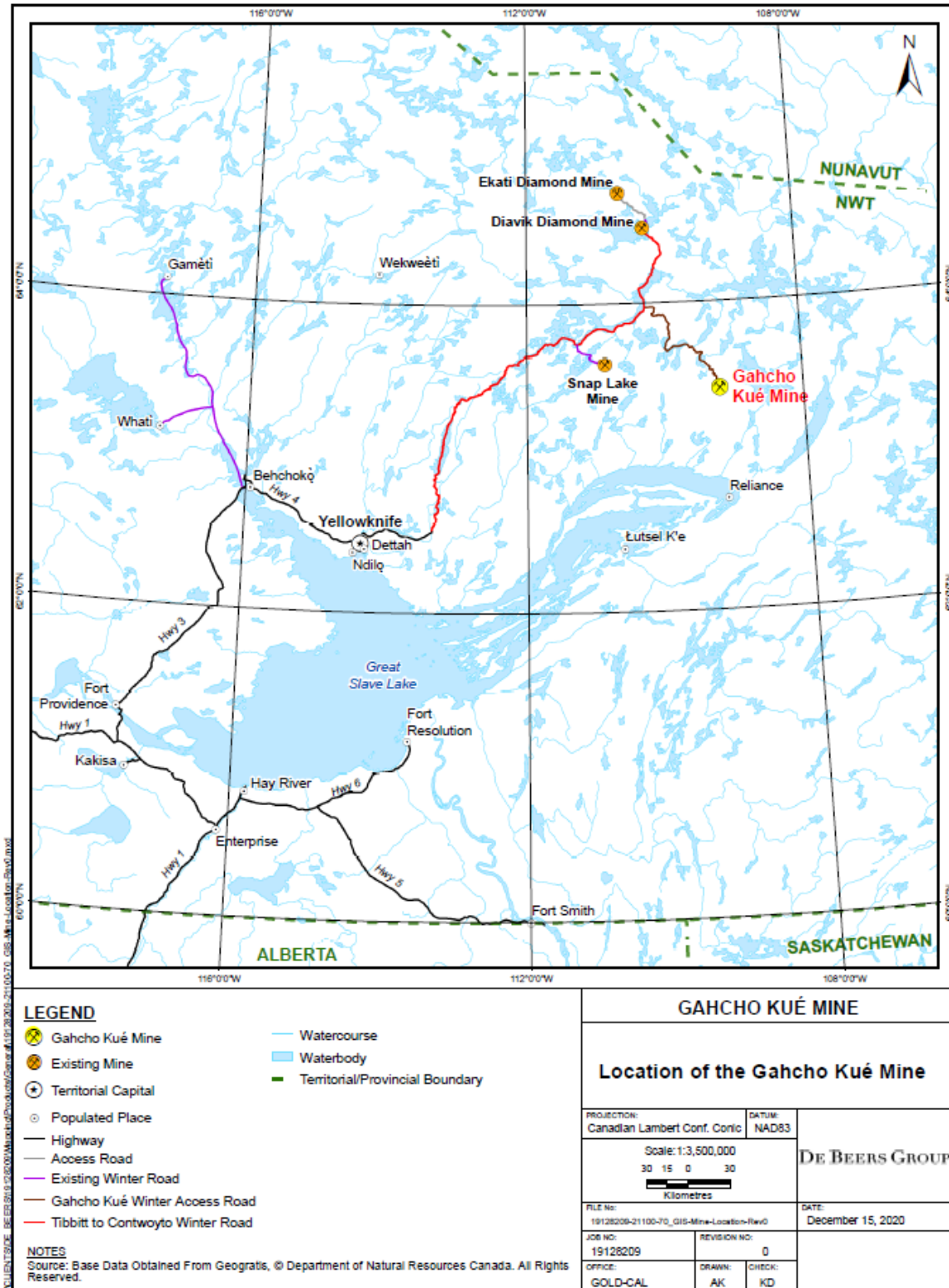
- a summary of all the monitoring programs that occurred at the Mine;
- updates or recommended changes to mitigation, environmental design features, or other actions required to meet the WMMP objectives;

- occurrences of human-wildlife interactions, and incidents, accidents, injuries, and mortalities involving wildlife;
- disturbances to wildlife and wildlife habitat that were not predicted in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS; De Beers 2010); and
- observations of recreational, traditional, and non-traditional activities near the Mine, including the Winter access road.

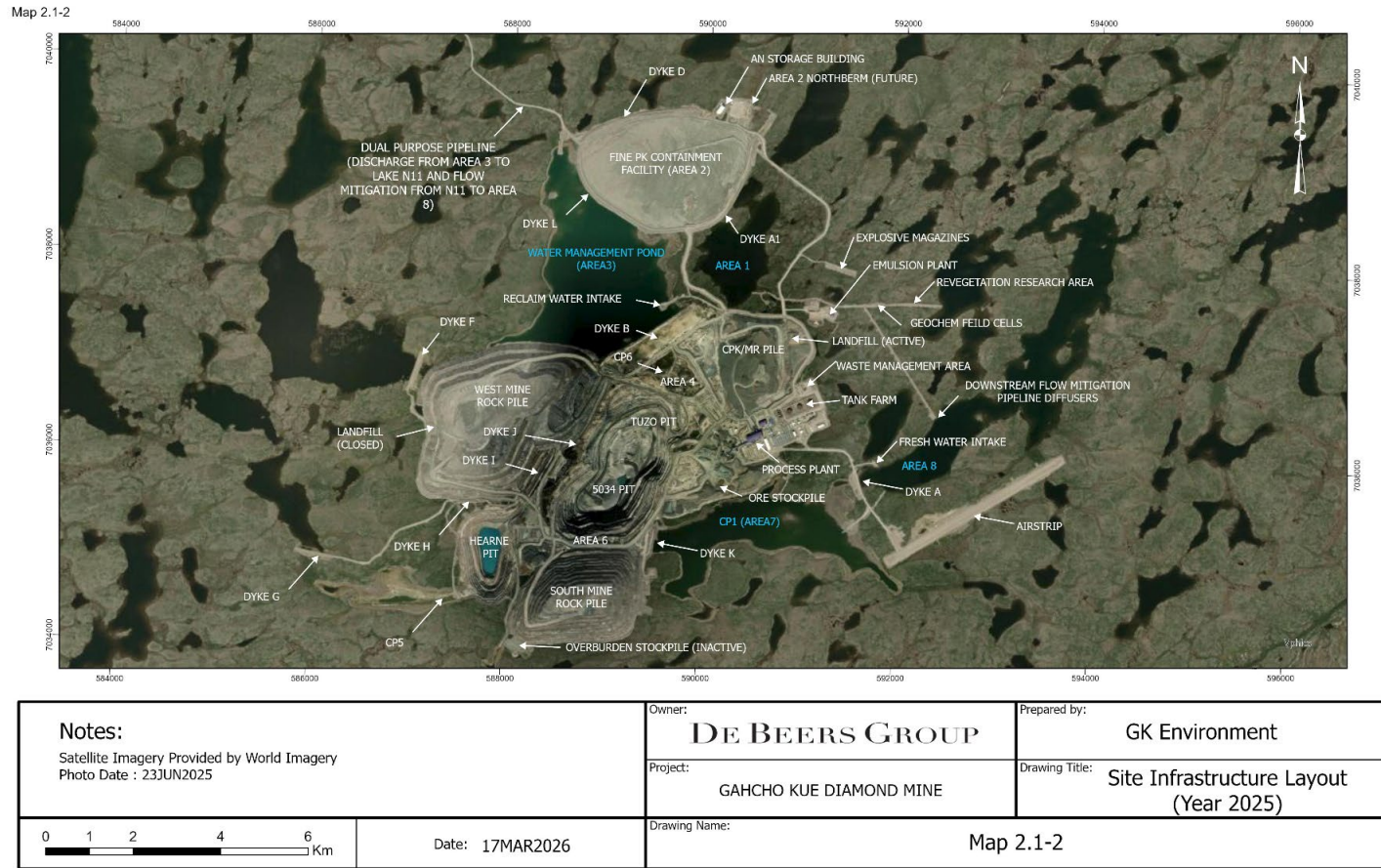
A comprehensive analysis of mitigation and monitoring activities is undertaken every five years. The most recent comprehensive analysis was completed for the 2024 WMMP Report (De Beers 2025), with the next comprehensive analysis scheduled for 2029.

Wildlife monitoring for the Mine was developed in consultation with regulators and Indigenous communities. As a participant in wildlife monitoring workshops hosted by the Department of Environment and Climate Change of the GNWT (GNWT-ECC), De Beers updated monitoring programs for the Mine to be consistent with, and to support, regional monitoring for the assessment and management of cumulative effects by the GNWT. These changes included replacing past Mine-specific grizzly bear and wolverine monitoring with regional hair snagging programs for these species, and the addition of the Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) Arctic Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM) in 2015. De Beers will continue to participate in GNWT-ECC led monitoring initiatives and will update the wildlife monitoring and mitigation programs accordingly. In February 2021, the GNWT hosted wildlife monitoring workshops where it was determined among program partners that grizzly bear and wolverine hair snagging would be discontinued (GNWT-ECC 2021).

Map 1-1 Location of the Gahcho Kué Mine



Map 1-2 2025 Gahcho Kué Mine Site Infrastructure



## 1.1 Content

This annual report includes WMMP activities undertaken in 2025. The monitoring tasks may be continuous or seasonal, and on an annual or multi-year cycle. Supporting information is also collected through other monitoring programs (Table 1-1). This report includes descriptions and summaries of all of the wildlife monitoring that occurred during 2025.

**Table 1-1 Schedule of Wildlife Monitoring under each Relevant Management Plan**

Monitoring	Corresponding Monitoring Plans or Programs	Monitoring Schedule	Completed in 2025	Report Section
Mine Development Area and Direct Habitat Loss	WMMP	Mine development area updates will be provided at the end of construction and updated every year.	Yes	3.2
Noise	WMMP	Noise monitoring is anticipated to take place on a multi-year schedule at the Mine during operation in Years 1 (2017), 5 (2021), and 8 (2024).	No	3.3.1
Dust	WMMP Vegetation and Soils Monitoring Program	Dustfall collectors are monitored at the Mine annually and are measured every 30 days during the growing season (May to October).	Yes	3.3.2
Wildlife Sightings	WMMP	Wildlife sightings are monitored continually and reported annually.	Yes	3.3.3
Site Surveillance	WMMP	Monitoring is completed weekly, and reported annually.	Yes	3.3.4
Public Use of the Winter Access Road	WMMP	Monitoring is conducted daily when the Winter access road is operational (usually February to March).	Yes	3.3.5
Wildlife Incidents	WMMP	Wildlife incident monitoring has been ongoing and will continue to be undertaken as required. Wildlife incidents are reported immediately to GNWT-ECC, in addition to being reported annually.	Yes	3.3.6
Caribou	WMMP	Caribou aerial distribution surveys were completed from 1999 to 2005 and 2010 to 2012. As there were likely insufficient caribou in the study area to detect a change in distribution, aerial surveys were not undertaken from 2013 to 2022. Since 2023, De Beers uses collared caribou data moving forward to assess for Mine-related effects of indirect habitat loss per the Mine's Tier 3 WMMP.	No	-
Caribou	WMMP	Caribou interactions and mortalities at the Mine are monitored through the wildlife sightings log, site surveillance, wildlife interactions and behaviour monitoring.	Yes	3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.6
Caribou	WMMP	Aerial reconnaissance surveys are completed annually prior to the Winter access road opening. The purpose of these surveys is to determine if caribou are present near the Winter access road in numbers that would trigger caribou behaviour monitoring.	Yes	3.4.1

**Table 1-1 Schedule of Wildlife Monitoring under each Relevant Management Plan**

Monitoring	Corresponding Monitoring Plans or Programs	Monitoring Schedule	Completed in 2025	Report Section
Caribou	WMMP	Winter access road behaviour monitoring was first completed in 2014 and will occur annually when triggers for group size are met.	Yes	3.4.2
Caribou	WMMP	Snow berm measurements along the Mine's Winter access road began in 2014 and are recorded annually.	Yes	3.4.3
Grizzly Bear	WMMP	Grizzly bear interactions and mortalities at the Mine are monitored through the wildlife sightings log, site surveillance, and wildlife incidents.	Yes	3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.6
Wolverine	WMMP	Wolverine interactions and mortalities at the Mine are monitored through the wildlife sightings log, site surveillance, and wildlife incidents.	Yes	3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.6
Raptors	WMMP	Raptor interactions and mortalities at the Mine are monitored through the wildlife sightings log, site surveillance, and wildlife incidents, as well as incidents of raptor nesting activity on Mine infrastructure.	Yes	3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.6
Raptors	WMMP	Raptor nest surveys in the RSA were completed in 2015. Results were contributed to GNWT-ECC for their regional nest monitoring database. An RSA survey was conducted by GNWT-ECC in 2020. Regional monitoring is anticipated to continue every five years with the next nest surveys scheduled for 2026.	No	3.6
Upland Birds	WMMP Migratory Bird Nest Management Plan	Upland bird interactions and mortalities at the Mine are monitored through the wildlife sightings log, site surveillance, and wildlife incidents.	Yes	3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.6
Upland Birds	WMMP Migratory Bird Nest Management Plan	Vegetation removal in areas surrounding Lakes D2/D3 and E1 was completed in 2015, 2016 and 2017 to fulfill commitments made in the Migratory Bird Nest Management Plan. Vegetation removal will continue as needed.	No	3.7
Upland Birds	WMMP Migratory Bird Nest Management Plan	De Beers will deploy bird deterrent devices, as per the Migratory Bird Nest Management Plan, to mitigate the risk of birds nesting in the remaining low-lying vegetation or on the ground during the Spring in areas anticipated to flood.	Yes	3.7
Upland Birds	WMMP Migratory Bird Nest Management Plan	Arctic PRISM surveys were completed in 2017, 2019, 2022 and in 2024. Further PRISM surveys are planned for 2026.	Yes	3.5
Small Mammals	WMMP	Monitoring and reporting of small mammal abundance will be completed annually. All small mammal samples collected are provided to the GNWT-ECC for identification and analysis.	Yes	3.8
Environmental Indicators	WMMP	Annual monitoring and reporting of weather-related variables began in 2015 and has continued since.	Yes	3.9

**Table 1-1 Schedule of Wildlife Monitoring under each Relevant Management Plan**

Monitoring	Corresponding Monitoring Plans or Programs	Monitoring Schedule	Completed in 2025	Report Section
Measures of Mine Activity	WMMP	Annual monitoring and reporting of staff numbers, fuel consumption, volume of mine rock removed and ore processed, and domestic water consumption began in 2015 and has continued since.	Yes	3.10

PRISM = Arctic Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring; GNWT-ECC = Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories; RSA = Regional Study Area; WMMP = Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan.

## 1.2 Engagement

De Beers signed a legally binding environmental stewardship agreement, Ni Hadi Xa Agreement, with five Indigenous parties, including Deninu Kué First Nations (DKFN), Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN), North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA), Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) and the Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG) in 2014. Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) became the signatory of the Agreement in February 2019. The purpose of Ni Hadi Xa is to provide a meaningful way for Indigenous communities to participate in the ongoing development and review of monitoring programs and management plans, review data generated from those plans, and to allow for TK to be incorporated into operations. Ni Hadi Xa also creates an opportunity to build on collaborative relationships, increase efficiency in regulatory processes, and provide more opportunity for TK monitoring. Ni Hadi Xa currently employs one full-time environmental monitor stationed at the site and works closely with the De Beers Environment staff. Two TK monitors and one TK administrator are monitoring any potential impacts of the mining operations based in the Ni Hadi Xa Cabin, established approximately 40 km north of the Mine.

De Beers engaged with Indigenous communities in multiple forums throughout 2025 as outlined in the Engagement Plan (De Beers 2015a). De Beers was able to continue hosting in-person engagement events, such as Mine site visits, community visits and fish tasting.

