



AHIAKMI MUNARIQATIGIIKTUT KATIMAYIIT
ᐃᕏᐃᐃᕐᕐ ᐃᐅᓕᑦᕏᕐᑎᕐᑎᕐᕐᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᑎᕏᕏᐃᕐᕐᑦᑦ
AHLAK AREA CO-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

01 May 2018

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
3rd Floor Allavik Building
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Email: tsataa@nwmb.com

Pertaining to NWMB's Regular Meeting No. RM 002-2018: Final Draft Management Plan for the Ahlak Migratory Bird Sanctuary for Consideration by the NWMB for Approval

The Ahlak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary, located between Umingmaktok, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, was created in 1961. Through the [Nunavut Agreement](#), an *Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area (IIBA)* was signed by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the three Regional Inuit Associations (Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Kivalliq Inuit Association and Qikiqtani Inuit Association) and the federal Minister of the Environment, Environment and Climate Change Canada (signed first in 2006 and renegotiated in 2016). This *IIBA* created co-management committees for these protected areas in Nunavut (*IIBA Article 3*).

The Ahlak Migratory Bird Sanctuary is co-managed by Inuit (from Umingmaktok, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven) and the Canadian Wildlife Service (a part of Environment and Climate Change Canada) through the Ahlak Area Co-Management Committee.

Part of the mandate of the Ahlak Area Co-Management Committee is to develop a Management Plan for the Ahlak Migratory Bird Sanctuary (*IIBA* s. 3.2.3(b) and s. 3.5). The Ahlak Area Co-Management Committee completed a draft Management Plan and consulted with the associated communities and other interested parties on the draft (*IIBA* s. 3.5).

As per the *IIBA*,

- 3.6.1 The ACMCs [Area Co-Management Committees] shall recommend completed Management Plans to the NWMB [Nunavut Wildlife Management Board] for approval in accordance with sections 5.2.34(c) and 5.3.16 of the *NLCA* [Nunavut Agreement].
- 3.6.3 If, in accordance with the decision-making process set forth in subsection 5.2.34(c) and sections 5.3.17 through 5.3.23 of the *NLCA*, the NWMB or the Minister rejects, in whole or part, a completed Management Plan and the Plan is returned to an ACMC for reconsideration, the relevant ACMC shall re-consider the Plan and re-submit it to the NWMB.

The Ahiak Area Co-Management committee hereby recommends to the NWMB for approval the attached Final Draft Management Plan for the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary, in accordance with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision-making role for Conservation Area management plans.

Sincerely,



Kitty Taipagak
Chair



Jennie Rausch
Vice-chair

Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee for the
Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Attachments:

1. Document "Management Plan for the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary: Final Draft for NWMB Approval"
2. Summary presentation of the "Management Plan for the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary: Final Draft for NWMB Approval"
3. Copy of the "*2016 to 2023 Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area*"

cc. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated: Qilak Kusugak and Pacome Lloyd
Kitikmeot Inuit Association: Paul Emingak and Fred Pedersen

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Area Comanagement Committees (ACMCs)

- ᓄᓕᐅᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ:
 - ᓐᓄᐅᓕᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᐃᐅᓕᑎᓄᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᑎᓐᓄᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ
 - ᓐᓄᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ
 - ᑎᓐᓄᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ
- Responsible for:
 - Day to day management of the protected area
 - Reviewing permit applications
 - Writing a management plan for the protected area



ᐃᐅᓕᑎᐱᐅᓐᓄᓐ ᓄᓕᐅᓐ ᓂᑎᓕᓄᓕᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐ (2012)
Ahiak ACMC in a cabin in the Ahiak MBS (2012)

Management Plans: Steps

Management Plans: Steps

Management Plans: Steps

Step 1
Collect Information



Step 2
Articulate Vision, Goals, and Objectives



Step 3
Draft the Management Plan



Step 4
Community Meetings about the draft Management Plan



Step 5
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and federal Minister of the Environment Approvals

Where we are

Implement the Management Plan



Step 1
Collect Information

Step 2
Articulate Vision, Goals, and Objectives

Step 3
Draft the Management Plan

Step 4
Community Meetings about the draft Management Plan

Step 5
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and federal Minister of the Environment Approvals

Implement the Management Plan

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MANAGEMENT PLAN

PREPARATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

ወጋወጋ ልማት ለምርጫ ለምርጫ ለምርጫ ለምርጫ አካባቢ ልማት

Outline of the content of the Management Plan

- ልማት ልማት ለምርጫ ለምርጫ ለምርጫ ለምርጫ
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- ልማት ለምርጫ ለምርጫ ለምርጫ ለምርጫ
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Outline of the content of the Management Plan

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ስልጠና ስልጠና ስልጠና ስልጠና
- Management Approaches – what we will do to achieve the goals and objectives
- Authorized Activities and Access – what activities require a permit, who requires a permit
- Site designation: currently a Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- Management Plan implementation and collaboration



ᐅᓂᑲᑦᑎᐱᑦᑎᓂᑦ: ᑦᑲᓂᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᓂᐅᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ

Description: *Historical Background*

- ᑦᑲᓂᑦ ᑲᑦᑎᐱᓂᐅᓂᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᓂᐅᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᐅᓂᑲᑦᑎᐱᓂᑦ, ᐱᓂᓂᓂᑦ, ᓂᐅᐱᓂᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᓂᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ/ᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ
 - ᑦᑲᓂᑦ ᑲᓂᐱᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑎᑎᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ 1938-ᓂᑦᑲᑦ
 - 90% ᓂᑲᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᓂᓂᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᓂᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ/ᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᓂᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ
- ᑲᓂᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᓂᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᓂᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᓂᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (ᑲᓂᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᓂᓂᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ 62,000-ᓂᑦ ᑲᓂᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᓂᓂᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ).

- Originally created to protect nesting & breeding grounds of Ross's Geese
 - The first colony was documented in 1938
 - 90% of the world's population of Ross's Goose
- Currently the largest Protected Area in Canada of any type (more than 62,000 square kilometres)



▷σ^bβ^c∩◁∏^c: ∂^α∫^c ∫▷^ασ

⁴β∂Δ^c∫^cσ^α∏^c

Description: *Landscape*

- ⁴∏∏^c∫^cβ▷∂◁^α∏^c∂^α ∂^c∩^b∂^c ∂^αΔ^c
- ∆^c⁴β^c⁴Δ▷^c ∏^c∏▷σ◁∂^α∂^c∫^c∂^ασ^b
∆^c⁴β∂^αΔ^α∂^α∂^c∂^c∫^cσ^α∏^c∂^c ∂^α∂^c
⁴β∂Δ^c∫^c∂^c▷σ^α∏^cσ^b (⁴∏^c∫^c▷^αΔ^c,
▷^α⁴^c∂^α∂^cσ^α∏^cσ^b, ⁴∏∏◁^c⁴Δ^c∂^c)
- ◁∏∏^c∫^c∫^c∫^c∫^c∫^c∫^c ∫^c∫^c, ∫^c∫^c⁴Δ^c,
∂^α∂^cσ^α∏^c∂^c
- ∂^α⁴β^c∫^c∫^c ∏σ◁σ▷^c∂^cσ^b
Δ^c∫^c∂^α∂^c∫^c∂^cσ^b, ∏^c⁴^c∂^c∂^c∂^c,
Δ^c∫^c∂^c∂^c∂^c, ⁴∏^c⁴β^c∫^c∂^c ∂^c◁^c∂^c∫^cβ^c∏^c∂^c∂^c
- Low-lying terrain
- Typical post-glacial features (drumlins, outcrops, eskers)
- Numerous lakes, ponds, and rivers
- Areas of marshes, wet sedge meadows, grasslands, and heath tundra



CDJNLBDR, JGJNLBDR, ASBCDRLDR

Vision, Goals, and Objectives

CDJNLBDR

- Dsbbsjdc adbdjdc
 h>sdvbcdrslqsc -
 fbdcdrdvscrcnosc
 dlldj rfb
- Dccnlbdr
 h>sdvbcdrslqsc -
 dsrlqlsc

DRrcnsvjc jgslrc

- Dfbpnc adadlasc
 jgslbdr
 CDJNLBDR dlldj
 fbdvbc dvlldrdslqsc
 drpdlncdrdj
- rcldrdc 4 drcdrdvsc
 jgslrc dhdvbc
 nrvvbsvdc

DRrcnsvjc

- #### ASBCDRLDR
- adadladrdrdc fbdvbc
 lnlvbcdrslqsc
 drdj jgslbdr
 - 12-ylrc drcdvsc
 dsvbcdrslqsc
 dhdvbc
 nrvvbsvdc

Vision

- A description of what the protected area should be – where we are going and why
- Incorporates the protected area’s purpose – where we have been

Management Goals

- Statements that provide targets for how the vision will be met and maintained
- There are 4 management goals for Ahiak MBS

Management Objectives

- Provide direction on how to achieve each goal
- There are 12 management objectives for Ahiak MBS

Management Considerations

Management Considerations

- ጠቅላይ ልማት ሚኒስቴር ጠቅላይ ልማት ሚኒስቴር:
 - ከግብርና ሚኒስቴር ጋር ለማስተካከል ለሚገባው ስራ ላይ ማቀማመጥ
 - ለግብርና ሚኒስቴር ስራ ላይ ማቀማመጥ
 - ለግብርና ሚኒስቴር ስራ ላይ ማቀማመጥ
- ለግብርና ሚኒስቴር ስራ ላይ ማቀማመጥ

- MBS Designation:
 - Doesn't provide as much year-round protection for non-bird wildlife and cultural resources as designation as a national Wildlife Area would
 - Legislation less suited for co-management than Canada Wildlife Act (National Wildlife Area)
- People may not know that Ahiak MBS exists



◀▶ርክሆገር ልረጊኑዮጋጋብኑወር

Management Considerations

- ልገላላፍ ልገራኑዮጋጋጋዲፍሆር ልዲጋ ሆጋጋሆ ልዎሆጋ ልገላላፍ ልጋጋጋጋጋ
- ኑሶርጋጋጋጋጋጋ ልዎሆጋ:
 - ልኑሶጋጋጋጋጋ ልሶሶጋጋጋጋ ልጋጋጋጋጋ ልጋጋጋጋጋጋጋጋጋ
 - ልጋጋጋጋጋጋጋጋ ልጋጋጋጋጋጋጋጋ

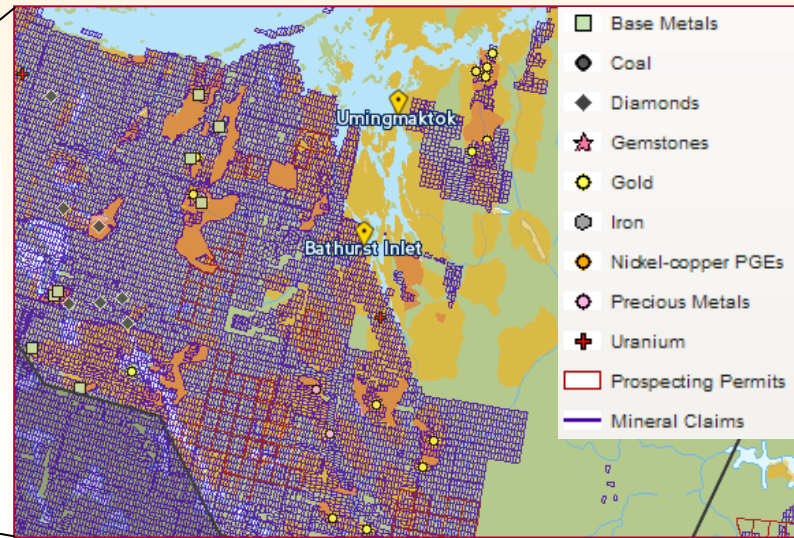
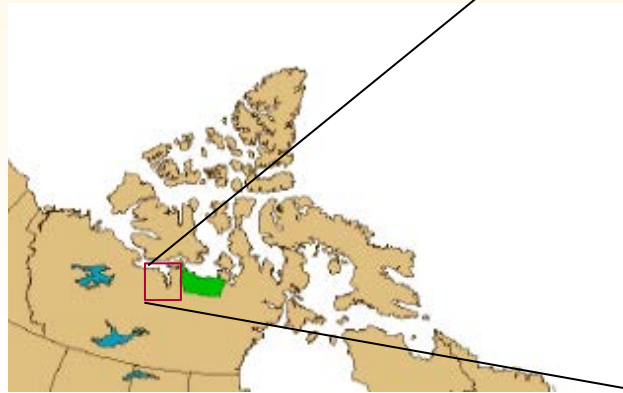
- Possible increased shipping and cruise ship traffic
 - Potential for:
 - Oil spills and other water quality issues
 - Disturbance to wildlife



Management Considerations

- **ᐅᐱᖃᓂᐸᖃᐃᐸᓇᓂᖃᓂᖅ**
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 ᐸᓂᐸᕐ ᓂᖃᖃᓂᖅᓂᖅ
 - ᐃᐱᖃᓂ ᓂᐸᓇᓂᖃᓂᖅ
 - ᓂᖃᖃᓂᖅᐸᖃᐃᓂᓂᖅᓂᖅ
 - ᐸᓂᐸᖃᓂᖅᐸᖃᐃᓂᓂᖅᓂᖅ ᓂᖃᖃᓂᖅᓂᖅ ᐸᓂᐸᓂᖅ
- **ᐸᐃᖅᓂᖅ,**
 ᐅᐱᖃᓂᐸᖃᐃᐸᓇᓂᖃᓂᖅ ᓂᓂᖅ
 ᐸᖃᐸᓂᓂᐸᓂᖅᓂᖅ ᐸᓂᐸᖃᓂᖅ
 ᓂᖃᐸᖃᓂᖅᐸᖃᐃᓂᖅᓂᖅ (ᓂᓂᐸᓇᓂᖅ
 ᐱᕕᓂᖃᓂᖅᓂᖅᓂᖅ)

- **Mining exploration and activity in the surrounding area outside the Ahiak boundary**
 - Possible water pollution
 - Possible noise pollution
 - Possible increased air traffic in the area
- **In the past there was pressure to allow mineral prospecting in the Ahiak MBS (there is none currently)**



ᐃᐅᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐ ᐃᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐ

Management Considerations

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- ᐃᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐ:
 - ᐃᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐ, ᐃᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐ ᐃᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐ
- ᐃᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐ ᐃᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐ ᐃᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐᕈᕐ
- Not all locations of cultural importance have been inventoried
- Historical sites have been abandoned and some have been vandalized
- Cabins:
 - Vandalism, use by visitors without proper permission
- Loss of traditional place names



Management Approaches

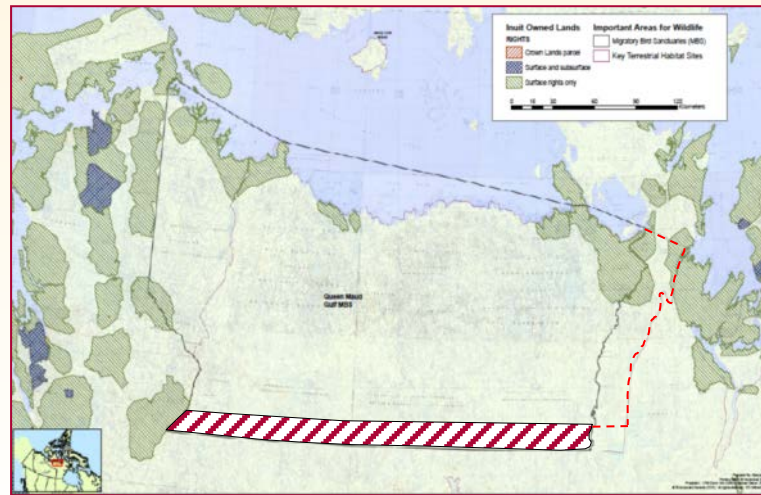
1. ዲፕሎማሲያዊ መንግሥት ለግብርና ጥበቃ ጥራት ማረጋገጥ

- ጥንታዊ ጥበቃ ስልጣን ለማስገባት ለሰነድ ማዘጋጀት ጥረት ማድረግ (ክልል ጥንታዊ ጥበቃ ደንብ ይኖር)
- አዲስ ስልጣን ለማስገባት ለሰነድ ማዘጋጀት ጥረት ማድረግ ለጥንታዊ ጥበቃ ስልጣን ማስገባት ለሰነድ ማዘጋጀት ጥረት ማድረግ



1. Habitat and Cultural Resources Management

- Change designation from MBS to NWA (this may involve a change in the boundary)
- Preservation of archeological sites, Inuit languages, and Inuit place names through inventory and mapping projects



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Management Approaches

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2. Monitoring, Research, and Wildlife Management

- Monitor activities through permits
- Research impacts of light geese and encourage harvest of snow geese
- Mitigate marine and air traffic impacts on wildlife
- Collect more info on marine species and water quality



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Authorized Activities and Access

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- As per the Migratory Bird Regulations, people who do require a permit to enter Ahiak MBS:
 - Any activity that may result in the destruction of bird habitat within Ahiak MBS requires a permit.



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Permit Authorizations

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- Persons who require a permit to enter Ahiak MBS can apply for a permit from the Canadian Wildlife Service
- The Ahiak ACMC reviews all permit applications and provides recommendations to the Canadian Wildlife Service on whether the permit should be issued or not



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Protected when completed.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE – NORTHERN REGION

APPLICATION FOR A NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA PERMIT OR A MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY PERMIT

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Site Designation

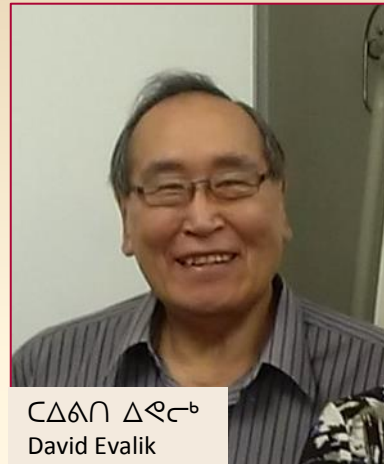
- ርዕሰ ልማት ስራዎች ለማድረግ የሚያስፈልጉትን ሁኔታዎች ለማሟላት ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁኔታዎች ለማሟላት ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁኔታዎች ለማሟላት
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- This management plan discusses how the criteria for a National Wildlife Area are met by Ahiak
 - Talking about the site designation in the management plan begins the discussion for the future; no changes would be made without further consultation with communities



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Kitty Taipagak (Chairperson)



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David Evalik



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Simona Akkikungnaq



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Joseph Tikhak, Sr.



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Ben Putuguq

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Contact Information:
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c/o Vice-chairperson Jennie Rausch

jennie.rausch@canada.ca (867) 669-4709



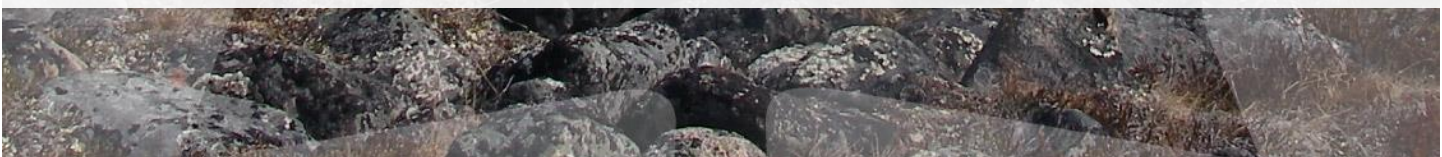
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Jennie Rausch (Vice-chair)



2018

AHIAK (QUEEN MAUD GULF) MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Final Draft for Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Approval



Acknowledgements:

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Copies of this Plan are available at the following addresses:

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Toll Free: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only)
Email: ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca

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Environment and Climate Change Canada Protected Areas website:
www.ec.gc.ca/ap-pa/

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About Environment and Climate Change Canada's Protected Areas and Management Plans

What are Environment and Climate Change Canada Protected Areas?

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are established under the authority of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and provide a refuge for migratory birds in the marine and terrestrial environment. Environment and Climate Change Canada establishes marine and terrestrial National Wildlife Areas for the purposes of conservation, research and interpretation. National Wildlife Areas are established to protect migratory birds, species at risk, and other wildlife and their habitats. National Wildlife Areas are established under the authority of the *Canada Wildlife Act* and are, first and foremost, places for wildlife.

What is the size of the Environment and Climate Change Canada Protected Areas Network?

The current Protected Areas Network consists of 55 National Wildlife Areas and 92 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries comprising more than 12 million hectares across Canada.

What is a management plan?

A management plan provides the framework in which management decisions are made. They are intended to be used by Environment and Climate Change Canada staff to guide decision-making, notably with respect to permitting. Management is undertaken in order to maintain the integrity of the protected area and to maintain the attributes for which the protected area was established. Environment and Climate Change Canada prepares a management plan for each protected area in consultation, or co-written with Indigenous people, and in consultation with the public and other stakeholders. In the Nunavut Settlement Area, the management plan is written in partnership with Nunavut Inuit.

A management plan specifies activities that are allowed and identifies other activities that may be undertaken under the authority of a permit. It may also describe the necessary improvements needed in the habitat, and specify where and when these improvements should be made. A management plan identifies Indigenous rights and allowable practices specified under land claims agreements. Further, measures carried out for the conservation of wildlife must not be inconsistent with any law respecting wildlife in the province or territory in which the protected area is situated.

What is Protected Area Management?

Management includes monitoring wildlife, maintaining and improving wildlife habitat, periodic inspections, enforcement of regulations, as well as the maintenance of facilities and infrastructure. Research is also an important activity in protected areas; hence, Environment and Climate Change Canada staff carries out or coordinates research in some sites.

The series

Environment and Climate Change Canada will write management plans for all of the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries administered by the Department. This template can also be used by other agencies and departments to write management plans for Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in other jurisdictions. These management plans will be initially reviewed 5 years after the approval of the first plan, and every 10 years thereafter.

To learn more

To learn more about Environment and Climate Change Canada's protected areas, please visit our website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/wildlife-habitat.html> or contact the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Established in 1961, the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS; Ahiak MBS) covers 62,920 square kilometers of contiguous land and sea making it the largest protected area in Canada. Located on Nunavut's central mainland coast, this expansive track of intact natural land is the only MBS within the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut and remains rich in both wildlife and cultural resources. The original purpose of the Ahiak MBS was to protect the largest variety of geese of any nesting area in North America. However, because of size and variety of habitats protected within, not only is the Ahiak MBS important for geese, it is important for many other species of migratory birds and supports important populations of other wildlife.

The Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary's lowlands are among the most extensive wetlands in the central Arctic providing essential habitat for globally significant populations (over 1% of global populations) of white geese. Additionally, the Ahiak MBS maintains important habitat for other species of migratory birds including various shorebirds, landbirds, waterbirds and other waterfowl. In 1982, Ahiak MBS was further recognized under the Ramsar Convention as the World's second largest Wetland of International Importance. It is also part of BirdLife International's Queen Maud Gulf Lowlands Important Bird Area (IBA) and is a Canadian Wildlife Service Key Migratory Bird Terrestrial Habitat Site and Important Area for Birds in Nunavut.

The landscape of the Ahiak MBS is a generally flat plain of post-glacial marine emergence, extending 135 km inland from the coast. The western upland, which rises from 30 to 60 m above sea level, is characterized by rock outcrops, drumlins and boulder fields. The slopes of hills show prominent old beach ridges. Relief on the central lowland, a vast expanse of tundra meadows and marshes, is provided by rock outcrops, drumlins, streams and shallow lakes. The eastern upland, ranging in elevation from 60 to 90 m above sea level, is characterized by abrupt hills, ridges and boulder fields.

Numerous lakes varying in size and shape occur on the hilly plains. Large rivers such as the Tingmeak, Ellice, Perry, Armark, Simpson and Kaleet Rivers, are a major component of the landscape of the Ahiak MBS and wildlife make use of the extensive, vegetation rich river valleys.

Importance of the Ahiak MBS

Over 90 percent of the world's population of Ross' Goose and 8 percent of the Canadian population of Snow Goose (which includes more than 30% of the Western Canadian Arctic Lesser Snow Goose population) nest within the sanctuary. This amounts to over 2 million white geese. As well, the area supports smaller populations of nesting and molting Canada Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, Brant and Tundra Swan. Most of the geese, which arrive in the area in late May, molt on the inland lakes and rivers, and leave the area in late August and early September.

Other common bird species which breed in the Sanctuary are Long-tailed Duck, King Eider, American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover; Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Glaucous Gull, Herring Gull, Arctic Tern, Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Common Redpoll, Lapland Longspur, Savannah Sparrow, Peregrine Falcon, Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl. Species that have been assessed as at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), or listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* that breed in and/or use the area are Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population), Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Grizzly Bear, Peregrine Falcon, Red Knot (*rufa* subspecies) and Wolverine.

All of the Ahiak MBS is used by Barren-ground Caribou (Beverly and Ahiak herds) as part of its traditional calving grounds. It also supports an estimated 6,000 Muskoxen and is believed to be the originating stock for most of present day mainland muskoxen. These ungulate herds combined with

vast open habitat accommodate substantial populations of predators. Wolves, grizzly bears, foxes, and wolverines are all regularly observed. Additionally, the 300 km of Arctic coastline provides an important marine component and numerous lakes, ponds, and rivers supply freshwater habitat for aquatic species. Several species of fish, in particular Arctic Char, are regularly harvested and known to be abundant. Offshore waters are used by Ringed Seals, the most abundant marine animal in the area.

The land within Ahlak MBS has been, and continues to be identified by Inuit as a place of cultural significance and the area is known to harbor numerous archaeological features. Inuit from Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Umingmaktok regularly journey to the MBS to harvest wildlife, birds, eggs, berries, and fish, mainly during the open water season.

Co-Management and Approval Process

As required by the Nunavut Agreement (NA) formerly known as the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, an *Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area (IIBA)* was first concluded in 2006 for a seven year term and renegotiated in 2016 for an additional seven years. Article 3 (Co-Management) of the *IIBA* states the following objectives:

- a) effective co-management of NWAs and MBSs by Inuit and the Canadian Wildlife Service in accordance with the NA, and particularly Articles 9 and 5 of the NA;
- b) decision-making for NWAs and MBSs that is substantially informed and influenced by *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit*; and
- c) local Inuit involvement in the planning and management of NWAs and MBSs.

The Ahlak Migratory Bird Sanctuary is managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service (a part of Environment and Climate Change Canada) in partnership with the Ahlak Area Co-Management Committee (Ahlak ACMC) of Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Umingmaktok, Nunavut. The Ahlak ACMC provides advice on all aspects of MBS management, including all significant policy decisions affecting the MBS. This includes advising on the management plan, permit applications, any research conducted within the MBS, the management and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat, and visitor use. The Ahlak ACMC has six members, three appointed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA) and three appointed by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Five of the members were appointed from the Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven Community Beneficiary Committees; the remaining member is a Canadian Wildlife Service employee.

As per the *IIBA*, the Ahlak ACMC prepared the Management Plan for Ahlak MBS in consultation with Inuit, the KitIA, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and local interested parties in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Umingmaktok. The ACMC shall recommend the completed Management Plan to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) for approval in accordance with s. 5.2.34(c) and s. 5.3.16 of the NA. As per s. 3.6.2 of the *IIBA*, the ACMC shall provide the KitIA and NTI with a copy of the completed Management Plan when it sends the plan to the NWMB. If, in accordance with the decision-making process set forth in the NA, if the NWMB or the Minister rejects, in whole or part, the completed Management Plan and the Plan is returned to the ACMC for reconsideration, the ACMC shall reconsider the Plan and re-submit it to the NWMB for final decision. Once the Minister has accepted the Management Plan, the Minister shall proceed forthwith to do all things necessary to implement the Plan.

