

NWT Environmental Research Bulletin (NERB)



NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP)

A source of environmental monitoring and research in the NWT. The program coordinates, conducts and funds the collection, analysis and reporting of information related to environmental conditions in the NWT.

NWT Environmental Research Bulletin (NERB)

A series of brief plain language summaries of various environmental research findings in the Northwest Territories. If you're conducting environmental research in the NWT, consider sharing your information with northern residents in a bulletin. These research summaries are also of use to northern resource decision-makers.

Mobilizing Indigenous Knowledge in Resource Management Settings: Guide for Practitioners

The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples reference the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in decisions about natural resources. However, there is no standard for *how* to do this. This project examined community-based research methods and provides practical advice, tools, and best practices for gathering Indigenous Knowledge used in resource management and decision-making.

Why is this research important?

Recognizing the need to meaningfully incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into resource management and decision-making has been gaining importance in recent years. However, Indigenous community researchers, analysts, and regulatory boards in the Northwest Territories (NWT) lack knowledge of how to do this.

What did we do?

We examined the most common challenges to including Indigenous Knowledge in decision-making processes to design a guide providing advice and best practices. This was done by:

- Interviewing co-management boards and Indigenous organizations;
- Reviewing case studies of community-based research and monitoring programs; and
- Reviewing literature on the methods for including Indigenous Knowledge.



Chase Lockhart, Paul Catholique & Jason Michel caribou monitoring, 2018. (Credit: LKFND Wildlife Lands and Environment Department (WLED))

What did we find?

We found that the staff responsible for *mobilizing* Indigenous Knowledge are eager to understand and apply best practices. There is also a clear need for practical training on community-based research methods and tools that:

- Preserve intellectual property rights;
- Protect confidentiality;
- Ensure community access and control; and
- Provide outputs that can be easily and effectively applied in decision-making processes.

What does this mean?

We developed a guide that outlines methods and tools that ensure Indigenous Knowledge is gathered in a way that respects Indigenous knowledge holders and intellectual property, protects confidentiality, and preserves community access and control. The methods outlined also help ensure the information is relevant to resource management endpoints.

The guide provides adaptable templates for an Indigenous Knowledge sharing agreement and a standard interview guide for Traditional Land Use Studies, among others. Using the Guide will build a standardized approach to identifying key information needs relevant to impact assessment, connecting information needs to Indigenous methodologies to gather this information.



Hide camp Madeline Catholique, Dawn Catholique, and Laura Michel, 2020. (Credit: LKFDN WLED)

Where to find the Guide

Mobilizing Indigenous Knowledge in Resource Management Settings: A Practical Guide

Available at: [https://nwtDiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca/geoportaldocuments/2021-22%20-%20DELIVERABLE%20-%20LKDFN\(Griffith\)CIMP185%20-Mobilizing%20Indigenous%20Knowledge%20-.pdf](https://nwtDiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca/geoportaldocuments/2021-22%20-%20DELIVERABLE%20-%20LKDFN(Griffith)CIMP185%20-Mobilizing%20Indigenous%20Knowledge%20-.pdf)

Recommended Reading

2021. *Improving Resource Management using Indigenous Knowledge and Community Based Monitoring*. NWT Environmental Research Bulletin, Volume 6, Issue 26. www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/cimp_bulletin_26_en.pdf

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