## 2 SPECIES OF CONCERN

The intent of the *Species at Risk Act* and the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* is to protect species at risk from becoming extirpated or extinct as a result of human activity. While the former was enacted by the Government of Canada, the latter was enacted by the GNWT and applies only to wild animals and plants managed by the GNWT. For the purposes of this WMMP, species may be of concern due to their national, territorial, and/or Committee on Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) status. As the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* is implemented, the NWT Species at Risk Committee (NWT SARC) will make further assessments, and the Conference of Management Authorities will prepare the List of Species at Risk, providing legal protection for these species (NWT SARC 2025), and possibly leading to changes in the species at risk considered for the Mine.

There are twelve wildlife species of concern that may occupy or travel through the area of the Mine during part or all of the year. These species include barren-ground caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), horned grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum-tundrius complex*), rusty blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Harris's sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), red-necked phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), and lesser yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). Monitoring is proposed for species of concern (Table 2-1). In the WMMP, monitoring for species of concern is primarily focused on detection at the Mine site in order to implement site-specific protection.

As part of the comments regarding the 2021 Annual Wildlife report, the barn swallow was identified as a species of concern (COSEWIC 2023) but is not listed in this section. In the 2022 Annual Report, barn swallow was added to Section 2. Additional training and surveillance objectives were provided in 2024 to address these recommendations. Barn swallow is not currently listed in the WMMP (Version 1.2, De Beers 2022). Prior studies did not find evidence of the species' presence and the Mine was thought to be outside their habitat range. Components of the WMMP will still be used for potential effects and monitoring. Future revisions of the plan will receive updates to include barn swallow.

**Table 2-1 Species of Concern for the Mine, Potential Effects, and Related Monitoring Components in the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan**

Species	NWT General Status Ranking <sup>(a)</sup>	<i>Species at Risk (NWT) Act</i> <sup>(b)</sup>	COSEWIC Assessment <sup>(c)</sup>	Federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> <sup>(d)</sup>	Potential Mine Impacts	Components of the WMMP
Barren-ground caribou	At risk	Threatened	Threatened	Under consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be affected by habitat loss</li> <li>• May be sensitive to disturbance and human activity</li> <li>• Risk of harm or mortality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> <li>• zone of Influence monitoring</li> </ul>
Grizzly bear (western population)	Sensitive	No status	Special Concern	Special Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be attracted to developments if food is available</li> <li>• Sensitive to disturbance particularly when accompanied by young or during denning</li> <li>• Long generation time means one individual may be affected by disturbance seasonally over multiple years, resulting in potential regional population effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> </ul>
Wolverine	Sensitive	No status	Special Concern	Special Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be attracted to developments if food or shelter are available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> </ul>
Horned grebe (western population)	Sensitive	No status	Special Concern	Special Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterbirds that use mine-altered waters may be harmed</li> <li>• Loss of shoreline habitat for breeding</li> <li>• Staging habitat in Kennady Lake may be affected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> <li>• PRISM</li> </ul>
Peregrine falcon ( <i>anatum-tundrius</i> complex)	Sensitive	No status	Not at risk	Not at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peregrine falcons have been known to nest on mine infrastructure and in open pits, where they may be at risk of harm or may cause delays to operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> <li>• monitoring nest occupancy and productivity in the regional study area</li> </ul>
Rusty blackbird	Sensitive	No status	Special Concern	Special Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May nest on Mine infrastructure</li> <li>• Experiencing population declines as a result of changing environmental conditions on breeding and overwintering habitats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> <li>• PRISM</li> </ul>

**Table 2-1 Species of Concern for the Mine, Potential Effects, and Related Monitoring Components in the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan**

Species	NWT General Status Ranking <sup>(a)</sup>	Species at Risk (NWT) Act <sup>(b)</sup>	COSEWIC Assessment <sup>(c)</sup>	Federal Species at Risk Act <sup>(d)</sup>	Potential Mine Impacts	Components of the WMMP
Short-eared owl	At risk	No Status	Threatened	Special Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be affected by habitat loss</li> <li>• Sensitive to noise and disturbance and human activity during nesting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> <li>• PRISM</li> </ul>
Bank swallow	At risk	No Status	Threatened	Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May nest on sand/ gravel mounds or aggregate quarries associated with the Mine</li> <li>• May be affected by habitat loss</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• areas with suitable habitat will be contoured to have slopes &lt;70 degrees for stability</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> </ul>
Barn swallow <sup>(e)</sup>	Sensitive	No Status	Special Concern	Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barn swallows demonstrate high nest site fidelity and dependence on human-made structures</li> <li>• May nest on Mine infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> <li>• PRISM</li> </ul>
Harris's sparrow	Sensitive	No Status	Special Concern	Special Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be sensitive to noise and disturbance from human activities</li> <li>• May be affected by loss of breeding habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> <li>• PRISM</li> </ul>
Red-necked phalarope	Sensitive	No Status	Special Concern	Special Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterbirds that use mine-altered water may be harmed</li> <li>• May be affected by loss of breeding habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> <li>• PRISM</li> </ul>
Lesser yellowlegs	Sensitive	No Status	Threatened	Under consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterbirds that use mine-altered water may be harmed</li> <li>• May be affected by loss of breeding habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• habitat loss</li> <li>• surveillance monitoring</li> <li>• PRISM</li> </ul>

a) Working Group on General Status of NWT Species (2025). Ranking levels, from highest to lowest conservation concern, is: at risk, may be at risk, sensitive, secure, undetermined.

b) NWT SARC (2025).

c) Government of Canada (2025).

d) *Species at Risk Act* (2002).

e) Species not directly listed in the current version of the WMMP.

COSEWIC = Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada; WMMP = Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan; PRISM = Arctic Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring.

## 3 MONITORING AND RESULTS

### 3.1 Local and Regional Study Areas

The wildlife RSA is defined by a rectangle with an area of 5,600 km<sup>2</sup> (75 km by 75 km), centered on the Mine site (Map 3-1). The wildlife Local Study Area (LSA; approximately 200 km<sup>2</sup>) was selected to assess the immediate direct and indirect effects of the Mine on individual animals and habitat. The wildlife RSA was used to assess Mine-specific and cumulative effects on upland migratory birds and raptor populations. The RSA was also selected to capture the maximum extent of effects beyond the LSA, which can influence groups of individuals from populations with large seasonal and annual ranges (e.g., caribou, grizzly bear, and wolverine).

### 3.2 Direct Habitat Loss

#### 3.2.1 Mine Development Area

Wildlife habitat loss will occur from the construction of the Mine and from the flooding of areas resulting from dewatering of Kennady Lake and associated water diversions. Monitoring how much area is altered by the Mine is required to confirm that the permitted Mine development area has not been exceeded under Land Use Permit (MV2021D009) and surface leases.

#### *Methods*

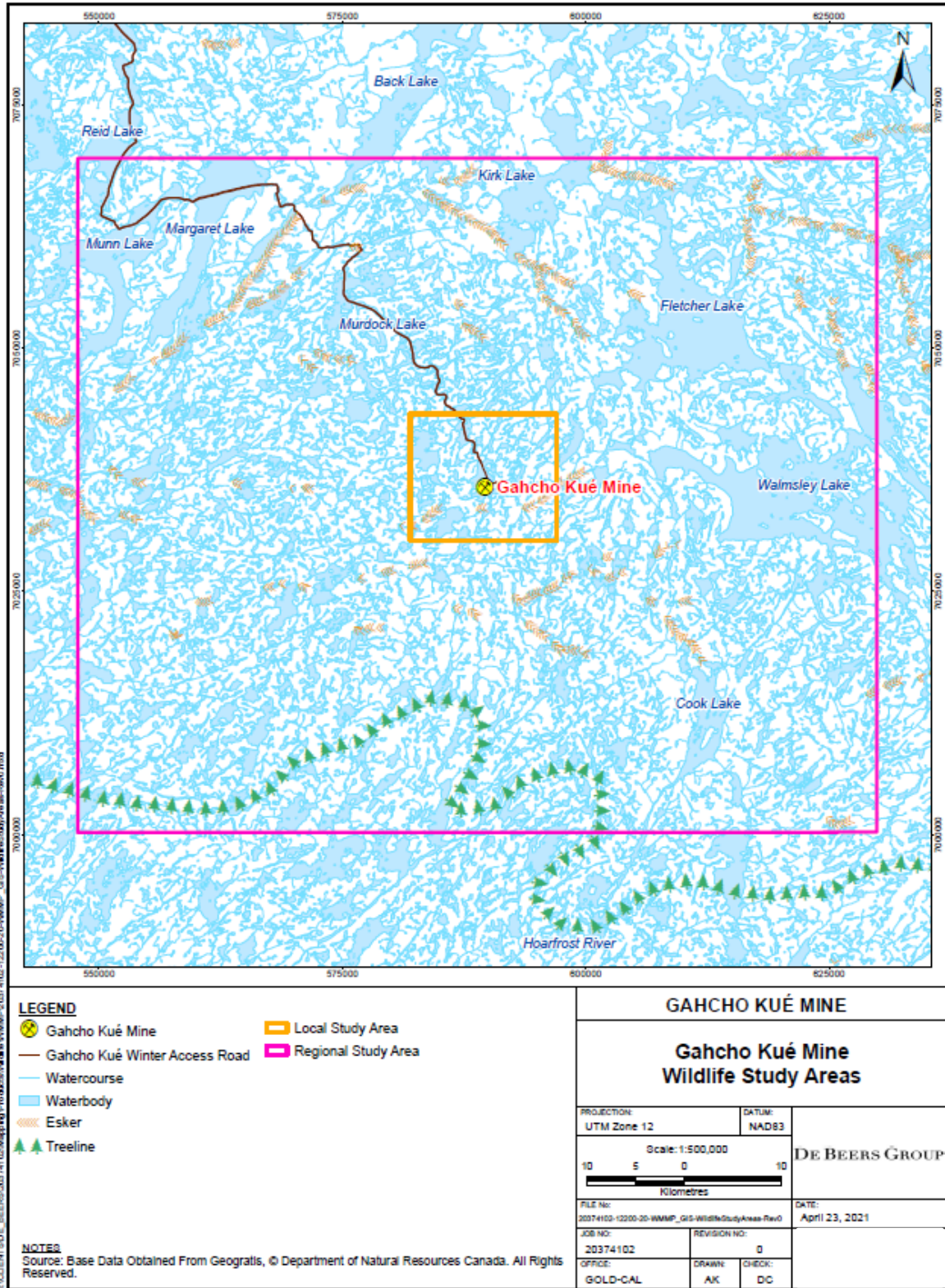
The Mine development area will be delineated through aerial photographs, satellite imagery, or ground surveys, and calculated using GIS software. The actual area of the Mine footprint will be compared to the permitted area, and monitored over the life of the Mine at key phases of development (e.g., end of construction and periodic points in operations [De Beers 2022]).

#### *Results*

The Mine currently has a land footprint of 711.0 hectares (ha), and water (deep and shallow water) footprint of 669.3 ha, for a total footprint of 1,380.3 ha (Table 3-1). This is currently 97% of the total 1,429.0 ha predicted Project footprint in the approved 2020 Updated Project Description as part of the Water Licence Amendment (De Beers 2020).

The largest amount of disturbance, by area, has been to deep water, which is the dominant Ecological Land Class in the LSA (De Beers 2010). The footprint calculations in 2025 included all of Areas 1-7 of Kennady Lake, which have been disturbed through de-watering or storage of water in the water management pond.

Map 3-1 Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan Study Areas



**Table 3-1 Expected and Actual Loss of Habitat Types Associated with the Mine Footprint to the end of 2025**

Ecological Land Class	Expected Disturbance (ha) <sup>(a)</sup>	Actual Disturbance (ha) <sup>(b)</sup>	Difference between Actual and Expected Disturbance (ha)
Bedrock Association	10.0	8.8	1.2
Birch Seep	43.0	39.7	3.3
Boulder Association	8.0	7.0	1.0
Deep Water	494.0	493.4	0.6
Heath Bedrock	68.0	55.7	12.3
Heath Boulder	33.0	29.7	3.3
Heath Tundra	113.0	106.5	6.5
Peat Bog	134.0	128.6	5.4
Sedge Wetland	134.0	131.1	2.9
Shallow Water	176.0	175.9	0.1
Spruce Forest	51.0	48.6	2.4
Tall Shrub	44.0	42.2	1.8
Tussock Hummock	111.0	102.6	8.4
Esker Complex	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unclassified	10.0	10.3	-0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,429.0</b>	<b>1,380.3</b>	<b>48.7</b>

a) Based on the 2020 Updated Project Description for the Gahcho Kué Project (De Beers 2020).

b) Delineated through ground surveys, satellite imagery (captured June 23, 2025) and calculated using GIS software.

ha = hectare.

### 3.3 Indirect Habitat Loss

#### 3.3.1 Noise

Noise is believed to cause sensory disturbance to some wildlife species, and may result in avoidance or reduction of time spent in otherwise suitable habitat. Although noise was not anticipated to be a primary driver of indirect habitat loss for any of the wildlife valued components at the Mine, it is still a form of potential disturbance that should be minimized. Activities at the Mine that will generate noise include aircraft, vehicles, generators, blasting and the general presence of people.

Baseline noise levels were established by monitoring ambient noise at the Mine site as part of the EIS. A continuous, 24-hour assessment of baseline noise was completed at selected sites in June 2010. Using known sound emissions from anticipated Mine equipment and infrastructure, a model was developed that predicted the maximum distances Mine noise would attenuate to background levels.

The objectives of the noise monitoring are to confirm noise level predictions from the EIS (De Beers 2010) and to use measured data to inform the effectiveness of noise management practices at site. Monitoring of noise was completed in Year 1 (2017), Year 5 (2021), and Year 8 (2024) of Mine operations.

## Methods

According to Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Directive 038 (AER 2007), the relevant parameter for characterizing cumulative noise levels is the energy equivalent sound level ( $L_{eq}$ ), expressed in A-weighted decibels (dBA). Noise levels are scaled to A-weighting to reflect the frequency sensitivity of the human auditory system.  $L_{eq}$  is a single value that represents the average noise level over a given period of time. AER Directive 038 indicates that noise levels should be time-averaged over a daytime period ( $L_{eq,day}$ ) defined as 7 am to 10 pm, and a nighttime period ( $L_{eq,night}$ ) defined as 10 pm to 7 am. Note that the EIS and the Year 1 noise monitoring program adjusted the AER Directive 038 definition of daytime and nighttime for consistency with Health Canada guidance (Health Canada 2005); in the EIS, Year 1, Year 5, and Year 8 noise monitoring program, daytime is defined as 7 am to 11 pm and nighttime is defined as 11 pm to 7 am.

During the Year 8 noise monitoring program,  $L_{eq,day}$  and  $L_{eq,night}$  cumulative noise levels were measured at two locations in and around the Mine during mid-June (Table 3-2). These locations used in the Year 8 monitoring program were selected for consistency with the assessment completed for the EIS (De Beers 2010) and the Years 1 and 5 noise monitoring programs (Golder 2017).

**Table 3-2 Year 8 Noise Monitoring Locations**

Year 8 Noise Monitoring Location	Description	Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates [Zone 12]	
		Easting [m]	Northing [m]
RC	Unoccupied location on proposed East Arm National Park boundary	594,248	7,034,625
RD	Unoccupied location 1.5 km from the Mine boundary	591,106	7,033,986

a) RD is located approximately 1.2 km southwest of the Mine airstrip. Because noise levels attenuate with distance, collecting data at a location less than 1.5 km from the Mine boundary is a conservative approach that likely overestimates potential noise effects from Mine operations.

Time-weighted noise averages were measured using daytime and nighttime energy equivalent sound levels over a 24-hour sampling period as per AER Directive 038, both within the Mine footprint and at a designated location 1.5 km from the Mine (location with highest predicted noise level). This schedule may be adjusted to align with other regional monitoring efforts or to accommodate changes in mining activities.

The Year 8 noise monitoring program was conducted in general accordance with methods described in AER Directive 038. Following the conclusion of the noise monitoring program, data were processed to obtain representative estimates of  $L_{eq,day}$  and  $L_{eq,night}$  noise levels for each monitoring location. The data was filtered to eliminate contaminated, abnormal, or invalid noise sources such as technician activity during deployment. All other noise sources (e.g., mine equipment, helicopters and other aircraft, insects, birds, and other wildlife) were considered valid and representative of normal conditions at the monitoring locations.

