Tools for Social, Cultural and Economic Cumulative Effects Assessment in the NWT and Nunavut, Canada

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International Association for Impact Assessment
Assessing & Managing Cumulative Effects - Calgary, Alberta
November 6, 2008

Presentation Overview

- NWT & Nunavut - Context
- Challenges
- CEAM/ESF Framework (NWT)
- Tools - Project-Specific / Regional
- Where do We Go From Here?
Nunavut

- NLCA 1993
- 2 million km², 1/5 of Canada's land surface
- 3 time zones
- 30,000 people (over 80% Inuit)
- 27 communities, most of them accessible only by air
- Mixed economy
- Historical activity
- Precious metals, uranium, diamonds, base metals
- Future oil and gas potential
Northwest Territories

- 4 settled claims, 3 others in negotiations
- 1.35 million km²
- 42,600 people (51% Aboriginal)
- 31 communities, some accessible only by air, winter road
- Historical activity
- Oil & gas, mining

Challenges (1)

- Evolving regimes - integrated management - land claims
- Devolution
- Unsettled claims
- Balancing economic development / traditional lifestyles
- Capacity - consultation and participation
- No mechanisms - ‘enforcement’ of mitigation for SCE effects
- Traditional Knowledge /Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
- Holistic/integrated view of environment
**Challenges (2)**

- Cause and effect
- Multiple stressors
- Thresholds / significance
- Baseline/monitoring information
- ‘Culture shock’

**Drivers / Nature of Change Over Time**

- Change is not new; development pressures are
  - 1800s - Northwest Passage, whaling, fur trade
  - Missions, residential schools
  - 1930s - air travel, relocation to communities, mineral development
  - 1950s - DEW line
  - 1970s/80s - Politicization, oil and gas
  - 1990s -
    - Internet
    - Climate change
    - Transportation/Community development
    - Contaminants
    - Resource development
    - Transboundary concerns (e.g. Alberta oilsands)
Mechanisms for SCE CEA & Mgmt

- Both NWT and Nunavut have mechanisms for social, cultural and economic CEA:
  - Land claims
  - Legislation
  - Guidance
  - Best practices
- Project-specific and regional

CEAM / ESF Framework - NWT

- Inter-related plans, programs & processes to set the context for responsible economic development
- [www.ceamf.ca](http://www.ceamf.ca)
**Land Use and Conservation Planning**

- Protect areas of significance - including traditional uses, cultural or spiritual value
- NWT Protected Areas Strategy
- NWT and Nunavut land use planning processes, community conservation plans
- Upper Thelon Land & Resource Mgmt Plan

**Monitoring & Research**

- Project-specific monitoring
- NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program
- Nunavut General Monitoring Plan
- Questions, indicators, gaps
- Capacity building, participation
- ‘Natural capital’ - e.g., BQCMB economic valuation & socio-cultural perspectives caribou harvest
Environmental Assessment

- **Nunavut:**
  - NLCA - provisions for consideration of CE
  - NPC Cumulative Impact Management Framework
  - Inuit Impact & Benefit Agreements
  - Socio-Economic Monitoring Committees

- **NWT:**
  - SEIA Guidelines, including CEA
  - Guidelines for Incorporating TK in EA
  - Socio-Economic Agreements / Impact Benefit Agreements
  - ‘Communities and Diamonds’
  - MGP Socio-Economic Impact Fund
  - MVEIRB recommendations / Minister’s decisions
  - potential significant cumulative cultural effects of uranium exploration
  - Regional CEA - Drybones & Wool Bays

Audit / Reporting, Information Management & Sharing

- **NWT:**
  - NWT Environmental Audit / Status of the Environment - 2005
  - Communities and Diamonds
  - Proposed NWT Monitoring Portal

- **Nunavut:**
  - Nunavut General Monitoring Plan (including IMS component)
Where Do We Go From Here?

- Fully implement /strengthen integrated management systems
  - e.g. legislation, complete land use plans
  - enhanced monitoring, research, information sharing,
- Capacity development, full and informed participation
- Regional SEA/CEA
- Project-specific socio-economic CEA&M approaches
- Adaptive management
- Pan-northern and circumpolar initiatives