For greater certainty, nothing in this management plan shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection provided for existing aboriginal or treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada by the recognition and affirmation of those rights in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES.....	x
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xi
1.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROTECTED AREA.....	1
1.1 Regional Context.....	8
1.1.1 Physiography.....	8
1.1.2 Geology.....	8
1.1.3 Topography.....	9
1.1.4 Soils.....	9
1.1.5 Hydrology	10
1.1.6 Climate and Weather Conditions	10
1.1.7 Ice Conditions.....	10
1.1.8 Climate Change.....	10
1.2 Historical Background.....	11
1.3 Land Ownership and Interests	11
1.3.1 Inuit Owned Lands	11
1.3.2 Subsurface Interests.....	12
1.4 Facilities and Infrastructure.....	12
2.0 ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	14
2.1 Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitats	14
2.2 Birds	14
2.2.1 Waterfowl and Geese	14
2.2.2 Waterbirds	15
2.2.3 Landbirds	15
2.2.4 Shorebirds	16
2.2.5 Raptors.....	16
2.3 Other Wildlife	16
2.3.1 Terrestrial Mammals	16
2.3.2 Marine Mammals	17
2.3.3 Fish.....	17
2.3.4 Reptiles and Amphibians	17
2.4 Vegetation	17
2.5 Species at Risk	18

2.5.1	Birds	19
2.5.2	Terrestrial and Marine Mammals	19
2.5.3	Fish.....	19
2.5.4	Reptiles and Amphibians	19
3.0	CULTURAL RESOURCES	20
3.1	Cultural Resources Inventory and Interpretative Materials Study	20
3.2	Inuit Land Use	21
3.2.1	Historical Inuit Land Use	21
3.2.2	Current Inuit Land Use	24
4.0	GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	26
4.1	Vision	26
4.2	Goals and Objectives.....	26
4.3	Evaluation.....	27
5.0	MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS.....	28
6.0	MANAGEMENT APPROACHES.....	33
6.1	Habitat and Cultural Resources Management	33
6.1.1	Change in designation of the protected area	33
6.1.2	Cultural and Heritage Resources	34
6.1.3	Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit.....	35
6.1.4	Place names	35
6.2	Monitoring, Research and Wildlife Management	35
6.2.1	Permitting.....	36
6.2.2	Overabundant Light Geese.....	37
6.2.3	Water Quality	37
6.2.4	Marine Traffic.....	37
6.2.5	Air Traffic	38
6.2.6	Fish.....	38
6.2.7	Species at Risk.....	39
6.2.8	Harvesting.....	39
6.2.9	Non-native and Invasive Species Control.....	39
6.3	Public Information Management	40
6.3.1	Public Awareness.....	40
6.3.2	Interpretive Materials.....	40
6.3.3	Tourism Activities	40
6.3.4	Student Initiatives	41
6.3.5	Camps	41
6.3.6	Inuit Owned Lands.....	41

- 6.3.7 Compliance Promotion..... 41
- 6.3.8 Regional Planning..... 42
- 7.0 AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES, PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES AND ACCESS..... 43**
 - 7.1 Authorizations 43
 - 7.1.1 Authorizations by Permit 43
 - 7.1.2 Nunavut Inuit Activities Authorized Without a Permit..... 44
 - 7.1.3 Nunavut Inuit Activities Authorized Only By Permit 44
 - 7.1.4 Non-Inuit Activities Authorized Without a Permit 45
 - 7.1.5 Non-Inuit Activities Authorized Only By Permit..... 45
 - 7.1.6 Activities Authorized by Permit on Inuit Owned Lands 45
 - 7.1.7 CWS Permit Application Process 45
 - 7.2 Other Federal and Territorial Authorizations and Permits..... 46
- 8.0 SITE DESIGNATION 47**
- 9.0 SECURITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY 48**
- 10.0 ENFORCEMENT 49**
- 11.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION 50**
 - 11.1 Management Plan Amendment 52
 - 11.2 Management Authorities 52
- 12.0 COLLABORATION 53**
 - 12.1 Inuit and Public Partners 53
 - 12.2 Government of Nunavut 53
- 13.0 LITERATURE CITED..... 54**
- APPENDICES 59**
- APPENDIX A: Legal Description..... 60**
- APPENDIX B: Land cover types identified within Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary 62**
- APPENDIX C: Criteria for designation as a National Wildlife Area and how Ahiak MBS meets these criteria 63**

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary Summary Information	2
Table 2: Physiographic and Ecological Classifications for Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary.....	8
Table 3: Facilities & Infrastructure	13
Table 4: Federally-listed and COSEWIC-assessed species at risk with potential to occur within the Ahiak MBS	18
Table 5: Management Goals and Objectives	26
Table 6: Summary of management considerations for the Ahiak MBS with accompanying goals/objectives and management approaches to address each consideration.....	30
Table 7: Summary of historical research and monitoring surveys within Ahiak MBS. The researcher last name and years for projects after 1984 are taken from the issued CWS permits.....	35
Table 8: Five-year implementation schedule for Management Plan action items for the Ahiak MBS ..	51
Table B - 1: Land cover types identified within the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary	62
Table C - 1: Criteria for designation as a National Wildlife Area and how Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary meets these criteria	63

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Map of Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary with some traditional place names	7
Figure 2: Map of Inuit-Owned Lands in and around the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) MBS	12
Figure 3: Map of Subsurface Interests around the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) MBS	12
Figure 4: Location of white geese colonies within Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary	15
Figure 5: Year-round importance of Ahiak MBS for Inuit harvesting and cultural practices	23
Figure 6: Inuit Land Use in the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) MBS (Ahiak ACMC 2012)	25
Figure 7: Schematic of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary permit application process	46
Figure A - 1: The legal land description for the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary in the <i>Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations</i> has a known coordinate typo that will be corrected. The incorrect (original) and corrected boundaries are shown on this map for display purposes.	60

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACMC	Area Co-Management Committee
IIBA	<i>Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area</i> also known as Conservation Areas Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CRIM	Community Resources Inventory and Interpretive Materials
CWA	<i>Canada Wildlife Act</i>
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
INAC	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
GN	Government of Nunavut
HTO	Hunters and Trappers Organisation
IBA	Important Bird Area
IHT	Inuit Heritage Trust
IOL	Inuit-Owned Lands
ILUOP	Inuit Land Use Occupancy Project
IQ	Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KitIA	Kitikmeot Inuit Association
MBCA	<i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>
MBS	Migratory Bird Sanctuary
NIRB	Nunavut Impact Review Board
NA	<i>Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada</i> , also known as Nunavut Agreement
NPC	Nunavut Planning Commission
NTI	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
NWA	National Wildlife Area
NWMB	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
NU	Nunavut
PA	Protected Area
RIA	Regional Inuit Association
SARA	<i>Species at Risk Act</i>

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROTECTED AREA

The Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary (AhiaK MBS) is located in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, approximately 90 kilometres (km) south of Cambridge Bay, 140 km southwest of Gjoa Haven and 110 km east of Umingmaktok (Table 1; Figure 1; Appendix A; Appendix Figure A - 1). The AhiaK MBS was established in 1961 to protect the nesting grounds of what was then, 90% of the world's population of Ross's Goose. It is protected area under the federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act* encompassing roughly 62,920 square kilometers (6,292,818 hectares) of tundra vegetation, coastal tidal flats, and open ocean (Arctic Ocean). It is approximately 225 km from west to east. The southern boundary is at 66° 20' North Latitude, just south of the Arctic Circle, and bounded to the north by the Queen Maud Gulf.

The MBS supports breeding habitat for globally significant populations (greater than 1%) of Ross's Goose, as well as important habitat for other species of migratory birds and mammals; including culturally significant species such as barren-ground caribou, muskox, wolverine and grizzly bear. Since its establishment, 12 of the species found within the AhiaK MBS have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as being at risk. To date, six of these have since been listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Major rivers within the MBS (named from west to east) include the Tingmeak River, Ellice River, Perry River, Simpson River and Kaleet River. The AhiaK MBS contains Inuit Owned Lands (IOL) and is co-managed by Inuit and the federal government through the AhiaK Area Co-Management Committee, a local committee established under the *Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area (2016; IIBA)*.

In 1982, the AhiaK MBS was declared a Wetland of International Importance under the *Ramsar Convention* (Ramsar 2001). The Queen Maud Gulf area has also been designated a Key Migratory Terrestrial Bird Habitat site in Nunavut (Latour *et al.* 2008), an Important Area for Birds in Nunavut (EC-CWS 2012), and was identified as a significant site under the International Biological Programme (Beckel 1975). The area is also recognized as an Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada 2017).

Table 1: Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary Summary Information

Protected Area Designation	Migratory Bird Sanctuary
Criteria for Protected Area Designation	<p>An area will be considered suitable for the establishment of a Migratory Bird Sanctuary if it meets one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It supports populations that are concentrated, for any part of the year, in order to meet one or several essential needs; as such, the area figures prominently in the requirement for the management of regional populations of migratory birds. 2. The area is vulnerable to area-specific threats. As a significant portion of the populations could be affected, threats may include intensive hunting, exploration, development, etc. Such key habitat sites could include areas for nesting, moulting, wintering or staging. 3. It supports populations that occupy habitats of restricted geographical area and that are vulnerable to human disturbance. Areas that support threatened, endangered or rare species are examples. 4. It regularly supports at least 1% of a population of one species or subspecies. In Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and Yukon (north of the Arctic Circle for Yukon), national population totals (when known) will be used as benchmarks. South of the Arctic Circle (including southern Yukon), the provincial or regional population status of featured species will be used.
Criteria Met by this Protected Area	1, 3, 4
Province or Territory	Nunavut
Settlement Region	Kitikmeot
Associated Communities	<p>Cambridge Bay (also known as Iqaluktuuttiaq) Gjoa Haven (also known as Uqsuqtuuq) Umingmaktok (formerly known as Bay Chimo)</p>
Latitude/Longitude	67°00' N / 101° 00' W (Approximate centre point)
Size	62,923 square kilometers (6,292,818 hectares or 24,295 square miles) which includes 6,553 square kilometers (655,334 hectares or 2,530 square miles) of marine habitat

Elevation (m)	Sea level to approximately 100 metres
Year Established (Gazetted)	1961
Protected Area (PA) Designation Criteria	<p><u>Historically</u>: Established to protect the nesting grounds of the Ross's Goose (90% of world population).</p> <p><u>Currently</u>: Area supports 90% of the world's population of Ross's Goose, 30% of western population of Lesser Snow Goose, and over 1 million nesting shorebirds during the breeding season.</p>
Protected Area Classification System	A (high) species or critical habitat conservation value
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Classification	<p>Category Ib: Wilderness Area</p> <p>Protect long-term ecological integrity of natural areas so that current and future generations can experience such areas. Other objectives of this category: enable indigenous communities to maintain traditional lifestyles, protect cultural and spiritual values, allow for low-impact educational and scientific research activities.</p>
Order in Council Number	P.C. 1961 – 1617 (SOR/74-514)
Directory of Federal Real Property (DFRP) Number	<p>DFRP#070941: Environment and Climate Change Canada, Stn # YCB AWOS/CARS, Property Number: 70941 (with federal building 070941): Occupied without an interest, no restrictions, primary use is Research and Technological Development, AWOS shelter (14 sq. m) built in 1994, located: 67.716°N, -104.150°W (near Ellice River).</p> <p>DFRP#029584: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Mulroak Island, Property Number: 29584; Crown Owned, no restrictions, primary use is Transportation Marine, no buildings, located: 67.955°N, -102.667°W (in the Queen Maud Gulf, north of Perry River).</p> <p>FCSI#00000331: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (Northern Affairs Program), Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory Site 331 - Regan Lake, contaminant details unknown, located: 67.817°N, -104.85°W (near Brichta Lake).</p>

Inuit Owned Lands (Parcel ID)	Parcel ID	Rights	Total Area (ha)
	BB-17	Surface	140,000
	BB-19	Surface	72,497
	CB-01	Surface	6,975
	CB-02	Surface	18,582
	CB-03	Surface	156
	CB-04	Surface	52,993
	CB-05	Surface	79,713
	CB-06	Surface	3,796
	CB-07	Surface	168
	CB-08	Surface	32,593
	CB-09	Surface	150,000
	CB-10	Surface	1,024
	CB-11	Surface	197
	CB-17	Surface	55,497
	GH-20	Surface	32,749
	GH-21	Surface	190,000
	GH-22	Surface	28,883
	GH-23	Surface	28,835
Additional Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key Migratory Bird Terrestrial Habitat Site (NU37) ▪ Ramsar Site No. 246 – Wetland of International Importance ▪ Important Bird Area in Canada (IBA) (NU009) ▪ International Biological Programme Site (Site 4-8) ▪ Important Areas for Birds in Nunavut (Site 30) ▪ Under consideration as a World Heritage Site 		

<p>Faunistic and Floristic Importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest protected area in Canada (and 22nd largest protected area in the world); covers over 6 million hectares of both marine and terrestrial habitat • World's second largest Ramsar site; among the most extensive wetlands in the mid-Arctic • Provides nesting and feeding grounds for the largest variety of geese in any single area in North America; including over 90% of the world population of Ross' Geese (<i>Anser rossii</i>) and more than 30% of the world population of Western Canadian Arctic, Lesser Snow Goose (<i>Anser c. caerulescens</i>) • One of the few nesting areas for both Atlantic Brant (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) and Pacific Brant (<i>B. b. nigricans</i>) • Important breeding habitat for an estimated 1 million shorebirds • Meets IBA criteria for <u>Globally Significant</u>: Congregatory Species, Waterfowl Concentrations, Wading Bird Concentrations; <u>Continentially Significant</u>: Congregatory Species; <u>Nationally Significant</u>: Restricted Range Species • The large undisturbed tract of land provides important habitat for wolves (<i>Canis lupus</i>) and Grizzly bears (<i>Ursus arctos</i>) • Originating stock for most of present day mainland muskoxen (<i>Ovibos moschatus</i>) including rare "white musk ox" • Encompasses calving grounds of the Beverly and Ahik barren-ground caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) herds • Covers over 95% of the Queen Maud Gulf Lowlands Ecoregion of Canada
<p>Invasive Species</p>	<p>None confirmed</p>

<p>Species at Risk</p>	<p>Listed under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA)</p> <p><u>Endangered:</u> Red Knot (rufa subspecies; <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)</p> <p><u>Special Concern:</u> Buff-breasted Sandpiper (<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>) Dolphin and Union Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>) Polar Bear (<i>Ursus maritimus</i>) Short-Eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)</p> <p>Assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)</p> <p><u>Threatened:</u> Barren-ground Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> barren-ground population)</p> <p><u>Special Concern:</u> Grizzly Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>) Harris' Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>) Red-necked Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>) Transverse Lady Beetle (<i>Coccinella transversoguttata</i>) Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>)</p>
<p>Management agency</p>	<p>Environment and Climate Change Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) in partnership with the Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee (Ahiak APMC)</p>
<p>Public access & use</p>	<p>Nunavut Inuit have a free and unrestricted right of access for the purpose of harvesting to all lands, waters and marine areas within the MBS (as set forth in Article 5 of the IIBA and subject to s. 5.7.18 of the Nunavut Agreement). Permits may be required for Inuit commercial activities. Non-Inuit may access the MBS for recreational or other purposes with appropriate permits as per the MBCA.</p>

1.1 Regional Context

1.1.1 Physiography

Aside from a few off-shore islands and a certain extent of coastal waters, the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary consists mainly of a single landmass. Massive rocks and Precambrian granitic bedrock form the Sanctuary's broad, sloping uplands which reach their peak elevation (approximately 100m) in the south, and subdued undulating plains near the coast overlain with glacial till, marine clays and silts. Much of the area has recently emerged from the sea and now part of the Coronation Gulf-Queen Maud Gulf drainage basin. The ground is underlain by continuous permafrost with active layers that are usually moist or wet throughout. Drumlins, outcrops, ridges, and eskers are all glacial features typically found along the coast and inland.

Queen Maud Gulf lowlands are part of the Back Lowland division of the Kazan Region (Table 2). This region occurs within the western portion of the Canadian Shield (Bostock 1970). The area is typical of the treeless shield. Numerous lakes and rivers, carve into the generally flat plain of the MBS, are evidence of past glacial recession. The coast is mantled by mud and silt of post-glacial marine overlap, whereas eskers are a typical inland feature (Bostock 1970).

Table 2: Physiographic and Ecological Classifications for Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Physiographic Region	Canadian Shield
Geological Province	Churchill Province
Topographic Region	Arctic
EcoZone	3 Southern Arctic
EcoRegion	39 Queen Maud Gulf Lowland
EcoProvince	3.2 Keewatin Lowlands
EcoDistrict (Land Resource Areas)	159 Brichta Lake 160 McNaughton Lake

1.1.2 Geology

Most of the MBS is underlain by folded, foliated Precambrian bedrock. The essentially uniform geomorphology of the lowlands is composed of highly metamorphic rocks of volcanic and sedimentary origin (Bird 1967). The area is scarred by Pleistocene glaciation. Till and ice contact materials such as boulder, sandy and gravelly landforms are extensive.

The coastal area is underlain by paragneisses which are intruded by monzonites, pegmatites, and large sills of a diabasic nature. The lower Simpson and Armark rock plains have rocks of massive igneous character; common types being anthrosites, diorites and gabbros. The MacAlpine Lake area is characterized by foliated and steeply dipping paragneisses and orthogneisses, which are intruded

by rocks of diabasic composition and altered amphibolites (Hanson *et al.* 1956, Bird 1967).

Substantial chalcopyrite and nickeliferous pyrrholite may be found in intermediate rocks throughout the area (Hanson *et al.* 1956). Numerous rusty zones of iron oxide, copper-bearing rocks, quartzite, and calc-silicate deposits are locally present (Hanson and Jones 1976).

Fossils found in the area consist of barnacles and pelecopod and gastropod shells (Craig 1961). The age of the rocks suggests that sedimentary rocks were deposited before or during the Metamorphic period and before the end of the Tectonic Cycle (Bird 1967).

1.1.3 Topography

Topographical features were formed during the last glacial period and post-glacial marine transgression. The area has a 'banded' topography of parallel ridges separated by roughly parallel lakes and river courses. Eskers, rock outcrops and drumlins provide relief on this relatively flat lowland region. The countless lakes, streams and rivers are interspersed with expanses of tundra meadows and wetlands (Ryder 1972). Heavy frost action is shown by widespread rock heaves, polygonal markings, solifluction effects and soil eruptions (Hanson *et al.* 1956).

The lowland elevations nowhere exceed 300m and generally consist of flat plains covered with marine and glacial drift (Bird 1967). Although limited in wetlands, eskers are widespread and numerous and whaleback outcrops occur sporadically. Continuous belts of drumlins, up to 30m high, occur throughout the interior. A prominent end-moraine ridge extends northeast from the Back River to MacAlpine Lake. Nelson Hill, rising to 240m is a prominent landmark northeast of MacAlpine Lake. These landmarks, as well as scars and frost cracks on polished bedrock outcroppings, are evidence of the north-northwesterly recession of the Keewatin ice sheet. The ice front apparently curved eastward toward Chantrey Inlet.

Inland, the ground rises gradually to a maximum of 245m high, north of MacAlpine Lake (Hanson *et al.* 1956). In the eastern part of the MBS, the Simpson and Armark plains slope gently and evenly to the north coast of the Queen Maud Gulf. This slope continues into the sea and creates an extremely shallow coastline. The coasts have glaciated exhumed surfaces forming rock plains close to sea level.

1.1.4 Soils

Thick deposits of marine silts and clay are a particularly significant component of the terrain in the region. This indicated that post-glacial marine invasion was extensive in the area. Sandy soils are commonly found further inland.

The dominantly cryic regosolic soils found in this area are characterized by an extremely shallow active layer. These soils are young and poorly weathered. Permafrost usually occurs within a depth of one meter (Clayton *et al.* 1977). Regosols exhibit a wide variety of textures, ranging from coarse glacial till and outwash to variable marine sediments. These soils show a cold soil climate and a high moisture regime; often becoming saturated for moderately long periods of time. These poorly drained soils result in a shallow surface peat cover (Tarnocai 1977).

1.1.5 Hydrology

The MBS is drained by many meandering rivers and streams which flow into the Queen Maud Gulf. Major rivers in the area include the Armark, Ellice, Kaleet, Karrak, Perry, Pitok, and Simpson rivers. The main axes of these rivers run roughly north-south and their upper courses flow through chains of small lakes. Many small rapids occur along the rivers, and braiding or deltaic deposition occurs at their mouths. Meander scrolls and scars mark alluvium-filled valleys in the lower reaches of the rivers (Hanson *et al.* 1956). Spring breakup results in flooding of these valleys. Most years, the breakup of major rivers is completed by early July.

The landscape is dotted with countless pools, ponds, shallow lakes and a few deep lakes. Water covers about 40% of the MBS's land surface area. Thaw lakes, developing from the melting of ground ice, are widely scattered on marine and alluvial silts of the coastal lowlands around the Queen Maud Gulf (Bird 1967). River and lake waters are turbid near the coast, clearing well inland where clayey soils give way to sandier soils and stretches of gravel and boulders.

1.1.6 Climate and Weather Conditions

Classified as having a low arctic ecoclimate, the mean annual temperature is approximately -11°C. The Sanctuary experiences short, cool summers, with mean local temperatures ranging from 4°C to 6°C. Winters are long and very cold, with local mean temperatures from -28°C in the northwest to -17.5°C in the southeast. First-year ice covers the gulf all year long, except for a short period during the summer months which causes low mean daily temperatures and high frequencies of low cloud and fog (Maxwell 1981). Onshore winds, bringing cold air from the still-frozen gulf, and continental air masses approaching from the south greatly influence the MBS's climate (Ryder 1967). Temperatures along the coastal parts of the Sanctuary are colder than inland parts. Generally, inland temperatures are about 2 °C higher than on the coast and can reach temperatures as high as 20 °C. Due to the flat topography and close proximity to the coast, high winds and fluctuations in weather are common. The climate can be extreme and snow is not unusual during any month of the year. Winds prevailing from the north, northeast and northwest, are averaged at 20 km per hour in the summer, but are frequently greater than 40 km per hour (Maxwell 1981). The mean annual precipitation ranges from 125-200 mm. The appearance of open water in the late summer and early fall helps moderate local climate and can create drizzly, foggy seasonal weather.

1.1.7 Ice Conditions

The Queen Maud Gulf is characterised by fast ice, where first-year ice predominates. Although no significant polynyas occur (Smith and Rigby 1981), the gulf develops shore leads and may become ice-free for a period of a few days to several weeks during the summer. Ice cover is more persistent in the eastern and northeastern parts of the gulf (Maxwell 1981).

Freeze-up usually starts in late September and is completed by November. Rivers and tributaries become almost completely ice bound during winter. Rivers flowing northward into the gulf are cleared of ice between July and August and cause some clearing of sea ice along the mainland.

1.1.8 Climate Change

Climate-induced changes in the Cambridge Bay area by 2100 are predicted to be extremely high. It is predicted that species will turn over 100% or more than 100% (turn over completely, then again; Environment and Climate Change Canada 2016a). This area is part of a band that stretches from the lower Victoria Island (Nunavut) down through the Kitikmeot region and across northern Quebec.

However, the Queen Maud Gulf area, in general, has a longer open-water season than other areas in the Canadian Arctic and therefore marine biodiversity of species which are either ice-dependent or ice-associated will likely be less vulnerable to predicted changes to sea ice.

1.2 Historical Background

Prompted by mineral exploration in the area, the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) was established in 1961 under the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* of 1917 to protect what were then the only known nesting grounds of Ross's Geese; as well as habitat for the largest variety of geese in any single area in North America. The Sanctuary pre-dates the *Canada Wildlife Act*, which has been used as Environment and Climate Change Canada's primary habitat conservation tool since 1973. Prior to the promulgation of the *Canada Wildlife Act*, the only regulatory habitat conservation tool available to the Government of Canada was the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*.

The designation of a Migratory Bird Sanctuary starts with the evaluation of an area against a set of criteria. If one or more of the requirements are met the area will be considered suitable for the establishment of a Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Government of Canada 2017a). Once a Migratory Bird Sanctuary is listed under the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations*, an amendment of the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* is required for the establishment of any boundary modifications made, or the cancellation of a sanctuary.

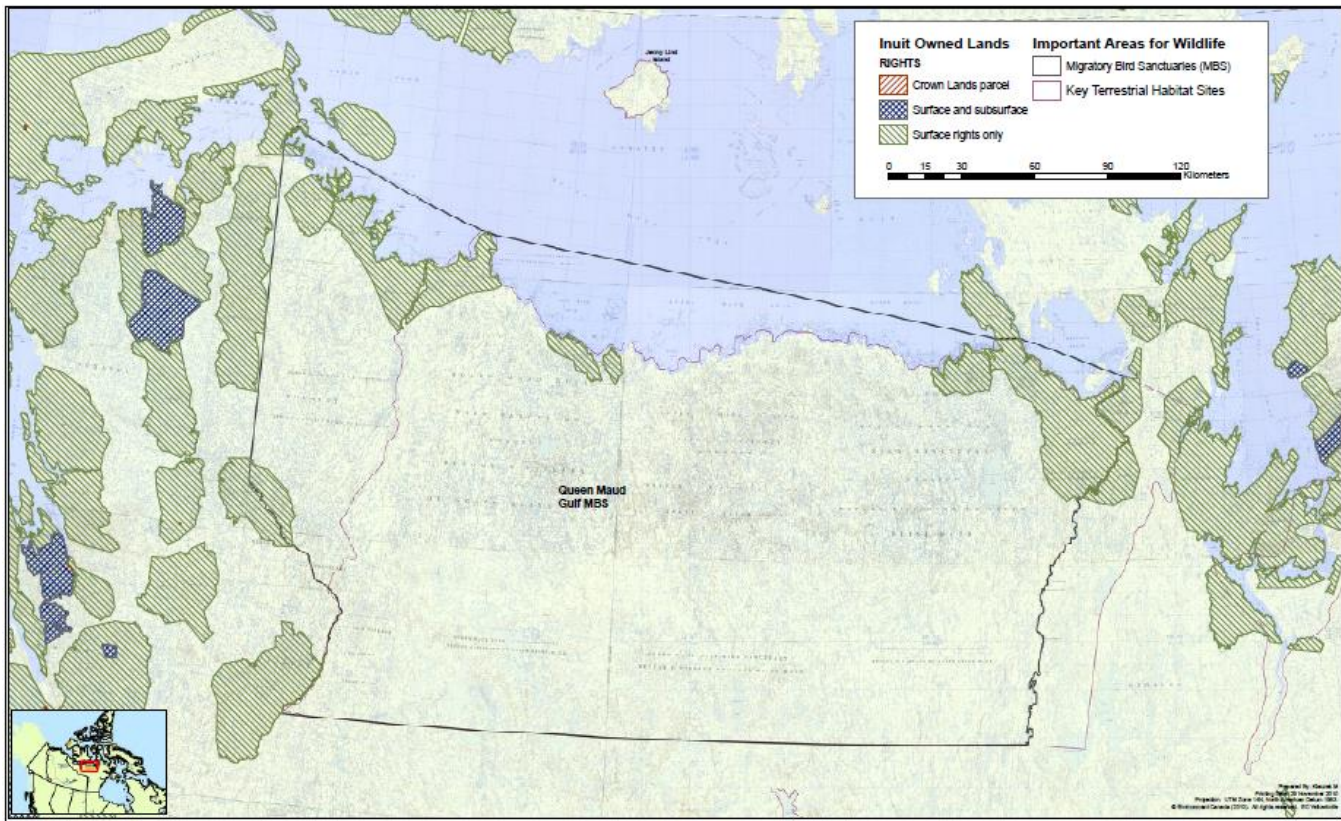
In addition to the designation as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary, in 1982 the Ahiaik MBS was also designated a "Wetland of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat", under the terms of the Ramsar Convention; making it the world's second largest Ramsar site (Ramsar 2001).

1.3 Land Ownership and Interests

The Ahiaik MBS occupies an area of coastland and low-lying inland terrain in the traditional use areas of Inuit who now live in Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven and also at Bathurst Inlet or Umingmaktok (Contentworks 2011). Most of the Sanctuary is crown land; however, under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement there are parcels of Inuit-owned land (IOL; surface rights) along the coasts in the extreme west and east of the sanctuary (Figure 2). The land surrounding the Ahiaik MBS is a mixture of crown land and IOL. Territorial Land Use Regulations apply to the federal Crown land.

1.3.1 Inuit Owned Lands

Eighteen parcels of Inuit Owned Lands (IOL) are located within the MBS (parcels BB-17, BB-19, CB-01 though CB-11, CB-17, GH-20 through GH-23). The Kitikmeot Inuit Association holds the surface rights to these parcels. There are other IOL (surface) parcels surrounding the MBS (Figure 2).



[CWS Headquarters is preparing a new map to be included here]

Figure 2: Map of Inuit-Owned Lands in and around the Ahik (Queen Maud Gulf) MBS

1.3.2 Subsurface Interests

Limited mining exploration has occurred within the Queen Maud Gulf region. Hanson and Jones (1976) reported occasional copper-bearing, pyrite-bearing and magnetite-bearing rocks interspersed throughout the area, and several small iron deposits occur along Sherman Inlet in the northeast part of the MBS. The area, which is described as having high mineral potential, was actively explored in the early 1970s. The Perry River Nickel Mines, Giant Mines, and Cominco had staked claims within the area (Allison 1977), but these claims expired in the 1980s. There are several mining projects in various stages outside boundary of Ahik MBS to the west, with the closest one being ~45 km from west of the western border (Hope Bay Project; Government of Nunavut 2016; Figure 3).

The Queen Maud Gulf lowlands do not appear to have substantial hydrocarbon reserves (J. Hamilton personal communication). The gulf is not considered to be a high priority basin for petroleum exploration (Fenco Consultants Ltd. and F.F. Slaney and Co. Ltd. 1978).

[map of subsurface interests around Ahik here]

Figure 3: Map of Subsurface Interests around the Ahik (Queen Maud Gulf) MBS

1.4 Facilities and Infrastructure

There are nine federal government structures within Ahik MBS (Table 3). In 1991, the Canadian Wildlife Service established the Karrak Lake Research Station. It is located on the largest island on

Karrak Lake and consists of 4 permanent cabins and 2 sheds. There is also a smaller cabin northwest of Karrak Lake on the North Karrak River that is occasionally used. Two out-camp cabins used to be located by goose colonies 10 and 46 (see Figure 4), but they were removed in 2015. The Karrak Lake Research Station also has an out-camp cabin at the Perry River used for staging during goose banding activities. The Karrak Lake Research Station is maintained and operated by Dr. Ray Alisauskas (Wildlife and Landscape Science Division, Science and Technology Branch, ECCC). Water Survey of Canada has a water gauge and cabin at the Ellice River as part of their water northern water quantity monitoring program. The station operates automatically but is serviced once or twice a year.

Table 3: Facilities & Infrastructure

Type (identifying name)	Condition	Approximate Size (feet)	When Built	Responsibility	Location
Building (Karrak Lake – main cabin)	Good	18' x 20'	1990s	ECCC	Island in the center of Karrak Lake
Building (Karrak Lake – food cabin)	Good	12' x 16'	1990s	ECCC	Island in the center of Karrak Lake
Building (Karrak Lake – equipment cabin)	Good	12' x 16'	1990s	ECCC	Island in the center of Karrak Lake
Building (Karrak Lake – staff cabin)	Good	12' x 16'	1990s	ECCC	Island in the center of Karrak Lake
Building (Karrak Lake – skidoo shed)	Good	5' x 10'	1990s	ECCC	Island in the center of Karrak Lake
Building (Karrak Lake – storage shed)	Good	10' x 10'	1990s	ECCC	Island in the center of Karrak Lake
Building (North Karrak River - F-14 cabin)	Good	12' x 16'	1990s	ECCC	North of Karrak Lake
Building (Perry River – goose banding cabin)	Good	12' x 16'	1964	ECCC	Near the mouth of the Perry River, east bank
Building (AWOS shelter; Water Survey of Canada gauge)	Good	10' x 12'	1970s	ECCC	Near the mouth of the Ellice River, west bank

In addition to the above federal structures, there are several Inuit personal cabins and Hunters and Trappers Organizations' cabins within Ahiak MBS that the Ahiak ACMC is compiling a list of.

2.0 ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

2.1 Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitats

The Ahiak MBS covers more than 95% of the Queen Maud Gulf Lowlands ecoregion. The Queen Maud Gulf Lowlands cover an area of over 6,000,000 ha. Approximately 40% of the Sanctuary's total surface area is wetlands (Bird Studies Canada, 2017).

Wetlands are a crucial component of terrestrial and aquatic habitats within the Ahiak MBS. They provide productive and important habitat for a number of species; in particular large populations of migratory geese. Habitats include marine and coastal wetlands: marine waters, rocky marine shores, estuarine waters, and intertidal mud, sand, and salt flats and marshes (Ramsar 2001). Inland wetland types include permanent rivers and streams, inland deltas, permanent freshwater lakes, permanent freshwater ponds, marshes and swamps, and peatlands.

The widespread, gently rolling Lowlands of the Ahiak MBS are drained by several rivers including, the Tingmeak River, Ellice River, Perry River, Amark River, Simpson River and Kaleet River, all of which flow north out of the interior into Queen Maud Gulf. Numerous streams, ponds and shallow basins (averaging less than 100m in depth) have established interspersed with expanses of lush, wet sedge meadows and marsh tundra. Dry upland habitats are typical along the coast and inland along glacial topographic features such as drumlins, outcrops and eskers. Upland habitats contain lichens, mosses, and vascular plants.

The Ahiak MBS is studded with many shallow lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Onshore water bodies occupy 18.6% of the total area within the Sanctuary. However, for approximately nine months of the year ice cover is complete, predominantly land fast ice, and many of the channels and straits are ice-choked through the summer (Parks Canada 1995). Offshore, coastal water occupy 10.3% of the total area within the Sanctuary and are speckled with islands, islets, passages and bays. McLoughlin Bay, Ogden Bay, Flagstaff Island, Perry Island, and Whitebear Point are notable features along the coast of the Sanctuary. The coastline is regular, with moderately high rolling headlands along the western coast with gently sloped beaches and sandy tidal flats occurring towards the east (Parks Canada 1995). Cliffs can reach up to 200m in height.