Noise monitoring was not conducted in 2025. The last study was conducted in 2024 (Year 8), where it was determined that all noise levels measured during the Year 8 monitoring program were within the range of baseline variability. As such, data collected during the Year 8 monitoring program validated and confirmed the conclusions of the EIS with respect to noise effects, and the Year 8 monitoring program demonstrated that noise management at the Mine is effective. No further noise monitoring is planned for the remainder of the Mine life.

### 3.3.2 Dust

The Mine will create dust through various sources including blasting and crushing rock, road construction, and traffic. Through engagement with communities and government, concerns have been expressed about the effects of dust on the environment and wildlife health, particularly caribou.

De Beers is committed to minimizing the amount of dust; however, dust cannot be completely eliminated and is predicted to settle in the area within and near the core Mine site. Fugitive dust will be reduced through the application of water in the area surrounding the Mine. Monitoring is conducted to measure the extent of fugitive dust deposition from emissions.

#### *Methods*

Data collection methods used during the 2025 field program followed the initial design of the Vegetation and Soils Monitoring Program (VSMP). The 2025 report presents data collection, analysis, and results of the dust collection and soils microclimate components of the VSMP only (De Beers 2026).

Dust deposition is measured using sampling jars at nine sampling stations along a west-southwest transect away from the mine. Station distances are 0 m, 50 m, 150 m, 500 m, 1 km, 5 km, 10 km, 15 km, and 20 km from the Mine. Data and results from the VSMP are used to inform the WMMP with respect to the potential for dust as a mechanism for avoidance of habitats near the Mine by caribou and other wildlife (De Beers 2026).

Polyethylene sample collection canisters (10.4 cm diameter) were filled with 500 mL of deionized water during the spring to fall period, or isopropanol or a mixture of isopropanol and deionized water during the winter period. A 2.0 mL solution of diluted commercial algae inhibitor was added to each canister and used to determine total and fixed dustfall, and chemical composition of dust (De Beers 2026).

Total dustfall includes mineral dust, and additional natural materials such as insects and pollens that may be deposited into the jars. Fixed dustfall isolates mineral particulates from roads and other mining activities from organic particulates (i.e., the non-organic component of the dustfall). Fixed dustfall values reflect the removal of organic particulates by laboratory combustion. Fixed and total dustfall, and metals are collected during four sampling periods or seasons (winter, spring/early summer, summer, and fall). A maximum of 13 samples were collected each sampling period (i.e., 1 collection jar x 9 sampling areas + 4 duplicate samples). The duplicate samples were analyzed for total and fixed dustfall and metals, located at sampling areas 2, 3, 6, and 7 (Table 3-7). (De Beers 2026).

Dustfall samples were submitted to ALS Canada Ltd. in Vancouver, British Columbia for total and fixed dustfall measurement, and metals concentrations analysis.

Analysis was limited to fixed dustfall, which represents mineral dust from roads and other mining activities, rather than total dustfall. Total dustfall includes mineral particulates as well as other components such as insects, pollen, and fossil fuel residues. Winter dustfall values were excluded from the analysis of spatial trends as they are typically low (often below detection limits [DLs]) and not relevant to the time of year when vegetation is most affected by dust deposition (i.e., the growing season) (De Beers 2026).

A non-parametric one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to evaluate seasonal variation (all seasons) in deposition rates from 2013 to 2025. A two-way ANOVA was conducted to determine if fixed dustfall deposition rates were different across sampling areas (i.e., categorical distance from Mine)

and years, (2013 to 2025, winter excluded). The interaction between sampling area and year was also included. (De Beers 2026).

### ***Results***

Dustfall collection jars were deployed and collected five times at all nine sampling areas over the course of the 2024/2025 monitoring year – note that some sets of samples were collected over two separate days due to access logistics:

- 22 September 2024 to 2 and 3 June 2025 (winter);
- 2 and 3 June 2025 to 1 and 3 July 2025 (spring);
- 1 and 3 July 2025 to 31 July 2025 (summer);
- 31 July 2025 to 29 August 2025 (summer); and
- 29 August 2025 to 28 September 2025 (fall).

A total of 65 samples (including duplicates) were collected and submitted for dustfall analyses. No jars were damaged in the 2025 sampling program.

In 2025, 36 of 65 (55.4%) measured values of fixed dustfall deposition were below the DL of 3.0 mg/100 cm<sup>2</sup>/30 days (Table 3-6). This value was lower than in 2024, when 55 of 78 (70.5%) measured values of fixed dustfall deposition were below the DL, and also lower than 2023, when 44 of 78 (56.4%) measured values of fixed dustfall deposition were below the DL, and lower than in 2022, when 44 of 78 (44.9%) measured values of fixed dustfall deposition were below the DL (Table 3-6). In 2021, 45 of 65 (69.2%) measured values of fixed dustfall deposition were below the DL (Table 5.1-1). In general, dustfall deposition increased from baseline through construction (2015 to 2016) and into the initial phase of operation (2017 and 2018). Dustfall rates have declined since 2018, and in 2025 are below the range of baseline values (Table 3-3). (De Beers 2026).

Deposition rates for each dustfall monitoring station are provided in Table 3-4.

**Table 3-3 Summary Statistics for the Fixed Dust Deposition Rates Across Years**

Year	Sample size	Detection Limit (mg/100cm <sup>2</sup> /30 days)	Percent (%) of Fixed Dustfall Samples Below Detection Limit	Geometric Mean (± 95%CI) of Fixed Dust Deposition Rates (mg/100cm <sup>2</sup> /30 days)
2013-2014 (baseline)	40	5.0	32.5	10.5 (8.4 – 13.2)
2015	44	5.0	18.2	13.7 (11.2 – 16.7)
2016	52	5.0	9.6	20.9 (16.9 – 25.9)
2017	48	5.0	8.3	27.3 (21.4 – 34.8)
2018	53	5.0	3.8	26.1 (20.5 – 33.2)
2019	50	3.0	58.0	5.5 (4.1 – 7.4)
2020	52	3.0	30.8	6.3 (4.9 – 8.1)
2021	65	3.0	69.2	4.0 (3.3 – 4.9)
2022	78	3.0	44.9	6.2 (4.5 – 8.5)
2023	78	3.0	56.4	5.4 (4.1 – 7.2)
2024	78	3.0	70.5	5.2 (4.9 – 5.4)
2025	65	3.0	55.4	4.4 (2.9 – 6.8)

Note: Includes winter, spring, summer, and fall observations, as well as duplicate samples. Duplicates were averaged and outliers were excluded before calculating mean and variance.

CI = confidence interval; mg/100 cm<sup>2</sup>/30 days = milligrams per 100 square centimetre per 30 days.

**Table 3-4 Summary of Dust Monitoring Results - Dustfall, 2025**

Sampling Location	Overwinter 2025		June 2025		July 2025		August 2025		September 2025	
	Analysis									
	Fixed Dustfall	Total Dustfall	Fixed Dustfall	Total Dustfall	Fixed Dustfall	Total Dustfall	Fixed Dustfall	Total Dustfall	Fixed Dustfall	Total Dustfall
	mg/100cm <sup>2</sup> /30 days									
SWDF-01	6.3	12	17.4	124.8	5.7	21.3	<3.0	3.3	<3.0	<3.0
SWDF-02	8.4	19.2	36	234	3.6	10.2	<3.0	6	<3.0	<3.0
SWDF-02D <sup>(a)</sup>	10.8	17.4	31.2	195.6	4.5	11.4	<3.0	6	<3.0	<3.0
SWDF-03	10.2	19.8	75	372	19.5	54.6	<3.0	3	<3.0	4.5
SWDF-03D <sup>(b)</sup>	7.2	19.2	41.7	220.2	10.8	57.9	<3.0	<3.0	3.3	3.6
SWDF-04	6	11.1	33.9	171	8.7	36	<3.0	3.9	<3.0	<3.0
SWDF-05	5.1	13.2	94.2	516	14.1	99.9	<3.0	6.9	<3.0	7.2
SWDF-06	<3.0	<3.0	9	75	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	5.4	<3.0	<3.0
SWDF-06D <sup>(a)</sup>	<3.0	<3.0	8.1	54.3	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	7.2	<3.0	<3.0
SWDF-07	<3.0	<3.0	1.8	6.3	6	39	<3.0	6.3	<3.0	<3.0
SWDF-07D <sup>(b)</sup>	<3.0	<3.0	6	51	4.2	20.7	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0
SWDF-08	<3.0	10.5	80.4	555	3.9	22.2	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0
SWDF-09	<3.0	<3.0	1.8	1.8	<3.0	4.8	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0	<3.0

Note: Total dustfall results include all substances collected in sampling solution (e.g., bugs, plant debris), while the organic materials are removed (i.e., the contents are filtered to remove large debris and remaining organic material removed by ignition) for fixed dustfall and results only include collected dust.

a) Denotes duplicate sample for dust.

b) Denotes duplicate sample for metals.

mg/100cm<sup>2</sup>/30 days = milligrams per 100 square centimetres per 30 days; < = less than.

### 3.3.3 Wildlife Sightings Log

The wildlife sightings log provides staff working at the Mine an effective means to record and report wildlife observations to the Mine Environment Department. While the information is not collected systematically and likely contains repeated observations of the same animals, it provides an indication of the presence of wildlife and the potential for wildlife incidents or problem wildlife. It also increases staff involvement with the environment programs and fosters awareness of wildlife issues.

#### ***Methods***

Wildlife sightings logs were maintained at various locations around the Mine site to record observations of wildlife and wildlife sign. Staff were encouraged to add observations to the log, including observations of unusual species and potential problem wildlife. Reporting of sightings of medium to large wildlife (i.e., fox-size and larger) by staff and contractors is mandatory. Observations of species that pose a potential risk to human safety are reported to Environment staff immediately in addition to being documented in the wildlife sightings log.

#### ***Results***

There were a total of 300 independent wildlife observations in 2025. The number of observations represents the number of independent and incidental observations of wildlife, and is not an indication of the number of individuals of a species observed. The number of people present at the Mine during 2025 is reported in Section 3.10.

Caribou was the most commonly observed species in 2025, with 61 observations. Arctic hare (*Lepus arcticus*) was also a commonly observed species during 2025, with 58 observations recorded. Other frequent species observed were muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*) and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) (both had 37 observations). In 2025, 28 wolf (*Canis lupus*) observations were recorded, with the first sighting occurring January 8 and last recorded sighting on November 27. A full summary of observations recorded on Wildlife Sightings Logs for 2013 to 2025 can be found in Table 3-5.

**Table 3-5 Wildlife Sightings Log Summary of Observations, 2013 to 2025**

Species	Type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
American pipit	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
American robin	Bird	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Arctic fox	Mammal												5	5
Arctic ground squirrel (sik sik)	Mammal	-	4	11	4	23	3	3	2	8	15	16	7	6
Arctic hare	Mammal	3	32	45	9	29	5	22	26	37	60	34	31	58
Arctic lemming	Mammal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bald eagle	Bird	-	-	1	4	1	2	11	5	7	3	3	4	5
Barn swallow	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bank swallow	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Beaver	Mammal	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Cackling goose	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-
Canada goose	Bird	-	1	2	-	2	-	1	3	5	1	1	2	-
Caribou	Mammal	17	37	45	-	2	61	16	6	14	54	23	48	61
Cliff swallow	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common loon	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Common merganser	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Common redpoll	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Common raven	Bird	-	10	16	13	15	11	27	15	44	11	7	8	3
Coyote	Mammal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Duck spp.	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	1	1
Eagle spp.	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Falcon spp.	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	2
Fox spp.	Mammal	5	33	155	85	104	91	48	15	33	-	13	22	4

Species	Type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Gadwall	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Golden eagle	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	2	-	3
Goose spp.	Bird	-	-	4	6	3	-	7	1	15	3	1	1	3
Greater white-fronted goose	Bird	-	1	5	1	-	-	-	3	5	1	2	1	-
Grey wolf	Mammal	7	27	22	2	4	4	40	2	-	-	-	1	14
Grizzly bear	Mammal	-	-	3	3	2	4	11	4	1	5	-	1	1
Grouse	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Gull spp.	Bird	-	1	3	-	2	-	1	-	2	2	2	3	-
Gyr Falcon	Bird	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	8	9
Hare spp.	Mammal	-	-	-	-	-	5	14	1	12	-	4	8	-
Harris' sparrow	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hawk spp.	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Jaeger spp.	Bird	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lapland longspur	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Lesser scaup	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Loon spp.	Bird	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Mink	Mammal	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moose	Mammal	-	-	5	-	4	1	5	2	2	5	1	14	9
Mouse spp.	Mammal	-	-	3	2	2	7	2	1	2	1	5	-	4
Muskox	Mammal	1	4	14	10	14	20	24	15	30	34	16	34	37
Muskrat	Mammal	-	-	-	2	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Northern harrier	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
Northern pintail	Bird	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	5	1	1

Species	Type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Owl spp.	Bird	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pelican spp.	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Peregrine falcon	Bird	-	1	12	1	-	2	1	-	4	8	11	-	-
Pine siskin	Bird	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plover spp.	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Porcupine	Mammal	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ptarmigan spp.	Bird	3	16	10	10	4	9	4	6	15	15	14	14	10
Red Breasted Merganser	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red fox	Mammal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	127	36	25	43	37
Rock ptarmigan	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	1	1	-
Ross's goose	Bird	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rough-legged hawk	Bird	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	2	4	1	1
Sandhill crane	Bird	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Scoter spp.	Bird	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Semipalmated plover	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Shot-tailed shearwater	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Short-eared owl	Bird	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Snow bunting	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	4	3	1
Snow goose	Bird	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	1	4	-
Snowy owl	Bird	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	4	-	-	1	3
Sparrow spp.	Bird	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Teal duck	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Tree swallow	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Tundra swan	Bird	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-

Species	Type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Unidentified duck	Bird	-	-	2	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Unidentified raptor	Bird	-	-	2	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unidentified shorebird	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Unidentified songbird	Bird	-	-	2	1	1	2	-	-	3	-	-	2	-
White-crowned sparrow	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
White-winged Scoter	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Willow ptarmigan	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	-
Wolf spp.	Mammal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	6	12	14
Wolverine	Mammal	-	-	-	-	8	27	43	4	-	3	5	2	6
Yellow warbler	Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Note: The number of observations represents the number of independent observations for each species, and is not an indication of the number of individuals present.  
 - = no observations.

### 3.3.4 Site Surveillance

Wildlife is expected to be present near the Mine throughout construction, operation, and closure. Site surveillance monitoring, which is a regularly scheduled program that occurs once per week, provides information of wildlife activity at the Mine, and direct feedback to Mine operations regarding the effectiveness of waste management and wildlife mitigation practices. Examples of wildlife activities that are documented through site surveillance monitoring include presence of wildlife in areas where food may be available, use of buildings for shelter or nesting, and use of water management ponds by waterfowl.

Through systematically monitoring for the presence of wildlife within and around the Mine site, Environment staff remain apprised of current and emerging issues, and are able to implement management actions to address these issues as required. To use a common example, site surveillance monitoring may detect that wildlife has gained access to a building on site or is taking shelter beneath it. The typical mitigation is to block the access through improved skirting, and follow-up with surveillance monitoring to confirm whether the mitigation was successful, or if further action is required.

Effective waste management practices and staff education are key to decreasing the availability of wildlife attractants at mine sites. Environmental design features, mitigation, and waste management are implemented at the Mine to limit the attraction of wildlife, and the associated increased risks of wildlife interactions and mortality. The effectiveness of the waste stream management system, as it pertains to wildlife attractants, is monitored through regular waste bin inspections, as per the Waste Management Plan (De Beers 2015c), and site waste audits.

#### ***Methods***

Systematic site surveys of the Mine were conducted weekly to record all wildlife observations, recent wildlife sign (e.g., tracks, scat), and misdirected waste. Surveys were completed on foot and by truck. Staff recorded the area surveyed, with the nature and location of all observations. Surveillance monitoring included regular visits to areas of the Mine where there is risk of wildlife attractants (e.g., waste management areas), risk of wildlife using the Mine for shelter, denning or nesting, and where there were people working outdoors.

