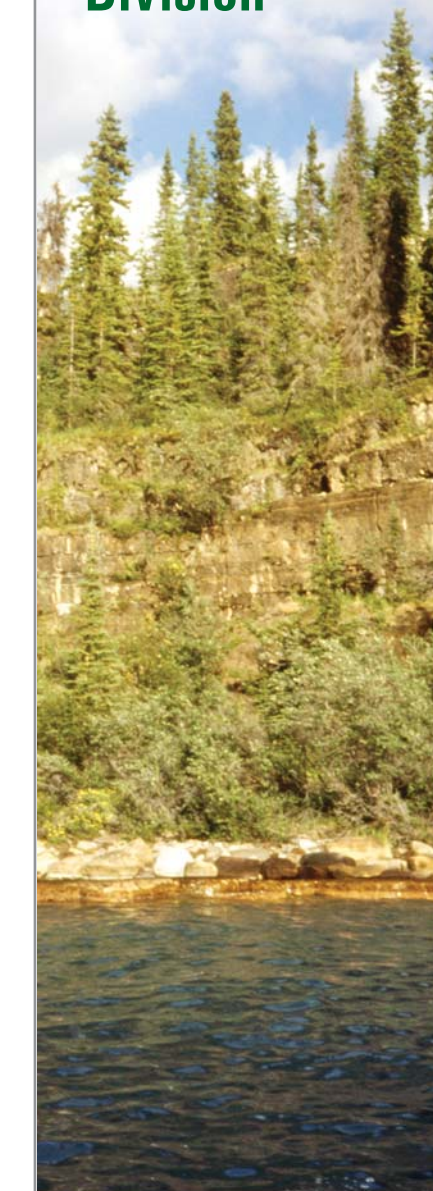


# Environment & Conservation Division



IRMA is comprised of two components: base funding and resource pressures funding. Base funding is allocated on a per capita basis. Eligible organizations may also submit proposals for resource pressures funding to cover additional costs related to major project developments. Groups are encouraged to submit joint proposals to maximize available resources. The IRMA committee (DIAND and Government of the NWT) allocates resource pressures funding according to the merits of the proposals.

For more information, please contact the IRMA Coordinator at (867) 669-2567.



For more information, please visit the website <http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/pas/index.htm>, or contact the Protected Areas Advisor, (867) 669-2685.

## Interim Resource Management Assistance Program

The Interim Resource Management Assistance (IRMA) Program is a partnership between DIAND and Government of the Northwest Territories – Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED). It was developed to strengthen the ability of Aboriginal communities in unsettled claim areas of the NWT to participate in land and resource management activities affecting surrounding their land use areas.

In particular, IRMA supports First Nation and Métis groups to participate in consultations associated with regulatory processes, environmental assessments, and resource management policy and legislation, and assists in establishing and retaining capacity in communities.



## Protected Areas Strategy

The Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy (NWT-PAS) provides a valuable community-based tool for advancing culturally and ecologically significant areas to protected status within the complex NWT environmental management framework. The two goals of the NWT-PAS are to protect special natural and cultural areas, and to protect core representative areas within each eco-region. The NWT-PAS process uses the best available knowledge to identify areas of interest, evaluate the cultural, ecological and non-renewable resources, and then designate protected areas.

The NWT-PAS is a partnership of communities, regional organizations, land claim bodies, industry, environmental organizations and governments. The NWT-PAS is jointly funded and delivered by the Government of the Northwest Territories and DIAND, which together make up the NWT Protected Areas Strategy Secretariat.

The Secretariat provides coordination, financial, technical and administrative support to communities and regional organizations wishing to engage in the NWT-PAS process.



Under the MVRMA, the Minister of DIAND is responsible for developing the process and terms of reference for the audit, in consultation with Aboriginal governments and the Government of the NWT, and for appointing the auditor. DIAND is conducting this work in partnership with the NWT CIMP Working Group. EPPS members provide coordination, facilitation, and technical assistance to the NWT CIMP Working Group and other DIAND staff in developing and implementing the audit process and terms of reference.

The first environmental audit will be initiated in 2004, and will cover the entire NWT.

For more information, please visit the website [www.nwtcimp.ca](http://www.nwtcimp.ca), refer to the brochure *Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program – CIMP and Audit*, or contact the NWT CIMP Coordinators at (867) 669-2590 or [cimp@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:cimp@inac-ainc.gc.ca).

## Regional Land Use Planning Program

Regional Land Use Plans (LUPs) are community-based tools used to assist decision-makers in facilitating ecological protection, sustainable communities, and responsible economic development within a sound environmental management framework. They also help in the identification and implementation of the protected areas and are the first step in ensuring projects conform with the terms of their environmental assessments.

E&C assists and advises the boards that have emerged from land claims and the MVRMA in developing regional land use plans. The Environmental Policy and Planning Section coordinates DIAND's input to the preparation of LUPs and works closely with the planning board, counterparts at DIAND's headquarters, and other federal and territorial agencies in the course of plan preparation, approval and implementation.