Land cover mapping of Ahiak MBS (Didiuk and Ferguson 2005) identified thirteen unique land cover types within the boundaries of the Ahiak MBS. These land cover types include three turbidity classes of onshore water bodies and 10 terrestrial land cover types (Appendix B; Appendix Table B - 1).

2.2 Birds

A checklist of the birds that can be found within the Ahiak MBS is available online at: [\[website address to be added here later\]](#).

2.2.1 Waterfowl and Geese

While Samuel Hearne was exploring the arctic coast of continental NT in the late 1700s he described a goose that is now known as the Ross's Goose. However, it wasn't until 1935 that Angus Gavin discovered the nesting grounds of this goose in the Perry River area. Stone corrals used to trap moulting geese were located throughout the area showing that Inuit knew of the goose colonies

long before the arrival of explorers and researchers.

When fur trading became important in the late 1920s, the Hudson's Bay Company set up trading posts at the mouths of several rivers flowing into the Queen Maud Gulf (Usher 1975). Angus Gavin was manager of the Perry River trading post when he discovered the Ross's Goose colony at Discovery Lake (Gavin 1947). In 1949, Hanson, Queneau and Scott explored the Perry River region and increased the number of known Ross's Goose colonies (Hanson *et al.* 1956). Subsequent reconnaissance waterfowl surveys revealed that the Queen Maud Gulf area supported a variety of widely dispersed goose species (Barry 1961).

Hundreds of thousands of waterfowl, notably Ross's, Brant, Greater White-fronted, Snow, Cackling and Canada geese, Tundra Swans, Common and King Eiders, and Long-tailed Ducks breed, moult, and stage in the Ahiak MBS. Approximately 60 goose colonies are scattered throughout the Lowlands which includes over 90% of the world's population of Ross's Goose and a significant proportion of the Midcontinent Population of Lesser Snow Geese population (Kerbes *et al.* 2014). There are at least two nesting groups of Canada goose, known as the tall grass prairie and short grass prairie populations (Ramsar 2001). The Ahiak MBS is one of the few nesting areas with both Atlantic and Pacific Brant geese (Ramsar 2001), and is also an important nesting area for Midcontinent Cackling Geese (Leafloor *et al.* 2018) and Midcontinent White-fronted Geese (Alisauskas *et al.* 2018a).

Globally significant (over 1%) populations of several other waterfowl species have also been documented. Surveys conducted in the coastal section, and up to 50 km inland in 1990 and 1991, revealed as much as 18% of the eastern Tundra Swan population (7% of the North American population); 14% of the mid-continent Greater White-fronted Goose population; approximately 5% of the Pacific Brant population; 10 to 12% of the Midcontinent Cackling Goose population; about 1% of the mid-continent Northern Pintail population; and 6% of the west/central North American King Eider population (Bird Studies Canada 2017). The highest recorded breeding densities of the North American King Eiders originate just south of the Ahiak MBS.

Geese arrive to the Ahiak MBS in late May and nesting typically begins within a week after arrival. The peak of hatch is in mid-July. Adults and goslings move to areas along the coast to feed during the post-hatching period. The geese depart from the MBS for their southward migration in late August after moulting is complete.

[goose figure here]

Figure 4: Location of white geese colonies within Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary

2.2.2 Waterbirds

Thousands of Waterbirds breed within the Sanctuary; particularly several species of loons (Pacific, Yellow-billed, and Red-throated) and over 2% of the global Sandhill Crane population (Bird Studies Canada 2017). Other common summer species include various gulls, terns, and jaegers.

2.2.3 Landbirds

Land cover includes many shrubs of low to medium height which provides ideal habitat for many passerines, especially songbirds. Ptarmigans and songbirds such as Lapland Longspur and Snow

Bunting are often observed nesting within the sanctuary.

2.2.4 Shorebirds

Abundant populations of shorebird species may harbour within the Ahiak MBS such as Red-necked Phalarope, Dunlin, and White-rumped Sandpiper. The wet sedge meadow, delta (active deposits), and upland tundra (both moss-lichen tundra and lichen-heath tundra) landcover types provide the best nesting habitats. Several shorebird species have been confirmed as nesting including Pectoral Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, American Golden-Plovers, and rare Buff-breasted Sandpipers (J. Rausch, unpublished data). Recent population calculations have estimated that there are as many as one million shorebirds using the Ahiak MBS (J. Rausch, unpublished data).

2.2.5 Raptors

When the Ahiak MBS was established, several pairs of the then Threatened *tundrius* subspecies of Peregrine Falcon were regularly recorded in the Perry River area. The tundra Peregrine Falcon, now listed nationally as Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, is the third most common raptor in the area after Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl (Bird Studies Canada, 2017).

2.3 Other Wildlife

A checklist of the non-bird wildlife that can be found within the Ahiak MBS is available online at: [\[website address to be added here later\]](#).

2.3.1 Terrestrial Mammals

Mammals range in size from large Grizzly Bears to small Collared and Brown Lemmings. Barren-ground caribou, Arctic fox, and Arctic hare are commonly observed. Other mammals less commonly observed but present include wolves, wolverines, muskoxen, least weasels, and Northern red-backed voles. Some of these species have fur coats that transition from brown in the summer to brilliant white in winter.

One hundred percent of the terrestrial area of the Ahiak MBS is used for calving and overlaps with about 35% (GNWT, unpublished data) of the historical barren-ground caribou (Beverly and Ahiak herds) calving grounds (Nagy 2011, Nagy *et al.* 2011, J. Nagy personal communication); as well as what was the traditional calving grounds of the declining Bathurst herd, which is also used by the Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population). While some caribou remain within the MBS year round (mainly in the eastern part of the MBS), most of the caribou migrate out of the area in mid-summer to south of Garry Lake and in autumn from the MacAlpine Lake area to Baker Lake. Consequently, the winter population of caribou in the MBS is smaller than the summer population.

The Ahiak MBS is also the originating stock for most of present day mainland muskoxen, with estimates of over 6,000 individuals.

These ungulate herds combined with vast open spaces support substantial populations of predators. Caribou are the main prey in the MBS. However, vulnerable and seasonally abundant foods, such as migratory birds, also contribute largely to prey taken, especially in late summer when ducks and geese are flightless during their annual molt.

Historically, Grizzly Bears were only occasionally seen in the MBS. In recent years, many Grizzly Bears are regularly seen, however the population size is unknown. Although rare, Polar Bears can venture south from the northern parts of the gulf and have occasionally been seen in the Perry River area.

2.3.2 Marine Mammals

The Ringed seal is the most common marine mammal of the Queen Maud Gulf. The area around Perry River includes important Ringed seal habitat and was historically used as a staging area for hunting both Ringed and Bearded seals (Contentworks 2011). Whales are rare, except for the occasional narwhal (Parks Canada 1995). Polar bears regularly frequent the surrounding waters; however, they are rarely observed close to the boundaries of the Ahiak MBS.

2.3.3 Fish

Over twenty species of freshwater fish are known or suspected in Nunavut's freshwater habitats (CESCC 2006). The Ahiak MBS's numerous lakes, ponds, and rivers supply freshwater habitat for species of fish. Arctic Char, Northern Pike and Whitefish are relatively abundant. Other fish believed to occur within the MBS include Arctic Flounder, Grayling, Lake trout, Stickleback and both Polar and Arctic cod, although few studies of the fish in the MBS have been done.

2.3.4 Reptiles and Amphibians

Eight species of amphibians and one species of reptile (Common Garter-snake) are suspected to exist in Nunavut, however they have not yet been properly assessed (CESCC 2006) or suspected to occur within the boundaries of the Ahiak MBS.

2.4 Vegetation

Much of the area has recently emerged from the sea and is characterized by a cover of shrub tundra and marsh tundra vegetation. Wet sites are dominated by sphagnum moss and sedge tussocks. In low-lying areas the vegetation consists of wet sedge meadows and marsh tundra, while the upland areas contain lichens, mosses, and vascular plants. Herb and lichen species are very common, in mixture with other vegetation.

Grassland or marsh tundra occurs on moist marine silt. These areas are usually flooded during spring break-up and are dominated by well-vegetated, hummocky tussocks comprised mainly of cotton grasses (*Eriophorum* spp.) and sedges (*Carex* spp.). Mosses often grow in the wet ground between hummocks (e.g. *Aulacomnium turgidum*, *Drepanocladus revolvens*, *Meesea triquetra*, *Tetra urceolatus*). Emergent (often flooded) species include sedges (*Carex* spp.) and Common Mare's tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*). Herbaceous plants and dwarf shrubs (*Salix* spp., *Betula* spp.) are typically scattered throughout on drier micro-sites.

Heath tundra incorporates a greater proportion of lichens and herbaceous plants. It occurs on lower slopes of drumlins, which remain snow covered until early July. Dominant species include sedges, Labrador tea, arctic heather, Lapland rosebay, willows, and several berry plants.

As the soil becomes sandy and moderate to well drained, the shrub component increases within

plant associations, in particular mountain avens (*Dryas* spp.). Lichens and many small herbaceous plants such as sweetgrass, sedges, rushes, legumes, and berry plants make up the remaining portion of this plant community.

Bedrock outcrops are covered by well-developed, crustose dominated lichen communities while marine clay sediments are sparsely vegetated (Zoltai and Johnson 1978).

A partial checklist (it is by no means complete) of the plants that can be found within the Ahiak MBS is available online at: [\[website address to be added here later\]](#)

2.5 Species at Risk

Species at risk in Canada are first assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC-assessed) and then listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA-listed) after a consultation process. Species are assessed or listed and labelled in one of six categories. The categories as given here are in order from most at risk to least at risk: Extinct, Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern, and Not at Risk. There are also two unrated categories: Data Deficient and No Status (have not been rated).

There are many species at risk (either COSEWIC-assessed or SARA-listed) that are confirmed to be within Ahiak MBS, or which could potentially be found there (Government of Canada 2017b; Table 4).

Table 4: Federally-listed and COSEWIC-assessed species at risk with potential to occur within the Ahiak MBS

Common and scientific names of species	Status in Canada		Presence in Ahiak MBS
	COSEWIC-assessed	SARA-listed	
Birds			
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>	Not at Risk	Special Concern	Confirmed
Short-Eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Confirmed
Red Knot (rufa subspecies) <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Confirmed
Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Special Concern	No Status	Confirmed
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Confirmed
Harris' Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia querula</i>	Special Concern	No Status	Potential
Mammals			
Polar Bear <i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Confirmed

Common and scientific names of species	Status in Canada		Presence in Ahiak MBS
	COSEWIC-assessed	SARA-listed	
Grizzly Bear <i>Ursus arctos</i>	Special Concern	No Status	Confirmed
Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo</i>	Special Concern	No Status	Confirmed
Barren-ground Caribou <i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Threatened	No Status	Confirmed
Dolphin Union Caribou <i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Confirmed
Insects			
Transverse Lady Beetle <i>Coccinella transversoguttata</i>	Special Concern	No Status	Potential

2.5.1 Birds

In April 1978, the Peregrine Falcon *tundrius* subspecies was evaluated by COSEWIC as “Threatened” due to the use of harmful pesticides during the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. The pesticides responsible were banned in Canada and populations have shown continuing increases since the 1970’s to near historical numbers. As a result, down-assessment has been achieved and the species was re-evaluated by COSEWIC as of “Special Concern” in April 1992 and “Not at Risk” in 2017. It is still currently federally listed under the *Species at Risk Act* as “Special Concern” (Environment and Climate Change Canada 2017a).

2.5.2 Terrestrial and Marine Mammals

Both the Grizzly bear and Wolverine are assessed by COSEWIC as species of “Special Concern”. The Grizzly Bear in Canada is also designated as at risk on Appendix II of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

2.5.3 Fish

Of the twenty-four species of freshwater fish that are known or suspected in Nunavut’s freshwater habitats, four are considered “Sensitive”, seven are “Secure” and 13 are “Undetermined” or “Not Assessed”. Arctic Char and three other species were categorized as “Sensitive” because of local over harvesting, or because of very limited distribution in Nunavut (CESCC 2006).

2.5.4 Reptiles and Amphibians

Due to lack of information and inventory work, all amphibian and reptile species have a General Status rank of “Undetermined” or “Not Assessed” in Nunavut. There has been no proper assessment to determine whether or not these species exist within the boundaries of the Ahiak MBS.

3.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The focus of migratory bird sanctuaries is the conservation of migratory birds and their habitat, but through the *IIBA*, the unique relationship between the Inuit of Nunavut and the ecosystems within Ahiak MBS is recognized as being of ecological, spiritual, and social in nature. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ), Inuit traditional knowledge or 'that which has long been known by Inuit', is necessary for responsible decision-making regarding the lands, waters and marine areas within the MBS. Much of IQ deals with knowledge and use of the land. The cultural values associated with land use may be either tangible or intangible; travel routes, place names and knowledge of weather and the ways of animals are a few examples of intangible heritage, while fish weirs, kayak stands, the many types of inuksuit, and the remains of past habitations, including grave sites, are all part of the tangible heritage of Inuit land use (Contentworks, 2011).

3.1 Cultural Resources Inventory and Interpretative Materials Study

The patterns of Inuit knowledge and use of the MBS are evident on land use and occupancy maps compiled in 1973-76 by the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and in 1985-92 by the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut.

The Inuit Land Use and Occupancy Project (INAC, 1976) report explained and mapped the historical development of Inuit occupancy of much of the surface of Nunavut (including sea ice). The Nunavut Atlas (Riewe, 1992) refined this by showing the most intensively used lands, those which were visited by Inuit every year before the centralization of people into their present communities, along with those lands which were visited regularly, though not necessarily every year, up to the time when the Nunavut Atlas was published in 1992. These two publications, the Inuit Land Use and Occupancy Project (ILUOP) and the Nunavut Atlas, valuable though they are, are limited by their focus on subsistence practices rather than other cultural practices.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) has obligations under Article 6 of the *IIBA* to prepare inventories of resources important to Inuit for Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas in Nunavut. The purpose of the inventories is to support the management of each protected area, aid the development of interpretive materials, document information of cultural importance to Inuit, and support the development and use of official Inuit language names in management of these protected areas. As a result, NTI hired consultants to work on cultural inventories for the Ahiak MBS in 2010 (J. Harris, Contentworks) and again in 2012-2017 (B. Kemp and E. Val).

The 2010-2011 work focused on the cultural heritage of Inuit, including sites, objects, routes, landscapes (including tidal and fresh water), place names and IQ (Contentworks, 2011). The consultants relied primarily on publicly accessible sources, such as the Inuit Land Use and Occupancy Project (1970s) publications and records, Parks Canada studies, oral histories, archaeological site records, and other records and surveys, such as Indigenous Affairs Canada-Environment and Climate Change Canada's (then known as the departments of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Environment Canada) Northern Land Use Information mapping project (1980s). The products were a Cultural Heritage Inventory and a Cultural Heritage Resources Report.

In 2012, NTI hired consultants to begin a more thorough inventory of cultural resources associated with the people of Gjoa Haven. The research team conducted mapping interviews in November 2013 to determine Inuit land use, places of importance, place names and sites containing physical

cultural resources such as living sites, kayak stands, caches, and cairns. Although interviewees were questioned specifically about places and land-use in and around the Ahiak MBS, the interviewees also shared their knowledge about resources throughout the region. Most of the content of this section of the management plan is sourced from the information provided by Inuit and recorded by B. Kemp and E. Val. Their work built upon that which was started with the Inuit Land Use and Occupancy Project (INAC, 1976) and has provided a well-rounded description of the use of the Ahiak MBS for all Inuit uses and its cultural resources.

The Ahiak ACMC conducted a site visit to the MBS in the August 2012. Access to a helicopter allowed the members to visit a large variety of sites within the MBS including the Ellice River Water Survey of Canada gauge station, the Karrak Lake Research Camp and the former Perry Island settlement. The members were accompanied by a filmmaker from Yellowknife, Christopher Gamble, who recorded footage of the MBS as well as conducted interviews with the members and support personnel who accompanied the members on the site visit.

In addition to these newer initiatives, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's "*Walking in the path of the caribou: knowledge of the Copper Inuit placenames atlas*" (Banci *et al.* 2004) based on interviews conducted in 1996, and NTI's "*Perry River Oral History Project*" (2003) were valuable resources to the Ahiak ACMC in creating this Management Plan.

3.2 Inuit Land Use

Traditional Inuit land use includes all the ways in which Inuit know, own and use their land and its resources (Contentworks 2011). The knowledge and actions involved in land use vary from place to place and from season to season, and include not only land but water, whether open or in the form of ice, especially the land-fast ice over salt water. The values associated with land may be tangible (e.g. kayak stands, gravel sites, inuksuit) or intangible (e.g. knowledge of weather, travel routes, place names, ways of the animals). The land covered by the Ahiak MBS has been used by Inuit for thousands of years and is still an important cultural and traditional harvesting area for present day Inuit.

3.2.1 Historical Inuit Land Use

The Ahiak MBS was used by seven cultural groupings:

- **Nattiligiut** (people of the Nattiliq region)
 - Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak & Kugaaruk covering a large area as far north as Bellot Strait/Fort Ross, the Boothia Peninsula, King William Island, south east Queen Maud Gulf, Simpson Strait & Rasmussen Basin
 - Relied primarily on seal and fish with limited access to caribou.
- **Utkuhigsaliigiut** (people of the Utkuhigsaliq region)
 - Covering an area that includes lower north-south portion of the Back River, Chantrey Inlet & the Hayes River watershed
 - Relied on fresh water fish, marine fish, seal and caribou.
- **Haningaruqmiut** (people of the Haningaruq region)
 - Covering an area that includes the upstream/inland east-west portion of the Back River to as far west as the Garry Lakes
 - Relied mainly on inland resources of caribou and fish. Use of marine mammals and fish was rare.
- **Iluliqmiut** (people of the Iluliq region)
 - Covering an area that includes the mainland, the Adelaide Peninsula, the Simpson

Strait, the eastern half of the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary to as far south as the Garry Lakes.

- Relied on both inland and coastal resources based on seasons (seal and marine fish harvesting in late winter and early spring, moving inland to hunt caribou, access fresh water fish and harvest geese in late summer and early fall).
- Many Iluliliqmiut moved to Gjoa Haven in the late 1960s when the Hudson Bay trading posts on the mainland closed.
- **Ahiaqmiut** (people of the Ahiaq region)
 - Covering an area that includes the western Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary including the Perry & Ellice Rivers to as far south as the western end of the Garry Lake
 - Similar to Iluliliqmiut in seasonal harvest and land use patterns.
- **Kiluhiaqtuqmiut** (people of the Kiluhiaqtuq region)
 - Bathurst Inlet & Umingmaktok covering an area that includes the entire Bathurst Inlet and Kent Peninsula to as far south as the upper Back River west of Garry Lake
 - Similar to Iluliliqmiut in seasonal harvest and land use patterns.
- **Ki'liniqmiut** (people of the Ki'liniqmiut region)
 - Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok covering a large area including Victoria Island & Bathurst Inlet to as far west as the Dolphin-Union Strait, east of the Beaufort Sea
 - Many of the Ahiaqmiut and Kiluhiaqtuqmiut relocated to the Ki'liniqmiut region when the Hudson Bay posts within the Ahiaq MBS closed in the late 1960s.

Although there was variation in the language, clothing and specific land use related to the seasons and access to resources, all groups shared in common harvesting of caribou and fish within Ahiaq MBS and there was much geographical overlap between the cultural groups. Movement throughout the MBS was tied closely to the movements of caribou and availability of other food sources. After late summer and fall caribou hunting inland in the southern portion of the Ahiaq MBS, people would cache meat for winter use. Wood (from upstream boreal forest) would be collected for fires from the rivers as people moved north and south with the seasons. Before 1920, the cultural groupings had more distinct customary areas of land use. With the establishment of trading posts and the expansion of the fur trade after 1920, the groups expanded their land use areas and overlap became more common until the closure of the trading posts.

There are many goose traps throughout the Ahiaq MBS. These stone structures (2-3 feet high; 10-12 feet round) were typically placed close to lake shores where a kayaker could herd flightless geese into the stone fence through a small opening. Snow geese were the easiest to capture because they scattered less than Canada Geese. Once in the trap, the entrance was blocked with a large rock and people would enter over the walls and kill the birds by wringing their necks.

Inuksuit used for caribou hunting and fishing weirs are other common stone structures throughout the Ahiaq MBS. The eastern-most quarter of the Ahiaq MBS was a very important area for caribou hunting for the Iluliliqmiut. In years of scarcity, caribou would be found closer to the Back River. Once the snow started to melt, then people could travel north on foot or by dog team towards the coast to hunt seal on the ice in May and June. Along the eastern border of the Ahiaq MBS was the main caribou harvesting area for the Utkuhigsaligmiut. In the western half of the Ahiaq MBS, before there were rifles, Ahiaqmiut would hunt caribou from kayaks right when the ice cleared from the coast near and between the Perry and Simpson Rivers using spears made of wood with antler for the tip. As the caribou moved inland, Ahiaqmiut would follow them inland as far as MacAlpine Lake.

Many camp sites can be found along the coast of the mainland at the Queen Maud Gulf. People

would set up sealing camps and repair and make gear and sew clothing while hunting seal and waiting for the coat of the caribou to thicken (so that it would make better winter clothing for next year) before moving inland.

While harvesting seal, polar bears would also advantageously be harvested in April and May at two main areas: 1) north of the Ellice River and 2) northeast of Perry River/north of Armark River on the ice in the Queen Maud Gulf.

The importance of the Ahiaik MBS to Inuit is graphically displayed in Figure 5.

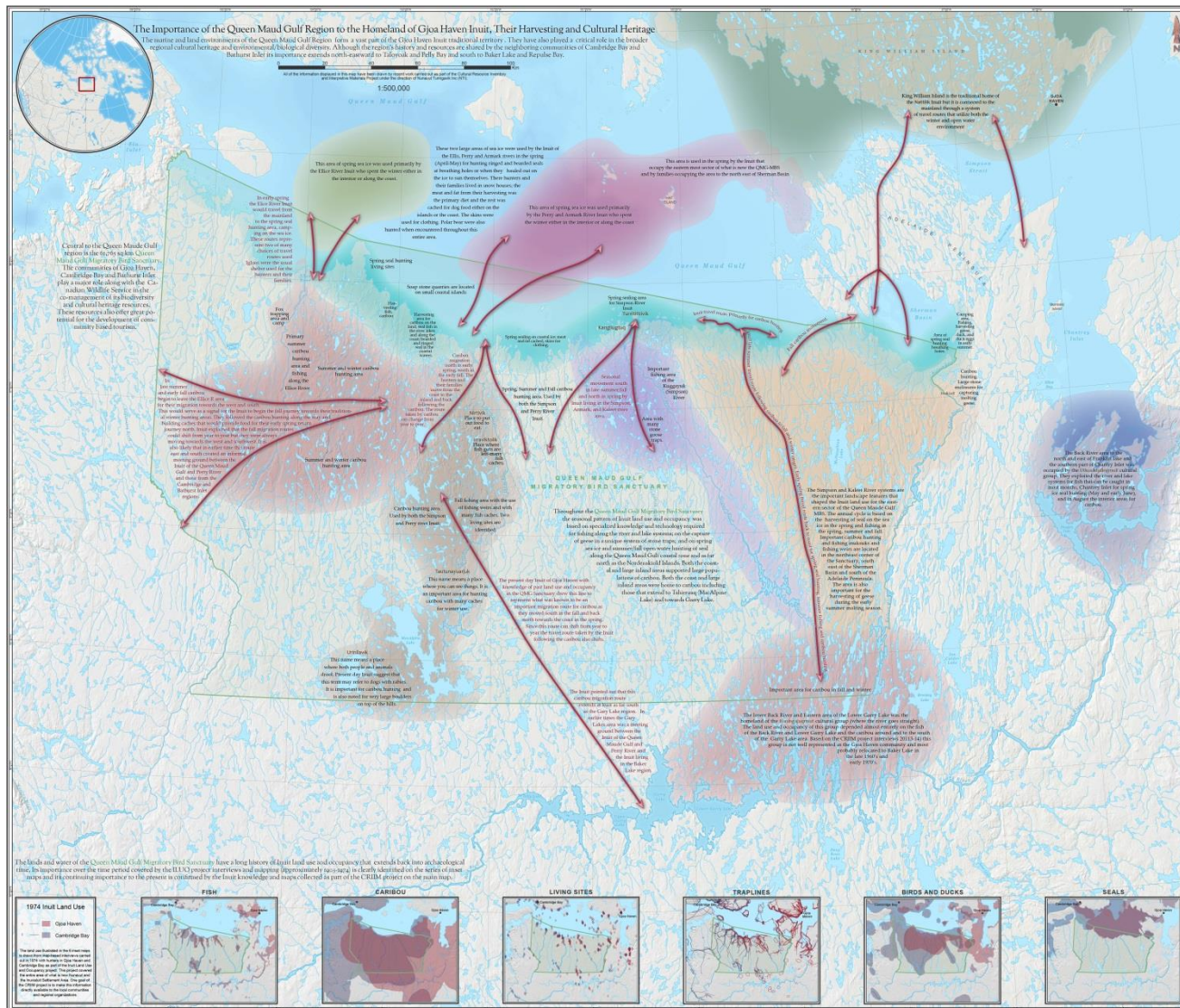


Figure 5: Year-round importance of Ahiaik MBS for Inuit harvesting and cultural practices

The extensive coastline and rivers flowing north into the gulf from the south of the MBS helped define the main lines of Inuit activity in the sanctuary. The first Europeans known to have visited the area were during the first expedition of John Franklin in 1821. There was little outside contact until the 1920s when the Roman Catholic Church, CanAlaska Trading Company and the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) arrived. Inuit largely abandoned seal camps in favour of traplines in the 1920s in response to the trading companies' presence. Hudson's Bay Company Trading posts in the Ahiaik MBS were established at Perry River (1926-1967), Ellice River (1926-1927), Whitebear Point (1926-1927), Flagstaff

Island (1937-1941), Sherman Inlet (1947-1955) and Perry Island (1957-1967). These trading posts helped sustain subsistence activities and trapping along the coast and in the interior. In 1938, Angus Gavin, who was stationed at the Hudson's Bay Company outpost at Perry River and led by Inuit guides, documented the nesting grounds of the Ross's goose (*Anser rossii*) at Discovery Lake (Gavin 1947) within the Ahiak MBS. In 1967 the Hudson's Bay Company abruptly closed and abandoned the last of the trading posts within the Ahiak MBS for one at Umingmatok. The absence of the Hudson's Bay Company marked the end of year round habitation many Inuit within Ahiak MBS. Many had become accustomed to the added security of supplies from the Hudson's Bay Company and had no choice but to relocate to either Cambridge Bay or Gjoa Haven (NTI 2003). None of the places supported by trade became a year-round community in the Ahiak MBS after 1968, and out-migration from the area reduced the amount of activity in the central parts of the MBS in particular around the mouth of the Perry River.

Community land use in the 1970s and 1980s consisted of almost the whole population living in centralized settlements of Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven. People were interviewed where they lived, and consequently many reported using areas which they, as individuals, no longer visited. For the Ahiakmiut however, the MBS was the centre rather than a periphery of their area of use and many still journeyed regularly to the mainland to hunt and fish. Remnants of some of the buildings are still evident at Perry Island.

3.2.2 Current Inuit Land Use

Use of the MBS is primarily hunting, trapping, fishing, egg gathering, and berry picking by Inuit from the communities of Cambridge Bay, Umingmatok, and Gjoa Haven (Figure 6). One or two families regularly set up fish camps and spend a portion of the summer near the mouth of several of the major rivers. To a lesser extent, Inuit from Baker Lake still make use of the Ahiak MBS as well. The Kitikmeot Region is the least populated region of Nunavut and subsistence activities are still omnipresent with most residents relying heavily (above 50%) on wildlife for food or income from the sale of meat and furs or working as sports hunting guides (Government of Nunavut 2007). Most of the use is during the open-water season when Inuit can travel to the northern, coastal parts of the Ahiak MBS by boat, but it is also used in the winter, primarily for trapping arctic fox, wolf and wolverine. Char and whitefish are taken in the major rivers in many of the lakes and seals (bearded and some ringed) are hunted in the spring and summer along the coast. Guided hunts are typically for muskox and caribou in the western part of the Ahiak MBS, and muskox in the east. Non-lethal uses of wildlife, such as ecotourism are still limited but the Inuit Tourism Providers Fund associated with the IIBA has targeted Gjoa Haven (one of the associated communities for Ahiak MBS) as one of three tourism focal projects.

Although most hunting and trapping occurs along the coastal region, trap lines up to 160 km inland are used to harvest fox, wolves and wolverine. Muskox are harvested offshore in the Queen Maud Gulf in the winter. The former Perry Island trading post still has remnants of many buildings and is an important part of some families' personal history, as are the many grave sites along the Queen Maud Gulf coast. These sites are purposely not marked on our maps to protect the sites.

There has been a commercial meat plant in Cambridge Bay since 1971 but the meat being supplied to Kitikmeot Foods does not come from Ahiak MBS.