De Beers actively monitors for bird nesting activity around the Mine site, and in areas scheduled for clearing or disturbance each year (Section 3.6.1). Bird deterrents are deployed in areas scheduled for clearing during the breeding season to avoid and minimize the disturbance of any active nests of migratory birds, consistent with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. Bird deterrents are also deployed in and around pits each Spring. Monitoring is conducted to detect raptors, and actively deter them prior to nest initiation on Mine infrastructure.

In 2017, De Beers initiated systematic surveys of the water management pond and other water collection ponds on site to monitor for the presence and use of these water bodies by water birds. Collecting observations of water bird use of the site provides a better understanding of which species are present at different times of the year at and near the Mine. This program continued in 2025.

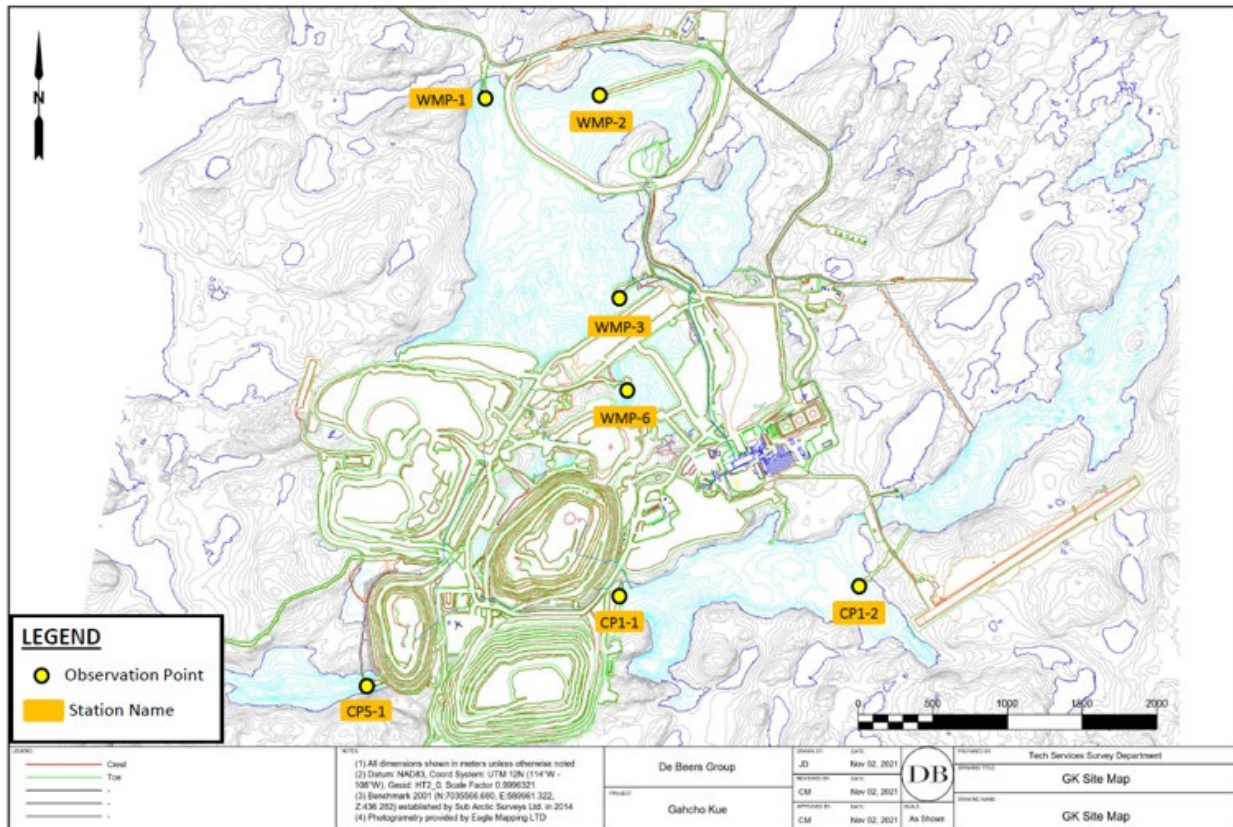
To monitor the use of site water bodies by birds, seven stations were selected as fixed observation points from which the 2025 surveys were conducted. Two of these stations are located at the water management pond, two stations monitoring collection Pond 1 (CP1-1 and CP1-2), one station monitoring the Collection Pond 6 (WMP-6), one station monitoring Collection Pond 5 (CP5-1), and one station monitoring FPK Area 2 (WMP-2). Previous stations that had been in place during the 2021 season have been removed, as these collection ponds have been removed by mining activity and no longer exist (WMP-7). The location of each of these survey stations is provided in Map 3-2 and the UTM coordinates for each station are provided in Table 3-6. At each station, the

observer conducts a 180° sweep using binoculars, focusing on both open-water and shoreline habitats. Surveying at each station generally takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The observer records information including species type, activity (including evidence of nesting behavior), and number of individuals.

**Table 3-6** Locations of Collection Pond Stations, 2025

Station Coordinates	Easting	Northing
WMP-1	0588811	7038360
WMP-2	0589694	7038355
WMP-3	0589814	7037102
WMP-6	0590451	7036293
CP1-1	0589803	7035085
CP1-2	0589735	7035163
CP5-1	0588133	7034571

**Map 3-2** Collection Pond Survey Locations, 2025



## Results

In 2025, a total of 52 weekly site surveillance surveys were completed. Wildlife or signs of wildlife (e.g., tracks) was observed during 49 surveys (94%). Common raven (*Corvus corax*) were the most commonly observed species in 2025, with 77 individuals and 35 observations. Caribou observations were frequent with 29 observations and 3,372 individuals observed during weekly surveys. Other commonly observed species were Arctic hare and Arctic ground squirrel, and muskox. A full summary of wildlife observations from weekly wildlife surveys can be found in Table 3-7.

**Table 3-7 Wildlife and Wildlife Signs Observed during Site Surveillance Surveys, 2025**

Species	Number of Surveys with Wildlife Observations	Total Number of Individuals Observed	Number of Surveys with Wildlife Sign
American pipit	2	6	-
American tree sparrow	1	1	-
Arctic fox	1	1	2
Arctic ground squirrel	20	21	-
Arctic hare	23	33	17
Bald eagle	2	2	-
Bank swallow	3	16	-
Blue winged teal	1	2	-
Caribou	29	3372	1
Cliff swallow	1	30	-
Common raven	35	77	1
Duck spp.	5	108	-
Falcon spp.	1	1	-
Fox spp.	2	4	20
Goose spp.	2	115	-
Greater white-fronted goose	1	20	-
Grey wolf	-	-	1
Gyr Falcon	3	4	-
Harris's sparrow	1	4	-
Lapland longspur	1	25	-
Lincoln sparrow	3	25	-
Long-tailed duck	1	25	-
Loon spp.	1	2	-
Muskox	10	159	-
Muskrat	1	1	-
Pacific loon	1	1	-
Peregrine falcon	3	3	-
Ptarmigan spp.	12	70	1
Red fox	8	8	7
Rough-legged hawk	2	2	-

Species	Number of Surveys with Wildlife Observations	Total Number of Individuals Observed	Number of Surveys with Wildlife Sign
Savannah sparrow	3	11	-
Scaup spp.	1	2	-
Seagull spp.	1	1	-
Semipalmated plover	1	1	-
Snow bunting	-	-	-
Snow goose	1	150	-
Songbird spp.	4	23	-
Sparrow spp.	1	1	-
Unknown bird of prey	1	1	-
Wolf	2	2	5
Wolverine	1	1	2

Collection Pond Surveys were conducted on a bi-weekly frequency from May 26 to October 25, 2025. During the 12 separate survey events, a total of 61 bird observations were made, consisting of 226 individuals. A summary of these results is provided in Table 3-8. Observers confirmed 25 different species were identified, with the remaining being placed into 11 broader species identification groups (e.g., gull spp.). A summary of the results is provided in Table 3-9.

**Table 3-8 Bird Observations during Collection Pond Surveys, 2025**

Station	Number of Bird Groups Observed	Number of Individuals Observed	Average Number of Individuals per Station per Survey
CP1-1	9	23	3
CP1-2	11	22	2
CP5-1	11	71	6
WMP-1	9	16	2
WMP-2	7	27	4
WMP-3	8	33	4
WMP-6	6	34	6

**Table 3-9 Bird Species Observed during Collection Pond Surveys, 2025**

Species	Number of Individuals Observed	Number of survey events where species was observed
American robin	1	1
American wigeon	2	1
Arctic tern	4	1
Bank swallow	7	2
Black scoter	4	1
Canada goose	25	3
Chipping sparrow	1	1
Cliff swallow	15	1
Common raven	1	1
Diving duck spp.	16	2
Duck spp.	47	8
Goose spp.	2	1
Greater white fronted geese	25	1
Green winged teal	7	1
Gull spp.	5	5
Hawk spp.	1	1
Hooded merganser	2	1
Horned Grebe	1	1
Killdeer	1	1
Long tailed duck	2	1
Mallard ducks	2	1
Merganser	1	1
Northern pintail	5	3
Peregrine falcon	1	1
Plover spp.	5	3
Ring-billed Gull	4	1
Ruddy duck	2	2
Savannah sparrow	16	2
Scaup spp.	2	1
Scoter spp.	8	2
Semi-palmated plover	3	1
Songbird spp.	1	1
Sparrow spp.	1	1
Swallow spp.	2	2
White-crowned sparrow	2	2
Yellow-billed loon	2	2

### 3.3.5 Public Use of the Winter Access Road

De Beers operates a Winter Access Road from MacKay Lake to the Gahcho Kué Mine site from early February to late March each year (Map 1-1). De Beers conducts surveillance of the Winter access road to document public use and provide safety and support to truck traffic. Public use of the road is typically dominated by hunting parties.

#### *Methods*

Each day the Winter Access Road is open, security personnel drive from the Mine to MacKay Lake, and record wildlife observations and hunting/recreational activity. Observations of public use of the road are documented on a Winter Access Road User Survey Form (De Beers 2022).

#### *Results*

In 2025, the Winter Access Road was operational from February 5 to April 10 (i.e., 64 days). There were 1,708 loads on the Winter Access Road to supply the Mine with fuel, ammonium nitrate and general freight and equipment. During daily security patrols, total wildlife observations included 92 wolf, 6 wolverine, 27 Arctic fox, 21 red fox, 4 Arctic hare and 6,724 caribou; however, it is likely that there are repeated observations of the same animals. Large numbers of caribou harvest sites were reported on the Winter Access Road by security personnel on multiple occasions to GNWT-ECC and wildlife incidents were reported.

### 3.3.6 Wildlife Incidents

A wildlife incident is defined in the WMMP as:

- human-wildlife interactions that present a risk to either people or animals;
- wildlife-caused damage to property or delay in operations;
- wildlife deterrent actions; and
- wildlife injury or mortality.

Following the principles of adaptive management, monitoring of wildlife incidents is undertaken to identify all incident types and to prevent future incidents or escalation of problems.

#### *Methods*

Wildlife incidents throughout the year are reported, investigated, and have immediate follow-up actions by Environment staff. If wildlife are deterred to reduce the risk of a wildlife-human incident, then an effort is made by Environment staff to start with the least intrusive method available, with all deterrent actions recorded in the wildlife deterrent log. All wildlife mortalities are reported immediately to ECCC and/or GNWT-ECC. Documentation of wildlife incidents include photographs, names of people involved, the nature of the incident, and supporting information such as the time, date, location, and the follow-up actions that occurred.

## **Results**

In 2025, thirteen wildlife mortality and one wildlife injury incidents were reported at the Mine:

- 1) On February 6, 2025, at approximately 14:30, the Environment department was notified of two deceased Ptarmigan located at the Hearne Pit lookout, both appearing to be partially scavenged by wildlife. Environment staff were dispatched, and upon arrival found two deceased Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*). A thorough assessment of the surrounding area revealed no potential hazards or cause of death. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC.
- 2) On February 17, 2025, at approximately 07:55, the Environment department was notified that a red fox had been struck by a transport truck on the Winter Access Road under low-light conditions at night. The truck operator attempted to stop but was unsuccessful. It was verified that the operator was adhering to the speed limit for this section of the winter road. After pulling over to a safe location, the operator immediately contacted the DeBeers Environment team. Upon arrival, Environment staff confirmed the mortality of the Red Fox. The animal appeared to be a healthy individual with no visible signs of illness or prior injury. There were no apparent attractants in the area that may have contributed to the incident. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC.
- 3) On March 25, 2025, at approximately 14:30, the Environment department was notified a large volume of common ravens near Dyke K. Upon investigation, it was apparent that the ravens were on a kill site approximately 150 metres from site roadways. On approach, there was a deceased caribou that had been largely scavenged. There was clear evidence of scavengers surrounding the site. Over the previous several weeks, reports had come from staff of a wounded caribou near the area by Environment staff who had observed this animal on several occasions, in which it appeared to have suffered from a predatory wolf attack and survived. With the above in mind, we are confident that this animal died due to predation wounds and was then scavenged by surrounding wildlife. No tracks or other indication existed that the animal had been on site roadways, and there was no evidence of injury from a vehicular collision. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC to minimize the attractant potential of predators to an active work area.
- 4) On April 2, 2025, at approximately 10:30, the Environment department was notified of a dead caribou on the Hearne Pit ring road. Upon investigation, a deceased Caribou was discovered with clear evidence of scavengers surrounding the site. Over the previous several weeks, reports had come from staff of a wounded caribou near the area by Environment staff who had observed this animal on several occasions, in which it appeared to have suffered from a predatory wolf attack and survived. Considering this evidence, we are confident that this animal died due to predatory wounds and was beginning to be scavenged by surrounding wildlife. The Hearne pit is no longer active, and the ring road sees no heavy equipment traffic and occasional low speed light vehicle use. No tracks or other indication existed that the animal had been on site roadways, and there was no evidence of injury from a vehicular collision. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC to minimize the attractant potential of predators to an active work area.
- 5) On June 9, 2025, at approximately 10:00, the Environment department was notified of a scavenged carcass on the Tuzo/NEX Ramp by the Pit Supervisor. Environment staff were dispatched, and upon arrival observed the partial remains of a deceased Arctic ground squirrel (*Urocitellus parryii*). Based on the location and description given, it appears that this squirrel was hit by mobile mining equipment and then scavenged. Operators reported being aware of impacting an Arctic ground squirrel during the shift, and there were no skid marks or signs of evasive action in the area where the body was found. In response to this incident,

Environment staff will be visiting department tool box meetings reviewing the threat that attractants pose to wildlife, as well as animals maintaining the right of way during all phases of mine operations. Remains of the animal were insufficient for recovery.