For more information please contact the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Planning Coordinator at (867) 669-2596.

members provide coordination and technical assistance to the NWT CIMP working group and NWT CIMP projects.

For more information, please visit the website [www.nwtcimp.ca](http://www.nwtcimp.ca), refer to the brochure *Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program – CIMP and Audit*, or contact the NWT CIMP Coordinators at (867) 669-2590 or [cimp@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:cimp@inac-ainc.gc.ca).

## NWT Environmental Audit

The Gwich'in and Sahtu Land Claim Agreements, the Tlcho Agreement, and Part 6 of the MVRMA require an environmental audit at least once every five years to be conducted by an independent person or body.

This independent environmental audit will evaluate and review the:

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

## NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program

The NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) will look at the cumulative effects of land and water uses, including deposits of waste, on the environment. The NWT CIMP will encourage community-based monitoring to fill the gaps in current monitoring activities, provide coordinated reporting on the state of the NWT environment, and promote regional and community capacity-building. These activities will incorporate both scientific and traditional knowledge and will consider both the human and biophysical environments.

The monitoring program is a requirement of the Gwich'in and Sahtu Land Claim Agreements, the Tlcho Agreement and Part 6 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Monitoring will take place throughout the entire NWT and full implementation is expected to begin in 2004.

A working group which includes representatives of Aboriginal, territorial and federal governments, as well as observers from other organizations, has been designing the program since early 1999. EPPS



## Environment and Conservation Division

### Introduction

The Environment and Conservation Division of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), NWT Region, promotes environmental protection and ecological sustainability. The division's staff implements innovative approaches for environmental management and planning, while maintaining and strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal people and northerners.

The mandate of Environment and Conservation (E&C) is to provide programs and services that support a made-in-the-North model for environmental stewardship.

### The division is responsible for a variety of program areas:

- Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Agreements
- Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Strategy and Framework
- NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program
- NWT Environmental Audit
- Regional Land Use Planning
- NWT Protected Areas Strategy
- Interim Resource Management Assistance

### Environment and Conservation is divided into two sections:

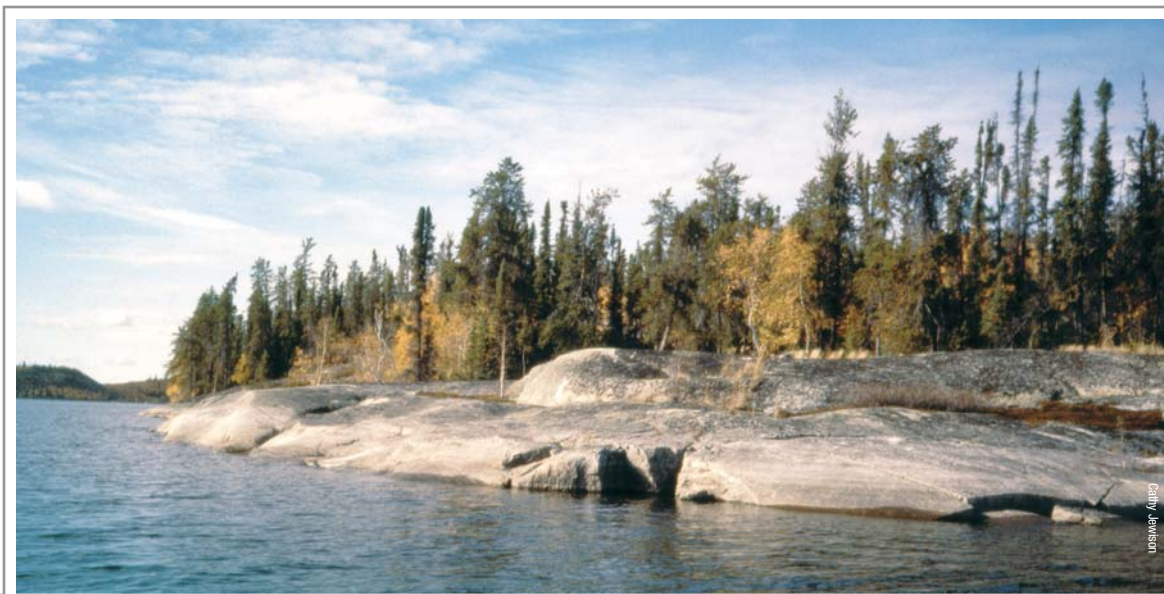
- The Environmental Assessment and Agreements Section (EAAS), which is responsible for coordinating federal participation in environmental assessments and managing environmental agreements, as well as related program areas such as environmental assessment guidelines, inter-agency coordination, traditional knowledge in environmental assessment, and socio-economic impact assessment.
- The Environmental Policy and Planning Section (EPPS), which is responsible for the review of regional land use plans, the NWT Protected Areas Strategy, the Interim Resource Management Assistance program, the Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Strategy and Framework, the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, and Environmental Audit program areas.