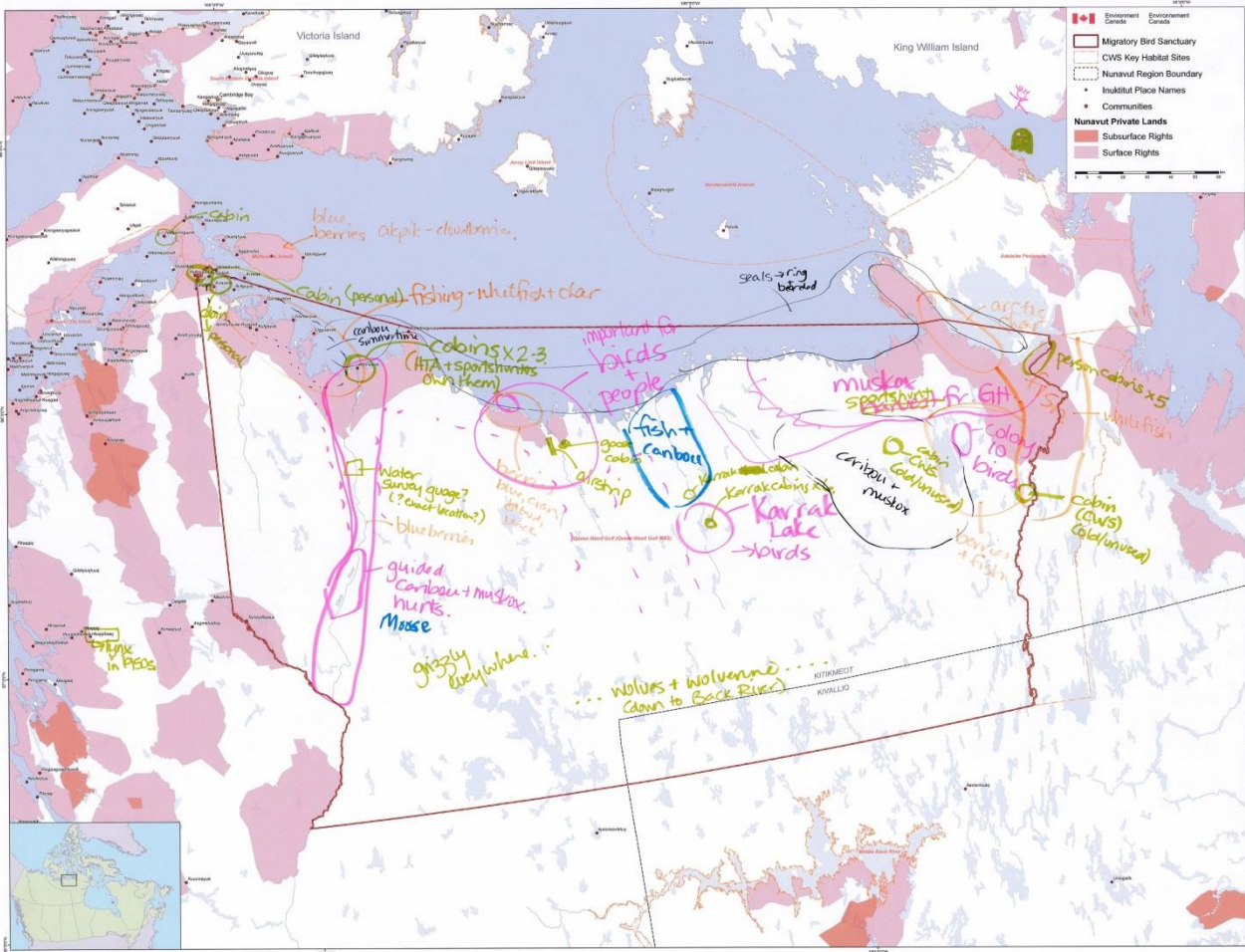


Figure 6: Inuit Land Use in the Ahik (Queen Maud Gulf) MBS (Ahik ACMC 2012)

4.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Vision

The renewed long-term vision for the management of Ahiak MBS is multi-dimensional, and takes into account:

- Migratory bird conservation and management;
- Species at Risk recovery goals, as well as safeguarding of the habitat of non-federally regulated species (with the agreement and cooperation of regional institutions of public government as well as local resource co-management boards and authorities);
- Protection of Inuit cultural resources and use of the MBS, while ensuring that Inuit fully benefit from and fully participate in the economic and other opportunities arising from the management of the MBS (as per IIBA Article 2);
- Public information and education needs; and
- Co-existence of wildlife and people.

With the above in mind, the vision for the MBS is as follows:

The Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary will be managed to ensure the long-term conservation and protection of the land for use by all wildlife, including migratory birds, and, for uses by people that do not threaten the integrity of the habitats that wildlife need to thrive.

4.2 Goals and Objectives

The goals (Table 5) for the Ahiak MBS are critical in ensuring the vision is achieved and maintained. The objectives (Table 5) were specifically designed to meet the goals while addressing each management challenge of, and threat to, the Ahiak MBS (refer to this plan section 5.0 – *Management Considerations*).

The goals are listed in order of importance, with Objective 1.1 being both the short- and long-term primary focus by the Ahiak ACMC for management of the Ahiak MBS.

Table 5: Management Goals and Objectives

Goals	Objectives
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Goals	Objectives
<p><u>Goal 1:</u> Protect the area for all wildlife and culture resources.</p>	<p>Objective 1.1: To work towards converting the MBS to a National Wildlife Area to ensure it is best suited to co-management, and to the year-round protection of habitat for all wildlife (not just birds), especially species at risk.</p> <p>Objective 1.2: Ensure areas rich in wildlife and cultural resources are documented, conserved and protected.</p> <p>Objective 1.3: Promote and encourage traditional use, and tourism and interpretive uses, of the protected area.</p> <p>Objective 1.4: Be aware of the threats that we can't control, and try to influence or mitigate their effects on the protected area.</p>
<p><u>Goal 2:</u> Manage and conserve the protected area consistent with the rules of the legislation.</p>	<p>Objective 2.1: Make sure permitting processes are being followed and there is no illegal activity.</p> <p>Objective 2.2: Encourage research that addresses the management considerations (Table 6).</p>
<p><u>Goal 3:</u> Keep the land and water from being harmed so it is safe for wildlife and people to use.</p>	<p>Objective 3.1: Know what activities are taking place within the protected area.</p> <p>Objective 3.2: Encourage best practices that prevent unnecessary disturbance to wildlife within and adjacent to the protected area (e.g. flight heights, developments near border, etc.).</p> <p>Objective 3.3: Ensure that the potential for water or land contamination is minimized.</p>
<p><u>Goal 4:</u> Increase public awareness and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources of the protected area.</p>	<p>Objective 4.1: Ensure Management Plan is distributed and followed.</p> <p>Objective 4.2: Ensure the public and companies are aware of when permits are required and the activities that are and are not consistent with the goals of the Management Plan.</p> <p>Objective: 4.3: Advise Nunavummiut, and all Canadians, about the value and importance of the protected area for wildlife and Inuit.</p>

4.3 Evaluation

Annual monitoring will be performed within the limits imposed by the availability of financial and human resources. The management plan will be reviewed 5 years after its initial approval and reviewed and updated every 10 years thereafter. The evaluation will take the form of an annual review of monitoring data obtained from the monitoring and research projects outlined below. This monitoring will be used to establish priorities for action and to allocate resources.

5.0 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Currently, there are no immediate, major threats to the Ahiak MBS. The natural habitats, for the most part, are intact. Accessible only by air or by boat during the short open-water season, the MBS has remained relatively isolated. However, management considerations such as increased resource exploration and development in the Kitikmeot and the exponential growth in white geese populations over the last 50 years, along with other less major management considerations must be integrated into management planning (Table 6).

Mining is a rapidly growing industrial threat in the Queen Maud Gulf Lowland Ecoregion, especially with respect to gold, diamonds and copper. To the west of this area is significant mineral exploration activity including gold, uranium and diamond. Interest in mineral exploration is also growing in the eastern portion of the Ecoregion. The Ahiak MBS also borders a proposed shipping route for a lead/zinc mine in the Coronation Gulf, however, development of the mine and a port site are currently not proceeding due to the depressed world market for base metals. Increased exploration in the area surrounding protected areas often leads to pressure to permit exploration within a protected area so this pressure is of ongoing concern to the Ahiak ACMC.

The Northern Mineral Policy (INAC 1986) instructed the federal government to review the boundaries of all the MBSs in the north. In 1990, the Conservation Advisory Committee on the Northern Mineral Policy composed of representatives from various federal and territorial government departments recommended that the Ahiak MBS should be reduced in size (Conservation Advisory Committee 1990). In the mid-1990s, Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) and the Government of the Northwest Territories undertook a wildlife habitat study that recommended shrinking the size of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary by 12 percent and converting the MBS to a National Wildlife Area (NWA). The NWA status would provide more robust, year-round, protection for non-bird species of wildlife and wildlife habitat. The *Canada Wildlife Act*, under which National Wildlife Areas are created, is better suited to the co-management style of wildlife conservation in Nunavut and would help ensure meaningful co-operative management of wildlife. When the MBS was designated, the *Migratory Bird Convention Act* was the only regulatory tool available for habitat protected. The *Canada Wildlife Act*, created in 1973, is a better tool for managing habitat and conserving wildlife.

When the MBS was created, it was to protect 90% of the world's Ross's Goose population which at the time were only found in a few colonies. Since the mid-1960s Ross's geese and Snow geese (together known as "light geese") populations have grown exponentially (Alisauskas *et al.* 2011, 2012). This growth in population size is largely due to agriculture in the south (more food available on migration and in the winter). Between 1966 and 2010, the Karrak Lake colony (the largest colony located within the Ahiak MBS) grew from nearly 17,000 to over 1.2 million birds, and the land area occupied by the colony has increased dramatically (R. T. Alisauskas, unpublished data).

At a larger geographic scale, midcontinent lesser snow geese and Ross's geese have increased dramatically; midcontinent snow geese averaged 12.6 million adults (Alisauskas *et al.* 2018b), and Ross's geese averaged 1.6 million adults from 2006-2015 (Alisauskas *et al.* 2018c). Increases in population size have led to concerns about potential impacts to arctic habitats caused by the foraging activities of large numbers of geese (e.g., Batt 1997). Habitat loss due to over-grazing is currently being studied to see what effect it may have on other bird species. Overgrazing may lead to reduced food availability and loss of nesting habitat for other bird species. The effect on other wildlife species is still unclear.

Each goal and objective for management of Ahiak MBS has a direct link to a known management challenge of, or potential threat to, the Ahiak MBS. These, plus the corresponding management approach to address each challenge or threat are listed in Table 6.

Table 6: Summary of management considerations for the Ahiak MBS with accompanying goals/objectives and management approaches to address each consideration

Management Considerations	Corresponding Goals/Objectives from Table 5	Management Approach(es)
Currently the Ahiak MBS provides protection primarily for migratory birds, while the regulations provide ancillary benefits for other wildlife. The Ahiak MBS is important for many wildlife species and the <i>Canada Wildlife Act</i> and its regulations are better suited to co-management.	1.1	6.1 Habitat and Cultural Resources Management
Significant mineral exploration activity including gold, uranium and diamond in the surrounding area.	1.1, 1.2, 3.2, 3.3	6.1 Habitat and Cultural Resources Management
Increased exploration and development in the areas surrounding the Ahiak MBS could lead to increased air traffic in and around the area. Increased noise pollution (like blasting and camp activities) near the Ahiak MBS boundary.	3.2	6.3 Public Information Management
Aircraft (helicopters and fixed wing planes) fly over the sanctuary. We want to make sure they are not disturbing wildlife and birds, or that when it is required (permitted work), that the effect be minimized.	2.1, 3.2	6.2 Monitoring, Research and Wildlife Management
People don't know the Ahiak MBS is there, and where it actually is.	4.1, 4.2, 4.3	6.3 Public Information Management
There are a limited number of federal wildlife enforcement officers for many Nunavut MBSs and NWAs.	2.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3	6.3 Public Information Management

As development and exploration starts happening more outside the Ahiak MBS, wildlife will need the Ahiak MBS as a safe place.	All	6.1 Habitat and Cultural Resources Management
Too many light geese which could be causing habitat damage and potentially negatively affecting other birds and wildlife.	1.4, 2.2	6.2 Monitoring, Research and Wildlife Management
Water quality related to developments and mines outside and downstream of the Ahiak MBS, water quality changes related to geese overpopulation.	2.2, 3.2, 3.3	6.2 Monitoring, Research and Wildlife Management 6.3 Public Information Management
There are Inuit Owned Lands under KIA administration within the Ahiak MBS which is under federal government (Canadian Wildlife Service) administration. This could lead to land access conflicts.	4.1, 4.3	6.3 Public Information Management
Not all locations of cultural or heritage importance have been inventoried (archaeological sites, traditional hunting areas, current harvesting areas (wildlife, eggs, fish and berries))	1.2	6.1 Habitat and Cultural Resources Management
Hudson Bay Company Trading Post (old site) and Perry Island outpost camp (newer site) and Flagstaff Island are important to people who are from the Ahiak MBS but have been abandoned and may be being vandalized.	1.2	6.1 Habitat and Cultural Resources Management
There are several potential threats that are beyond our management control that may affect the Ahiak MBS. Such as: climate change, air pollution, non-native species, bioaccumulation, improper environmental assessment and management outside the Ahiak MBS.	3.2, 4.3	6.3 Public Information Management

Lack of inventory on fish and marine mammal species using the Ahiak MBS.	1.2	6.2 Monitoring, Research and Wildlife Management
There are Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> listed species at risk that use Ahiak MBS.	1.1	6.1 Habitat and Cultural Resources Management 6.2 Monitoring, Research and Wildlife Management
Potential for oil spills as shipping through the Gulf continues and potentially increases.	2.1, 3.2, 3.3	6.3 Public Information Management
Ecotourism may be increasing, but we don't really know by how much. E.g. how many ships (marine traffic) are passing through the water portion of Ahiak MBS.	2.1, 3.1, 4.1	6.3 Public Information Management
Cabins already exist in the Ahiak MBS. Future cabins may be created.	1.3, 3.1, 4.1	6.3 Public Information Management
Loss of knowledge of traditional place names; no comprehensive cultural maps developed for the Ahiak MBS that could be used in management planning	1.2, 2.2	6.1 Habitat and Cultural Resources Management

6.0 MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

The Ahiak MBS will be managed to achieve the overall goals of the MBS by focusing on three main management approaches: Habitat and Cultural Resources Management (section 6.1), Monitoring, Research and Wildlife Management (section 6.2), and Public Information Management (section 6.3). This section contains a description of the possible approaches that could be used in the management of the Ahiak MBS to meet the vision, goals and objectives of this management plan while being cognisant of the management considerations. Implementation of these management actions will be determined during the annual work planning process and will be initiated as human and financial resources allow.

6.1 Habitat and Cultural Resources Management

6.1.1 Change in designation of the protected area

The Migratory Bird Convention Act and the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations provide protection against any activities that could harm migratory birds; their nests or their eggs. Habitat is also protected through the permitting regime created by the regulations and implemented by the ACMC. However, the habitat protections under the Sanctuary Regulations are specific to migratory birds. Given the importance of this area for wildlife, the Canada Wildlife Act and the Wildlife Area Regulations would be a more appropriate regulatory tool. The Sanctuary is important to significant populations of geese, more than a million shorebirds of several species (most of which are experiencing population declines), barren-ground caribou, and species at risk such as Wolverine and Grizzly Bear. Ahiak MBS is the largest protected area of any type in Canada and predates the Canada Wildlife Act. A better conservation and regulatory tool is now available in the form of the Canada Wildlife Act and the Wildlife Area Regulations. Ahiak MBS meets the criteria for designation of an area as a National Wildlife Area (Appendix C; Appendix Table C - 1).

The Wildlife Area Regulations effectively prohibit all activities. However, a permitting regime is enabled through the Act and the Regulations and activities can be authorized so long as they do not interfere with the conservation of wildlife. The broad prohibitions and the application of these prohibitions to all wildlife, cultural artefacts, and habitat better reflects the rich wildlife and cultural resources of Ahiak. Further, the permitting regime better reflects the current structure and partnership of the ACMC. Designation as a National Wildlife Area affords a more appropriate level of protection than a Migratory Bird Sanctuary. A National Wildlife Area designation would also help protect areas of cultural and historical importance like grave sites, former settlements and traditional camping areas that the Ahiak ACMC would like to see protected. The spirit and intent of the *IIBA* was set up to provide a framework for managing conservation areas in Nunavut for all wildlife and cultural resources. However, a MBS designation does not provide the legislation with which to carry out these management activities, while and that of a NWA does.

To provide stronger protection to the area and better co-management, CWS recommended in the past that the designation of the Ahiak MBS be changed to a National Wildlife Area. Though the designation change was first contemplated in the mid-90s, the proposal was put on hold pending resolution of other land use issues in the region. The Ahiak ACMC wholly supports the designation change and has written letters to CWS, NTI and KitlA (03 June 2015) formally requesting CWS pursue the option of a status change, the process for which is outlined in *Article 13* of the *IIBA*. This process includes (but is not limited to) notification and consultation with NTI, KitlA, the associated communities and the ACMC, and will involve the establishment of an assessment group to consider the status change.

The conversion to from a MBS to a NWA process could be accompanied by a boundary change. There are potential areas along the southern border which may be considered for exclusion. A previous study of wildlife habitat within the MBS recommended that the southern 12% of the MBS could be removed without affecting important wildlife habitat. In 1996, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board supported the change in designation and the boundary change, subject to regional consultation. These changes were also proposed in the draft West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan. Consultations were initiated with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association but at the same time the West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan was not approved, and further discussions on the Ahlak MBS's protection designation and size changes were put on hold.

There are also portions of the 'Queen Maud Key Terrestrial Habitat Site' (Latour *et al.*, 2008) to the east of the current boundary that are important to birds and wildlife (caribou) that were left out of the original MBS boundary for reasons that are unknown. The Ahlak ACMC would like this area included in the revised conservation area.

The net result of excluding portions near the southern border as per the 1990s recommendations, and adding the eastern key habitat area because of its importance to wildlife, would be that the size of the conservation area would remain approximately the same. The Ahlak ACMC is initiating a mapping exercise to determine the exact parcel sizes.

6.1.2 Cultural and Heritage Resources

In accordance with s. 2.1.7 of the *IIBA*, the archaeological and cultural heritage of Inuit must be protected in the management of Ahlak MBS. This includes protection and conservation of archaeological sites, artifacts, and cultural sites of importance to Inuit. All activities within the sanctuary must comply with the requirements of the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations* and *Article 33 of the Nunavut Agreement*. If an archaeological site, specimen or artifact is encountered which has not been previously identified, it should be photographed and the geographic coordinates recorded. This information must then be provided to the Government of Nunavut's Department of Culture and Heritage, the Inuit Heritage Trust, and NTL as soon as reasonably practicable.

The management of the Ahlak MBS should avoid social and cultural disruption to Inuit and their relationship with and use of the lands (including IOL), the waters and the resources of the MBS (*IIBA* s. 2.1.4). Traditional place names and the use of Inuit-language should be preserved and its use should be supported and promoted in management of the MBS (*IIBA* s. 2.1.6). The Ahlak ACMC will seek information, when necessary to manage the MBS, from NTL with respect to Archaeological Sites, and Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit obtained through the inventories conducted under s. 6.4 through s. 6.7 of the *IIBA*.

Sites of cultural importance should be mapped and the inventory used to make informed management decisions. Sites should be preserved and maintained as cultural resource, or catalogued and documented before further destruction happens. Additionally, these sites should be looked at to see if the areas need to be cleaned up or preserved, or if artifacts need to be removed to a museum or the cultural centre.

6.1.3 Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit

Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit identified by NTI within the Ahiak MBS through *Article 6* of the *IIBA* and provided to CWS (*IIBA Article 12.2.1*), will be managed in cooperation with other agencies having jurisdiction over wildlife and in a manner consistent with *Article 5* of the *Nunavut Agreement*. This includes management of the MBS and Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit to: (1) Minimize disturbance to wildlife and wildlife habitat, and promote the maintenance of vital, healthy wildlife populations; (2) Make all reasonable efforts, consistent with the Minister's jurisdiction under the *MBCA* to respect the cultural significance of Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit, taking into account any *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* documented and presented to it by Inuit, the Ahiak ACMC and other knowledgeable parties; (3) Investigate public concerns regarding the protection or management of wildlife and document the response, or refer the matter to the wildlife management agency having jurisdiction; and, (4) As appropriate, consult Inuit organizations about issues pertaining to the effective management of wildlife and wildlife habitat within the MBS (*IIBA s. 12.2*).

Wildlife Areas of Important to Inuit should continue to be mapped within Ahiak MBS and the inventory used to make informed management decisions.

6.1.4 Place names

An objective of the *IIBA* (*s. 2.1.6*) is to document Inuit place names and promote the use of these place names in the management of the protected area. While this documentation has been partially completed for Ahiak MBS, continuation of the work, in particular for the western half of the Ahiak MBS should be completed. Production of digital community maps that could be used to more effectively collect and communicate cultural information in 'real time', including 'volunteered' place names that may not become official may be one method that could aid in completion of this task.

6.2 Monitoring, Research and Wildlife Management

A history of monitoring and research that has been conducted in the Ahiak MBS can be found in Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of historical research and monitoring surveys within Ahiak MBS. The researcher last name and years for projects after 1984 are taken from the issued CWS permits.

Year	Researcher Last Name (Organization)	Purpose or Topic
1969-2017	Various (Water Survey of Canada, ECCC)	Water quantity
1984, 1986, 1990	Heard (Government of the Northwest Territories)	Caribou surveys
1984-1985	McCormick (Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC)	Canada Goose research
1986, 1988-1991, 1996, 2009	Gunn, Bromley, Nishe, Williams (Government of the Northwest Territories)	Muskox and Caribou surveys
1986, 2004	Nabe, Kearnan (Geological Survey of Canada, Natural Resources Canada)	Legal land surveys

Year	Researcher Last Name (Organization)	Purpose or Topic
1987	Duval (Geological Survey of Canada, Natural Resources Canada)	Land mapping
1988-1989, 2010	Kerr, Chacko (University of Alberta)	Geological mapping
1988-1990	Kerbes (Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC)	Snow and Ross' Goose research
1990, 1999-2019	Alisaukas (Canadian Wildlife Service/Science and Technology Branch, ECCC)	Goose, Waterfowl, Habitat, Predator research
1993	Didiuk (Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC)	Vegetation surveys
1997, 2010-2011	Mueller, Cox, Kelly (Government of the Northwest Territories)	Caribou habitat research
2001, 2005-2007, 2013-2019	Johnston, Rausch (Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC)	Shorebird surveys
2003-2008	Caswell (Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC)	Goose research
2006-2008	Mallory (Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC)	Bird research
2007-2009, 2011-2013	MacDonald, Groves (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)	Waterfowl and Goose surveys
2007	Wayland (Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC)	Gull research
2009-2017	Leafloor (Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC)	Waterfowl and Goose surveys
2013, 2016	Awan, Leclerc, Lamont, Campbell (Government of Nunavut)	Caribou surveys
2014-2016	Alkire (University of Washington)	Water research
2015-2019	Gurney (Science and Technology Branch, ECCC)	Bird contaminants research
2017-2019	Eert (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)	Oceanographic surveys

6.2.1 Permitting

The CWS permitting system is the primary way in which the Ahiak ACMC monitors activities within the Ahiak MBS. Effective and efficient monitoring requires a coordinated approach and will be carried out through liaison with researchers and partner agencies in a manner that contributes to the goals and objectives outlined in this plan. Monitoring and research needs are identified below. Unsolicited monitoring and research activities outside of the headings below will be considered for permitting when the results of the study have potential to: (1) Provide further insight on the wildlife of the MBS; (2) Evaluate the nature and intensity of habitat change in the MBS; (3) Contribute to *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* for the MBS; or (4) Increase our understanding of the ecological and cultural resources within the MBS. Proposals are screened to ensure compatibility with management goals and objectives. Projects that require extensive collecting, excessive depletion of any non-overabundant population, or significant disturbance of animals or disruption of habitat will likely not be permitted. All research proposals must be submitted to Environment and Climate Change

Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service, refer to section 7.0 of this management plan for information related to permitting.

6.2.2 Overabundant Light Geese

The severity, extent, and ecological impacts of overabundant light geese within the MBS are not well understood but all viable management approaches and tools to address the issue are under consideration. Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are established to conserve migratory bird populations or species that need to be protected as was done for the Ross's Goose in the Ahlak MBS. Light geese are now designated as over-abundant, and some impacts on the habitat within the MBS have been documented near nesting colonies (e.g., Conkin and Alisauskas 2017). Liberal hunting regulations designed to increase light goose harvest in the midcontinent region of Canada and the United States have been in place since 1999. Though harvests have increased substantially, growth of goose populations have outpaced increases in harvest, and harvest rates have actually declined overall. Nonetheless, there is evidence that recruitment of young geese has declined over time as the population has grown, and population growth has levelled off on its own in recent years (Ross et al. 2017).

The Ahlak ACMC supports increased harvest of snow geese and Ross's geese, but also recognizes that light geese are important components of the ecosystem and wildlife heritage within the Ahlak MBS. Ongoing research and monitoring is key to help understand the dynamics of breeding geese and other species within the MBS. Management decisions by the ACMC will be based on the best available knowledge, IQ, and science, and supported by a wide range of research, including a commitment to integrated scientific monitoring and reporting. Concerns about the effects of habitat loss on other species of migratory birds and other ecosystem components are being investigated by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The Ahlak ACMC would also like to encourage a habitat study to determine the carrying capacity of the MBS for light geese, and any projects that determine the effect of light geese on other harvested wildlife.

6.2.3 Water Quality

Research and monitoring programs focusing on quality of water entering and flowing through the Ahlak MBS are encouraged, as relatively little information is known in this area. Topics of particular interest to the Ahlak ACMC include possible downstream contamination from major geese colonies, as well as from mining operations located outside the Ahlak MBS.

6.2.4 Marine Traffic

Marine habitat will be managed in consultation with federal, territorial, and local governments and agencies, as well as local fishermen/harvesters, and commercial fishermen to ensure the marine habitat is protected from vessels travelling through the waters of the Queen Maud Gulf adjacent to, and contained within, the MBS. Some concerns have been raised about the impact they may have on the coastal environments in the event of a spill.

Year-round, vessels will be expected to: (1) comply with the *Arctic Shipping Pollution Prevention Regulations* of the *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act (1985)*; (2) not dump bilge water, exchange ballast water or dump sewage within the MBS boundary; (3) minimize noise emissions (such as sudden

engine noise from acceleration and avoiding using horns) from vessels within 1 km of the MBS (subject to safety considerations); and, (4) that proponents consult with the ECCC-CWS Iqaluit office prior to project commencement to discuss ship routing through the site and appropriate emergency preparedness requirements.

Seasonally (i.e. when birds are present), setback mitigations will be expected to be followed. These mitigations for all vessels, including cruise ships, are: (1) avoid activity near nesting birds (May-August); (2) keep a 500 m setback distance from the coastline within the MBS (subject to safe navigation considerations); and, (3) keep a 500 m setback distance from aggregations of birds and/or colonies during the breeding season (Environment and Climate Change Canada 2016b).

Monitoring should be undertaken to improve oil spill readiness including mapping of bird and cultural areas along the coast that would be first impacted in the event of a spill.

Monitoring and research to determine best practices for marine traffic should be conducted and is encouraged. An assessment of the effects of these best practices on birds and other wildlife would be a valuable tool for management of Ahiak MBS and other protected areas in Nunavut.

6.2.5 Air Traffic

Seasonally (i.e. when birds are present), air traffic above the Ahiak MBS will be recommended to (1) keep a minimum flight altitude of 650 m (2,100 feet) in areas likely to have birds; (2) minimize flights during vulnerable periods (migration, nesting and moulting); (3) plan flight paths to avoid known concentrations of birds (e.g., bird colonies, moulting areas) by a lateral distance of at least 1.5 km; (4) if avoidance is not possible, maintain a minimum flight altitude of 1,100 m (3,500 feet) over areas where birds are known to concentrate. For flights along the coast, in addition to the afore listed restrictions, air traffic will be required to (5) maintain a minimum lateral distance of 3 km from areas used by flocks of coastal waterfowl or seaducks (Environment Canada 2014; Environment and Climate Change Canada 2016b). The Ahiak ACMC recognizes that depending on the work being conducted (i.e. migratory bird surveys), that these best practices may not be practical and this will be addressed through the permitting process.

Monitoring and research to determine best practices for aircraft should be conducted and is encouraged. An assessment of the effects of these best practices on birds and other wildlife would be a valuable tool for management of Ahiak MBS and other protected areas in Nunavut.

6.2.6 Fish

With respect to commercial marine fisheries, the NWMB exercises an extensive decision-making jurisdiction in the marine waters of the Nunavut Settlement Area. This includes waters directly adjacent to Nunavut and extending to the 22 kilometre (12 nautical miles) limit of Canada's Territorial Sea boundary (Article 3). That decision-making jurisdiction concerning commercial marine fisheries is shared with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and is subject to the terms and conditions of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO 2017) identifies Restricted Activity Timing Windows for Nunavut lakes, rivers and streams to protect fish during spawning and incubation periods when spawning fish, eggs and fry are vulnerable to disturbance or sediment. During these periods, no in-water or shoreline

activity is allowed except under site- or project-specific review and with the implementation of protective measures. Restricted activity periods are determined on a case by case basis according to the species of fish in the water body, whether those fish spawn in the spring, summer or fall, and where the water body is located.

In addition, mitigations for the Ahiak MBS require that commercial fishing operations: (1) avoid bottom trawling within 10 km of bird colonies; (2) monitor and report bird by-catch; (3) ensure bird by-catch mitigation measures be in place; (4) minimize noise emissions (such as sudden engine noise from acceleration and avoiding using horns) from vessels within 1 km of the MBS (subject to safety considerations); and, (5) that proponents consult with the ECCC-CWS Iqaluit office prior to project commencement to discuss ship routing through the site and appropriate emergency preparedness requirements (Environment Canada 2014).

Little is known about the aquatic species (fish and mammals, both fresh water and marine) that use the Ahiak MBS. Research, monitoring and collection of Inuit knowledge related to determining what aquatic species are present, is needed.

6.2.7 Species at Risk

When a species is listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, a recovery strategy (for species listed as 'Endangered' or 'Threatened') or a management plan (for species listed as 'Special Concern') is created for that species. These strategies or plans help define the habitats that species at risk need to survive.

Knowledge of habitat use by species at risk in the Ahiak MBS will aid in the implementation of these strategies and plans, or in the creation of these strategies or plans for newly listed species. The Ahiak MBS is to be managed to protect the habitat that species at risk need to survive and recover to healthy population sizes. Furthermore, a change in designation of the Ahiak MBS from a Migratory Bird Sanctuary to a National Wildlife Area (see this plan section 6.1.1) will aid in the year-round protection of this area for all wildlife (in particular non-bird species at risk; Table 4).

6.2.8 Harvesting

The Ahiak ACMC recognizes that hunting is an important source of food, income and means of connecting to the land for Inuit. The management of Ahiak MBS shall be consistent with Inuit harvesting rights under the *Nunavut Agreement* as per the *IIBA* s. 2.1.5. Hunting activities for waterfowl and other game birds will be managed in a manner consistent with the *Nunavut Agreement* and the *MBCA* and its associated regulations. Bears killed as a result of an emergency or accident within the MBS or during travel to or from the MBS must be reported. Any valuable parts of wildlife killed in an emergency, illegal, or accidental kill shall be handled in accordance with s. 5.6.55 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

6.2.9 Non-native and Invasive Species Control

There are no non-native (introduced) or invasive (e.g. weeds) plant species of concern within the boundary of the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The Government of Nunavut has designated 14 species of vascular plants as exotic within Nunavut; species that have been moved beyond their natural range as a result of human activity (CESCC 2011). None of the species which have been identified are considered to be invasive species, and are not regarded as a threat to Nunavut's naturally occurring biodiversity. As climate change alters arctic ecosystems and enables greater human activity, biological invasions are likely to increase and should be monitored. Observations of

climate change affecting vegetation in the north include the introduction of dandelions and an increase in willows and moss (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment 2005).

6.3 Public Information Management

6.3.1 Public Awareness

The Ahiak ACMC strongly believes that it is important for Nunavummiut, visitors to Nunavut and all Canadians to be educated about the natural, cultural and heritage resources of the Ahiak MBS (*IIBA* s. 6.1.1(d)). Materials (written (including electronic), audio and video) produced to educate or inform the public about the MBS will be made available in the Inuit Languages (*IIBA* s. 6.2.1).

Advertising, presentations, and printed material will be produced in cooperation with NTI and ECCC-CWS staff to ensure consistency, as well as the translation requirements. All materials will also be approved by the Regional Director ECCC-CWS to ensure messages are compliant with policy and regulations in effect at that time. If CWS displays information on the Ahiak MBS, it will make use of visitor centres and similar facilities in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Umingmaktok in accordance with s. 6.9.1 of the *IIBA*. Information will also be made available online through the ECCC Protected Areas Program website.