- 6) On July 7, 2025, at approximately 16:30, the Environment department was notified of a dead bird outside of the ammonium nitrate (AN) storage facility. Environment staff were dispatched, and upon arrival discovered the remains of a common raven. These remains appeared to have been in this location for several weeks and were partially decomposed. No cause of death was immediately apparent. Environment staff donned appropriate biohazard PPE and removed the carcass for storage and potential postmortem analysis. A thorough assessment of the surrounding area revealed no potential hazards or cause of death. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC.
- 7) On July 24, 2025, at approximately 10:00, the Environment department was notified a wolf on Dyke B. Upon investigation, it was apparent that the wolf was feeding on a caribou kill site, approximate 75 metres from the adjacent site roadway. The wolf was deterred as per our WMMP and general wildlife permit from the area. The kill site appeared to be within the previous 12 hours, being partially fed upon and scavenged. There was clear evidence of predators and scavengers surrounding the site. With the above in mind, we are confident that this animal died due to predation and was then scavenged by surrounding wildlife. No tracks or other indication existed that the animal had been on site roadways, and there was no evidence of injury from a vehicular collision. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC to minimize the attractant potential of predators to an active work area.
- 8) At approximately 12:00 on August 14, 2025, a deceased Arctic ground squirrel was discovered by Environment staff on the access road to the Reclaim Jetty. Upon investigation, it was determined that the Arctic ground squirrel was mortally struck by a vehicle within the previous 24 hours. The carcass was retrieved and transported to the Environmental Lab. Environment staff attended site safety meetings, reviewing the threat that attractants pose to wildlife, as well as the importance of animals maintaining the right of way during all phases of Mine operations. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC.
- 9) At approximately 7:31 AM on August 18, 2025 an injured Long Tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) was reported to the Environment Department by a dozer operator working on the NEX Pit 271 bench. The duck was found alive and in generally good condition with minor abrasions observed on its feet. The duck was safely captured and assessed by the Environment personnel. Following the assessment, the duck was released at a small pond adjacent to the N11 road. The duck was released without issue or further injury.
- 10) At approximately 17:00 on August 27, a deceased Arctic hare was found on the Lake N11 roadway by a contractor crew (Fraser Burrard Diving Ltd.), appearing to have been deceased within the previous 24 hours. Evidence from the scene indicated that the carcass was predated and partially eaten. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC to minimize the attractant potential of predators to an active work area.
- 11) At approximately 16:00 on September 2, Environment received a report of a deceased muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) on the Run of Mine (ROM) Pad. An operator observed it being scavenged by ravens. Upon investigation by the Environment Department it is evident that the mortality was caused by an interaction with mobile equipment within the previous 24 hours. In response to this incident, Environment staff attended site safety meetings, reviewing the threat that attractants pose to wildlife, as well as the importance of animals maintaining the right of way during all phases of Mine operations. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC to minimize the attractant potential of predators to an active work area.

- 12) On September 14th at 06:30, an Environment contractor reported a deceased Arctic hare on the airport and site services road intersection. Environment staff investigated determining that the cause of the mortality was an interaction with a light vehicle within the previous 24 hours. In response to this incident, Environment staff attended site safety meetings, reviewing the threat that attractants pose to wildlife, as well as the importance of animals maintaining the right of way during all phases of Mine operations. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC to minimize the attractant potential of predators to an active work area.
- 13) On November 1st, 2025 at 07:42, a Site Serves employee reported a deceased Arctic hare on the road near the old microwave tower site across from the Coarse Processed Kimberlite and Mine Rock Facility. Upon investigation the cause of mortality was due to being struck by a vehicle within the previous 24 hours. Contributing causes to the event were determined to be reduced daylight hours and the seasonal colour change of the Arctic Hare to white. As a follow up action, Environment conducted toolbox visits to work crews to remind them of wildlife maintaining the right of way on site roads and proper reporting of incidents. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC to minimize the attractant potential of predators to an active work area.
- 14) On November 27, 2025 at 07:30, a pit Supervisor received a report that a deceased Arctic hare was observed on the top of the NEX pit ramp. Upon investigation the cause of mortality was due to being struck by a vehicle within the previous 24 hours. Contributing causes to the event were determined to be reduced daylight hours and the seasonal colour change of the Arctic hare to white. As a follow up action, Environment conducted tool box visits to work crews to remind them of wildlife maintaining the right of way on site roads and proper reporting of incidents. The remains were incinerated as directed by GNWT-ECC to minimize the attractant potential of predators to an active work area.

## 3.4 Caribou

The Bathurst caribou herd is known historically to move through the RSA during the northern migration to the calving grounds near Bathurst Inlet, and to the wintering grounds at or south of the treeline during the post-calving migration (De Beers 2010). Bathurst caribou may also occupy the RSA in Winter. Beverly/Ahiak caribou are also known to occupy the RSA during the Winter months.

Objectives of caribou monitoring for the Mine are:

- to determine if caribou behaviour changes with distance from the Mine;
- to determine the zone of influence extent and whether it changes in relation to Mine activity; and,
- to determine if caribou abundance and distribution changes in the study area over time.

The monitoring objectives are met through:

- aerial reconnaissance surveys of the Winter Access Road;
- snow berm measurements along the Winter Access Road; and,
- caribou behaviour monitoring.

### 3.4.1 Aerial Surveys

De Beers has contributed to the GNWT-ECC monitoring programs supporting the Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy (GNWT-ECC 2011). De Beers has committed to completing aerial reconnaissance surveys to determine if caribou are present near the Winter Access Road. The information collected during this survey is used to inform haul truck drivers of the presence and location of any caribou groups near the road, and is used as a trigger for caribou behaviour monitoring (Section 3.4.2).

#### *Methods*

In 2025, an aerial reconnaissance survey was completed on January 24, 2025 along the Gahcho Kué Winter access road via Aviat Husky A-1B aircraft operated by Hoarfrost Huskies at an altitude of approximately 167 m and speeds of 80 to 100 km/h. The aircraft flew east along the north side of the Winter access road to Mackay Lake. The number of wildlife and wildlife sign observations were recorded by Mine Environment contractor staff. An aerial survey is completed each year prior to the Winter access road opening to provide information to the haul truck drivers of the presence and location of caribou near the road and determine whether caribou behavioural monitoring is triggered. The monitoring trigger is 20 caribou groups or 100 total caribou.

#### *Results*

During the reconnaissance, a total of 40 individual caribou were observed in 3 separate groups. Based on the aerial reconnaissance survey, the Winter access road caribou behavioural monitoring (Section 3.4.2) was not triggered via this survey for the 2025 season. This program was however triggered on February 12, 2025 via observations from winter road traffic.

### 3.4.2 Behaviour Monitoring

The objective of determining if caribou behaviour changes with distance from the Mine for behaviour monitoring is based on recommendations from the Diamond Mine Wildlife Monitoring Workshop (Marshall 2009; Handley 2010). As noted for monitoring changes in caribou distribution, monitoring caribou behaviour around the Mine could contribute to future environmental assessments and the assessment and management of cumulative effects by government under different development scenarios. Caribou behavioural monitoring from the Winter Access Road is conducted through the WMMP (De Beers 2022).

Large numbers of observations are required to detect differences in caribou behaviour, which is strongly affected by environmental conditions, such as wind, temperature, and insect (in summer) and predator abundance (BHPB 2004; Witter et al. 2012). For example, a power analysis based on Ekati and Diavik monitoring results indicated that a minimum of 55 caribou groups are required in each distance strata, assuming power of 0.8 and a type I error rate of 0.1 (Golder 2015). Behaviour monitoring of caribou groups in the RSA may be discontinued in favour of using collared caribou data, which was discussed at the February 2021 Diamond Mine Wildlife Monitoring Meetings (GNWT-ECC 2021). De Beers intends to engage Indigenous communities before making this decision.

The Winter Access Road is located within the range of the Bathurst caribou herd, and De Beers has committed to implementing a behaviour monitoring program along the Winter Access Road if sufficient caribou are present. Behaviour monitoring will be triggered when either 100 caribou or 20 caribou groups are observed along the length of the Winter Access Road during either the aerial reconnaissance survey (Section 3.4.1) or during public use monitoring (Section 3.4.3). Caribou in proximity to the Winter Access Road are a cause for concern for both the safety of the animals and the drivers. It is also an opportunity to better understand the interactions between

caribou and Winter roads in the NT through behavioural monitoring. Monitoring is anticipated to continue from construction through closure of the Mine.

### ***Methods***

Behavioural monitoring methods are consistent with those implemented at other NT mines. The behaviour monitoring will be conducted by a crew of two observers stationed along the Winter Access Road or other Mine roads in a truck. Both focal surveys of individuals and scan surveys of caribou groups will be undertaken. Focal surveys provide information on activity budgets (i.e., the amount of time an animal is engaged in different behaviours), the temporal sequence of behaviours relative to stressors or other stimuli, and the length of time it takes the animal to return to a non-stressed state following a stressor event. Scan samples of a group of animals are more useful for quantifying the frequencies of dominant behaviours in a group over a period of time (ERM Rescan 2014).

For focal surveys, an individual is selected from a group for observation. Behaviour and time of behaviour changes are recorded. Focal surveys will be undertaken on both cows and bulls, for a minimum of 20 minutes. For scan surveys, observers will make instantaneous behaviour observations of caribou groups at 8 minute intervals for at least 40 minutes (a minimum of four observations per group).

For both scan and focal surveys, the response of caribou to stressors, such as vehicle or aircraft traffic, will also be recorded. Behavioural observations will be repeated at multiple locations along the road where caribou are present. In addition to behaviour, observers will record the number, group composition, location of each group and total group size. Observers will also record caribou tracks seen and/or caribou tracks observed, and advise as to any additional factors that seem to stress caribou or alter their behaviour negatively (e.g., vehicle speed and type, and wolves).

### ***Results***

Caribou behavioural monitoring was performed by WSP in conjunction with De Beers Environment and Ni Hadi Xa staff from February 12 to March 26, 2025. The crews completed a total of 55 group scans and 55 focal (individual) scan surveys. In 12 group scans and 16 focal surveys, caribou moved away from the field of view ending the surveys early.

During caribou group scans, the field crew recorded the number of individuals in the group displaying each type of behaviour (feeding, bedded, standing, alert, walking, trotting, or running) at one moment in time at 8-minute intervals. A minimum of four, and a maximum of eight observations are required per group (i.e., 32 minutes and 64 minutes). Crews recorded the group size (i.e., number of individuals), group demographic composition (i.e., sex, age, class, group composition), and location of each group in relation to the Winter Access Road. The goal of this task was to observe and record data on as many groups as possible over the course of the field program.

During focal scans, the field crew monitored a single individual from a group of caribou continuously for a minimum of 20 minutes to measure how long the caribou was exhibiting each behaviour type/reaction to stressor. The behaviour type and time of the behaviour changes were recorded for the focal individual.

The results of the group and focal scans are listed in Appendix A including; stressors, behaviours and characteristics.

### 3.4.3 Snow Berm Management

Snow berms associated with the Winter Access Road may act as a partial barrier to caribou movement by deflecting caribou from crossing roads. For example, caribou have been shown to deflect from a road when snow berms are 1.6 m or greater in height (ERM Rescan 2011). Determining the aspects of the Winter Access Road that influence caribou movements (e.g., snow berm heights) provide information specific to the operation of the Mine and potentially to features of the Winter Access Road that may be mitigated, such as lowering of snow berm heights.

The objective of this component of the monitoring program is to determine heights of snow berms along the Winter Access Road.

In 2015, De Beers made the commitment to implement additional mitigation to reduce snow berm heights if any measurements were observed over 1.6 m. This mitigation was implemented from 2016 onwards.

#### *Methods*

Snow berm measurements along the Winter access road were recorded during three separate surveys:

- Survey 1 – February 16, 2025
- Survey 2 – March 6 2025
- Survey 3 – March 27 to March 28, 2025

Snow berm height and slope were measured every 2 km along the Winter access road, at both lake and portage locations, to determine factors affecting the permeability of the Winter road to caribou (i.e., whether snow berm heights exceed deflection thresholds for caribou). These data were also used to inform the road maintenance crew of any snow berm heights in excess of 1.6 m.

#### *Results*

The total length of the Winter Access Road that crosses frozen lakes is 100 km (83%), and 24 km across land portages (17%). The percent of snow berm measurements along the Winter access road was 80% at lakes and 20% at portages. Thus, the measurements correspond to availability of snow berm conditions potentially encountered by caribou. In 2025, the average snow berm heights for lake section surveys of the Winter access road were 0.70 m, 0.71 m, and 0.69 m, during survey 1, 2 and 3, respectively, with a maximum berm height recorded of 2.17 m during Survey 2. The average snow berm slopes for lakes were 23°, 27.55°, and 27.89°, with a maximum recorded slope of 85° during Survey 3. On portage sections, average heights were 0.31 m, 0.20 m, and 0.21 m, with a maximum height of 1.75 m during Survey 1. Average snow berm slopes recorded on portages were 8.41°, 7.1°, and 16.45°, with a maximum slope of 62° recorded during Survey 3. A summary of survey data is located in Table 3-10.

**Table 3-10 Snow Berm Monitoring Results for the Winter Access Road, 2025**

Measurements		Survey 1 (n = 116)		Survey 2 (n = 116)		Survey 3 (n = 116)	
		Lake	Portage	Lake	Portage	Lake	Portage
Height (m)	average	0.70	0.31	0.71	0.20	0.69	0.21
	min	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	max	1.22	1.75	2.17	1.00	1.40	0.95
Slope (°)	average	23.00	8.41	27.55	7.10	27.89	16.45
	min	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
	max	54.00	36.00	62.00	41.00	85.0	62.00

n = number of measurements.

Results from the snow berm monitoring program indicate that 99.14% of the snow berms measured along the Winter Access Road were at or below 1.6 m during the operational season (Table 3-11). Three measurements of 1.6 m or greater were made at 1.75 m (Survey 1), 2.08 m (Survey 2), and 2.17 m (Survey 2). When Snow berms were observed to be over 1.6 m during the snow berm measurement surveys, De Beers notified the Winter Access Road maintenance crew so that they could be decreased. Subsequently, wildlife monitoring cameras were set-up in proximity to locations that exceeded snow berm height surveys. Wildlife monitoring cameras did not capture any abnormal behavior at the four locations where snow berm height was exceeded.

**Table 3-11 Proportion of Snow Berm Height Measurements for the Winter Access Road, 2025**

Height (m)	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Average
≤1.6	99.14%	98.28%	100%	99.14%
>1.6	0.86%	1.72%	0.00%	0.86%

≤ = less than or equal to; > = greater than.

### 3.5 Arctic Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring Surveys

De Beers is contributing to ECCC's Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM) surveys. These surveys are designed to document population numbers of Arctic shorebirds and contribute to regional knowledge in an effort to set population targets and assist with management and conservation of shorebird species (EC 2012).

#### **Methods**

Monitoring methods adhered to standard techniques for PRISM surveys (CWS 2008). De Beers first partnered with ECCC to conduct ground-based rapid assessment surveys of 12 ha plots in 2015. PRISM surveys were conducted in 2017, 2019, 2022, and 2024. The next survey is anticipated to be conducted in 2026.

### 3.6 Raptors

Raptor species (i.e., birds of prey) observed nesting within the RSA include peregrine falcon (likely *anatum-tundrius complex*), gyrfalcon, rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), and short-eared owl. The short-eared owl is currently listed as special concern by COSEWIC. Both the peregrine falcon and short-eared owl have a general

status rank of sensitive in the NWT (NWT SARC 2023). Peregrine falcon was assessed as Not At Risk by the Northwest Territories Species at Risk Committee in May 2022 (NWT SARC 2022). Short-eared owl has not been assessed by the Northwest Territories Species at Risk Committee. Analysis of 13 years of nest site use and productivity monitoring data in the Ekati and Diavik mines study area found no relationship with proximity to mines (Coulton et al. 2013). The nearest known active raptor nest site identified in the RSA is 18 km from the Mine site. Considering the distance of the Mine to the nearest known raptor nest, the Mine is not anticipated to affect local raptor populations.

There are two programs for raptors conducted by the Mine. The first is the Regional Raptor Nest Monitoring Program, which is conducted within the RSA and contributed by De Beers to the GNWT-ECC. The second is monitoring and deterrence of raptors from nesting in the pits. Both are conducted as part of the WMMP (De Beers 2022).

### 3.6.1 Regional Raptor Nest Monitoring Program

The objective of the raptor nest monitoring program is to contribute nest survey data to the GNWT-ECC for inclusion in regional databases (De Beers 2022).

#### *Methods*

De Beers conducted regional raptor nest data through collaborative aerial surveys at both the Gahcho Kué and Snap Lake mines. The timing and methods of these surveys are developed in partnership with the GNWT-ECC and other operators in the region.

Visits to known nest sites are conducted by helicopter, using fly-by methods to identify occupying species, and to count eggs and young. Surveys are not carried out in the rain, and visits are kept as short as possible to limit disturbances to the birds. Nests are considered occupied if at least one adult bird was observed. Eggs are counted if visible. Nests are recorded as successful if at least one chick is observed in the nest. The number of chicks are also recorded. Although the monitoring is focused on raptor species, observations of other species (e.g., ravens) are recorded during the surveys and included in the summary statistics.