## Environmental Assessment

An environmental assessment (EA) is a powerful tool that ensures the protection of the environment from significant adverse effects of development, as well as the protection of the social, cultural and economic well-being of residents and communities. EAs are intended to assess the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of a development before the project starts, and to determine if the negative impacts can be adequately mitigated. If the project goes ahead, information gathered through the environmental assessment can guide changes to the project's design, so that there is the least possible negative impact on the environment and the people of the NWT.

E&C's Environmental Assessment and Agreements Section (EAAS) is responsible for implementing the duties of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*. DIAND is often the lead responsible authority in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. If so, the EAAS would coordinate DIAND participation in this process as well.

The section's role in environmental assessment consists of coordinating the input of all DIAND divisions into the EA process. The section works closely with



other federal and territorial departments in doing so. This information assists the regulatory boards in making their recommendations on the proposed development project. The EAAS also assists in developing the DIAND Minister's response to board recommendations. Staff offer expert advice to various boards, Aboriginal governments, the private sector and the public relating to policies, regulations and resource development in the North. The EAAS section aims to ensure high-quality environmental assessments that contribute to informed decision-making with respect to economic development in the NWT.

During the EA process, the section consults with Justice Canada and Aboriginal organizations, as required. The section contributes to the Crown's fiduciary obligations and responsibilities for consultation in the EA process.

Examples of environmental assessments the EAAS has worked on include:

- DeBeers Canada Mining Corporation's Snap Lake Project
- Commander Resources Diamond Exploration Program
- Northrock Resources Ltd. Summit Creek Exploratory Oil and Gas Drilling Project
- Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. Project

## Environmental Agreements

Environmental agreements are legally binding, multi-party contracts that establish the roles of the developer, DIAND, other levels of government, Aboriginal organizations and affected parties during the various phases of a project. These agreements ensure that the environmental monitoring regime and mitigation measures for individual projects are implemented to prevent adverse environmental effects.

The Environmental Assessment and Agreements Section provides support services to the parties to the environmental agreements, works closely with the independent monitoring agencies and participates in the negotiation of amendments to the environmental agreements. The EAAS provides both a coordination and advisory role with respect to federal government obligations and responsibilities related to the agreements and inter-agency working committees.

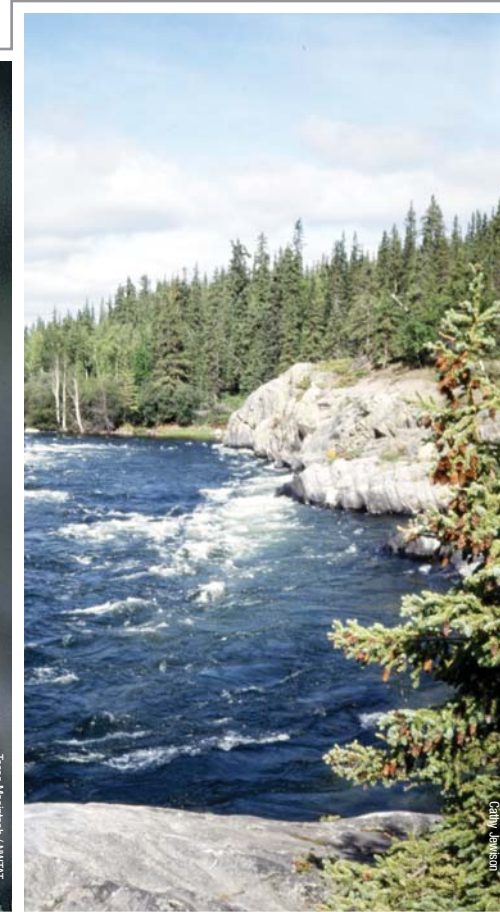
Environmental monitoring reports and programs, operational plans, security deposit requirements and progressive reclamation all require coordination by the EAAS. Securities for environmental liabilities of projects and abandonment and reclamation issues are coordinated by the section in consultation with other DIAND divisions, notably Water Resources, Lands and the District Offices. Security liabilities are identified in consultation with DIAND Headquarters, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, the developer, and other parties as required, and are consistent with the *Mine Site Reclamation Policy for the Northwest Territories*.

## NWT Cumulative Effects Assessment & Management Strategy & Framework

Following the comprehensive study for the Diavik Diamonds Project in 1999, the federal Ministers of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Environment Canada initiated a process to develop the NWT Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management (CEAM) Strategy and Framework. This initiative is intended to improve environmental management in the NWT by making recommendations to decision-makers concerning ecological protection, building sustainable communities, and facilitating responsible economic development within a sound environmental management framework.

The CEAM process is guided by a steering committee which includes representatives from Aboriginal, territorial and federal governments, industry, environmental non-governmental organizations, the federal and territorial governments and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. In partnership with Environment Canada, staff of Environment and Conservation's Environmental Policy and Planning Section provide coordination and technical assistance to the NWT CEAM Steering Committee and CEAM projects.

For more information, please visit the website [www.ceamf.ca](http://www.ceamf.ca), refer to the brochure *Assessing & Managing Cumulative Effects in the Northwest Territories, Canada*, or contact the NWT CEAM Secretariat at (867) 669-2590 or [ceam@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:ceam@inac-ainc.gc.ca).



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