The Ahiak ACMC has a communications section in their annual work plans as an ongoing part of the management responsibilities of the ACMC. Past activities designed to increase public awareness have included the production of a one minute television public service announcement (Hinterland Who's Who), and a 10 minute movie based on the Ahiak ACMC's 2012 visit to the Ahiak MBS. Future plans include posters, brochures and one-on-one contact with people using, or interested in, the Ahiak MBS.

6.3.2 Interpretive Materials

In accordance with s. 6.8.1 of the *IIBA*, NTI is tasked with the development of interpretive materials, such as signs, displays, brochures, and other information about the natural and cultural resources in and around Ahiak MBS. The primary purpose of the Interpretive Materials is to facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable tourism and guiding in and around the MBS. Inuit Language will be preserved by supporting and promoting it in the management of the MBS. For example, traditional place names should be used when developing maps, signs, or interpretive materials. All materials shall incorporate *Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit*, with special regard to the MBS's physical features, ecology, wildlife, and Inuit heritage and culture (*IIBA* s. 6.8.4) and will be reviewed by CWS, to ensure accuracy of the biological and ecological information contained within the Interpretive Materials (*IIBA* s. 6.8.5).

6.3.3 Tourism Activities

In accordance with the *IIBA*, CWS provides funding to NTI, who administers those funds to build capacity among Inuit Tourism Providers in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Umingmaktok and develops effective community-based tourism services. These services include training or mentoring for interested Inuit Tourism Providers; developing local services for tourists; and developing strategies, tourism packages, and marketing plans (*IIBA* s. 7.2). The Ahiak ACMC supports sustainable tourism operations within the Ahiak MBS which are consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in this plan. Inuit should fully benefit from and fully participate in the economic and other opportunities arising from the management of the Ahiak MBS (*IIBA* s. 2.1.3).

6.3.4 Student Initiatives

Student initiatives such as youth participation in research and the management of Ahiak MBS is recognized as an important component in fostering a close relationship with the land as well as promoting conservation-related work; particularly as youth are spending less time on the land than previous generations. CWS has agreements in place to hire, train, and mentor Inuit students (*IIBA* s. 9.2). CWS also co-operates with the GN in the development of materials and information designed to explain conservation-related jobs, career and business opportunities to Nunavut youth (*IIBA* s. 9.2.1). In further support of this, the Ahiak ACMC encourages permit applicants to hire Inuit students and Nunavut youth as a regular recommendation for permit approval.

6.3.5 Camps

The Ahiak ACMC will maintain a list of existing cabins (camps) within the Ahiak MBS. Under s. 5.5.5 of the *IIBA*, if a visitor wishes to visit an outpost camp, the Ahiak ACMC shall advise the visitor on the appropriateness of the visit.

New outpost camps (those established in the MBS after the date of ratification of the *Nunavut Agreement*) are permitted pursuant to *Nunavut Agreement* s. 7.2.2 where establishment of new outpost camps is subject to the approval of the appropriate HTO or HTOs. Inuit intending to establish a new outpost camp in the Ahiak MBS shall discuss the intended location of the camp with the HTO and the Ahiak ACMC, with a view to minimizing impacts on wildlife or wildlife habitat (*IIBA* s. 5.5.4). At this time, the Ahiak ACMC has identified no areas where the establishment of a new outpost camp would be inconsistent with the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat, including the maintenance of healthy wildlife populations (*IIBA* s. 5.5.2).

6.3.6 Inuit Owned Lands

Inuit Owned Lands within the MBS will be managed in accordance with *Article 4* of the *IIBA* which states the natural resource values of the IOL that lie within the MBS will be maintained, defines the roles and responsibilities of the KIA and the Minister in managing IOL within the MBS, outlines the dispute resolution process and ensures access considerations (by CWS agents, employees and contractors), as well as access across the MBS to IOL.

6.3.7 Compliance Promotion

Promotion of compliance with the laws, regulations and agreements related to protected areas in Nunavut is an important tool in managing these protected areas. Compliance promotion is done through sharing information to increase public awareness and education about the protected area, the legislation and policies affecting the area and the goals and objectives for management of the area.

Management actions for compliance promotion in Ahiak MBS should include:

- Distribution of this management plan,
- Actioning of the annual communications activities work planned by the Ahiak ACMC,
- Putting signage at major locations and entry points to the MBS, including information in the associated communities' visitor's centers,
- Ensuring marine traffic is aware that they may require a permit to access the waters of the Ahiak MBS,

- Ensuring air traffic is aware that they may require a permit to land within the boundaries of the Ahiak MBS,
- Ensuring the public, including businesses, are aware that permits may be required for activities within the Ahiak MBS,
- Encouraging the public to report illegal activities within the Ahiak MBS or involving migratory birds to the Canadian Wildlife Service or another authority (see this plan section 9.0 for contacts), and
- Encouraging regular patrol visits or desktop patrols (such as reviewing track log files from marine vessels or aircraft) of the Ahiak MBS.

6.3.8 Regional Planning

Activities outside of the Ahiak MBS may affect the wildlife and habitat within it. While many of these regional influences are outside of the scope of this management plan or the mandate of the Ahiak ACCM, awareness of the bigger regional picture is important for effective management of the protected area.

The management actions related to regional planning are related to those in the compliance promotion section of this plan (section 6.3.7) and fit in two categories:

1. Sharing information outward:
 - a. Provide mines or developments near the boundary of the Ahiak MBS with awareness information and encourage them to share it with their employees.
 - b. Ask NIRB to consider the Ahiak MBS and how it might be influenced by projects outside of, but near, the Ahiak MBS.
 - c. Inform Environment and Climate Change Canada staff involved with environmental assessments in Nunavut of the contents of this management plan and ask that they consider Ahiak MBS when assessing proposals and projects near Ahiak MBS.
 - d. Encourage Environment and Climate Change Canada to do oil spill response risk mapping for the area surrounding Ahiak MBS (for example, water current or ice movement mapping in addition to wildlife mapping) and ensure the spill response teams are prepared for potential oil spill events in this area.
2. Receiving information inward:
 - a. Ask NIRB to inform us about project applications near (within 100 km) of the Ahiak MBS boundary.
 - b. Follow-up with regulatory agencies to ensure projects in the areas surrounding Ahiak MBS are doing their environmental monitoring and not negatively impacting the water quality within Ahiak MBS.

Being flexible, controlling the things we can, and trying to influence the things we do not have direct control over are important guiding principles for management of the protected area within the regional context.

7.0 AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES, PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES AND ACCESS

The *Migratory Birds Convention Act (1994)* is the regulatory framework that protects migratory birds, and their nests, eggs and habitat from harm. The *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations (C.R.C., c.1036)* follow from the *MBCA* and enable the establishment of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and provide the basis for their management. Entry and access to most Migratory Bird Sanctuaries is not restricted. However, the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* set out activities that are prohibited (*Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations s. 3, s. 4, s. 5, and s. 10*) and provide authority to the Minister of the Environment to authorize or permit activities in Migratory Bird Sanctuaries that are otherwise prohibited (*Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations s. 9*).

As provided for in the *Nunavut Agreement* and subject to certain limitations described in the *Nunavut Agreement*, "Inuit have a free and unrestricted right of access for the purpose of harvesting to all lands, waters and marine areas within the Nunavut Settlement Area" (*Nunavut Agreement s. 5.7.16*). This includes the Ahiak MBS. The *Nunavut Agreement* also exempts Inuit from the requirement to obtain a permit to harvest migratory birds and engaging in activities reasonably incidental to the harvesting of migratory birds in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

The authorization or permitting of activities in the Ahiak MBS is guided by this Management Plan, the *Inuit Impacts and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area*, and *ECCC's Policy when Considering Permitting or Authorizing Prohibited Activities in Protected Areas Designated Under the Canada Wildlife Act and Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

Under the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* the following activities are not allowed (prohibited) except under authority of a permit (note the Inuit harvesting exception mentioned above):

- No person shall hunt migratory birds.
- No person shall disturb destroy or take the nests of migratory birds.
- No person shall have in his possession a live migratory bird, or a carcass, skin, nest or egg of a migratory bird.
- No person shall have in his possession any firearm or hunting appliance.
- No person shall permit their cat or dog to run at large.
- No person shall carry on any activity that is harmful to migratory birds or their eggs, nests or habitat of migratory birds.

The following sections outline conditions that must be met in order for a permit to be issued, the categories of people and activities and whether they do or do not require permits, as well as the permit application process.

7.1 Authorizations

7.1.1 Authorizations by Permit

Under the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* and upon application, the Minister of the Environment may authorize an activity that is prohibited under the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* through the issuance of a permit. That activity must meet one or both of the following

purposes and pre-conditions as described in ECCC's *Policy when Considering Permitting or Authorizing Prohibited Activities in Protected Areas Designated under the Canada Wildlife Act and Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

Purposes:

- The activity is not harmful to migratory birds, their eggs, nests, or habitats; or
- The activity is not inconsistent with the purpose and criteria used for which the Migratory Bird Sanctuary was established and is consistent with the most recent management plan for the Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Pre-conditions:

- Alternatives to the project/activity have been considered, and;
- Mitigation measures have been considered and adopted.

Terms and conditions governing the activity, which the Minister considers necessary for protecting and minimising the impact of the authorised or permitted activity on migratory birds and their habitat, may be added to a permit. Refer to this plan section 7.1.7 below for more information on permits.

7.1.2 Nunavut Inuit Activities Authorized Without a Permit

Nunavut Inuit are guaranteed right of access to Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, without fee or permit, for the following activities:

- Harvesting and activities incidental (*Nunavut Agreement s. 5.7.18 and IIBA s. 5.2*),
- Removal of up to 50 cubic yards of carving stone with the MBS and any amount from IOL within the MBS (*Nunavut Agreement s. 19.9.4 and IIBA s. 5.4*), and
- Establishment of new outpost camps (so long as consistent with this plan section 6.3.5 above, s. 5.5 of the *IIBA* as well as the *Nunavut Agreement*).

The *IIBA* (s. 5.3) gives Inuit a further right of access without permit for the purpose of guiding sport hunters in or across the Sanctuary, and to carry a firearm for self-protection or the protection of clients. It also extends the right of access for the purpose of harvesting (without permit) to cover activities that are reasonably incidental to harvesting.

This right and exemption cannot be assigned to a non-Inuk (even if hunting rights are assigned to that person pursuant to *Nunavut Agreement s. 5.7.35*).

7.1.3 Nunavut Inuit Activities Authorized Only By Permit

Commercial ventures or businesses require a permit to conduct commercial activities within the MBS even if the commercial venture or business is Nunavut Inuit-owned. The one exception to commercial activities is guiding sports hunters or sport fishermen; a Nunavut Inuk guide does not require a permit, but the non-Inuit hunters or fishermen he or she is guiding do require a permit. Refer to 7.1.5 below for non-Inuit. Other types of guiding (eco-tourism, canoeing, etc.) by Nunavut Inuit may require a permit.

Refer to this plan section 7.1.7 below for more information on permits.

7.1.4 Non-Inuit Activities Authorized Without a Permit

There are no activities authorized without a permit for non-Inuit when migratory birds are present (April through October). In addition, any activity at any time of year that may result in the destruction of migratory bird habitat requires a permit. All activities by non-Inuit require a permit even if hunting rights have been assigned to that non-Inuk under s. 5.7.35 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Refer to this plan section 7.1.7 below for more information on permits.

7.1.5 Non-Inuit Activities Authorized Only By Permit

Non-Inuit may require a permit to undertake any activity in Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in Nunavut. Non-Inuit must have a permit to carry a firearm in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary. A permit is also required by non-Inuit to shoot and have dead migratory birds in his or her possession. This includes non-Inuit hunters on guided hunts for any wildlife species (even when the guide is a Nunavut Inuk and he or she does not require a permit; *IIBA* s. 5.3.1; this plan section 7.1.2 above). Refer to this plan section 7.1.7 below for more information on permits.

7.1.6 Activities Authorized by Permit on Inuit Owned Lands

The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and its Regulations apply on Inuit-Owned Lands that are within Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. The Minister of the Environment may issue permits to undertake activities on Inuit-Owned Lands, in consultation with the relevant Regional Inuit Association. There is a special process for determining whether or not to issue a Migratory Bird Sanctuary permit on Inuit-Owned Lands where the Regional Inuit Association (KitIA) expressly supports the permit application. This process is covered in *Article 4* of the *IIBA*.

In addition to the MBS permit, a proponent must also obtain permission from the relevant Inuit organization to enter any Inuit-Owned Lands within the MBS.

7.1.7 CWS Permit Application Process

Application forms can be obtained from, and all permit requests must be made to:

Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Prairie and Northern Region
PO Box 1870
Qilaut Building, 933 Mivvik Street, 3rd Floor
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Email: ec.nupermisscf-cwspermitnu.ec@canada.ca

Contact ec.nupermisscf-cwspermitnu.ec@canada.ca or 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about federal wildlife permits in Nunavut or if you need assistance completing an application form.

Once submitted, the permit undergoes the following process displayed in Figure 7.

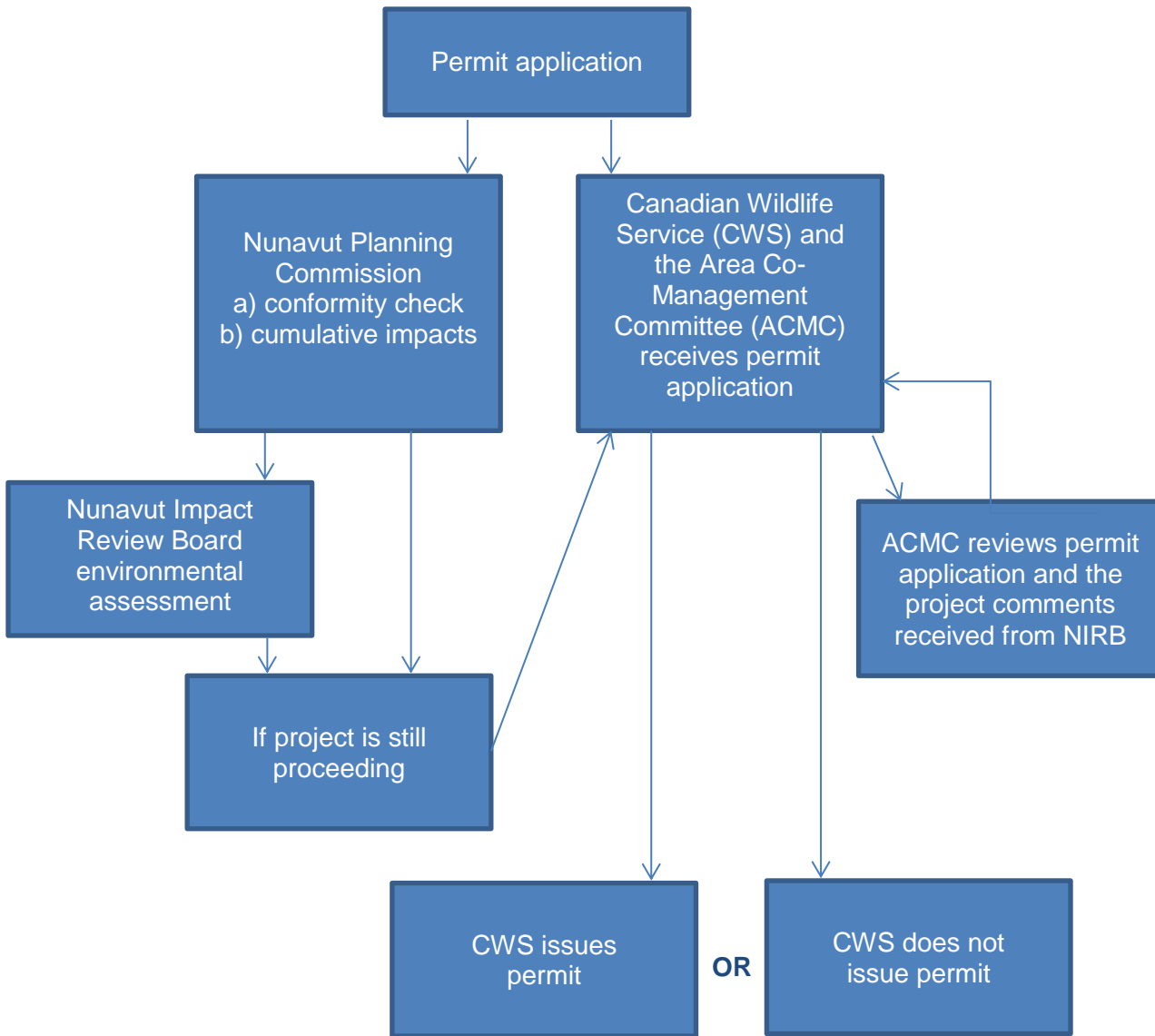


Figure 7: Schematic of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary permit application process

7.2 Other Federal and Territorial Authorizations and Permits

Depending on the type of activity, other federal or territorial authorisations or permits may be required to undertake an activity in the Ahlak Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Contact your regional federal and territorial permitting offices for more information.

8.0 SITE DESIGNATION

The Ahiak MBS is currently designated as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary; however the wildlife and cultural resources within it are better suited by protection as a National Wildlife Area. This is discussed in more detail in this management plan under section 6.1.1 with its accompanying Appendix C.

9.0 SECURITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

In the case of environmental emergencies, please contact the
Canadian Environmental Emergencies Notification System
for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut:
1-867-920-8130.

All reasonable efforts will be made to protect the health and safety of the public including adequately informing visitors of any known or anticipated hazards or risks. Further, Environment and Climate Change Canada staff will take all reasonable and necessary precautions to protect their own health and assure safety as well as that of their co-workers. However, visitors (including researchers and contractors) must make all reasonable efforts to inform themselves of risks and hazards and must be prepared and self-sufficient. Natural areas contain some inherent dangers and proper precautions must be taken by visitors, recognising that Environment and Climate Change Canada staff do not regularly patrol or offer services for visitor safety in Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Any incidents within the Ahiak MBS can be reported to the below offices and you may request anonymity:

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment in your community
- Government of Nunavut Wildlife Office in your community
- Canadian Wildlife Service Enforcement Office (Yellowknife or Iqaluit)
- Canadian Wildlife Service Permitting Office (Iqaluit): ec.nupermisscf-cwspermitnu.ec@canada.ca
- Vice-chair of the Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee: jennie.rausch@canada.ca
- Any member of the Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee in your community

10.0 ENFORCEMENT

For the purposes of the administration of the *Migratory Bird Convention Act and Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations*, Environment and Climate Change Canada Wildlife Officers possess the powers of a police constable. Designated territorial Conservation Officers and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are also authorized to enforce the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

Officers monitor compliance with authorizations and permits issued under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act* and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* on an ongoing basis and will initiate investigations as required. The *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* lists prohibited activities in s. 3 and s. 10. The prohibited activities are:

- Hunting of migratory birds (excepting Inuit and their harvesting rights provided for in the *Nunavut Agreement*)
- Disturbing, destroying or taking the nests of migratory birds
- Having in your possession a live migratory bird, or a carcass, skin, nest, or egg of a migratory bird
- Carry on any activity that is harmful to migratory birds or the eggs, nests, or habitat of migratory birds
- Carrying a firearm in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary (excepting Inuit who are engaged in harvesting activities).

If prohibited activities are being done without a permit, the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* will be universally enforced. When necessary, charges will be laid.

The Ahiak MBS is federal lands and waters (excepting the IOLs), so the general prohibitions of the *Species at Risk Act* (s. 32 and s. 33) apply to all species listed on Schedule 1 as extirpated, endangered, or threatened. Individuals of such listed species shall not be killed, harmed, harassed, captured or taken, and residences shall not be damaged or destroyed. If critical habitat of a listed species is identified within the Ahiak MBS, a description of that habitat must be published in the *Canada Gazette*. Section 58 of the *Species at Risk Act* prohibits the destruction of critical habitat.

Suspected illegal activities within the Ahiak MBS may be reported to any federal or territorial wildlife officer, or RCMP detachment, or directly to the Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee via the Canadian Wildlife Service at ec.nupermisscf-cwspemitnu.ec@canada.ca.

11.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The management plan will be implemented over a 10-year period. Annual work plans will be developed in accordance with priorities and budgets and the details of management plan implementation will be developed through Environment and Climate Change Canada's annual work planning process and will be implemented as human and financial resources allow. An adaptive management approach will be favoured for the implementation of the management plan.

Implementation efforts will be directed through the Ahiak ACMC and based on the mutual commitment of all parties involved (in accordance with s. 2.1.9 of the *IIBA*). The implementation of the plan will be evaluated by CWS five years after initial acceptance and every ten years thereafter on the basis of the actions identified in Table 8. This section of the management plan is not meant to replace annual work planning but to help establish priorities for work planning.

Data obtained from monitoring and research projects will be reviewed through CWS and used to inform future management decisions. When appropriate, the local public will also be consulted. Information will also be used to evaluate federal contributions towards accomplishing the mandates specific to Environment and Climate Change Canada for which the protected area was established, including future designation goals.

Table 8: Five-year implementation schedule for Management Plan action items for the Ahlak MBS

Activity	Year				
	1	2	3	4	5
Advise the Minister of Environment, as appropriate, on all aspects of management planning; carefully considering any <i>Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit</i> brought forward by members (in accordance with Part 3.3 of the <i>IIBA</i>).	X	X	X	X	X
Fulfill the other functions of the ACMC set forth in the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement for Conservation Areas (<i>IIBA</i>), including advising on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NWA Strategy and Action Plan for Nunavut (<i>IIBA</i> Part 3.4); • Management Plans (<i>IIBA</i> Parts 3.5 to 3.7); • RIA-Supported Permit Applications (<i>IIBA</i> Part 4.3); • Camps and cabins in Ahlak MBS (<i>IIBA</i> Part 5.5); • The inventories of resources important to Inuit, including oral history projects, archaeological projects and Inuit Language place names (<i>IIBA</i> Part 6.4 to 6.7); • Research within Ahlak MBS (<i>IIBA</i> Part 10.2) • CWS's role in the protection of Archaeological Sites, Artifacts and Specimens and Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit (<i>IIBA</i> Part 11.3); • The management and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat within the Ahlak MBS (<i>IIBA</i> Part 12.2); • The Establishment, Enlargement, Status Change, Reduction or Disestablishment of Ahlak MBS, as appropriate (<i>IIBA</i> Part 13.5); and • Visitor use of Ahlak MBS (<i>IIBA</i> Parts 14.2 and 14.4). 	X	X	X	X	X
Review permits and collaborative arrangements; revise and renew as appropriate.	X	X	X	X	X
Increase public awareness of the importance of the Ahlak MBS for all wildlife	X	X	X	X	X
Document and report incidents of illegal activities	X	X	X	X	X
Encourage research that aligns with the Ahlak MBS management plan	X	X	X	X	X

11.1 Management Plan Amendment

The Canadian Wildlife Service may amend a management plan at any time. The government or any person whose interests are affected by this management plan may propose an amendment to management plan by contacting CWS (*IIBA* s. 3.7.1). Management plans and any subsequent revisions are subject to the approval of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Any revisions or changes to the management plan will be finalized by the Ahiak ACMC. CWS will then coordinate external consultation and review of the plan. Any changes to the review process and approval steps will be addressed in accordance with s. 5.3.34(c) and s.5.3.16 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

11.2 Management Authorities

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are created under the *MBCA* and managed pursuant to the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* administered through the CWS; under the authority of the federal Minister of the Environment. In Nunavut, through the *Nunavut Agreement* and the *IIBA*, Inuit have a significant role in the decision making of wildlife and wildlife habitat, including migratory birds and their habitat and MBSs. For the Ahiak MBS, these agreements are enacted through the Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee, the advisory committee responsible for the day-to-day management of the Ahiak MBS.

12.0 COLLABORATION

The ultimate success of this management plan depends on collaboration and consultation between Environment and Climate Change Canada, other federal agencies and departments, the Government of Nunavut, non-government organizations, community members in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Umingmaktok, and all Inuit; who by virtue of their objectives, have a role to play in the protection of the Ahiak MBS and the long-term conservation of wildlife species and their habitats. This includes collaboration in research, land management, and wildlife and fisheries management. Successful implementation and operation of programs, research projects, monitoring and protection described for the MBS would not be possible without these formal and informal collaborative arrangements. Coordination of efforts will be conducted through the Ahiak ACMC.

12.1 Inuit and Public Partners

The Ahiak ACMC will advise on the management of migratory bird populations in consultation with regional institutions of public government as well as local resource co-management boards and authorities; such as the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) and the Kitikmeot Wildlife Board (KWB) in addition to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB). NWMB plays a key role in wildlife management within Nunavut including regulating harvesting activities within the MBS. Other partners may include the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO) in Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven, Nunavut Marine Council, Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC), the Hamlets of Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven, Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT), Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Trust, Kitikmeot Heritage Society, Canadian Museum of Civilization, and Nunavut Tourism.

12.2 Government of Nunavut

The GN Department of Environment - Wildlife Management Division has a legislated mandate for the management of terrestrial wildlife species in Nunavut. In addition to the *Nunavut Wildlife Act*, the Wildlife Management Division is responsible for fulfilling government responsibilities under a wide range of federal legislation and both national and international agreements and conventions, including on-going responsibility for the co-management of Nunavut wildlife as obligated under the *Nunavut Agreement*. One of the primary goals of the Division is to achieve a balanced approach to wildlife management that meets legislative requirements, uses both science and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ) and reflects the values and needs of Nunavummiut.

The GN Department of Culture and Heritage develops and implements policies, programs and services. These services are aimed at strengthening the culture, language, heritage and physical activity of Nunavummiut. Close working relationships are maintained with the professional archaeology and palaeontology communities, with Nunavut communities, with the Inuit Heritage Trust, and with other territorial and federal government agencies.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The legal description as copied directly from the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* (C.R.C., c. 1036; 1958) is as follows:

“COMMENCING at a point in the easterly shore of McLaughlin Bay at latitude 69°50'; THENCE, east along parallel of latitude 67°50' to the westerly shore of Sherman Inlet; THENCE, southeasterly in a straight line to the northernmost point in the shore of the promontory east of the mouth of the Kaleet River at Latitude 67°41' and longitude 97°09'; THENCE, southerly along the easterly banks of the Kaleet River and its widenings to latitude 66°20'; THENCE, west along parallel of latitude 66°20' to the westerly bank of the Ellice River; THENCE, northerly along the westerly bank of the Ellice River and westerly bank of that tributary which flows into the Ellice River altitude 66°48 1/2' and longitude 104°38' to longitude 105°30'; THENCE, due north to the northwesterly shore of Labyrinth Bay; THENCE, northerly and easterly along the shore of Labyrinth Bay to the southeastern most point in the shore of Cape Roxborough; THENCE, southeasterly in a straight line to the northernmost point in the shore of Whitebear Point; THENCE, southeasterly in a straight line to the point of commencement; all being described with reference to map sheets 66 N.W. and 66 N.E. dated 1953, 76 N.W. and 76 N.E. dated 1954, 77 S.W. and 77 S.E. dated 1958, of the National Topographic Series, scale 8 miles to 1inch, and map sheet 67 S.W. and 67 S.E. dated 1958, of said series, scale 1:500,000, said sanctuary containing about 24,240 square miles.”

However, there are three known errors (typos) in the legal land description in the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* that will be corrected (see bolded text below for corrections; valid as of December 2017):

“COMMENCING at a point in the easterly shore of McL**L**oughlin Bay at latitude 67°50'; THENCE, east along parallel of latitude 67°50' to the westerly shore of Sherman **B**asin; THENCE, southeasterly in a straight line to the northernmost point in the shore of the promontory east of the mouth of the Kaleet River at Latitude 67°41' and longitude 97°09'; THENCE, southerly along the easterly banks of the Kaleet River and its widenings to latitude 66°20'; THENCE, west along parallel of latitude 66°20' to the westerly bank of the Ellice River; THENCE, northerly along the westerly bank of the Ellice River and westerly bank of that tributary which flows into the Ellice River altitude 66°48 1/2' and longitude 104°38' to longitude 105°30'; THENCE, due north to the northwesterly shore of Labyrinth Bay; THENCE, northerly and easterly along the shore of Labyrinth Bay to the southeastern most point in the shore of Cape Roxborough; THENCE, southeasterly in a straight line to the northernmost point in the shore of Whitebear Point; THENCE, southeasterly in a straight line to the point of commencement; all being described with reference to map sheets 66 N.W. and 66 N.E. dated 1953, 76 N.W. and 76 N.E. dated 1954, 77 S.W. and 77 S.E. dated 1958, of the National Topographic Series, scale 8 miles to 1inch, and map sheet 67 S.W. and 67 S.E. dated 1958, of said series, scale 1:500,000, said sanctuary containing about 24,240 square miles.”

Figure A - 1 shows the boundary as taken directly from the legal land description (original) in the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* in comparison with the corrected legal land description that will eventually be officially corrected. This is for clarity and display purposes. All other maps contained in the accompanying management plan are based on the corrected legal land description.

[insert legal land map here]

Figure A - 1: The legal land description for the Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary in the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* has a known coordinate typo that will be corrected. The incorrect (original) and

corrected boundaries are shown on this map for display purposes.

APPENDIX B: LAND COVER TYPES IDENTIFIED WITHIN AHIK MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

The below Table B - 1 is taken from Didiuk and Ferguson (2005).

Table B - 1: Land cover types identified within the Ahik Migratory Bird Sanctuary

General Cover Type	Specific Cover Type
Water	Water – clear
Water	Water – moderately turbid
Water	Water - turbid
Lowlands	Lowlands - Wet sedge meadow
Lowlands	Hummock graminoid tundra
Lowlands	Tussock graminoid tundra
Lowlands	Low shrub tundra
Lowlands	Shrub thicket
Uplands	Moss-lichen tundra
Uplands	Lichen-heath tundra
Uplands	Bedrock and boulder field
Uplands and Lowlands	Active deposits
Uplands and Lowlands	Exposed peat

APPENDIX C: CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION AS A NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA AND HOW AHIK MBS MEETS THESE CRITERIA

The original designation of the conservation area as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary suited the species conservation at the time. However, over the past 50 years, the needs for the area for conservation of wildlife and Inuit cultural resources have change. While it was created to provide protection for light geese during the breeding season, its increasing importance to other migratory birds and year-round importance to large mammals and for the protection of the cultural resources of importance to Nunavummiut within, Ahiak is better suited for protection as a National Wildlife Area.

An area must meet at least one of the below criterion for proposal as a National Wildlife Area. Ahiak MBS currently meets two of the criteria for designation as a National Wildlife Area (Table C - 1).