#### *Results*

Regional raptor nest monitoring was initially completed in 2015. The monitoring in the RSA was not conducted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The next regional survey was scheduled for in 2025. However, due to operational constraints the GNWT requested that the survey be delayed until the 2026 nesting season.

### 3.6.2 Pit-nest and Raptor Monitoring and Deterrence Program

As described in the WMMP (De Beers 2022), raptor interactions and mortalities at the Mine are also monitored through the wildlife sightings log, site surveillance, and wildlife incidents (Sections 3.3.3, 3.3.4 and 3.3.6), as well as incidents of raptor nesting activity on Mine infrastructure (De Beers 2022). Raptors that are observed in dangerous areas of the Mine, such as open pit areas, are actively deterred from nesting. Deterrent methods include bear bangers, propane noise cannons, air horns and predatory effigies. The objective of this aspect of the program is to deter raptors from nesting on critical Mine infrastructure or pit walls.

## ***Methods***

De Beers actively deters raptors from nesting in the open pits through the use of visual and auditory deterrents and routine monitoring.

The 2025 Bird Deterrent and Surveillance Program began on April 25, 2025. Visual monitoring for the presence of migratory bird species was initiated across 5034, Tuzo, and Hearne open pits, including their surrounding areas and active construction zones. These monitoring efforts, aimed at detecting potential nesting activity, were conducted by Environmental staff during the day shift using binoculars and spotting scopes to ensure comprehensive coverage.

Proactive deployment of propane cannons commenced on May 15, 2025, targeting areas where nesting activity could interfere with operational activities. This included strategic placement of propane cannons around all three open pits (Hearne Pit, 5034 Pit and NEX/Tuzo Pit), the ROM pad, tire shop, Course Processed Kimberlite (CPK) crusher area, burn pit, and the airstrip. The airstrip was equipped with seven strategically placed propane cannons along its perimeter to deter waterfowl from the area. In the Course Processed Kimberlite (CPK) crusher area, two propane cannons were positioned along the north and northwest walls to discourage bank swallows from nesting. Within the tire shop area, two propane cannons were placed to prevent nesting within the tire laydown. One propane cannon was placed along the southwest perimeter of the burn pit to prevent nesting within the area.

Throughout the nesting season, kites were deployed continuously as visual deterrents. These kites were positioned above each wall of the open pits to create an effective deterrent presence. As the season progressed, additional kites were strategically placed by securing the poles in rock piles near areas with potential nesting interest. Kites were also positioned in locations outside the open pit areas to further mitigate the risk of nesting.

The placement of deterrents was regularly adjusted to accommodate mining and construction activities, as well as to respond to extreme weather events. By the end of the season, a total of ten kites were deployed around the NEX/TUZO pit area, with an additional two kites deployed around the Hearne pit area. One kite was deployed at the main camp and one at the burn pit to deter any bird activity.

Environment staff managed deterrent operations, conduct daily surveillance, and monitor oversee the monitoring of nesting sites as needed. The Mine Environmental Department assumed responsibility for the adjustment, maintenance, and replacement of deterrents throughout the bird season. Bird sightings were recorded daily to ensure comprehensive tracking of activity all deterrents were fully demobilized by September 18, 2025.

Historical data from previous years indicated that the primary species of concern for nesting included the peregrine falcon, rough-legged hawk, bank swallow, cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), common raven, barn swallow, and various shorebird and waterfowl species.

## ***Results***

Between April 25, 2025, and September 13, 2025, a total of 552 bird observations were documented, encompassing 4949 individual birds across 46 different species. in or around the 5034, Hearne, NEX/Tuzo pits and general mine site area. (Table 3-12). Of the birds observed, the most common was the bank swallow with 149 observations. The most commonly observed with the highest number of individuals counted was Goose Spp. (2,435 individuals counted over 19 occasions). There were 157 nests documented during the 2025 nesting season. Of the 157, approximately 78 nests were bank swallow burrows dispersed across ten different colonies..

During the 2025 nesting season, American robins constructed one nest on the left wheel well of LV-008. Upon discovery on May 27, 2025 the nest contained four eggs, the area was delineated with barriers and monitored regularly to ensure minimal disturbance.

Common ravens constructed three nests at the Mine site. The first active nest was observed on April 21, 2025, at the Area 8 freshwater arc chute. The number of eggs or fledgelings within the nest could not be determined. Following its discovery, the area was delineated with barriers to prevent disturbance and monitored regularly. The second active nest was observed on April 25, 2025, at the Quonset Prill truck offload tent near the AN barn. The number of eggs or fledglings within the nest could not be determined. Following its discovery, the area was delineated with barriers to prevent disturbance and monitored regularly. The third active nest was observed on June 5, 2025, on a bench within the Tuzo pit. In line with the first and second nests, the number of eggs or fledglings could not be determined. Due to limited accessibility, the area could not be delineated. However, the mining department was promptly informed, and operational activities in the vicinity of the nest were suspended for the duration of the nesting period.

A semi-palmated plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) established a nest at the Mine site during the 2025 nesting season. The active nest was observed on June 17, 2025, on the Northern side of Dyke B. The nest contained two eggs at the time of observation. Upon discovery, the area was delineated with barriers to minimize disturbance and monitored regularly.

Cliff swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) constructed several nests during the 2025 nesting season. The active nests were observed on May 22, 2025, at the Quonset prill truck loading tent near the Ammonium Nitrate barn. The number of eggs or fledglings within the nests could not be determined. Upon discovery, the area was delineated to prevent disturbance, and workers were notified of the nest's presence. Work schedules were adjusted to minimize potential impacts on the nesting cliff swallows. The AN barn was monitored daily to ensure the nests remained undisturbed.

Bank swallows represented the majority of nests recorded during the 2025 nesting season, with a total of 78 burrows spread across ten colonies. Four of these colonies (A,B,D and J) were located within the Coarse Processed Kimberlite area. The fifth colony (C) was located within a berm outside the AN Barn. Colony E was located near the southwest side of Dyke B. Located on the top upper bench of the northeast, east and west perimeters of the Tuzo pit were colonies I, G and F respectively. The final colony (H) was located in the Mobile Crusher area within a CPK pile. The colonies were discovered between May 29 and June 26, 2025

Upon discovery, Mine Operations staff were immediately notified to cease dumping within the nesting colony areas, and 30-meter setbacks were implemented using physical barriers. Senior management was also informed of the nesting activity to ensure appropriate mitigation measures were enacted. To further minimize potential impacts, the Mine Operations team adjusted operational plans within the CPK area in consultation with the Environment Team. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) reviewed the mitigation measures in place and provided feedback on potential improvements.

Daily monitoring was conducted throughout the nesting season to ensure compliance with the delineation and setback protocol. To confirm the burrows were no longer occupied, 30-minute observation periods were carried out daily between August 16 and September 7, 2025. No further bird activity was reported from any of the ten colonies during this period, and all delineators and setbacks were removed on September 8, 2025.

**Table 3-12 Recorded Observations of Individual Species Count and Total Number of Observations, 2025**

Species	Number of Observations	Total Number Observed
American kestrel	2	2
American pipit	13	29
American robin	17	49
Bald eagle	10	10
Bank swallow	149	266
Black scoter	2	13
Canada goose	10	362
Chipping sparrow	4	22
Cliff swallow	111	677
Common loon	2	5
Common merganser	4	25
Common raven	50	242
Duck spp.	11	100
Eagle spp.	2	2
Falcon spp.	9	11
Flycatcher spp.	1	1
Golden eagle	1	1
Goose spp.	19	2435
Greater white-fronted goose	5	95
Green-winged teal	4	13
Gull spp.	11	78
Gyrfalcon	5	5
Harris's sparrow	2	2
Hawk spp.	2	2
Loon spp.	1	1
Mallard	2	4
Northern harrier	3	3
Northern pintail	3	8
Peregrine falcon	11	16
Ptarmigan spp.	13	39
Rough-legged hawk	10	11
Sandhill crane	2	32
Sandpiper spp.	3	13
Savannah sparrow	5	12

Species	Number of Observations	Total Number Observed
Scaup spp.	3	6
Semi-palmated plover	18	38
Short-billed gull	1	3
Snow bunting	4	19
Snow goose	3	183
Songbird spp.	8	10
Sparrow spp.	5	56
Surf scoter	1	14
Swainson's thrush	2	6
Tundra swan	1	20
White-crowned sparrow	5	6
Yellow warbler	2	2

Note: the number of individuals is biased high as the same individuals may be observed during surveys.

### 3.7 Upland Breeding Birds

In 2015, a Migratory Bird Nest Mitigation Plan was developed and submitted to and approved by ECCC (De Beers 2015d). The objective of the nest management program is to avoid destruction of active upland migratory bird nests in areas scheduled for flooding or disturbance by mining. This plan described mitigation actions to limit harm to migratory birds and the disturbance or destruction of nests and eggs and to comply with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. Each Fall De Beers pro-actively clears standing vegetation in areas anticipated to flood the subsequent Spring, therefore reducing the attractiveness of these areas to tree and shrub nesters. Each Spring, prior to the 50% snow melt when nesting activity is typically initiated, De Beers deploys bird deterrents to those same areas targeting ground nesting birds. Additionally, during the nesting season, De Beers re-visits these areas to confirm functionality of the deterrents and observe bird activity.

Upland birds include shorebirds, ptarmigan, and songbirds (excluding raven). The rusty blackbird, bank swallow, barn swallow, Harris's sparrow, lesser yellowlegs, horned grebe and the red-necked phalarope are birds of concern that may occur in the RSA. They are also listed by COSEWIC as either threatened or special concern (COSEWIC 2023). From 1998 to 2004, rapid assessment upland bird surveys were completed to provide a comprehensive species list in the RSA. In 2004 and 2005, permanent sample plots were established in the RSA to estimate the variation in upland breeding bird density and richness in the RSA and LSA, and to assess the importance of habitats in the LSA for upland bird nesting. Impacts to upland breeding birds are anticipated to be localized at the Mine site and not to influence regional populations (De Beers 2010). The objective of monitoring for upland birds is to detect changes in regional bird populations over time. This objective is achieved through participation in ECCC PRISM surveys (Section 3.5). De Beers contributes PRISM monitoring during the operating life of the Mine to fill existing information gaps in ECCC's N7 Bird Conservation Region (Section 3.5).

#### 3.7.1 Nest Management Program

Development and operation of the Mine has the potential to inadvertently disturb upland breeding birds and their nests through land clearing activities to develop site infrastructure and the raising of Lakes D2 and D3

(Lakes D2/D3) and E1. For the latter, during the operation of the Mine, terrestrial habitat around Lakes D2/D3 and E1 will be flooded through the establishment of diversion dykes in the D and E lakes watersheds (Table 3-18). Water levels in these lakes have increased following freshet each year since the diversion dykes were constructed in 2015. They were predicted to continue to rise until reaching full supply level in Years 2 and 3 for Lake E1, and Year 4 for Lakes D2/D3, after which water levels will stabilize until the dykes are removed at closure (Table 3-13). The actual extent of flooding in 2024 at Lakes D2/D3 and E1 is reported in Table 3-13. As the water levels will rise most rapidly during freshet, the period of flooding will overlap with the migratory bird nesting season, which tends to occur annually from mid-May to mid-August.

**Table 3-13 Predicted Timing and Extent of Predicted and Actual Flooding at Lakes D2/D3, and E1**

Timing of Flooding	Incremental Extent of Flooding							
	Lake D2/D3				Lake E1			
	Predicted		Actual		Predicted		Actual	
	Elevation (masl)	Area (ha)	Elevation (masl)	Area (ha)	Elevation (masl)	Area (ha)	Elevation (masl)	Area (ha)
2015	424.2	0	424.2	0	425.2	0	425.2	0
Year 1 (June - October 2016)	425.7	19.7	426.1	34.2	426	5.1	425.8	4.5
Year 2 (June - October 2017)	426.3	18	426.6	10.2	426	1.1	425.9	0.5
Year 3 (June - October 2018)	426.8	9.8	426.7	3.1	426	0	425.9	0
Year 4 (June - October 2019)	427	4.6	427	4.6	426	0	425.9	0.2
Year 5 (June - October 2020)	427	0	427	2.4	426	0	426.1	1.1
Year 6 (June - October 2021)	427	0	426.9	0	426	0	426.1	0.2
Year 7 (May - October 2022)	427	0	426.9	0	426	0	425.8	0
Year 8 (May - October 2023)	427	0	426.7	0	426	0	425.8	0
Year 9 (May - October 2024)	427	0	426.6	0	426	0	425.8	0
Year 10 (May - October 2025)	427	0	426.7	0	426	0	425.7	0
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>52.1</b>	-	<b>54.5</b>	-	<b>6.2</b>	-	<b>6.5</b>

Note: Lake D2/D3 and E1 reached their spillover elevation in June 2019 and 2018, respectively. Following the spillover, changes to the lake water elevations were due to natural fluctuations.

- = not applicable; masl = metres above sea level.

### **Methods**

The hydrometric station at Lake D2/D3 was established in 2015 and continuous monitoring of water surface elevations (WSE) have been ongoing annually since 2015. The hydrometric station on Lake E1 was established in 2016 and water level measurements and continuous monitoring of WSE have been conducted annually since 2018. Flooding (WSE) is monitored to verify predictions of water elevations. If water levels are on the rise, a vegetation clearing program will be put in place as mitigation.

### ***Results***

There was no vegetation clearing program conducted in 2025. The actual peak elevation in 2025 for Lake D2/D3 was similar to that estimated by the EIS with associated flooding being slightly lower than predicted in total. The peak WSE and actual area for Lake E1 was also similar to the predicted values from the EIS. The timing and extent of flooding predicted in the EIS is compared to actual observations as shown in Table 3-18 for both lakes.

## **3.8 Small Mammals**

The periodic population cycles of small mammals can have strong influences on other species in the Arctic ecosystem such as clutch and litter size of raptors and foxes, respectively. The nearest small mammal monitoring location to the Mine is at the Daring Lake research facility (approximately 200 km northwest of the Mine), operated by the GNWT-ECC. In 2015, De Beers began annual monitoring of small mammals, including lemmings and voles, to provide an additional regional monitoring site to the GNWT-ECC.

The methods for the small mammal survey follow those outlined by Carrière (1999) and Outcrop Communications (2005). The small mammal program in 2025 was conducted from August 15th to 19th, with 100 traps set over five consecutive nights. The same two transects established in 2015 northeast of Area 2 of Kennady Lake were used again in 2025. This habitat is considered representative of tundra features typical to the Taiga Shield High Subarctic Ecoregion. Both transects measured 250 m in length and are parallel to each other, roughly 100 m apart. Historically, a mixture of oats and peanut butter were utilized as bait for all museum traps. The 2025 survey also utilized a mixture of oats and peanut butter on both transects with bait regularly replaced as needed.

### ***Results***

Catch results are summarized in Table 3-14. A total of 12 small mammals were captured along with 18 incidental captures of songbirds over the five consecutive trap nights. Specimens were identified using the NWT Small Mammal Identification Guide (GNWT-ECC 2005). Transect 1 had a total of four small mammals captured. While Transect 2 captured eight. The most active day for small mammal captures was August 18th with five, whereas the least active day was the last day of the survey, August 19th, with one mammal caught. As the week progressed, there was consistent rain for more than half of the program, which could be a contributing factor to the low capture rates of small mammals. The samples were shipped out to GNWT-ECC laboratories in Yellowknife during the third quarter of 2025.

