

CEAM Vision Statement

The NWT CEAM Strategy and Framework will make recommendations to decision-makers to facilitate the protection of ecological integrity, the building of sustainable communities (including social and economic dimensions), and responsible economic development within a sound environmental management framework.

Guiding Principles for the CEAM Strategy and Framework:

- cannot supersede Aboriginal/inherent and treaty rights, land claims and self-government agreements, or legislation;
- build on existing structures, policies, legislation, initiatives and tools;
- consultation, communication and education, and the effective management of resources through partnerships;
- decision-making to take into account environmental, societal, and economic considerations; and
- respect and apply both western science and traditional knowledge, as well as the "precautionary principle" and an adaptive management approach.

Further information on the NWT CEAM Strategy and Framework can be obtained from the CEAM Secretariat:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
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March 2003



Steering Committee Organizations involved in development of the NWT CEAM Strategy and Framework

- Akaitcho Territory Government
- Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee
- Dogrib Treaty 11 Council
- Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- NWT Environmental Non-government Organizations
- NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers/ Canadian Energy Pipeline Association
- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
- Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, GNWT
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Environment Canada

Observers

- Government of Nunavut
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- Kivalliq Inuit Association

The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated has received all the information.

The work of the Steering Committee is supported by a Secretariat (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment Canada), Terriplan Consultants, and the Canadian Institute of Resources Law.



Photo Courtesy: Doug Halliwell



Assessing & Managing Cumulative Effects in the Northwest Territories, Canada



The Northwest Territories (NWT) is undergoing economic, social, and cultural change. A large part of this change is a result of a resurgence in resource exploration and development in the territory.

Most new development proposals must undergo an environmental review and regulatory process. One of the greatest challenges for project proponents and regulatory agencies is to determine the cumulative effects of a particular project, when added to those from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future development activities in the area, including effects that may be the result of the actions of other parties. Under current legislation, that assessment is made on a project-specific basis.

In 1999, the Comprehensive Study Report for the Diavik Diamonds Project noted the need for a regional Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management (CEAM) Framework for the Slave Geological Province.



Area covered by the CEAM Strategy and Framework for the Northwest Territories.

Soon after, the federal Ministers of the Environment and Indian and Northern Affairs made a commitment to develop a CEAM Framework for the Northwest Territories, as well as Action Plans for the Slave Geological Province and the Deh Cho region.

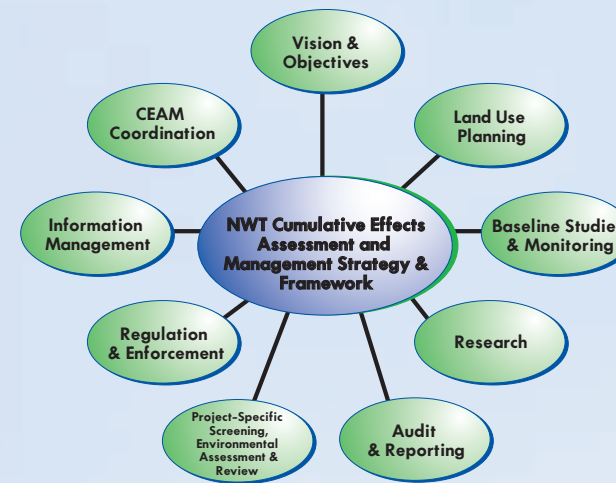
In December 1999, following a multi-stakeholder workshop, a Steering Committee consisting of representatives of Aboriginal organizations, industry, co-management boards, federal and territorial governments, and environmental non-government organizations began the development of the Strategy, Framework, and Action Plans.

The Steering Committee followed a five-step Strategy for Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management (CEAM) in the NWT:

1. Development of an "ideal" CEAM Framework;
2. Description of the current situation in the NWT;
3. Identification of linkages & gaps;
4. Identification of responsible parties; and
5. Provisions of advice and encouragement regarding a blueprint for filling the gaps, building linkages, and integrating current processes.

The "Blueprint for Implementing the CEAM Strategy and Framework in the NWT and its Regions" contains recommendations to decision-makers addressing each of the Framework components, Regional Plans of Action, traditional knowledge, and community capacity-building. Implementation can only be achieved through a variety of partnerships, including some that may not yet be in place. The contribution of each partner is vital to the success of this initiative.

NWT CEAM Framework



1. Vision and Objectives:

Decisions about development, cumulative effects, and environmental management must reflect a broad vision and set of objectives through the participation of NWT residents, organizations, and governments in political, policy, and planning processes.

2. Land Use Planning:

Strategies and actions must be established for the orderly development of land uses. Land use plans integrate social, cultural, and economic values, and set the context for decision-making.

3. Baseline Studies and Monitoring:

Information must be collected and analyzed to establish historic or current ('baseline') conditions and to establish trends.

4. Research:

A specialized knowledge base must be developed to support decision-making.

5. Audit and Reporting:

A periodic review of environmental trends and the effectiveness of environmental management is required. This information must be widely reported.

6. Project-specific Screening, Environmental Assessment, and Review:

These are conducted as part of the processes established by applicable legislation. Where a potential for cumulative effects is identified during the screening process, referral for more detailed environmental assessment and review may occur.

7. Regulation and Enforcement:

Enforcement of regulatory requirements or conditions of approval is one tool available for the management of cumulative effects. Regulation involves a broad spectrum of activities, including rights issuance, land use permitting, water licensing, and harvest quotas.

8. Information Management:

The collection, processing, storage, and sharing of information, including traditional knowledge, must be effectively managed. Information must be available to a variety of users, including communities, project proponents, regulators, and non-government organizations.

9. CEAM Coordination:

Implementation of the Strategy and Framework, and Regional Plans of Action is occurring in Partnership with stakeholders.