Table C - 1: Criteria for designation as a National Wildlife Area and how Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary meets these criteria

Criteria for eligibility as a National Wildlife Area (Environment and Climate Change Canada 2017b)	How Ahiak MBS meets criterion for designation as a National Wildlife Area
1. The area supports at least 1% of the Canadian population of a species or subspecies of migratory bird or species at risk ¹ .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Over 90% of the world's population of Ross' Goose ✓ 8% of the Canadian population of Snow Goose nest within the Ahiak MBS ✓ over 2% of the global Sandhill Crane population ✓ 18% of the eastern Tundra Swan population (7% of the North American population) ✓ 14% of the mid-continent Greater White-fronted Goose population ✓ approximately 5% of the Pacific Brant population ✓ 10 to 12% of the Short-grass Prairie Canada Goose population ✓ 1% of the mid-continent Northern Pintail population ✓ 6% of the west/central North American King Eider population

¹ This criterion includes areas on which species or subspecies depend to complete any part of their life cycle, such as nesting, feeding, migration and wintering areas.

Criteria for eligibility as a National Wildlife Area (Environment and Climate Change Canada 2017b)	How Ahiak MBS meets criterion for designation as a National Wildlife Area
<p>2. The area supports an appreciable assemblage² of species or subspecies of migratory birds or species at risk, or an appreciable number of individuals of any one or more of these species or subspecies where total populations are not known or the assemblage represents a regionally significant area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Six species at risk listed under the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> ✓ Provides habitat for the largest variety of geese in any single area in North America ✓ Only place where two types of Brant nest ✓ One million shorebird species, most of which are in population decline, using Ahiak MBS during the breeding season ✓ High arctic nesting shorebirds are using Ahiak MBS as a stop-over site during northbound migration
<p>3. The area has been identified as critical habitat for a listed migratory bird or other species at risk population, subspecies or species.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>4. The area is a rare or unusual wildlife habitat of a specific type in a biogeographic region, or has special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of a region because of the wide range, quality and uniqueness of its flora and fauna³.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>5. The area possesses a high potential for restoration or enhancement, now or in the future, such that wildlife populations could be increased or managed to meet national objectives.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

² An "appreciable assemblage" of species or subspecies would be a grouping that, in relative terms, is generally accepted as being sufficient to warrant conservation action, such as waterfowl.

³ This criterion allows for habitats that always have been rare in a region, as well as habitats reduced to a remnant of their former extent.

2016 TO 2023 INUIT IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENT

FOR NATIONAL WILDLIFE
AREAS AND MIGRATORY BIRD
SANCTUARIES IN THE NUNAVUT
SETTLEMENT AREA

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BETWEEN
The Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area
represented by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
The Kitikmeot Inuit Association
The Kivalliq Inuit Association
The Qikiqtani Inuit Association
AND
Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, as
represented by the Minister of the Environment



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Table of Contents

2016 INUIT IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENT FOR NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREAS
AND MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARIES IN THE NUNAVUT SETTLEMENT AREA 03

ARTICLE 1 — Definitions 04

ARTICLE 2 — General Provisions 08

ARTICLE 3 — Co-Management 14

ARTICLE 4 — Inuit Owned Lands 23

ARTICLE 5 — Inuit Rights And Uses Of NWAs And MBSs 27

ARTICLE 6 — Information, Materials And Facilities 30

ARTICLE 7 — Tourism And Other Business Benefits 35

ARTICLE 8 — Inuit Contracting And Business Opportunities 37

ARTICLE 9 — Education And Employment 40

ARTICLE 10 — Research 43

ARTICLE 11 — Cultural And Heritage Resources 46

ARTICLE 12 — Wildlife Resources 48

ARTICLE 13 — Changes To MBSs And NWAs 51

ARTICLE 14 — Visitor Access And Use 55

ARTICLE 15 — Implementation, Review And Renegotiation 57

ARTICLE 16 — Dispute Resolution 61

APPENDIX I — Ninginganiq NWA 63

SIGNATURES 65

2016 INUIT IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENT FOR NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREAS AND MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARIES IN THE NUNAVUT SETTLEMENT AREA

WHEREAS National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) are established under the *Canada Wildlife Act* for the purposes of wildlife research, conservation and interpretation; and

WHEREAS Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs) are established under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* for the purposes of protecting migratory birds and their habitat; and

WHEREAS the establishment of NWAs and MBSs has the potential both to confer benefits and to have detrimental impacts on Inuit; and

WHEREAS, under sections 9.4.1 and 8.4.4 and subject to section 9.4.2 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)*, before an NWA or MBS is established in the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) after ratification of the *NLCA*, and for all NWAs and MBSs established before ratification, Inuit and the Government of Canada must negotiate, in good faith, for the purpose of concluding an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with sections 9.4.1 and 8.4.4 of the *NLCA*, the Parties negotiated an Umbrella IIBA for NWAs and MBSs effective August 22, 2008 (the 2008 IIBA) with a funding schedule ending March 31, 2014, and in accordance with section 8.4.7 of the *NLCA* and section 15.6.2 of the 2008 IIBA have renegotiated this IIBA, for the purpose of addressing all matters connected with NWAs and MBSs in the NSA that could reasonably confer a benefit or that could have a detrimental impact on Inuit on a Nunavut-wide, regional or local basis, and to achieve the other objectives set forth in this IIBA; and

WHEREAS in accordance with sections 9.3.2 and 9.3.7 of the *NLCA*, NWAs and MBSs are to be co-managed by Government of Canada and the Designated Inuit Organization (DIO); and

WHEREAS the Minister of the Environment is responsible before Parliament for NWAs and MBSs and has signed this IIBA with the authority and on behalf of the Government of Canada; and

WHEREAS Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), has the responsibilities set forth under Article 39 of the *NLCA*, and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA), the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) have the DIO responsibilities under Article 39 of the *NLCA* for negotiating this IIBA, and all of the above organizations have collectively signed this IIBA with the authority of and on behalf of all Inuit of the NSA;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, terms and conditions contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 — DEFINITIONS

1.1 A term or phrase defined in the *NLCA* and used in the same context in this IIBA has, for the purposes of this IIBA, the same meaning as that set forth in Article 1 of the *NLCA*.

1.2 Except where the context requires otherwise, for the purpose of this IIBA:

“ACMC” means an Area Co-Management Committee, as defined below;

“Associated Community” means a community that is associated with one or more NWA or MBSs, as set forth in Schedule 2-1;

“Area Co-Management Committee” (ACMC) means an Inuit/Government of Canada NWA or MBS co-management committee required by sections 9.3.2, 9.3.7 and 8.4.11 of the *NLCA* and by section 3.2.1 of this IIBA;

“*Canada Wildlife Act*” (*CWA*) means the *Canada Wildlife Act*, its regulations and any successor legislation relating to NWAs;

“CBC” means a Community Beneficiary Committee, as defined below;

“CLARC” means a Community Lands and Resources Committee, as defined below;

“Community Beneficiary Committee,” (CBC) or “Community Lands and Resources Committee” (CLARC) means a committee established by an RIA in a Nunavut community to give advice and make recommendations to the RIA on matters related to the management and use of IOL and the other lands, waters and resources in its land use area;

“Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit” means sites of importance to Inuit for cultural reasons that are identified in accordance with sections 6.4.3 and 6.4.4;

“*CWA*” means the *Canada Wildlife Act*, as defined above;

“CWS” means the Canadian Wildlife Service of the Government of Canada’s Department of the Environment and any successor directorate, branch, agency or department that has responsibility for NWAs and MBSs;

“Department of Culture and Heritage” means the territorial Department of Culture and Heritage and any successor agency or department that has responsibility for archaeological sites and artifacts;

“DOE (Nunavut)” means the territorial Department of the Environment and any successor agency or department that has responsibility for wildlife;

“Effective Date” means the date on which this IIBA comes into force for an NWA or MBS in accordance with subsections 2.2.3;

“Enlargement” means any change in the boundaries of an NWA or MBS that would have the effect of enlarging or including new lands or waters in the NWA or MBS;

“Establishment” means the designation of an NWA or MBS under the *CWA* or *MBCA*, respectively;

“IIBA” means an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, as defined below;

“IIBA Implementation Funds” means the funds provided or to be provided by the Government of Canada pursuant to sections 15.2.1;

“Interpretation” means oral translation;

“Interpretative Materials” means interpretative materials developed pursuant to Part 6.8;

“Inuit Firm” means an entity that qualifies as an Inuit firm under Article 24 of the *NLCA*;

“Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement” (IIBA) means an IIBA as required by Part 4 of Article 8 and Part 4 of Article 9 of the *NLCA*, or this IIBA, as the context requires;

“Inuit Language” means Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, as the circumstances require;

“Inuit Parties” means NTI and the RIAs;

“*Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit*” means that traditional, current and evolving body of Inuit values, beliefs, experience, perceptions and knowledge regarding the environment, including land, water, wildlife and people, to the extent that people are part of the environment;

“Inuit Tourism Provider” means an Inuk or Inuit firm providing, or with an expressed interest in providing, goods or services to tourists;

“Inventories” means inventories of resources importance to Inuit that are developed pursuant to Parts 6.4 through 6.7;

“IOL” means Inuit Owned Lands, as defined in section 1.1.1 of the *NLCA*;

“Management Plan” means a management plan for an NWA or MBS, as required by sections 9.3.8 and 8.4.13 of the *NLCA* and Article 3 of this IIBA;

“*MBCA*” means the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, as defined below;

“MBS” means a Migratory Bird Sanctuary, as defined below;

“*Migratory Birds Convention Act*” (*MBCA*) means the federal *Migratory Birds*

Convention Act, including the *Convention* attached to the *Act* as a *Schedule*, its regulations and any successor legislation relating to MBSs;

“Migratory Bird Sanctuary” (MBS) means a migratory bird sanctuary established in the NSA under the *MBCA*;

“Minister” means the federal Minister of the Environment or the Minister’s designate, except where otherwise stated;

“National Wildlife Area” (NWA) means a national wildlife area established in the NSA under the *CWA*;

“*NLCA*” means the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, as defined below;

“NSA” means the Nunavut Settlement Area, as defined in section 1.1.1 of the *NLCA*;

“NTI” means Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated;

“*Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*” (*NLCA*) means the *Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada* that was ratified by a vote of the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act*, S.C. 1993 c. 29;

“NWA” means a National Wildlife Area, as defined above;

“Parties” means the Inuit of the NSA, as represented by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the three Regional Inuit Associations, and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, as represented by the Minister, and “Party” means any of the above individually;

“Regional Inuit Association” (RIA) means the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, or the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, as the context requires;

“Researcher” means a person holding a permit to carry out research within the boundaries of an NWA or MBS;

“Resource” means minerals and renewable energy resources;

“RIA” means a Regional Inuit Association, as defined above;

“*SARA*” means the *Species at Risk Act* as defined below;

“*Species at Risk Act*” (*SARA*) means the federal *Species at Risk Act*, its regulations and any successor legislation;

“TAH” means Total Allowable Harvest, as defined below;

“Total Allowable Harvest” (TAH) means a total allowable harvest as defined in section 5.1.1 of the *NLCA*;

“Visitor” means any person, including a commercial operator, who enters or uses an NWA or MBS, other than:

- (a) an Inuk or a family member travelling with an Inuk;
- (b) an individual who has been assigned harvesting rights under section 5.7.34 of the *NLCA*;
- (c) an employee or contractor of the CWS or other Government of Canada department acting within the scope of his or her employment or contract; or
- (d) a Researcher.

“Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit” means areas of importance to Inuit for wildlife and other related reasons that are identified in accordance with sections 6.4.3 and 6.4.4.

ARTICLE 2 — GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.1 PRINCIPLES

- 2.1.1 The unique relationship between the Inuit of Nunavut and the ecosystems of the NSA is ecological, spiritual and social in nature. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is a related body of knowledge, which is necessary to and which Inuit shall bring to responsible decision-making regarding the lands, waters and marine areas of the NSA.
- 2.1.2 NWAs and MBSs make an important contribution to wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation in the NSA, Canada and the world. They shall be co-managed by Inuit and CWS in accordance with the *NLCA*, this IIBA, approved Management Plans, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, scientific information and, except where inconsistent with the *NLCA*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, the *Canada Wildlife Act*, the *Species at Risk Act* and other applicable legislation.
- 2.1.3 Inuit should fully benefit from and fully participate in the economic and other opportunities arising from the establishment and management of NWAs and MBSs.
- 2.1.4 The establishment and management of NWAs and MBSs should avoid social and cultural disruption to Inuit and their relationship with and use of the lands (including IOL), the waters and the resources of NWAs and MBSs.
- 2.1.5 The establishment and management of NWAs and MBSs shall be consistent with Inuit harvesting rights under the *NLCA*.
- 2.1.6 The Inuit Language should be preserved and its use should be supported and promoted in the establishment and management of NWAs and MBSs.
- 2.1.7 The archaeological and cultural heritage of Inuit should be protected in the establishment and management of NWAs and MBSs.
- 2.1.8 The opportunities for Inuit provided by this IIBA should build capacity, and encourage self-reliance and the cultural and socio-economic well-being of Inuit.
- 2.1.9 The implementation of this IIBA should be co-operative, in good faith, and based on the mutual commitment of the Parties.

2.2 APPLICATION

- 2.2.1 This IIBA, including Schedules 2-1, 3-1, 6-1, 15-1 and Appendix I, constitutes the IIBA required under Articles 8 and 9 of the *NLCA* for each NWA and MBS identified in Schedule 2-1 of this IIBA.
- 2.2.2 As of the Effective Date, an appendix is not required for any NWA or MBS except for the Ninginganiq NWA, which is attached as Appendix I hereto.

2.2.3 This IIBA shall come into effect and shall replace the 2008 IIBA when it has been signed by the Minister and authorized representatives of NTI and the RIAs.

2.2.4 This Agreement may be signed and dated in any number of its identically worded counterpart copies, each of which once signed and dated shall be deemed to be an original. All such counterpart copies together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Each Party agrees to provide to each of the other Parties an electronically scanned copy of their signed and dated counterpart copy, on the date of signature, by facsimile or email, as evidence of their signature. The Parties acknowledge the validity of such electronically scanned counterpart copies in bringing the IIBA into effect.

2.3 FINANCIAL APPROPRIATIONS

2.3.1 Amounts payable under this IIBA shall be subject to there being a Parliamentary appropriation for that particular purpose in the fiscal year in which the amount is payable.

2.4 AMENDMENT

2.4.1 Subject to section 2.4.2, this IIBA may be amended by written agreement of all the Parties.

2.4.2 The amendment or addition of an appendix or a provision relating to a specific NWA or MBS shall require the written agreement of CWS, NTI and the relevant RIA.

2.5 OTHER GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.5.1 This IIBA is a legally binding and enforceable agreement.

2.5.2 This IIBA is governed by the laws of Nunavut and Canada, as applicable.

2.5.3 This IIBA does not form part of the *NLCA*, and it is not a land claims agreement or treaty within the meaning of Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

2.5.4 Nothing in this IIBA shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from any aboriginal or treaty rights of Inuit.

2.5.5 This IIBA and all terms herein shall be read so as to be consistent with the *NLCA*. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the IIBA and the *NLCA*, the *NLCA* shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

2.5.6 Nothing included in or excluded from this IIBA is intended to be used as a guide to the interpretation of the *NLCA*.

2.5.7 This IIBA is not a bilateral agreement under section 5.7.18 of the *NLCA*, and it does not establish any limitation on Inuit access rights as set forth in the *NLCA*.

- 2.5.8 The exclusion from this IIBA of any matter listed in Schedule 8-3 of the *NLCA* shall not be construed as an acknowledgement that the matter is not appropriate for inclusion in this or any future IIBA.
- 2.5.9 The Articles, Schedules and Appendix constitute this IIBA and shall be read together and interpreted as one agreement. The Preamble, Principles and Objectives in this IIBA are intended to assist in the interpretation of the IIBA.
- 2.5.10 This IIBA constitutes the entire agreement among the Parties and there are no oral or written representations, warranties, collateral agreements or conditions affecting this IIBA except as expressed in it.
- 2.5.11 There shall be no presumption that doubtful expressions in this IIBA are to be interpreted in favour of Government of Canada or the Inuit Parties.
- 2.5.12 There shall be Inuit Language, English and French versions of this IIBA. The English version shall be the authoritative version. Subject to their mutual consent, the Parties may during the term of the IIBA designate the Inuit Language and/or French version(s) to be authoritative as well.
- 2.5.13 Nothing in this IIBA shall affect the rights or the ability of Inuit to participate in and benefit from programs for Nunavut residents, Inuit or aboriginal people.
- 2.5.14 No member of the House of Commons shall be admitted to any share or part of this IIBA by any benefit arising therefrom.
- 2.5.15 Time is of the essence in performing all provisions of this IIBA.
- 2.5.16 Use of the singular in this IIBA includes the plural.
- 2.5.17 When the Minister designates one or more persons to act in the place of the Minister or delegates a responsibility under this IIBA, CWS shall provide notice of the designation or delegation to the Inuit Parties, and the Minister shall remain responsible for the performance of all designated and delegated responsibilities.
- 2.5.18 When NTI designates one or more organizations to act in its place or delegates a responsibility under this IIBA, it shall provide notice of the designation or delegation to the Minister and the RIAs, and it shall remain responsible for the performance of all delegated responsibilities.
- 2.5.19 This IIBA enures to the benefit of and binds the Parties and their successors and assigns.
- 2.5.20 No Party may transfer any responsibility or obligation under this IIBA from a person or body identified in the IIBA as having that responsibility or obligation to another person or body, without notice to and the approval of the other Parties, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld. Once such approvals are given, the transferee is deemed to be a successor or assign of the Party for the purposes of the IIBA.
- 2.5.21 The failure of a Party to enforce a provision of this IIBA does not constitute a waiver of the provision or affect the Party's right to enforce the provision at a later date.

- 2.5.22 If any provision of this IIBA is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that provision shall be deemed to be severed from the IIBA, the remainder of the IIBA shall continue in full force, and the Parties shall make best efforts to amend the IIBA to remedy the invalidity or replace the invalid provision.
- 2.5.23 The Minister shall consult the Inuit Parties when proposed changes to the *CWA*, *MBCA* or *SARA* may affect NWAs or MBSs.

2.6 CONSULTATION

2.6.1 A duty to consult, identified in this IIBA, shall include, at a minimum:

- (a) notice of the matter in sufficient form and detail to allow the party being consulted to prepare its views;
- (b) a reasonable period of time for the party being consulted to prepare its views and an opportunity to discuss those views with the consulting party; and
- (c) full and fair consideration of any views presented.

2.6.2 A duty to consult individual Inuit, identified in this IIBA, shall also include, at a minimum:

- (a) reasonable and culturally appropriate consultation techniques, which facilitate the sharing of views by unilingual and other Inuit;
- (b) interpretation and translation of relevant materials, as required; and
- (c) except where otherwise decided by the relevant ACMC, a summary of the consultation process in English and the Inuit Language.

2.7 UNDERTAKING IN FULFILMENT OF OBLIGATIONS

2.7.1 The Parties shall take all steps that are necessary to give full effect to the provisions of this IIBA.

2.8 NOTICE

2.8.1 Except as otherwise expressly permitted or required, any communications, notices or demands made or given by a Party under this IIBA shall be in writing and shall be: a) delivered personally (in which case the notice shall be considered received on the day of the delivery); or b) mailed by registered mail, return receipt requested (in which case the notice shall be considered received on the seventh business day following the day on which it was registered in a post office; or c) sent by facsimile confirmation transmission (in which case the notice shall be considered received on the second business day

following the facsimile transmission); or d) sent by electronic mail, read receipt requested (in which case the notice shall be considered received on the day following the day of delivery).

- 2.8.2 Notices shall be sent to the following addresses in the case of personal communication, communication by mail, communication by facsimile or by electronic mail, unless otherwise stipulated in this IIBA or indicated by the Parties in writing:

If to the Government of Canada:

Regional Director
Environmental Stewardship Branch
Canadian Wildlife Service
Prairie and Northern Region
Environment Canada
9250 49th Street, Edmonton, AB T6B 1K5
(780) 951-8850
(780) 495-2615 (fax)
david.ingstrup@canada.ca

If to Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.:

Chief Executive Officer, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Box 638
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0
(867) 975-4900
(867) 975-4949 (fax)
jtarreak@tunngavik.com

If to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association:

Executive Director, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Box 18
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut X0B 0C0 (867) 983-2458
(867) 983-2701 (fax)
execdir@kitia.ca

If to the Kivalliq Inuit Association:

Executive Director
Kivalliq Inuit Association, Box 340
Rankin Inlet, Nunavut X0C 0G0
(867) 645-2810
(867) 645-3855 (fax)
gkarlik@kivalliqinuit.ca

If to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association:

Executive Director
Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Box 1340
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0
(867) 975-8400
(867) 979-3238 (fax)
nbeveridge@qia.ca

- 2.8.3 In the case of notices by e-mail, the notice shall be sent to the person occupying the position identified in this section at the time of the notice, unless the Parties notify each other otherwise.
- 2.8.4 In the event of any disruption of postal service, notices shall be delivered personally, or sent by facsimile or by electronic mail.

NWAs and MBSs to Which This IIBA Applies
Schedule 2-1 (Section 2.2.1)

NWAs and MBSs	Associated Communities
1. Akpait NWA	Qikiqtarjuaq
2. Bylot Island MBS	Pond Inlet
3. Dewey Soper MBS	Cape Dorset
4. East Bay MBS	Coral Harbour
5. Harry Gibbons MBS	Coral Harbour
6. Ninginganiq NWA	Clyde River
7. McConnell River MBS	Arviat
8. Nirjutiqarvik NWA	Grise Fiord
9. Polar Bear Pass NWA	Resolute
10. Prince Leopold Island MBS	Resolute, Arctic Bay
11. Qaulluit NWA	Qikiqtarjuaq
12. Queen Maud Gulf MBS	Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Omingmaktok
13. Seymour Island MBS	Resolute

ARTICLE 3 — CO-MANAGEMENT

3.1 OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) effective co-management of NWAs and MBSs by Inuit and CWS in accordance with the *NLCA*, and particularly Articles 9 and 5 of the *NLCA*;
- (b) decision-making for MBSs and NWAs that is substantially informed and influenced by *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*; and
- (c) local Inuit involvement in the planning and management of NWAs and MBSs.

3.2 AREA CO-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Establishment and Purpose

3.2.1 Area Co-Management Committees (ACMCs) shall be maintained for each NWA or MBS or group thereof listed in Schedule 3-1.

3.2.2 Each ACMC shall base its operations in the Associated Community listed in Schedule 3-1, except that in the case of Queen Maud Gulf MBS, the ACMC shall base its operations in Cambridge Bay.

3.2.3 The purposes of the ACMCs shall be to:

- (a) advise the Minister, as they deem appropriate, on all aspects of the planning and management of NWAs and MBSs, in accordance with Part 3.3 of this IIBA;
- (b) prepare, amend and recommend Management Plans in accordance with Parts 3.5 to 3.7 of this IIBA; and
- (c) fulfill the other functions of the ACMCs set forth in the IIBA.

Appointment and Terms of Members

3.2.4 Each ACMC shall consist of six members, appointed as follows:

- (a) the relevant RIA shall appoint three members, all of whom shall be members of the Associated Community's Community Lands and Resources Committee (CLARC) or Community Beneficiary Community (CBC);
- (b) the Minister shall appoint three members, two of whom shall be members of the Associated Community's CLARC or CBC. The Minister's third appointment shall be an employee of CWS;

- (c) where the ACMC represents more than one Associated Community, as set forth in Schedule 3-1, members of the CLARCs or CBCs of all these Associated Communities are eligible for appointment to an ACMC and the ACMC shall include at least one representative from each Associated Community's CLARC or CBC; and
 - (d) in the event that a CLARC member is not available to be appointed, other members may be appointed by the Minister and the relevant RIA that are not CLARC members with the agreement of the Parties.
- 3.2.5 ACMC members shall have demonstrable interest, knowledge or experience in conservation, wildlife, tourism, and/or Inuit culture and heritage.
 - 3.2.6 The relevant RIA shall, after consultation with the Minister, appoint the Chair of each ACMC from among the members appointed from the CLARCs or CBCs. The CWS employee member shall serve as the Vice-Chair of the ACMC and may not also serve as the Chair.
 - 3.2.7 ACMC members may retain their positions after their CLARC or CBC appointment ends. The terms of ACMC members shall be three (3) years.
 - 3.2.8 The relevant RIA shall notify the Minister within thirty (30) days of the appointment or re-appointment of the CLARC or CBC in the Associated Community(ies). Within ninety (90) days of his or her receipt of the RIA's notice, the Minister shall appoint the two (2) CLARC or CBC members that he or she is responsible for appointing to each ACMC.
 - 3.2.9 ACMC members, including the Chair and Vice-Chair, may be re-appointed to their positions.
 - 3.2.10 The RIA or the Minister may remove ACMC members in accordance with ACMC procedures established pursuant to section 3.2.22.
 - 3.2.11 If a member is removed from or otherwise leaves an ACMC, the RIA or the Minister who appointed that member shall, within a reasonable time, appoint a replacement member in the manner described above.

Training

- 3.2.12 Each ACMC shall hold periodic training and orientation workshop(s) as needed to ensure new members are adequately trained to fulfill their obligations.
- 3.2.13 The purpose of the workshop(s) shall be to:
 - (a) familiarize ACMC members with relevant legislation, the *NLCA*, *NWA* or *MBS* planning and management processes, this *IIBA*, and the roles and responsibilities of the ACMCs under the *IIBA*;
 - (b) develop appropriate methods to assist the Inuit members of the ACMCs in obtaining and bringing *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* to ACMC deliberations; and

(c) enable the members to better carry out their responsibilities under the IIBA.

- 3.2.14 CWS shall develop the workshop(s) in consultation with NTI, the RIAs and the ACMCs. NTI or the relevant RIA may participate in the workshop(s). The workshop(s) shall be planned, coordinated, and delivered by CWS, except that the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* component of the workshop(s) shall be facilitated by the relevant RIA or NTI.
- 3.2.15 An all ACMCs meeting shall occur once within the term of this IIBA for a training session to exchange information, learn from each other and, to the extent possible, coordinate their work.

Operations

- 3.2.16 Each ACMC shall meet in person at least once a year. ACMCs may also conduct their work by teleconference and any decisions so made shall be valid.
- 3.2.17 ACMC meetings shall be open to the public, but ACMCs may meet *in camera* from time to time if, in the opinion of the ACMC, special circumstances so require.
- 3.2.18 ACMCs shall conduct their business in the Inuit Language and English, and Interpretation and translation shall be provided as requested by the members.
- 3.2.19 The quorum for any ACMC meeting shall be four members, at least two of whom shall be RIA appointees.
- 3.2.20 Members appointed to the ACMCs shall consider the interests of the Inuit of the Associated Community(ies), the region and the NSA as a whole, and the interests of the people of Nunavut and of Canada when deliberating on any matter.
- 3.2.21 ACMCs shall make all reasonable efforts to make their decisions by consensus (the agreement of all members). If an ACMC is unable to reach consensus on any issue, it may decide by simple majority vote. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall participate in all ACMC decision-making.
- 3.2.22 ACMCs shall, with the assistance of the Parties, establish procedures governing their operations, including conflict of interest guidelines and a code of conduct, and the ACMCs and the Parties shall make these procedures publicly available. Wherever reasonable and agreeable to the relevant ACMCs, these procedures shall be consistent among different ACMCs.

Budget and Work Plan

- 3.2.23 Prior to the conclusion of every fiscal year, each ACMC shall prepare a work plan and proposed budget for the coming year.
- 3.2.24 Each ACMC shall submit its proposed work plan and budget to CWS, NTI and the relevant RIA for their review and approval at the annual review in accordance with Part 15.4.

- 3.2.25 ACMCs may recommend changes to their work plans and budgets as circumstances change during any fiscal year. They shall submit any such revised work plans and budgets to CWS, NTI and the relevant RIA for their review and approval, within a reasonable period of time.
- 3.2.26 At the conclusion of each fiscal year, each ACMC shall prepare a report on the attainment of that year's work plan and on other matters as the ACMC sees fit. Each ACMC shall submit its report for the Parties' review in the annual reviews under Part 15.4.

Costs

- 3.2.27 ACMC budgets shall be approved in advance in accordance with sections 3.2.24 and 3.2.25. Legitimate ACMC costs are as follows:
- (a) honoraria for members for ACMC work when a member is not otherwise reimbursed for that work;
 - (b) the ACMCs' meeting expenses, including travel, accommodation and per diem expenses at Treasury Board rates for members who must travel to attend ACMC meetings and who are not otherwise reimbursed for these expenses;
 - (c) expenses of RIA staff who travel to attend ACMC meetings; and
 - (d) other costs associated with the ACMCs' performance of their duties under this IIBA.
- 3.2.28 Subject to section 15.2.1, CWS shall provide NTI with IIBA Implementation Funds in the amounts identified in line 1 and line 2 of Schedule 15-1 to pay the costs of the ACMCs described in section 3.2.27. NTI's obligations to pay ACMC costs pursuant to this section are limited by and to the funding provided in lines 1 and 2 of Schedule 15-1.

Secretariat Support

- 3.2.29 CWS shall provide secretariat support to the ACMCs as set forth in section 3.2.30.
- 3.2.30 The secretariat support provided by CWS shall consist of:
- (a) logistical support including the organization of ACMC meetings, teleconferences, consultations, travel and accommodations;
 - (b) assistance in ACMC budget preparation;
 - (c) administrative support and the maintenance of ACMC documents and files; and
 - (d) other duties of a similar nature as directed by the Chair and agreed by CWS.
- 3.2.31 At the request of CWS, the relevant RIA may assign a staff person to provide support for ACMC meetings. The amounts to pay for the costs associated with this RIA staff person are identified in line 1 of Schedule 15-1.

3.3 AREA CO-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ADVICE

- 3.3.1 In accordance with section 9.3.7 of the *NLCA*, an ACMC may, as it deems appropriate, advise the Minister on all matters related to NWA or MBS management. An ACMC may also, as it deems appropriate, advise the Parties and other Government of Canada organisations, departments and agencies on matters related to the management of an NWA or MBS.
- 3.3.2 For greater certainty, section 2.1.2 does not constrain an ACMC from providing advice to the Minister, the Parties or other Government of Canada organisations, departments and agencies as it deems appropriate, including advice on legislative change. Notwithstanding section 2.1.2, a member of an ACMC may bring to ACMC deliberations and decision-making, and otherwise express, his or her views on any matter under consideration by the ACMC, whether or not those views are consistent with legislation.
- 3.3.3 In formulating their advice to the Minister, ACMCs shall carefully consider *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* brought forward by any member.
- 3.3.4 The role of the ACMCs includes advising on:
- (a) the NWA Strategy and Action Plan for Nunavut (Part 3.4);
 - (b) Management Plans (Parts 3.5 to 3.7);
 - (c) RIA-Supported Permit Applications (Part 4.3);
 - (d) the removal of carving stone from NWAs and MBSs (Part 5.4);
 - (e) outpost camps and Cabins in NWAs and MBSs (Part 5.5);
 - (f) the inventories of resources important to Inuit, including oral history projects, archaeological projects and Inuit Language place names (Parts 6.4 to 6.7);
 - (g) NWA and MBS research (Part 10.2);
 - (h) CWS's role in the protection of Archaeological Sites, Artifacts and Specimens and Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit (Part 11.3);
 - (i) the management and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat within an MBS or NWA (Part 12.2);
 - (j) the Establishment, Enlargement, Status Change, Reduction or Disestablishment of an MBS or NWA, as appropriate (Parts 13.3 and 13.5); and
 - (k) Visitor use of NWAs and MBSs, including recommended guide areas (Parts 14.2 and 14.4).
- 3.3.5 The Minister shall seek the advice of the relevant ACMCs on all significant policy matters directly affecting NWAs or MBSs. In all significant policy decisions, the Minister

shall carefully consider *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* documented and presented to the Minister by an ACMC.