**Table 3-14 Small Mammal Monitoring Program Catch Summary, 2025**

Date	Transect No.	Site No.	Trap No.	Species
15-Aug-25	1	3	1	Red backed vole
15-Aug-25	1	15	1	Sparrow spp.
15-Aug-25	1	18	2	Sparrow spp.
15-Aug-25	2	3	2	Sparrow spp.
15-Aug-25	2	18	2	Sparrow spp.
15-Aug-25	2	23	1	Sparrow spp.
15-Aug-25	2	25	1	Sparrow spp.
16-Aug-25	1	7	2	Sparrow spp.
16-Aug-25	1	14	2	Sparrow spp.
16-Aug-25	1	25	1	Red back vole
16-Aug-25	2	16	2	Vole spp.
16-Aug-25	2	22	2	Vole spp.
16-Aug-25	2	25	1	Sparrow spp.
16-Aug-25	2	25	2	Sparrow spp.
17-Aug-25	1	11	1	Sparrow spp.
17-Aug-25	2	1	2	Sparrow spp.
17-Aug-25	2	2	1	Red back vole
17-Aug-25	2	6	2	Collared lemming
17-Aug-25	2	17	1	Sparrow spp.
18-Aug-25	1	1	2	Red-backed vole
18-Aug-25	1	7	2	Lemming spp.
18-Aug-25	2	2	1	Red-backed vole
18-Aug-25	2	15	2	Sparrow spp.
18-Aug-25	2	21	2	Vole spp.
18-Aug-25	2	23	2	Vole spp.
19-Aug-25	1	9	1	Sparrow spp.
19-Aug-25	1	14	2	Sparrow spp.
19-Aug-25	2	15	1	Sparrow spp.
19-Aug-25	2	21	2	Vole spp.
19-Aug-25	2	23	2	Sparrow spp.

### 3.9 Environmental Indicators

To provide estimates of the annual changes in local environmental conditions surrounding the Mine, De Beers committed to monitoring basic environmental indicators or covariates (De Beers 2014).

#### *Methods*

The indicators recorded by Environment staff included the following:

- snow melt (date of 50% snow cover and 10% snow cover);
- lake thaw (date of 50% ice cover and 10% ice cover on selected lakes);
- lake freeze (date of first ice across selected lakes);
- first snow (date of first snowfall that does not melt); and,
- migratory bird arrival (date of first and second observation of common and easily identified migratory birds, including raptor, waterfowl and upland bird species).

#### *Results*

The environmental indicators that were recorded in 2025 are summarized in Table 3-15.

**Table 3-15 Gahcho Kué Environmental Indicators, 2025**

Environmental Indicator	Date
Snow melt	April 9, 2025 (10% snow cover)
	May 11, 2025 (50% snow cover)
Area 8 thaw	May 30, 2025 (10% ice cover)
	May 31, 2025 (50% ice cover)
Lake freeze	November 3, 2025 (100% ice cover on Area 8 Lake)
First snow	October 11, 2025 (Date of first snow that did not melt)
Migratory bird arrival	May 4, 2025 (Sighting of goose spp. And rough-legged hawk)

### 3.10 Mine Activity

Sensory disturbances, such as noise, smells, dust, or the presence of people resulting from mining activity may alter the behaviour or distribution of wildlife in habitats adjacent to development (Bayne et al. 2008; Boulanger et al. 2012). De Beers committed to recording covariates contributing to overall Mine activity to help explain possible changes in wildlife behaviour and distribution (De Beers 2022).

#### *Methods*

The indicators recorded monthly by the Mine include the following:

- occupancy (number of site staff);
- fuel consumption;
- mine rock moved;
- ore processed; and
- domestic water consumption.

#### *Results*

In 2025, average monthly occupancy ranged from 362 in December to 428 in March (Table 3-16). The total fuel consumption for 2025 was 52,872,201 L of diesel. The total amount of mine rock mined was 36,916,254 tonnes. The total amount of ore processed was 3,507,186 tonnes. The total amount of water consumed for domestic use was 33,853,000 L, which does not include the additional water drawn from the water management pond for site operation activities such as dust suppression within the Controlled Area (10,478,250 L).

**Table 3-16 Gahcho Kué Camp Occupancy, 2025**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Occupancy	396	422	428	407	406	407	390	382	400	390	382	362

## 4 WILDLIFE MITIGATION AND MONITORING PLAN AUDIT

Mitigation measures are described in the WMMP and stem from current practices at existing mines or are derived from suggestions during the environmental assessment process. In order to evaluate mitigation measures an audit is implemented annually. The results of the audit should include site mitigation measures that are regularly implemented by Mine staff and results from any additional special studies undertaken to further understand effectiveness of mitigation actions intended to reduce residual effects.

Section 5.2 of the WMMP states that the mitigation proposed in the WMMP should be evaluated to confirm that mitigations work as intended and new mitigation identified through adaptive management should be documented. The mitigation policies and actions evaluate:

- if all mitigation has been implemented;
- which mitigation was observed or demonstrated to be successful or effective;
- if new mitigation has been implemented in response to new issues; and
- if some mitigation is redundant.

### ***Methods***

For the audit, Mine Environmental staff to reviewed mitigations provided in the WMMP. Mine Environmental staff answered the following questions:

- 1) Was the mitigation implemented in during the year?
- 2) Was the mitigation observed or demonstrated to be effective?
- 3) Was the mitigation redundant in application with any other mitigation?
- 4) Are there any special studies required to support determining effectiveness of the mitigation?

### ***Results***

The audit (Appendix B) was conducted in 2026 based upon 2025 mitigations with a summary of results outlined below.

The WMMP identifies a total of 72 mitigations (De Beers 2022). Two additional mitigations were added after the WMMP was approved, following recommendations from Environment and Climate Change Canada to put measures in place to deter nesting and avoid disturbance and damage and distribution of nesting barn swallows from mining activity (ECCC 2022). As a result, a total of 74 mitigations were audited in 2026. Of these, 74 mitigations (100%) which were implemented in 2025; 69 out of the 74 mitigations implemented (93%) were observed by Mine site staff to be effective and 5 were found to be not effective. A summary of mitigations is listed in Table 4-1.

Snow berm monitoring from 2014 to 2025 identified infrequent instances (<3% of all recorded measurements) that equal or exceed the threshold height of 1.6 m. In years where caribou monitoring was triggered and data were available (2014, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025), four or fewer locations per year had snow berm measurements greater than 1.6 m, which appears to be a threshold height for deflecting caribou from roads (ERM Rescan 2011). Observations of caribou from behaviour monitoring detected caribou occurrences on both

sides of the winter access road before and after snow berm reduction. This suggests it is unlikely that the snow berms established from ploughing the winter access road are hindering movement for caribou. Although snow berms exceeding 1.6 m are uncommon, it could not be verified whether caribou are using locations where snow berms have been reduced.

**Table 4-1 Summary of Mitigations Implemented in 2025**

Mitigation Implemented?	Count of Mitigations	Proportion (%) of Total Implemented Effective	Mitigation not Implemented	Rationale for no Implementation
Yes	74	69 (93%)	None	N/A

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## 6 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AER	Alberta Energy Regulator
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CPK	Coarse Processed Kimberlite
De Beers	De Beers Canada Inc.
DKFN	Deninu Kué First Nations
EC	Environment Canada
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
GIS	Geographical Information System
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GNWT-ECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories
Golder	Golder Associates Ltd.
LKDFN	Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
LSA	Local Study Area
Mine	Gahcho Kué Mine
MVLWB	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
NSMA	North Slave Métis Alliance
NWT	Northwest Territories
NWT SAR	Northwest Territories Species at Risk
NWT SARC	Northwest Territories Species at Risk Committee
NWTMN	Northwest Territories Métis Nation
PK	Processed Kimberlite
PRISM	Arctic Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring
RSA	Regional Study Area
SAR	Species at Risk
sp.	species
spp.	multiple species
TG	Tłı̨ch̨o Government
TK	Traditional Knowledge
VSMP	Vegetation and Soil Monitoring Program
WEMP	Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program
WMMP	Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan
WMRP	West Mine Rock Pile
WSE	water surface elevation
WSP	WSP Canada Inc.
WWHPP	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan
YKDFN	Yellowknives Dene First Nation

## 7 UNITS OF MEASURE

≤	less than or equal to
≥	greater than or equal to
%	percent
±	plus or minus
>	greater than
°	degree
°C	degrees Celsius
h	hour
ha	hectare
km	kilometre
km/h	kilometres per hour
km <sup>2</sup>	square kilometre
L	litre
m	metre
masl	metres above sea level
m <sup>3</sup>	cubic metre
mg/100 cm <sup>2</sup> /30 d	milligrams per hundred square centimetres per thirty days

## 8 GLOSSARY

Abundance	The number of individuals
Density	The number of individuals per unit area
Distribution	The pattern of dispersion of an entity within its range
Habitat use	The way and animal uses (or <i>consumes</i> , in a generic sense) a collection of physical and biological entities in a habitat
Population	Classically, a collection of interbreeding individuals
Transect	A method of sampling along a path or fixed line
Upland	Ground elevated above the lowlands along rivers or between hills; highland or elevated land; high and hilly country

## **APPENDIX A    2025 Caribou Monitoring Data**

Survey # (Scan Type)	Date	Weather	Wind Speed (km/h)	Wind Direction	Observer Location	Caribou Distance (m)	Herd Size	Habitat Description	Survey Area	Herd Composition	Time	# of individuals doing Behaviour								Stressor	Distance to Stressor (m)	Response	Time to return to previous behavior (minutes:seconds)	Survey Under Time	General Comments	
												# Bedded	# Feeding	# Grazing	# Alert	# Walking	# Trotting	# Running								
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:53:00 AM	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	Pickup Truck	300	2 = moderate - caribou walk away	-	Yes	Hunters nearby 300 m away		
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:01:00 AM	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Most of group moving out of view, did not return to normal behavior from hunters	
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:09:00 AM	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Group is out of view	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:53:20 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Pickup Truck	300	2 = moderate - caribou walk away	01:23	Yes	Hunters in area -300m away		
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:54:21 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:54:43 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Walking away from hunters	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:56:18 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:56:34 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:57:27 AM	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:57:34 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:57:48 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	9:58:06 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:05:01 AM	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:06:18 AM	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:07:04 AM	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:07:10 AM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:07:22 AM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:07:43 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:07:49 AM	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:07:50 AM	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:08:50 AM	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:08:56 AM	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	566646 706571	290	7	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	M	10:09:29 AM	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Walked out of view	
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:33:43 AM	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:41:43 AM	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:49:31 AM	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:56:26 AM	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:04:31 PM	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:07:27 PM	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	13/02/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:15:35 PM	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/13/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:33:43 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/13/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:56:26 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/13/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:07:27 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/13/2025	Clear -37°C	10	Northeast	553437 7081467	600	44	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:16:46 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:16:00 AM	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:24:00 AM	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:32:00 AM	14	0	0	0	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:40:00 AM	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:42:00 AM	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:42:00 AM	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:48:00 AM	1	0	1	0	9	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:56:00 AM	3	0	2	0	5	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:16:50 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:29:10 AM	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:29:37 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:42:11 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:42:11 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:42:32 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:46:53 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:47:05 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Focal #1	2/15/2025	Clear -28°C	5	Northwest	553217 7073265	800	250	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	11:48:29 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road Caribou Scan #1	2/15/2025	Clear -27°C	10	Southwest	552382 7082429																					

Survey # (Scan Type)	Date	Weather	Wind Speed (km/h)	Wind Direction	Observer Location	Caribou Distance (m)	Herd Size	Habitat Description	Survey Area	Herd Composition	Time	# of individuals doing Behaviour							Stressor	Distance to Stressor (m)	Response	Time to return to previous behavior (minutes/seconds)	Survey Under Time	General Comments			
												# Bedded	# Feeding	# Grazing	# Alert	# Walking	# Trotting	# Running									
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:06:36 PM	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 out of view
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:11:54 PM	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	Haul Truck	400	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	05:00	-	-	-	-	9 haul trucks in Convoy
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:16:00 PM	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	End of survey
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:42:45 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Observer's Truck	400	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	00:30	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:46:36 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Haul Truck	400	0 = no reaction	0	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:46:16 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Not looking towards road
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:46:31 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:48:01 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:48:15 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:51:28 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:51:37 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:54:37 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:55:18 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:56:00 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Pickup Truck	400	0 = no reaction	0	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	11:56:13 AM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:00:07 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Haul Truck	400	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	00:10	-	-	-	-	4 haul trucks
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:00:37 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 haul trucks
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:02:26 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:02:36 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:04:12 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:04:16 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:04:36 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Pickup Truck	400	0 = no reaction	0	-	-	-	-	Out of view
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:05:11 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:05:32 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:06:13 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:06:18 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:06:18 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:08:47 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:08:52 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:11:54 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Haul Truck	400	0 = no reaction	0	-	-	-	-	3 haul trucks in convoy
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:13:48 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:13:52 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:16:24 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	2/17/2025	Clear -30°C	5	Southwest	590771 7036067	400	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M	12:16:48 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:36:00 PM	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Out of view. End of survey
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:38:16 PM	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	Haul Truck	300	2 = moderate - caribou walk away	15:00	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:44:00 PM	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:51:00 PM	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:38:45 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:38:47 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Haul Truck	300	2 = moderate - caribou walk away	15:00	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:39:54 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:40:15 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:41:22 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:41:40 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:41:59 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:42:20 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:42:48 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:43:58 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	2:45:22 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	2/17/2025	Clear -27°C	5	Southwest	553313 7076195	300	6	Lake	Gahcho																		









Survey # (Scan Type)	Date	Weather	Wind Speed (km/h)	Wind Direction	Observer Location	Caribou Distance (m)	Herd Size	Habitat Description	Survey Area	Herd Composition	Time	# of individuals doing Behaviour								Stressor	Distance to Stressor (m)	Response	Time to return to previous behavior (minutes:seconds)	Survey Under Time	General Comments
												# Bedded	# Feeding	# Alert	# Wading	# Resting	# Running	# Other	# Unknown						
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:18:00 AM	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	Pickup Truck	600	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:24:00 AM	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:30:00 AM	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	Nu- Equipment	600	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:32:00 AM	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	5	West	587801 7039265	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:32:45 PM	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:04:20 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:04:25 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:04:54 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:04:57 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:08:46 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Nu- Equipment	600	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	5	West	587801 7039265	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:10:23 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	600	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:13:07 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	600	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:15:17 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	600	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:18:06 AM	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	600	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:20:01 AM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/18/2025	Clear -32°C	5	West	587801 7040705	600	27	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	9:30:22 AM	1	10	0	0	2	0	0	Nu- Equipment	600	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:45:43 PM	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:53:00 PM	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:58:00 PM	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:02:00 PM	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:03:00 PM	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	Nu- Equipment	100	0 = no reaction	0		2 looked at the gravel truck	
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:08:00 PM	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:18:00 PM	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:26:00 PM	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:34:00 PM	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	Nu- Equipment	100	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:34:00 PM	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:45:30 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:45:45 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	12:58:07 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:02:43 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:03:25 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nu- Equipment	100	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	00:05		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:07:37 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:08:05 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:08:43 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:16:47 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:17:05 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:17:18 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:17:30 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:26:50 PM	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:27:05 PM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:27:19 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/18/2025	Clear -29°C	10	West	588630 7039265	100	37	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F/M/C	1:34:22 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nu- Equipment	100	0 = no reaction	0		
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	8:54:00 AM	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	Pickup Truck	100	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	00:18			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	8:56:00 AM	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	9:02:00 AM	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	9:07:00 AM	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	Haul Truck	100	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	00:10			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	9:10:00 AM	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	9:15:00 AM	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	9:16:00 AM	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	Nu- Equipment	100	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	00:30			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	9:18:00 AM	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	9:19:00 AM	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	Pickup Truck	100	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/19/2025	Clear -29°C	20	West	588671 7039259	100	5	Portage	Gahcho Kue Winter Road	F	9:24:00 AM	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	Haul Truck	100	0 = no reaction				