- 3.3.6 With the exception of advice on RIA-Supported Permit Applications under section 4.3.2, which is governed by section 4.3.3, ACMC advice to the Minister is subject to the process set forth in section 3.3.7.
- 3.3.7 The Minister shall consider an ACMC's advice on any matter as follows:
- (a) on first receipt of an ACMC's advice, the Minister shall accept and implement or reject the advice. If the Minister rejects the ACMC's advice, the Minister shall, within sixty (60) days of receiving the advice, provide written reasons to the ACMC for the rejection. If the Minister considered any additional information not in the possession of the ACMC, the Minister shall, subject to legal restrictions on disclosure, disclose that information in the written reasons;
 - (b) if the Minister rejects an ACMC's advice, the ACMC may reconsider its advice, and it may, within sixty (60) days of receiving the Minister's reasons for the rejection, submit revised advice;
 - (c) the Minister shall consider any revised advice submitted by an ACMC under subsection (b), and shall make and implement a final decision within sixty (60) days. The Minister shall provide written reasons to the ACMC, to the extent that the Minister has rejected or varied the ACMC's revised advice. The failure of an ACMC to submit revised advice to the Minister within the required time shall not prevent the Minister from making and implementing the final decision;
 - (d) the sixty (60) day deadlines in subsections (a), (b) and (c) above may be extended with the mutual agreement of the Minister, NTI and the relevant RIA; and
 - (e) the Minister's written reasons provided pursuant to this section shall address any *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* documented and presented to the Minister by the ACMC.

3.4 NWA STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

- 3.4.1 Within the term of the IIBA, CWS shall develop a draft NWA Strategy and Action Plan for Nunavut for consultation with the ACMCs and the relevant Inuit organizations, including the RIAs, the RWOs and NTI. The Strategy will be completed prior to the establishment of any new NWAs.
- 3.4.2 The Strategy shall identify potential NWAs, in addition to those which have already been established, which are required to complete an effective network of NWAs in the NSA. The Action Plan shall establish a timetable for implementing the Strategy. The timetable shall be subject to, and shall provide for, any steps to be taken pursuant to Article 13 of this IIBA.
- 3.4.3 In developing the Strategy and Action Plan, CWS shall carefully consider *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* documented and presented to it by any ACMC.

- 3.4.4 CWS shall present the draft Strategy and Action Plan to the Minister for approval. Any future NWA initiatives shall be consistent with the Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.4.5 CWS may amend the Strategy and Action Plan in accordance with the process set forth in sections 3.4.1 through 3.4.4.
- 3.4.6 Funding to fulfill the obligations identified in this Part shall not be derived from IIBA Implementation Funds.
- 3.5 MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION
- 3.5.1 For every NWA or MBS, a Management Plan shall be completed by CWS at the earliest possible date and no later than the dates set forth in the implementation plan pursuant to section 15.3.1.
- 3.5.2 In accordance with section 8.4.13 of the *NLCA*, for any NWA or MBS established after the Effective Date of this IIBA, a Management Plan shall, subject to section 3.5.3, be completed within five (5) years of the establishment of the NWA or MBS.
- 3.5.3 Each ACMC shall prepare the Management Plan for the MBS(s) or NWA(s) for which it is responsible under Schedule 3-1.
- 3.5.4 In preparing Management Plans, the ACMCs shall carefully consider any *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* brought forward by a member.
- 3.5.5 The ACMC shall consult the relevant RIA, and NTI, before completing the draft Management Plan.
- 3.5.6 Subject to its work plan and budget, the ACMC may prepare the Management Plan according to whatever process it deems appropriate and it may consult as it deems appropriate.
- 3.5.7 The Management Plan shall include a description of:
- (a) the purposes of the NWA or MBS;
 - (b) management goals and objectives;
 - (c) the natural and cultural history and the context within which the NWA or MBS operates;
 - (d) policies that will guide the management of the NWA or MBS;
 - (e) a schedule to implement Management Plan action items; and
 - (f) items identified pursuant to sections 14.2.2 and 14.4.1.

3.5.8 Where an NWA or MBS includes IOL, the Management Plan shall reflect and address any special issues arising from the presence of the IOL.

3.5.9 In the event that a management plan already exists for an NWA or MBS, the ACMC shall review that management plan and it may, in accordance with Part 3.6, recommend amendment or replacement of that plan as it deems appropriate.

3.6 MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

3.6.1 The ACMCs shall recommend completed Management Plans to the NWMB for approval in accordance with sections 5.2.34(c) and 5.3.16 of the *NLCA*.

3.6.2 The ACMC shall provide the relevant RIA and NTI with a copy of the completed Management Plan when it sends the Plan to the NWMB.

3.6.3 If, in accordance with the decision-making process set forth in subsection 5.2.34(c) and sections 5.3.17 through 5.3.23 of the *NLCA*, the NWMB or the Minister rejects, in whole or part, a completed Management Plan and the Plan is returned to an ACMC for reconsideration, the relevant ACMC shall re-consider the Plan and re-submit it to the NWMB.

3.6.4 In accordance with section 8.4.13 of the *NLCA*, approved Management Plans shall be based on the recommendations of the relevant ACMCs, taking into account the recommendations of other interested persons or bodies.

3.6.5 Once the Minister has accepted a Management Plan, the Minister shall proceed forthwith to do all things necessary to implement the Plan.

3.6.6 The ACMC shall provide a copy of the approved Management Plan to NTI and the relevant RIA.

3.7 AMENDMENTS TO MANAGEMENT PLANS

3.7.1 Government of Canada, a DIO, any member of an ACMC, or any person whose interests are affected by a Management Plan may propose an amendment to a Management Plan to the ACMC.

3.7.2 The ACMC shall consider the proposed amendment and may recommend amendments to the Management Plan in accordance with the process set forth under Parts 3.5 and 3.6.

Area Co-Management Committees
 Schedule 3-1 (Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2)

NWAs and MBSs	Associated Communities	Area Co-Management Committees
1. Akpait NWA and Qaalluit NWA	Qikiqtarjuaq	Sululiit
2. Bylot Island MBS	Pond Inlet	Asungasungaaq
3. Dewey Soper MBS	Cape Dorset	Isulijarnik
4. East Bay MBS and Harry Gibbons MBS	Coral Harbour	Irniurviit
5. Ninginganiq NWA	Clyde River	Ninginganiq
6. McConnell River MBS	Arviat	Nivvialik
7. Nirjutiqarvik NWA	Grise Fiord	Nirjutiqarvik
8. Polar Bear Pass NWA, Prince Leopold Island MBS and Seymour Island MBS	Resolute	Sulukvait
9. Queen Maud Gulf MBS	Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Omingmaktok	Ahiak

ARTICLE 4 — INUIT OWNED LANDS

4.1 OBJECTIVES

4.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) maintain the natural resource values of IOL that lie within MBSs and NWAs;
- (b) recognize the respective roles and responsibilities of the RIAs and the Minister in managing IOL within MBSs and NWAs;
- (c) fairly and impartially resolve disputes between an RIA and CWS regarding the permitting of activities on IOL within NWAs and MBSs;
- (d) ensure reasonable notice to Inuit when CWS agents, employees and contractors access IOL; and
- (e) ensure reasonable access across NWAs and MBSs to IOL.

4.2 DEFINITIONS

4.2.1 For the purposes of this Article:

- (a) “RIA-Supported Permit Application” means an application to CWS, made or supported in writing by an RIA, for an NWA or MBS permit to conduct an activity on IOL within an NWA or MBS where, pursuant to sections 9.3.3 or 9.3.4 of the *NLCA*, the activity requires a permit under the *CWA* or the *MBCA*; and
- (b) “RIA-Supported Permit” means an RIA-Supported Permit Application approved by the Minister.

4.3 USE OF IOL PARCELS IN MBSs AND NWAs

Decision-Making Test

4.3.1 The Minister shall approve an RIA-Supported Permit Application where, in his or her opinion, acting reasonably, the proposed activity is consistent with the *CWA*, *MBCA* or *SARA*, as applicable. When evaluating an RIA-Supported Permit Application, the Minister shall consider:

- (a) the potential effects of the proposed activity on local migratory bird populations and habitat, on local wildlife populations and habitat, on any endangered, threatened or extirpated wildlife species listed under *SARA*, or on those species’ critical habitat, including:

- (i) the nature and scale of the activity;
 - (ii) the location and geographic extent of the activity;
 - (iii) the time of year of the activity;
 - (iv) the duration of the activity;
 - (v) the likelihood of potential effects from the activity; and
 - (vi) the likelihood of population and habitat recovery;
- (b) the social, cultural and economic importance of the activity to Inuit;
 - (c) the RIA's and the Associated Community's objectives in supporting the activity;
 - (d) whether there are financially viable and practical alternatives to carrying out the activity in the MBS or NWA;
 - (e) any conciliator's report under section 4.3.8 and any RIA President-Ministerial discussions under section 4.3.9;
 - (f) such other matters as the Minister, acting reasonably, considers relevant; and
 - (g) whether the activity can be accommodated within the MBS or NWA, given the above considerations.

Decision-Making Process

- 4.3.2 The relevant ACMC may advise the RIA and CWS on all aspects of RIA-Supported Permit Applications, including any terms and conditions that should be attached to RIA-Supported Permits.
- 4.3.3 The decision-making process set forth in sections 4.3.4 through 4.3.13, using the test in section 4.3.1, shall apply to all RIA-Supported Permit Applications. The process set forth in sections 3.3.6 and 3.3.7 shall not apply to ACMC advice on RIA-Supported Permit Applications.
- 4.3.4 An RIA-Supported Permit Application, together with any supporting documentation, shall address the factors set forth in section 4.3.1, as applicable. The RIA shall document and include in the Application any *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* that it believes relevant to the Application. CWS may require further information from the applicant where an RIA-Supported Permit Application is incomplete.
- 4.3.5 On the receipt of a complete RIA-Supported Permit Application, CWS and the RIA shall meet, within a reasonable time, in person or by teleconference, to discuss the Application.

- 4.3.6 If, following the section 4.3.5 discussions, either Party has concerns with the RIA-Supported Permit Application, it may give notice to the other Party that it wishes to attempt to resolve the matter through mediation. CWS and the RIA shall then retain the services of a mutually acceptable mediator and they shall, within a reasonable time, make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter through mediation.
- 4.3.7 If, following the completion of the section 4.3.5 discussions and any mediation pursuant to section 4.3.6, CWS has concerns regarding the RIA-Supported Permit Application, it shall, within a reasonable time, so notify the relevant RIA and the ACMC, and it shall provide them with written documentation of its concerns. CWS's documentation shall address any *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* documented and presented to it by the RIA or ACMC.
- 4.3.8 If, after considering CWS's concerns as documented pursuant to section 4.3.7, the RIA wishes to proceed with the RIA-Supported Permit Application, it may give notice to CWS that it wishes to attempt to resolve the matter through conciliation. CWS and the RIA shall then, within a reasonable time, select a mutually acceptable conciliator and conciliation process, and the conciliator shall submit a report to the President of the RIA and the Minister.
- 4.3.9 If, after considering the conciliator's report under section 4.3.8, the RIA wishes to proceed with the RIA-Supported Permit Application, it may refer the Application to the President of the RIA and the Minister, who shall then, within a mutually acceptable time, discuss the Application, in person or by teleconference.
- 4.3.10 At the conclusion of the section 4.3.9 discussions, or earlier if the Minister is willing to approve the RIA-Supported Permit Application at an earlier point in the decision-making process, the Minister shall make his or her decision.
- 4.3.11 In the event that the Minister does not approve the RIA-Supported Permit Application, the Minister shall, within a reasonable time, provide the RIA with written reasons for his or her decision.
- 4.3.12 Nothing in this Article shall limit the legal remedies of any Party.
- 4.3.13 Each disputing Party shall pay its own costs of dispute resolution undertaken pursuant to this Article, and the Parties shall share equally all costs associated with the hiring of a mediator or a conciliator pursuant to sections 4.3.6 and 4.3.8.
- 4.3.14 Notwithstanding section 1.2, the "Minister" in subsection 4.3.1(e) and in sections 4.3.8 through 4.3.11 means the Minister, and not a Ministerial designate. For greater certainty, in section 4.3.8, the "Minister" means the Minister only in the sense that any conciliation report shall be submitted directly to the Minister and not merely to a Ministerial designate; the inclusion of "the Minister" in section 4.3.8 does not mean that the Minister rather than a designate must otherwise take part in any conciliation process.

4.4 GENERAL

4.4.1 Prior to making any decision that could substantially affect IOL within or adjacent to an NWA or MBS, CWS shall consult the relevant RIA. The RIA shall document and present to CWS any *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* which it believes relevant to CWS's decision. CWS shall provide written reasons for its decision. CWS's reasons shall address any *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* documented and presented to it by the RIA or ACMC.

4.5 IOL NOT IN SCHEDULE 9-3

4.5.1 IOL parcels which may in the future lie within a proposed NWA or MBS or an Enlargement of an NWA or MBS and which are not identified in Schedule 9-3 of the *NLCA* shall only with the written consent of the relevant RIA, or NTI if the IOL include subsurface rights, be included in the NWA or MBS. For greater certainty, any such Establishment or Enlargement is subject to an amendment to this IIBA.

4.6 CWS RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON IOL

4.6.1 In accordance with section 21.5.4 of the *NLCA*, any agent, employee or contractor of CWS exercising a right of access to IOL and water on IOL in an NWA or MBS under Article 21 of the *NLCA* for legitimate Government purposes relating to the lawful delivery and management of CWS programs and the enforcement of laws is subject to subsection 21.3.12(b) and section 21.3.13 of the *NLCA*.

4.6.2 In accordance with section 21.5.7 of the *NLCA*, access to IOL by CWS personnel for the purposes of wildlife management and wildlife research is subject to the approval of the NWMB after consultation with the appropriate RWO.

4.6.3 In order to keep the relevant RIA informed of CWS actions on its lands, CWS agents, employees and contractors shall also, wherever practicable and appropriate, make all reasonable efforts to provide the RIA with written notice prior to entering on IOL. Without in any way limiting the requirements of section 4.6.2, examples when notice to an RIA may not be practicable or appropriate include animal tracking actions which necessitate unforeseeable entry onto IOL, search and rescue, other emergencies and the enforcement of laws. Where prior written notice has not been given, CWS shall provide notice to the RIAs as soon as it is practicable and appropriate after entering on IOL.

4.6.4 CWS shall provide written guidelines to all CWS agents, employees and contractors, to ensure that such individuals comply fully with section 4.6.3.

4.7 ACCESS TO IOL

4.7.1 The provisions of Part 4.3 shall also apply to a permit application to CWS made or supported by an RIA and related to access across an NWA or MBS to Resources on IOL parcels partly inside or sharing the NWA's or MBS's boundary, or to the siting of infrastructure and facilities on such IOL.

ARTICLE 5 — INUIT RIGHTS AND USES OF NWA_s AND MBS_s

5.1 OBJECTIVES

5.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) acknowledge Inuit rights to harvest wildlife in NWA_s and MBS_s as set forth in the *NLCA*;
- (b) address permit requirements related to the guiding of sports hunters in NWA_s and MBS_s;
- (c) provide for the exercise of Inuit rights to remove carving stone from NWA_s and MBS_s, as set forth in the *NLCA*; and
- (d) provide for Inuit establishment of outpost camps in NWA_s and MBS_s, as set forth in the *NLCA*.

5.2 INUIT USE OF AND ACCESS TO NWA_s AND MBS_s

5.2.1 As set forth in Article 5 and subject to section 5.7.18 of the *NLCA*, Inuit have a free and unrestricted right of access for the purpose of harvesting to all lands, waters and marine areas within NWA_s and MBS_s.

5.2.2 As set forth in and subject to Article 5 of the *NLCA*, including any applicable restrictions established pursuant to that Article by the NWMB, an Inuk or an assignee under section 5.7.34 of the *NLCA* may, within an NWA or MBS, harvest wildlife and engage in activities reasonably incidental to harvesting without any form of licence, permit, tax or fee under the *CWA* or the *MBCA*.

5.2.3 For greater certainty, to the extent that it is consistent with the *NLCA*, *CWA*, *MBCA* and *SARA*, the Nunavut *Wildlife Act* shall continue to apply within NWA_s and MBS_s.

5.2.4 NTI may prepare an Inuit Language and English information sheet that identifies Inuit harvesting and related activities that do not require a permit in NWA_s or MBS_s. In this event, CWS and NTI shall discuss the information sheet. Provided that they agree on its contents, CWS shall cover the costs of translating and distributing the information sheet.

5.2.5 Before seeking NWMB approval to limit Inuit harvesting activities in an NWA or MBS, CWS shall consult NTI and the relevant ACMC in an effort to find means other than regulation to resolve disputes regarding such activities.

5.3 SPORTS HUNTER GUIDING

5.3.1 Subject to Article 5 of the *NLCA*, including any limitations established by the NWMB pursuant to that Article, an Inuk guide may, without any form of licence, permit, tax or

fee under the *CWA* or *MBCA*, guide or transport sports hunters and their equipment through an NWA or MBS to a destination within or outside the NWA or MBS. For greater certainty, this section is not intended to affect the requirement for a sports hunter to obtain any necessary permits.

5.3.2 Subject to Article 5 of the *NLCA*, including any limitations established by the NWMB pursuant to that Article, when guiding or transporting sport hunters or their equipment through an NWA or MBS to a destination within or outside the NWA or MBS, an Inuk may, without any form of licence, permit, tax or fee under the *CWA* or *MBCA*, carry and discharge firearms for self-protection or the protection of clients.

5.4 REMOVAL OF CARVING STONE

5.4.1 As set forth in and subject to sections 19.9.4 and 19.9.9 of the *NLCA*, an Inuk has the right to remove up to 50 cubic yards per year of carving stone from Crown lands within NWAs and MBSs, and any amount of carving stone from IOL within NWAs and MBSs.

5.4.2 An Inuk may exercise the right set forth in section 5.4.1, provided that the extraction and transportation of carving stone are carried out in a manner consistent with the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat, including the maintenance of healthy wildlife populations.

5.4.3 The relevant ACMC may advise CWS, Inuit exercising rights under sections 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 and, in the case of IOL in NWAs or MBSs, the relevant RIA, on ways of preventing and resolving disputes associated with the extraction and transportation of carving stone from NWAs and MBSs.

5.4.4 Subject to sections 5.4.1 and 5.4.2, Management Plans may identify carving stone deposits in NWAs and MBSs, and may include recommendations to guide the extraction and transportation of carving stone or to prevent or resolve disputes associated with such extraction and transportation. Such recommendations shall bind Inuit only upon agreement in an appendix to this IIBA.

5.5 NEW OUTPOST CAMPS

5.5.1 For the purposes of this Part, “new outpost camps” means outpost camps established in NWAs and MBSs from the date of the ratification of the *NLCA*.

5.5.2 Management Plans for particular NWAs and MBSs shall identify, among other things, any areas where the establishment of new outpost camps is inconsistent with the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat, including the maintenance of healthy wildlife populations.

5.5.3 Inuit may establish new outpost camps anywhere in an NWA or MBS except within the areas identified pursuant to section 5.5.2.

- 5.5.4 Pursuant to section 7.2.2. of the *NLCA*, the establishment of new outpost camps is subject to the approval of the appropriate HTO or HTOs. Inuit intending to establish a new outpost camp in an NWA or MBS shall discuss the intended location of the camp with the HTO and the appropriate ACMC, with a view to minimizing impacts, if any, on wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- 5.5.5 If CWS becomes aware that a Visitor wishes to visit an outpost camp, it shall direct the Visitor to consult the relevant ACMC. The ACMC shall advise the Visitor on the appropriateness of the visit.

ARTICLE 6 — INFORMATION, MATERIALS AND FACILITIES

6.1 OBJECTIVES

6.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) document the archaeological, ethnographic, and oral history records of NWAs and MBSs;
- (b) identify Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit and Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit;
- (c) develop Interpretative Materials in support of tourism that is appropriate to NWAs and MBSs;
- (d) educate Nunavut residents and Visitors about NWA and MBS resources including, in particular, Inuit cultural and heritage resources;
- (e) use Inuit Language place names in the establishment and management of NWAs and MBSs; and
- (f) promote the understanding of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, and other aspects of Inuit culture and heritage.

6.2 TRANSLATION REQUIREMENTS

6.2.1 In accordance with section 8.4.16 of the *NLCA*, in addition to any other translation requirements contained in this IIBA, CWS shall, at its own cost, translate and make available in the Inuit Language all written (including electronic), audio and video information produced by it to educate or inform the public about NWAs and MBSs.

6.3 PROJECTS SUBJECT TO FUNDING

6.3.1 Subject to section 15.2.1, CWS shall provide NTI with IIBA Implementation Funds in the amounts identified in lines 3 and 4 of Schedule 15-1 to prepare Inventories and Interpretative Material. NTI's obligations under Parts 6.4 through 6.8 are limited by and to the amount of funding provided.

6.4 INVENTORIES OF RESOURCES IMPORTANT TO INUIT: GENERAL PROVISIONS

6.4.1 NTI shall contract for the preparation of inventories of resources important to Inuit (the "Inventories"), following accepted contracting standards and practices, for all or some of the NWAs and MBSs identified in Schedule 6-1. These inventories

shall be initiated and completed according to the implementation plan pursuant to section 15.3.1.

- 6.4.2 The purposes of the Inventories are as follows:
- (a) support the development of Management Plans;
 - (b) support the development of the Interpretative Materials described in Part 6.8;
 - (c) document information of cultural importance to Inuit; and
 - (d) support the development of official Inuit Language names for NWAs, MBSs, and places therein.
- 6.4.3 The Inventories shall include to the extent deemed appropriate by the Inuit Parties:
- (a) Inuit oral history projects and archaeological projects as described in Parts 6.5 and 6.6 below;
 - (b) the identification and description of Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit and Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit; and
 - (c) the identification of potential Inuit Language names for NWAs, MBSs and significant places therein, in the manner set forth in section 6.7.1 below.
- 6.4.4 Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit and Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit shall be identified through such means as the oral history interviews, reviews of existing information, or consultation with local Inuit and HTOs, the NWMB, DOE (Nunavut), Department of Culture and Heritage, and the Inuit Heritage Trust. At a minimum, Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit reports shall include the location of each such Area and a description of its wildlife resources and their importance to Inuit.
- 6.4.5 Existing oral histories, archaeological and wildlife information shall be used in the Inventories, and oral history and archaeological projects shall not duplicate existing information.
- 6.4.6 In their preparation of the Inventories, NTI shall require its contractors to work, as appropriate, with DOE (Nunavut), Department of Culture and Heritage, the Inuit Heritage Trust, the relevant ACMC and local Inuit. All Inventory work shall comply with the requirements of the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations* and Article 33 of the *NLCA*, where applicable.
- 6.4.7 To the extent practicable, NTI shall make Inventories available in appropriate locations in Associated Communities.
- 6.4.8 NTI shall make all reasonable efforts to make available to ACMCs information collected through the Inventories to support the development of Management Plans.

6.5 ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

- 6.5.1 Oral history projects shall include interviews with knowledgeable elders and reviews of available databases including Schedule 6-1 NWAs and MBSs. Relevant interview topics may include, without limitation:
- (a) the history of the inter-relationships among people, wildlife of the area, and harvesting patterns and locations;
 - (b) legends and stories;
 - (c) early contact; and
 - (d) location and description of Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit and Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit.
- 6.5.2 Interested elders in the Associated Community(ies) shall to the extent deemed appropriate by the Inuit Parties be taken out on the land to visit archaeological sites and to provide an opportunity to obtain additional stories and information.
- 6.5.3 NTI shall require its contractor to provide each informant with a transcript of his or her interview in the oral history project, as well as a summary report in English and the Inuit Language.
- 6.5.4 In the development and distribution of oral history material under this IIBA, the Parties shall take into account the ownership and privacy interests of Inuit informants, in consultation with those informants.

6.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

- 6.6.1 To the extent deemed appropriate by the Inuit Parties, in consultation with CWS, archaeological projects shall include an inventory and assessment of the archaeological resources of significant parts of Schedule 6-1 NWAs and MBSs and surrounding areas, identified in consultation with Department of Culture and Heritage, the ACMCs and local Inuit. Existing inventories and assessments may be updated as part of this work.
- 6.6.2 Where warranted by the extent of human use and where possible within the available budget, the ACMCs may, in consultation with Department of Culture and Heritage, recommend that detailed surveys of specific, targeted areas be conducted.
- 6.6.3 NTI shall require its contractors to meet, before and after any archaeological work, with the ACMCs and Associated Community residents, to inform them about the inventory and assessment, to receive advice regarding possible locations for survey work, and to report on the results of their work.
- 6.6.4 Archaeological inventories and assessments shall be co-ordinated with oral history projects for the same area.

6.7 INUIT LANGUAGE NAMES FOR MBSs, NWAs AND PLACES THEREIN

- 6.7.1 As part of the Inventories, NTI shall as needed require its contractors to consult the ACMCs, knowledgeable elders and maps developed by the Inuit Heritage Trust, the Nunavut Planning Commission and the RIAs, to identify potential Inuit Language names for NWAs, MBSs and significant places therein.
- 6.7.2 On the basis of the information developed pursuant to section 6.7.1, NTI and the Minister shall jointly determine whatever changes are appropriate to the official names of NWAs, MBSs, and significant places therein and, consistent with sections 33.9.1 and 33.9.2 of the *NLCA*, jointly effect the appropriate changes. Official names of NWAs and MBSs shall be of the style: “[Inuit Language name] NWA” and “[Inuit Language name] MBS”.
- 6.7.3 CWS shall include the Inuit Language names developed pursuant to section 6.7.2 on all NWA and MBS maps that it subsequently prints and distributes (on paper or electronically).

6.8 INTERPRETATIVE MATERIALS

- 6.8.1 NTI shall develop or contract for the development of interpretative materials, such as signs, displays, brochures, and other information about the natural and cultural resources in and around for all or some of the NWAs and MBSs identified in Schedule 6-1 (the “Interpretative Materials”). These interpretive materials shall be initiated and completed according to the implementation plan pursuant to section 15.3.1.
- 6.8.2 The purpose of the Interpretative Materials shall be to facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable tourism and guiding in and around NWAs and MBSs and to educate Nunavut residents and Visitors about NWA and MBS resources, including, in particular, Inuit cultural and heritage resources.
- 6.8.3 NTI shall develop criteria by which, Inuit Tourism Providers or other Inuit persons or entities with similar interests may access the funds identified in section 6.8.1. The criteria shall be consistent with the purpose set forth in section 6.8.2, and may include a requirement to obtain matching funds from other sources.
- 6.8.4 Interpretative Materials shall incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, with special regard to an NWA’s or MBS’s physical features, ecology, wildlife, and Inuit heritage and culture.
- 6.8.5 CWS shall within a reasonable time review all biological and ecological information to be contained in the Interpretative Materials (exclusive of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*), to ensure the accuracy of the information.
- 6.8.6 CWS shall include, along with any electronic or other information or promotional material it makes available to Visitors or persons inquiring about an NWA or MBS:
- (a) the names and addresses of Inuit Tourism Providers in each Associated Community, as provided by NTI or the appropriate RIA;

- (b) an English-Inuit Language glossary of basic phrases and terms that may be useful to Visitors;
- (c) any guide-related requirements or recommendations identified pursuant to Parts 10.6 or 14.4 below; and
- (d) other appropriate information promoting the NWA or MBS and the region provided by Government, tourism organizations, or Inuit businesses.

6.9 USE OF LOCAL FACILITIES

- 6.9.1 If CWS displays information on NWAs and MBSs, it shall make use of visitors centres and similar facilities in the Associated Communities.

Inventories and Interpretative Materials Schedule 6-1 (Sections 6.4.1, 6.5.1, 6.6.1, 6.8.4)

NWAs and MBSs	Associated Communities
1. Akpait NWA	Qikiqtarjuaq
2. Bylot Island MBS	Pond Inlet
3. Dewey Soper MBS	Cape Dorset
4. East Bay MBS	Coral Harbour
5. Harry Gibbons MBS	Coral Harbour
6. Ninginganiq NWA	Clyde River
7. McConnell River MBS	Arviat
8. Nirjutiqarvik NWA	Grise Fiord
9. Polar Bear Pass NWA	Resolute
10. Prince Leopold Island MBS	Resolute, Arctic Bay
11. Qaulluit NWA	Qikiqtarjuaq
12. Queen Maud Gulf MBS	Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Omingmaktok

ARTICLE 7 — TOURISM AND OTHER BUSINESS BENEFITS

7.1 OBJECTIVES

7.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) promote the economic self-reliance and cultural and social well-being of Inuit;
- (b) develop appropriate tourism and other economic opportunities in and around NWAs and MBSs;
- (c) provide training and on-going support to Inuit in the Associated Communities;
- (d) enable Inuit to establish and maintain tourism-related businesses and careers;
- (e) increase tourism-related services and local capacity within Associated Communities;
- (f) increase the ecotourism value of NWAs and MBSs to Inuit; and
- (g) contribute to sustainable development in the NSA.

7.2 INUIT TOURISM PROVIDERS FUND

7.2.1 NTI shall administer an Inuit Tourism Providers fund to build capacity among Inuit Tourism Providers in the Associated Communities and to develop effective community-based tourism services. Subject to section 15.2.1, CWS shall provide NTI with IIBA Implementation Funds in the amounts identified in line 5 of Schedule 15-1 for the Inuit Tourism Providers fund.

7.2.2 The fund may be distributed for the following and similar uses:

- (a) training for Inuit Tourism Providers in the following areas, without limitation:
 - (i) developing funding proposals;
 - (ii) developing business plans;
 - (iii) developing tourism packages that meet the needs and expectations of potential clientele;
 - (iv) developing client services that meet the logistic needs of clientele;
 - (v) marketing of tourism packages and other services;
 - (vi) maintaining business records and accounts; and

- (vii) delivering interpretation of natural and cultural resources;
- (b) mentoring interested Inuit Tourism Providers by established tourism providers for the purpose of providing ongoing support, assistance and training;
- (c) developing local services for tourists, and, in particular, tourists visiting from cruise ships;
- (d) paying business and insurance fees and similar expenses; and
- (e) developing tourism strategies, tourism packages and marketing plans, where requested by Associated Communities.