Survey # (Scan Type)	Date	Weather	Wind Speed (km/h)	Wind Direction	Observer Location		Caribou Distance (m)	Herd Size	Habitat Description	Survey Area	Herd Composition	Time	# of individuals doing Behaviour						Stressor	Distance to Stressor (m)	Response	Time to return to previous behavior (minutes:seconds)	Survey Under Time	General Comments			
					East/West (E)	North/South (S)							# Backed	# Feeding	# Standing	# Alert	# Walking	# Tricoting							# Running		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:07:15 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Haul Truck	500	0 = no reaction	0		2 HTs		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:13:53 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Haul Truck	500	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	00:15		2 HTs		
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:17:17 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	500	0 = no reaction	0				
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:19:23 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Pickup Truck	500	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	00:20				
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:19:49 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:20:20 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:25:39 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:25:50 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:26:16 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/24/2025	Overcast, -18°C	15	Northeast	587836	7040625	500	165	Lake	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/MC	4:26:20 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:23:00 PM	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:31:00 PM	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:36:00 PM	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	-	Haul Truck	800	0 = no reaction	0		Yes	
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:38:00 PM	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Group walked out of view
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:23:15 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:25:26 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:25:38 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:26:28 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:27:08 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:27:17 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:27:30 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:32:06 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:33:10 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:33:24 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:34:23 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:34:35 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:35:25 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:35:43 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:36:01 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Haul Truck	800	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:37:00 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:37:19 PM	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #1	3/25/2025	Overcast, -24°C	10	Northeast	587766	7040765	800	8	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/M	2:39:27 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Walked out of view
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	2:55:00 PM	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:03:00 PM	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:11:00 PM	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	Haul Truck	500	0 = no reaction	0		2 HTs, 1 looked	
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:14:00 PM	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	Haul Truck	500	0 = no reaction	0		3 HTs	
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:17:00 PM	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	Pickup Truck	500	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:19:00 PM	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:22:00 PM	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	-	Haul Truck	500	0 = no reaction	0		1 out of view below slope	
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:26:00 PM	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	Haul Truck	500	0 = no reaction	0			
Winter Road: Caribou Scan #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:27:00 PM	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	2:55:52 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:08:41 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:10:57 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Haul Truck	500	1 = mild - caribou looked towards disturbance	02:00		2 HTs	
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:12:56 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:13:14 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:13:37 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:13:55 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2	3/25/2025	Overcast, -22°C	10	Northeast	588476	7039531	500	4	Portage	Gaicho Kue Winter Road	F/C	3:14:00 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Road: Caribou Focal #2																											

# **APPENDIX B    Gahcho Kué Mine – 2025 Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan Audit Summary Table**

Table A1 Review of WMMP Mitigations

WMMP Section	Mitigation #	Mitigation	Was it implemented in 2025?	Was it observed or demonstrated to be effective?	Was it redundant in application with any other mitigation?	Any special studies required as follow up?	Comments
3.1 Direct Habitat Loss	1	Confirm mine footprint is kept within authorized area	Yes	Yes	No	No	
	2	Promote natural revegetation and progressive reclamation	Yes	Yes	No	No	Continual reclamation research completed in advance of closure.
	3	Backfill the mined out pits	Yes	Yes	No	No	Completed in 2025 with the deposition of waste rock in 5034 pit and FPK in Hearne Pit
	4	Maintain downstream flows within baseline levels	Yes	Yes	No	No	Successful completion of 2025 DSFM
3.2 Indirect Habitat Loss	5	Cover and contour pipelines so they will not be a barrier to wildlife movement;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Pipelines on N11 road had wildlife crossings installed
	6	Use dust suppression strategies (following <i>Guideline for Dust Suppression</i> , GNWT-ENR 2013b), such as regular road watering during snow free conditions;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Dust suppression ongoing
	7	Enforce speed limits of 50 km/h on haul roads and 30 km/h on other roads to assist in reducing the production of dust;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Speed limits enforced during 2025
	8	Reduced speed limits when caribou and other large wildlife are within 200 m of roads;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Wildlife are given right of way, speed limits reduced as Caribou were adjacent of site roadways
	9	Enclose processes that create dust (such as rock crushing), where feasible;	Yes	Yes	No	No	No new dust sources placed that would require enclosures outside of existing plant operations and mobile crushers
	10	Maintain a minimum flying altitude of 650 m above ground level (except during takeoff and landing) for cargo and passenger aircraft outside of the Mine site (GNWT-ENR n.d. [Flying Low brochure]; Appendix A, OP-006);	Yes	Yes	No	No	Enforced with operators during 2025
	11	Limit as many equipment noise sources as possible by locating equipment inside buildings;	Yes	Yes	No	No	
	12	Use downward directional low impact lighting to reduce light pollution;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Light plants placed with lights facing downwards when installed
	13	Construct low profile roads that do not act as a barriers to movement for wildlife (relative to surrounding landscape);	Yes	Yes	No	No	
	14	Maintain snow berms along the winter access road at heights of less than 1.6 m to not hinder wildlife movement	Yes	Yes	No	No	Noted berms were reported to contractor and corrected as required.
	15	Conduct a pre-blasting search for large mammals in the area within 1 km of the blasting site; blasting activities would be suspended until caribou have moved away (Appendix A, OP108);	Yes	Yes	No	No	Pre-blasting sweeps conducted prior to all blasts during 2025
	16	Suspending mining activities in areas where caribou are present at the Mine site;	Yes	Yes	No	No	No Caribou noted in areas of active mining
	17	Prohibit recreational vehicle use by personnel; and	Yes	Yes	No	No	No recreational vehicles on site
	18	Provide environmental sensitivity training for personnel.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Part of site initial introduction training
3.3 Wildlife Protection	19	Prohibit hunting, trapping, harvesting and fishing by employees and contractors at the Mine site;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Part of site policy & enforced
	20	All wildlife will have the right-of-way on roads;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Part of site policy & enforced by supervision and induction training.
	21	Establish and enforce speed limits 50 km/h on haul roads and 30 km/h on other roads;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Part of site traffic management plan & enforced
	22	When vehicles are stopped at night due to wildlife presence, bright headlights will be turned off, low beams or driving lights will remain on;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Part of site policy & induction training
	23	Warn drivers with signage and radio when wildlife are moving through an area;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Part of site policy and enforced by environment
	24	Staff and contractors to report all relevant observations of wildlife (particularly caribou, fox, wolverine, and bear) to on-site environment staff;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Site wildlife logs for staff, supported by weekly wildlife surveys completed by environment
	25	Land clearing for all facilities is to be completed outside of the breeding season for migratory birds (May 15 to September 15). If clearing during the breeding season is required, pre-clearing nest sweeps will be conducted;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Completed during 2025 nesting season as required.
	26	Prevent or discourage upland breeding birds and raptors from nesting on Mine infrastructure and man-made structures;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Extensive migratory bird mitigation program put into place. Focus on raptors and bank swallows, but encompasses all migratory species. All observed nests resulted in set backs until successful rearing complete.
	27	Skirt buildings to limit opportunities for animals to find suitable shelter; accommodations buildings, waste management buildings, and heated buildings will have the highest priority for skirting;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Complete and inspected regularly

Table A1 Review of WMMP Mitigations

WMMP Section	Mitigation #	Mitigation	Was it implemented in 2025?	Was it observed or demonstrated to be effective?	Was it redundant in application with any other mitigation?	Any special studies required as follow up?	Comments
	28	Conduct a pre-blasting search for large mammals in the area within 1 km of the blasting site (Appendix A, OP108). Blasting will be delayed when large mammals are present within the search area;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Part of site blasting procedure, completed in advance of every blast
	29	Isolate and remove any physical or chemical hazards to wildlife (i.e., spill management);	Yes	Yes	No	No	
	30	Contact GNWT to receive additional direction regarding new wildlife incident issues as they arise	Yes	Yes	No	No	GNWT contracted for all 2025 wildlife mortalities.
	31	Contact GNWT for approval to destroy problem wildlife (this will only be done as a last resort).	Yes	Yes	No	No	Not required in 2025
3.3.1 Management of Toxic Substances	32	Follow the procedures outlined in the Waste Management Plan (De Beers 2019b);	Yes	Yes	No	No	Complied with during 2025
	33	Adhere to and regularly update the Emergency Response and Spill Contingency Plan (De Beers 2017a);	Yes	Yes	No	No	Complied with during 2025
	34	Designate and train a spill response team consisting of on-site personnel;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Annual spill training completed with ERT team and part of annual mock scenario - October 2025
	35	Provide spill containment supplies at fuel transfer and storage areas;	Yes	Yes	No	No	All fuel handling areas have inspected and stocked spill kits, which are inspected monthly as part of a workplace inspection
	36	Immediately isolate, clean and report any spills;	Yes	Yes	No	No	All spills reported to environment and remediated in 2025
	37	Keep spill response equipment readily available and maintained;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Spill kits inspected across site monthly, as well as a spill response trailer with ERT being regularly inspected and readily available.
	38	Maintain vehicles and equipment;	Yes	Yes	No	No	
3.3.2 Management of Attractants	39	Store fuel in double-walled containers or single-walled containers in lined containment areas.	Yes	Yes	No	No	All fueling equipment meets or exceeds ECCC standards
	40	Education and enforcement of proper waste management practices to all workers and visitors to the site;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Regular outreach ongoing with supervisors and crews during toolboxes and weekly safety meetings.
	41	Implement waste management awareness programs;	Yes	Yes	No	No	As above
	42	Monitor waste and identify and manage sources of misdirected waste;	Yes	Yes	No	No	All non-compliant waste is sorted appropriately by area owners prior to pickup.
	43	Provide training to on-site personnel about wildlife awareness and safety including the dangers of improper food waste disposal and feeding wildlife;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Part of initial induction training, as well as tool box topics and SHE weekly safety meetings
	44	Provide designated indoor areas for lunch and coffee breaks for staff working outdoors;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Provided
	45	Separate food waste and non-food waste through the use of designated garbage cans;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Part of the WMA and waste segregation program
	46	Incinerate food waste and other attractants regularly to reduce holding time and odours;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Incineration is typically on a daily or every other day basis.
	47	Store food waste, fuel waste and other potential animal attractants inside buildings prior to incineration or transportation off-site for disposal;	Yes	Yes	No	No	All food waste stored indoors during 2025
	48	Install steel skirting around waste management facilities (including the compost facility, should it be reactivated) to limit opportunities for animals to access compost storage;	Yes	Yes	No	No	All buildings in the waste management facility are still skirted. The area is also chain link fenced on the exterior.
	49	Burn food waste and non-toxic combustible waste in oil-fired incinerators;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Completed as above
	50	Ship hazardous material off site for recycling or disposal at an appropriate facility;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Completed annual through winter road backhaul
	51	Inspect the landfill and cover it progressively;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Landfill is inspected weekly and covered on a regular basis as discussed with GNWT resource officer (monthly)
52	Collect, sort, and place waste products that cannot be incinerated or deposited in the landfill in designated areas within the waste management and storage area until they can be shipped off-site;	Yes	Yes	No	No		
53	Establish a fenced area for the handling and temporary storage of hazardous wastes. Fencing will be 2 m high, slatted-type, and partially buried to prevent animals from burrowing underneath;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Fences intact and proven to be effective	
54	Continue monitoring and review of the efficiency of the waste management program and improvement through adaptive management.	Yes	Yes	No	No	No major concerns or risks noted in 2025	

Table A1 Review of WMMP Mitigations

WMMP Section	Mitigation #	Mitigation	Was it implemented in 2025?	Was it observed or demonstrated to be effective?	Was it redundant in application with any other mitigation?	Any special studies required as follow up?	Comments
3.3.3 Measures to avoid harm to nesting birds	55	Staff and contractors will be made aware of the potential presence and habitat of birds listed under SARA who have potential to occur at the Mine;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Annual awareness campaign rolled out to supervisors and staff regarding migratory birds and SAR. Proven success in reporting findings.
	56	Land clearing for all facilities is to be completed outside of the breeding season for migratory birds (May 15 to September 15). If clearing during the breeding season is required, pre-clearing nest sweeps will be conducted by qualified personnel (Appendix A, EP-DOP 747, Migratory Bird Nest Pre-Construction Survey);	Yes	Yes	No	No	No land clearing conducted during this time
	57	Prevent or discourage upland breeding birds and raptors from nesting on Mine infrastructure, man-made structures, and idle and stationary equipment;	Yes	Partial	No	No	Extensive migratory bird mitigation program put into place with a wide variety of deterrents. Partially effective as some birds noted to have nested on site (peregrin falcon, banks swallow etc)
	58	Prevent or discourage upland breeding birds and shorebirds/waterbirds from nesting in natural areas in the Mine site by installing visual deterrents and/or noise makers in natural areas scheduled to be disturbed as part of the Mine plan (De Beers 2015c);	Yes	Yes	No	No	Extensive migratory bird mitigation program put into place, effective with these species
	59	Prevent or discourage bank swallow from establishing colonies on site by contouring slopes to less than 70 degrees;	Yes	Partial	No	No	Bank swallows deterred from critical work areas, however nested successfully in the CPKMR facility despite contouring.
	60	Report any raptor nesting activity observed within the mine footprint or within 1.5 km of the Mine;	Yes	Yes	No	No	No Raptor nests at the GKM during the 2025 nesting season.
	61	Report bank swallow nesting or nesting habitat (i.e., slopes greater than 70 degrees) on site; and	Yes	Partial	No	No	Reported to CWS North July 24, deterrents and contouring in place, but nesting still occurred.
	62	If species at risk nests are identified on site, contact ECCC's Canadian Wildlife Service (cwsnorth-scfndord@ec.gc.ca) as soon as possible to ensure adequate mitigation and monitoring measures are put in place.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Banks swallows the only SAR in the 2025 season, reported July 24.
	63	Bank Swallow nest prevention at the Course Processed Kimberlite rock pile: Make the habitat less desirable for nesting by re-sloping entire cutbank to less than 70 degrees; Explore idea of creating new alternative habitat in non-active areas; and Install deterrents (noise cannons, kites, "Big eyes") to prevent nest establishment.	Yes	Partial	No	No	Completed by mining in advance of the season, however nesting still occurred
3.3.4 Detering Wildlife	64	Cliff swallow nesting in Ammonia Nitrate (AN) transfer barns: Install noise deterrents (note: not propane deterrents because there are explosives in the transfer barn); Install visual deterrents (e.g., flagging, plastic raptor silhouettes) at the ends and on top of the structure; and Install physical deterrents (e.g., plastic bird spikes) along the inner peaks of structure.	Yes	No	No	No	All deterrents put into place, however nests still occurred
3.3.4 Detering Wildlife	65	Wildlife will only be deterred when there is a risk to either humans or wildlife, as judged by the environment staff. All deterrent actions start with the least intrusive method, and then increase in intensity as needed. Each deterrent action will stop as soon as the animal moves away from the potentially hazardous site and no longer poses a threat to humans. Deterrents may be used to remove wildlife from the airstrip and potentially hazardous sites and activities including nesting activity within open pits. All deterrent actions will approved under the General Wildlife Permit issued by GNWT.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Deterrent use log kept up to date by enviro staff. Methodology used effectively to deter wildlife effectively from areas as stated.
3.4 Caribou Protection	66	All sightings of caribou will be reported to environment staff;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Site wildlife logs entered monthly, weekly inspections completed by environment
	67	All incidents involving interactions, use of deterrents or potential injury of caribou will be documented and evaluated;	Yes	Yes	No	No	3 Caribou predation mortalities reported in 2025
	68	All interactions involving injury to caribou will be reported to GNWT;	NA	NA	NA	NA	
	69	Site roads may include caribou crossing features at key locations as identified by Indigenous communities;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Locations on N11 roadway crossing berms in place during 2025, with pipeline also partially disassembled when not in use.
	70	Winter access road snow berms 1.6 m or higher will be reduced below this threshold;	Yes	Yes	No	No	3 exceedances noted during the 2025 winter road season. All were corrected by winter road operations (Nuna)
	71	If caribou are crossing Mine roads, traffic will stop and wait for them to cross (i.e., caribou have the right-of-way);	Yes	Yes	No	No	Caribou right of way maintained
	72	If vehicles are stopped on roads at night due to wildlife presence, high-beams will be turned off, and low beams or running lights will remain on;	Yes	Yes	No	No	Enforced by Winter Road Security & Environment
	73	Caribou will only be moved away from roads or the airstrip under specific circumstances, such as when there are incoming flights or if there is an emergency; and	Yes	Yes	No	No	Caribou deterred from accessing Area 2 during the 2023 season in order to reduce potential harm to them by inadvertently stepping onto unstable EPK. Only operation
74	Caribou will be deterred from the airstrip by driving a truck down the strip, getting out of the vehicle and making noise by yelling. When there is an imminent flight scheduled to land at the airstrip, firing bear bangers into the air may be used to move caribou slowly away.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Several instances where caribou and muskox needed to be deterred as described	