7.2.3 The fund shall be available to and for the benefit of Inuit Tourism Providers for the uses described in section 7.2.2 and in accordance with the following criteria:

- (a) promotes or interprets the cultural values of the NWA or MBS, the management of wildlife in the NWA or MBS, or the conservation of migratory birds or recovery of species at risk; or
- (b) promotes the development of tourism or other economic opportunities for Inuit in Associated Communities, in a way that encourages an appreciation for nature and the conservation or interpretation of wildlife in or around the NWA or MBS, and is consistent with the Management Plan for the NWA or MBS, if and where one applies.

7.2.4 NTI shall provide the Parties with an annual summary of initiatives with respect to this Article, an evaluation of the success of the initiatives and recommendations for enhancing Inuit capacity.

ARTICLE 8 — INUIT CONTRACTING AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

8.1 OBJECTIVES

8.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) promote Inuit participation in CWS Contracts to a representative level in the NSA, consistent with Article 24 of the *NLCA*; and
- (b) improve the capacity of Inuit Contractors to be awarded Government of Canada Contracts.

8.2 DEFINITIONS

8.2.1 For the purposes of this Article:

- (a) “Aboriginal Business” means an Aboriginal Business as that term is defined in the Government of Canada’s Aboriginal Business Procurement Policy Performance Objectives (archived Contracting Policy Notice 1996-6), as amended from time to time, and includes “Inuit firm” as that term is defined in Article 24 of the *NLCA*.
- (b) “Business Opportunity or Venture” means, subject to subsection (c), a Contract with a term of more than one year, or substantially the same Contract issued over more than one year:
 - (i) consisting of no less than sixty (60) person-days per year; or
 - (ii) with a Contract value of at least \$20,000 per year; and
 - (iii) such other Contract or Contracts as CWS and the relevant DIO agree from time to time, in writing, are Business Opportunities;
- (c) a Business Opportunity or Venture shall not include:
 - (i) a Contract intended to be performed within one 12-month period, the performance of which extends beyond one year due to delays, deficiencies or unexpected field season requirements;
 - (ii) employment contracts; or
 - (iii) such other Contract or Contracts as CWS and the relevant DIO agree from time to time, in writing, are not Business Opportunities;
- (d) “Contracts” means all contracts, except contracts for Government of Nunavut employment within the meaning of Article 23 of the *NLCA*, issued by CWS with respect to an NWA or MBS, including, without limitation:

- (i) contracts for the feasibility, design, development, purchase, construction, installation, improvement, operation, maintenance, repair, or removal of facilities or infrastructure related to an NWA or MBS;
 - (ii) contracts for the development of information or promotional material;
 - (iii) any procurement contracts required to be issued under this IIBA; and
- (e) “Inuit Contractor” means an Inuk or Inuit Firm.

8.3 CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

- 8.3.1 The Parties agree that the Government of Canada Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business (PSAB) applies to the NSA.
- 8.3.2 For greater certainty, all Contracts shall conform to the requirements of the PSAB and Article 24 of the *NLCA*.
- 8.3.3 All Contracts shall be set aside for Aboriginal Businesses under the PSAB.
- 8.3.4 For all Contract requirements, CWS shall identify qualified Inuit Contractors through advertisement in the relevant community or region and, where appropriate, in northern media, and by searching the Inuit firm list maintained by NTI pursuant to section 24.7.1 of the *NLCA*.
- 8.3.5 CWS shall consider sole sourcing Contracts to qualified Inuit Contractors where sole sourcing is in accordance with the requirements of PSAB.
- 8.3.6 This Article is subject to the Nunavut Agreement-specific procurement policy, once adopted pursuant to the NTI-Government of Canada Agreement Relating to the Settlement of Litigation and Certain Implementation Matters signed March 4, 2015, as applicable.

8.4 INUIT RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND VENTURES

- 8.4.1 Pursuant to section 8.4.9 of the *NLCA*, DIOs have a right of first refusal to operate all Business Opportunities and Ventures.
- 8.4.2 CWS shall provide the right of first refusal for Business Opportunities and Ventures in accordance with the procedure set forth below.
- 8.4.3 The DIO’s right of first refusal applies to the renewal or amendment of an existing Business Opportunity or Venture where the renewal or amendment is substantially different in nature or location from the existing Contract, and to the assignment or other transfer of an existing Business Opportunity or Venture.

- 8.4.4 NTI shall provide CWS with a list of the DIOs designated pursuant to section 8.4.9 of the *NLCA* and the geographic area in which each DIO operates. NTI shall notify CWS of any change in a DIOs' status for this provision.
- 8.4.5 Where CWS intends to contract out a Business Opportunity or Venture, it shall notify the relevant DIO in writing.
- 8.4.6 CWS's notice under section 8.4.5 shall state a reasonable date for response from the DIO, which shall not be less than thirty (30) days from the date of the initial notice.
- 8.4.7 In accordance with section 8.4.9 of the *NLCA*, the DIO shall be entitled upon request to receive a list of all reports and other materials in CWS's possession relevant to the economic feasibility of the Business Opportunity or Venture.
- 8.4.8 If the DIO submits a response within the stated response time that conforms in all material respects to the contract requirements, CWS shall enter into a contract with the DIO for the Business Opportunity or Venture.
- 8.5 ANNUAL REVIEWS
- 8.5.1 In the Annual Review undertaken pursuant to Part 15.4 of this IIBA, CWS shall report to the Parties on all measures it has taken in accordance with this Article, Article 24 of the *NLCA* and PSAB, including relevant information on Contracts issued.

ARTICLE 9 — EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

9.1 OBJECTIVES

9.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) hire, train and employ Inuit in conservation-related work opportunities;
- (b) adapt CWS recruitment, hiring and employment practices to reflect Inuit cultural values and circumstances;
- (c) increase opportunities for Inuit to pursue and succeed in conservation-related employment and careers; and
- (d) promote Inuit participation in conservation-related employment to a representative level in the NSA, consistent with Article 23 of the *NLCA*.

9.2 INUIT MENTORING PROGRAM

9.2.1 CWS shall continue to co-operate with the Government of Nunavut in the development of materials and information designed to explain conservation-related jobs, career and business opportunities to Inuit.

9.2.2 CWS shall hire, train and mentor, in conservation-related work in association with its Nunavut and Yellowknife offices, as many Inuit interns as the funding identified in line 7 of Schedule 15-1 can reasonably accommodate, but in no event less than one Inuit intern per office, for a period of at least four months per year. For greater certainty, this commitment is in addition to existing summer student programs sponsored by the Government of Canada.

9.2.3 CWS shall provide an annual report to NTI on Inuit mentoring and intern employment status, and, where needed, shall seek the assistance of NTI and the relevant RIA to identify potential interns.

9.3 INDETERMINATE AND TERM RECRUITMENT AND HIRING PRACTICES

9.3.1 CWS shall consult NTI on the following matters regarding recruitment and hiring for indeterminate and term positions in Nunavut:

- (a) policies and procedures for filling positions, including methods of advertising;
- (b) hiring criteria and qualifications, including the weight to be attached to these; and
- (c) job descriptions and statements of qualifications.

- 9.3.2 CWS shall include the following in the search criteria and job descriptions for indeterminate and term positions in the Nunavut Settlement Area:
- (a) knowledge of Inuit culture, society and economy;
 - (b) community awareness;
 - (c) where appropriate, fluency in the Inuit Language;
 - (d) knowledge of environmental characteristics of the NSA;
 - (e) relevant northern experience; and
 - (f) knowledge of the *NLCA*.
- 9.3.3 CWS shall invite an NTI nominee or an RIA representative (as appropriate) to sit on the selection panel whenever new staff are hired for indeterminate positions in Nunavut.
- 9.3.4 When recruiting for indeterminate and term positions in Nunavut, CWS shall give preference to qualified Inuit.
- 9.3.5 After the Effective Date, new CWS indeterminate and term positions, the primary responsibility of which relates to NWA and MBSs and the implementation of this IIBA, shall be located in Nunavut.

9.4 INDETERMINATE AND TERM EMPLOYMENT AND STAFF TRAINING

- 9.4.1 Subsequent to any hiring of an indeterminate or term Inuit employee, and to encourage the advancement of Inuit, the employee's supervisor shall, together with the employee, develop a career and training plan.
- 9.4.2 The career and training plan required under subsection 9.4.1 shall include, without limitation:
- (a) a description of the employee's short- and long-term career goals; and
 - (b) measures designed to assist the employee in meeting his or her career goals.
- 9.4.3 The career and training plan for indeterminate employees and term employees of one year or longer shall also include:
- (a) specific training to enhance the skills required for the employee's position;
 - (b) Inuit Language or English language training, where such training would assist the employee in performing his/her work, and where pre-existing language training courses are available; and

(c) other reasonable training opportunities, which may include on-the-job training, continuing education and educational leave.

9.4.4 The training opportunities provided under subsection 9.4.3 shall be designed to accommodate the employee's needs, including:

(a) to the extent practicable, delivering instructions in the Inuit Language;

(b) providing mentoring programs; and

(c) delivering training in Nunavut, where such training is available.

9.4.5 Funding to fulfil the obligations identified in Parts 9.3 and 9.4 shall not be derived from IIBA Implementation Funds.

9.5 SEASONAL MONITORS

9.5.1 The Parties agree to review and further consider the potential for establishing a seasonal monitors program for NWAs and MBSs at the sixth annual review scheduled under Part 15.4 of this IIBA. If they deem it appropriate, the Parties may establish such a program in future amendments or renegotiations of this IIBA.

9.6 ANNUAL REVIEWS

9.6.1 As part of the annual reviews under Part 15.4 of this IIBA, CWS shall provide the Parties with a summary of Inuit recruitment, hiring and training efforts under this Article, an evaluation of the success of the efforts, and recommendations for the next year.

ARTICLE 10 — RESEARCH

10.1 OBJECTIVES

10.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) increase Inuit participation in wildlife and wildlife habitat research and training;
- (b) encourage and facilitate Inuit success in conservation and research-related employment and careers;
- (c) co-management of the research permitting process by CWS and the relevant ACMCs;
- (d) promote the documentation and use of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit oral histories in research;
- (e) inform Associated Communities about research activities in NWAs and MBSs;
- (f) prevent or minimize Researcher disruption to Inuit use and enjoyment of NWAs and MBSs; and
- (g) prevent or minimize conflicts between Researchers and wildlife, where necessary, through the use of guides.

10.2 RESEARCH PERMITS

10.2.1 The relevant ACMC shall advise the Minister on all aspects of research associated with each NWA or MBS. Among other things, the ACMC shall review all applications to conduct research in the NWA or MBS, and shall advise the Minister as to the terms and conditions that should be attached to each such permit.

10.2.2 All research permits shall include a requirement that the Researcher:

- (a) prepare a plain language English summary of his research;
- (b) have the summary translated into the Inuit Language;
- (c) provide copies of the translated summary to the relevant ACMC and other local organizations which have an interest in the research;
- (d) incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and/or Inuit oral histories into the research, where relevant; and
- (e) be accompanied by a guide where deemed appropriate by an ACMC during the research permitting process.

10.3 INUIT FIELD RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

10.3.1 Except as otherwise agreed with the relevant RIA, CWS (including both its employees and its contractors) shall, for each field season:

- (a) hire the maximum number of Inuit research assistants which each CWS field project can reasonably accommodate, and in no event less than one assistant per research project; and
- (b) provide field training for the positions in subsection 10.3.1(a), as well as an oral and written evaluation of each person's performance at the termination of his or her employment.

10.3.2 CWS shall set aside IIBA Implementation Funds in the amounts identified in line 8 of Schedule 15-1 to fund the costs of the Inuit research assistant program described in section 10.3.1. For every dollar secured from sources other than IIBA Implementation Funds and paid to cover the costs of the research assistant program, CWS may expend one dollar of matching funds from IIBA Implementation Funds, to the maximum identified in line 8 of Schedule 15-1.

10.3.3 CWS shall make all reasonable efforts to secure funding, from sources other than IIBA Implementation Funds, sufficient to utilize the maximum matching funds available under Schedule 15-1.

10.3.4 The duties of Inuit research assistants hired for this program shall include scientific or resource management duties which will further their educational and career interests.

10.3.5 As part of each annual review under Part 15.4, CWS shall provide the Parties with a list of Inuit hired in conjunction with its research projects in the NSA, and recommendations for increasing Inuit research assistant employment in the next research field season.

10.4 INUIT RESEARCHERS

10.4.1 Upon the request of an Inuit Researcher, CWS shall provide the Researcher with:

- (a) access to non-confidential information that is available within CWS and that could assist the Researcher in carrying out the research, including relevant research reports, proposals, data bases and other information;
- (b) reasonable access to CWS facilities and equipment, if available, during the data collection and data analysis stages of the research;
- (c) a waiver of all CWS fees associated with the Researcher's research activities; and
- (d) where reasonable and available, access, at no cost to the Researcher, to aircraft, vehicles or water craft chartered or otherwise arranged by CWS for the purpose of managing or conducting research in an NWA or MBS.

10.4.2 For greater certainty, Inuit Researchers shall be subject to the provisions of this Article.

10.5 INUIT USE AND ENJOYMENT

10.5.1 Management Plans for NWAs and MBSs shall identify:

- (a) areas in and around NWAs and MBSs seasonally used by Researchers, including sites of long-term and recurring research use; and
- (b) mechanisms to minimize incompatibility of research activities with Inuit use and enjoyment of NWAs and MBSs, including recommendations or restrictions, where appropriate, on Researcher use of NWAs or MBSs.

10.5.2 Research permits shall include mechanisms identified pursuant to subsection 10.5.1(b) and any other appropriate mechanisms required to minimize the incompatibility of research activities with Inuit use and enjoyment.

10.6 RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED GUIDE AREAS

10.6.1 Management Plans shall identify, as appropriate:

- (a) areas and/or circumstances where it is recommended or required that a Researcher be accompanied by a Inuit guide; and
- (b) the recommended qualifications of such guides, including recommendations as regards liability insurance.

10.6.2 The ACMC shall consult the relevant HTO on areas to be identified in a Management Plan pursuant to subsection 10.6.1(a).

10.6.3 If, after approval of a Management Plan, the relevant ACMC receives notice of an area where use of qualified guides should be recommended or required, it shall consider the matter and the process for amending the Management Plan as set forth in Part 3.7 shall apply.

10.6.4 CWS shall incorporate into its permits any guide-related permit requirements and shall attach to its permits any guide-related recommendations identified in Management Plans.

ARTICLE 11 — CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES

11.1 OBJECTIVES

11.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) protect and conserve Archaeological Sites, Archaeological Artifacts and Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit; and
- (b) ensure all activities in MBSs and NWAs comply with the requirements of the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations* and Article 33 of the *NLCA*.

11.2 DEFINITIONS

11.2.1 For the purposes of this Article:

- (a) “Archaeological Artifact” has the same meaning as in the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*;
- (b) “Archaeological Specimen” has the same meaning as in the *NLCA*;
- (c) “Archaeological Site” means sites as defined under either the Regulations or the *NLCA*; and
- (d) “Regulations” means the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*.

11.3 CULTURAL SITES OF IMPORTANCE TO INUIT

11.3.1 The Parties recognize that the Minister of Culture and Heritage and the Inuit Heritage Trust have the expertise and jurisdiction required to protect and conserve Archaeological Sites, Archaeological Specimens, and Archaeological Artifacts located in MBSs and NWAs.

11.3.2 NTI shall provide Department of Culture and Heritage, the Inuit Heritage Trust and CWS with the information about Archaeological Sites, and Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit obtained through the Inventories conducted under Parts 6.4 through 6.7 of this IIBA. At a minimum, such information shall include the location of all such Sites, and a description of each Site’s important cultural resources.

11.3.3 The Minister shall ensure that all CWS employees and contractors comply with the *Regulations*, and shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that permittees under the *CWA* and *MBCA* are informed of the *Regulations* and of the need to comply with them.

- 11.3.4 If, in the course of their field work, CWS employees or contractors encounter Archaeological Sites, Archaeological Specimens or Archaeological Artifacts which have not been identified through the Inventories associated with Parts 6.4 through 6.6 of this IIBA, they shall photograph and note the geographic coordinates of the said Sites, Specimens or Artifacts, and they shall provide this information to the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Inuit Heritage Trust and NTI as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 11.3.5 Upon receiving notification from any person about a concern regarding the protection or management of Archaeological Sites, Archaeological Specimens, Archaeological Artifacts or Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit that lie within NWAs or MBSs, CWS shall advise the person to contact the Department of Culture and Heritage and the Inuit Heritage Trust immediately about the concern.
- 11.3.6 CWS shall consult the Department of Culture and Heritage and Inuit Heritage Trust on any further support role CWS might play, in addition to the provisions of sections 11.3.3 through 11.3.5, in the protection of Archaeological Sites, Archaeological Specimens, Archaeological Artifacts and Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit that lie within NWAs and MBSs. The ACMCs may advise CWS on the exercise of any such role.
- 11.3.7 In the event that an Archaeological Site or Cultural Site of Importance to Inuit is on IOL, CWS shall inform the relevant RIA of all actions that it takes under this Article.
- 11.3.8 Management Plans prepared for NWAs and MBSs shall, subject to the advice of the Department of Culture and Heritage and Inuit Heritage Trust, identify the general location of Archaeological Sites and Cultural Sites of Importance to Inuit, and point out the need for all users to comply with the *Regulations* and help with the conservation of the said Sites.
- 11.3.9 Management Plans developed for NWAs and MBSs shall take into account the cultural and heritage values of these areas in a manner consistent with the objectives of this Article.

ARTICLE 12 — WILDLIFE RESOURCES

12.1 OBJECTIVES

12.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat; and
- (b) appropriately compensate Inuit for emergency, accidental or illegal kills of bears in NWAs and MBSs.

12.2 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

12.2.1 NTI shall provide the NWMB, CWS and other relevant Government of Canada organisations, departments and agencies having jurisdiction over wildlife with the information about Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit which it obtains pursuant to the Article 6 Inventories.

12.2.2 On the advice of the relevant ACMCs, CWS shall identify Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit on all NWA and MBS maps that it prints and distributes (on paper or electronically) after the Effective Date, as the information on such Areas becomes available to it.

12.2.3 CWS shall manage NWAs and MBSs, including Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit, in cooperation with other Government of Canada organisations, departments and agencies having jurisdiction over wildlife and in a manner consistent with Article 5 of the *NLCA*. To this end, CWS shall:

- (a) minimize disturbance to wildlife and wildlife habitat, and promote the maintenance of vital, healthy wildlife populations;
- (b) make all reasonable efforts, consistent with the Minister's jurisdiction under the *CWA*, *MBCA* or *SARA*, as applicable, to respect the cultural significance of Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit, taking into account any *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* documented and presented to it by Inuit, the ACMCs and other knowledgeable parties;
- (c) investigate public concerns regarding the protection or management of wildlife and document its response, or refer the matter to the wildlife management agency having jurisdiction; and
- (d) as appropriate, consult Inuit organizations.

12.2.4 Subject to section 4.6.1, prior to taking management actions respecting IOL in accordance with section 12.2.3, CWS shall provide notice to the relevant RIA. CWS shall report yearly on its management actions on IOL in accordance with section 12.5.1.

- 12.2.5 Management Plans shall identify what, if any, further measures are needed, in addition to the provisions of sections 12.2.1 to 12.2.4, to protect and conserve the wildlife and wildlife habitat associated with NWAs and MBSs, including Wildlife Areas of Importance to Inuit.
- 12.2.6 For greater certainty, the ACMCs may advise the Minister on all matters related to the management and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat within NWAs and MBSs.
- 12.3 EMERGENCY, ILLEGAL, OR ACCIDENTAL KILLS OF POLAR OR GRIZZLY BEARS
- 12.3.1 If, as the result of an emergency, an accident or illegal activity, a polar bear or a grizzly bear is killed by a CWS employee, agent or contractor, or any other person authorized by CWS to enter an NWA or MBS and they are in an NWA or MBS during travel to or from an NWA or MBS, CWS shall pay compensation from its own department funds to the HTO in the Associated Community for the tag or credit allocated for a bear.
- 12.3.2 CWS shall pay the HTO in the Associated Community compensation in the amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for each polar bear tag or credit forfeited by the Associated Community as a result of the bear kill, or in the case of grizzly bears, for each bear killed. CWS shall pay compensation within thirty (30) days following the date on which the HTO of an Associated Community or NTI gives its notice in accordance with 12.3.3.
- 12.3.3 If a bear is killed in the circumstances described in section 12.3.1, NTI shall, prior to any payment of compensation, investigate whether other sources of compensation are available. If, pursuant to its investigations, NTI concludes that (i) further action to recover from other sources is not worthwhile and (ii) compensation should be paid, it shall so notify CWS of the results of the investigations. On receipt of NTI's notice or the notice of an HTO of an Associated Community, CWS shall, subject to section 12.3.8, pay any compensation due from its own department funding.
- 12.3.4 If, following CWS's payment of compensation in accordance with section 12.3.3, compensation already paid by CWS to an HTO is also paid by a third party, NTI shall, verbally and in writing, request that the HTO repay the compensation previously paid by CWS. NTI shall have no further responsibility to CWS for the repayment of compensation that is within the control of an HTO.
- 12.3.5 Within thirty (30) days following the next amendment to the regulations or other instrument setting the next Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for polar bears, CWS shall pay the HTO in the Associated Community twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for each additional tag or credit forfeited by the Community, either in the year of the kill or in the following year, as a result of the bear kill. Any payment of compensation pursuant to this section shall be from CWS's own funds if the bear was killed in the circumstances described in section 12.3.1.
- 12.3.6 CWS shall consult the DOE (Nunavut) and the relevant HTO in determining the number of tags or credits for which compensation is due under section 12.3.5.

- 12.3.7 In the event that Government of Nunavut policy or Government of Nunavut-Inuit memoranda of understanding provide for payment of compensation for polar bear kills in an amount greater than \$20,000, CWS shall pay the increased amount for subsequent polar bear and grizzly bear kills in accordance with this Article.
- 12.3.8 Where a bear is killed in the circumstances described in section 12.3.1, CWS shall ensure that information and reporting requirements in the Nunavut *Wildlife Act* are complied with.
- 12.3.9 For greater certainty, Article 6 of the *NLCA* shall continue to apply in NWAs and MBSs.
- 12.4 DISPOSAL OF VALUABLE PARTS
- 12.4.1 Any valuable parts of wildlife killed in an emergency, illegal, or accidental kill shall be disposed of in accordance with section 5.6.55 of the *NLCA*.
- 12.5 REPORTING
- 12.5.1 In the Annual Review undertaken pursuant to Part 15.4 of this IIBA, CWS shall report to the Parties on all measures taken in accordance with this Article. CWS shall also make its report available to the ACMCs, the relevant HTO, the relevant RWO, the NWMB and other Government of Canada organisations, departments and agencies having jurisdiction over wildlife.

ARTICLE 13 — CHANGES TO MBSs AND NWAs

13.1 OBJECTIVES

13.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) establish a flexible and effective Resource Assessment process for Establishments, Enlargements and Status Changes;
- (b) provide Inuit and Government of Canada with information on the Resource potential of areas proposed for Establishment, Enlargement or Status Change, and ensure that this potential is duly considered before Establishment, Enlargement or Status Change decisions are made;
- (c) ensure that Establishments, Enlargements, Status Changes, Reductions and Disestablishments occur only after consultation and, wherever possible, with the support of the Associated Communities in Nunavut, and that Inuit interests and issues such as access to IOL are fully considered in all of these initiatives;
- (d) ensure that impacts and benefits for Inuit are addressed in the event of any Establishment, Enlargement, Status Change, Reduction or Disestablishment of NWAs and MBSs; and
- (e) provide for Reductions and Disestablishments of NWAs and MBSs and for negotiations to exchange IOL currently within NWAs and MBSs.

13.2 DEFINITIONS

13.2.1 For the purposes of this Article:

- (a) “Assessment Group” means a group of Government and Inuit representatives constituted in accordance with Part 13.4;
- (b) “Disestablishment” means the repeal of an NWA or MBS;
- (c) “Phase 1 Assessment” means a Resource Assessment based on the analysis of existing information;
- (d) “Phase 2 Assessment” means a further Resource Assessment, based on a Phase 1 Assessment and including field studies and further analyses;
- (e) “Reduction” means any change in the boundary of an NWA or MBS that would have the effect of reducing the size of the NWA or MBS or of taking lands or waters out of the NWA or MBS;

- (f) “Resource Assessment” means an assessment of the Resource potential of an area, the scope of which Assessment shall be determined by an Assessment Group in accordance with Part 13.4; and
- (g) “Status Change” means the conversion of an MBS to an NWA.

13.3 ESTABLISHMENT, ENLARGEMENT, STATUS CHANGE, REDUCTION AND DISESTABLISHMENT

- 13.3.1 CWS shall notify in writing and consult NTI, the relevant RIA, Associated Communities and, if one exists, the relevant ACMC, before making an Establishment, Enlargement, Status Change, Reduction or Disestablishment proposal to the NWMB.
- 13.3.2 An Assessment Group shall carry out whatever Resource Assessment its members deem appropriate, as set forth in Part 13.4, prior to CWS proposing any Establishment, Enlargement or Status Change to the NWMB.
- 13.3.3 Unless otherwise agreed by CWS and the appropriate Inuit Parties, and subject to sections 9.4.1 and 9.4.2 of the *NLCA*, before making any Establishment, Enlargement, Status Change, Reduction or Disestablishment following the Effective Date, CWS and the appropriate Inuit Parties shall negotiate in good faith for the purpose of concluding appropriate amendments to this IIBA.

13.4 RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS

- 13.4.1 Subject to section 13.4.6, prior to proposing any Establishment, Enlargement or Status Change to the NWMB, CWS shall consult the relevant Parties to this IIBA and other Government organisations, departments and agencies interested in taking part in a Resource Assessment for the proposed Establishment, Enlargement or Status Change.
- 13.4.2 On the basis of the consultations in 13.4.1, CWS shall convene and chair an Assessment Group. Each Assessment Group shall be responsible for determining all aspects of the Resource Assessment associated with a particular Establishment, Enlargement or Status Change. Each Assessment Group shall, as it deems appropriate:
 - (a) determine the geographic scope of any Resource Assessment;
 - (b) determine the scope of the analyses to be conducted for any Resource Assessment, including whether both Phase 1 and Phase 2 Assessments are necessary, the minerals and other Resources to be investigated, the design of such Phase 1 and 2 Assessments, and whether economic or socio-economic analyses are required in addition to a Resource Assessment;
 - (c) develop work plans associated with the completion of any Resource Assessment;
 - (d) select Government organisations, departments and agencies or contractors to carry out Phase 1 and Phase 2 Assessments, including the employment and training of

local Inuit prospectors and carvers in field work and in the evaluation of carving stone deposits;

- (e) secure all funding for Phase 1 and Phase 2 Assessments, and determine the relative contribution of the members of any Assessment Group to the costs of these Assessments;
- (f) determine when a Resource Assessment is complete;
- (g) prepare, translate and publish Resource Assessment reports, including a summary of findings;
- (h) ensure that the findings of the Resource Assessment are presented orally to Associated Communities; and
- (i) undertake any further actions it deems necessary.

13.4.3 For greater certainty, CWS may terminate its participation in a Resource Assessment if, in its opinion, acting reasonably, the Establishment, Enlargement or Status Change is not consistent with the *CWA*, *MBCA* or *SARA*, as applicable, or if, in its opinion, acting reasonably, the costs of the Resource Assessment to CWS have become or are likely to become too high.

13.4.4 If CWS decides to terminate its participation in the Resource Assessment for an area proposed for an Establishment, Enlargement or Status Change, it shall not proceed with a proposal to the NWMB.

13.4.5 IIBA Implementation Funds shall not, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, be used to fund the cost of any part of a Resource Assessment.

13.4.6 Part 13.4 shall not apply to the Ninginganiq, Qaqulluit or Akpait NWAs.

13.5 DISESTABLISHMENTS AND REDUCTIONS

13.5.1 If NTI or the relevant RIA believes that all or part of an MBS or NWA, including any IOL within it, is not contributing measurably to the purposes of the *CWA*, *MBCA* or *SARA*, as applicable, it may request a review of the existence or boundaries of the NWA or MBS.

13.5.2 On the written request of the NTI or the RIA, CWS shall, subject to available resources and within a reasonable time, undertake a section 13.5.1 review in consultation with NTI, the RIA, the relevant ACMC and the Associated Communities.

13.5.3 If the section 13.5.1 review demonstrates that all or part of the NWA or MBS, including any IOL within it, is not contributing measurably to the purposes of the *CWA*, *MBCA* or *SARA*, as applicable, considering the NWA or MBS as a whole, CWS shall, on the basis of its review and with the written support of NTI or the RIA, refer the proposed Reduction or Disestablishment to the NWMB for approval.

13.5.4 For greater certainty, nothing in this IIBA limits NTI's or an RIA's right to make a proposal directly to the NWMB for a Reduction or Disestablishment of an NWA or MBS.

13.5.5 For greater certainty, a Disestablishment or Reduction completed pursuant to this Part shall not preclude CWS from again Establishing or Enlarging an NWA or MBS, should circumstances change.

13.6 ACCESS ACROSS AN NWA OR MBS

13.6.1 The Parties recognize that a need may arise in the future to consider an access corridor across an NWA or MBS in order to facilitate developments which contribute to the social and economic well-being of the residents of Nunavut. In that event, NTI and the relevant RIA shall give CWS notice that, in their opinion, such a need exists. The Inuit Parties and the Government of Canada shall then meet within sixty (60) days for the purpose of discussing how the identified need might be addressed.

13.6.2 In accordance with section 11.5.9 of the *NLCA*, in the event that an approved land use plan has made provision for an access corridor as described in section 13.6.1 above, CWS shall conduct its activities and operations in accordance with the plan as approved.

13.7 NEGOTIATIONS TO EXCHANGE IOL

13.7.1 CWS acknowledges that certain Inuit Parties intend to initiate an exchange of some or all the IOL parcels in NWAs and/or MBSs with the Government organisations, departments and agency responsible for administering Crown lands in Nunavut. The relevant Inuit Parties shall provide CWS with written notice before initiating such an exchange.

13.7.2 CWS shall notify the relevant Inuit Parties if it has any concerns with a proposed section 13.7.1 exchange of IOL parcels. In such event, CWS and the relevant Inuit Parties shall make reasonable efforts to resolve issues of mutual concern. CWS shall not oppose an exchange, provided that the exchange is consistent with the *CWA*, *MBCA*, or *SARA*, as applicable.

ARTICLE 14 — VISITOR ACCESS AND USE

14.1 OBJECTIVES

14.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) Visitor use that is compatible with Inuit use and enjoyment of NWAs and MBSs;
- (b) where appropriate, facilitate guiding by Inuit;
- (c) inform Visitors about Inuit rights, use and enjoyment of NWAs and MBSs, and
- (d) prevent or minimize conflicts between Visitors and wildlife.

14.2 INUIT USE AND ENJOYMENT

14.2.1 The ACMCs shall advise the Minister, and other ministers and organizations as the ACMCs deem appropriate, on all aspects of Visitor use of NWAs and MBSs, including the issuance, terms and conditions of Visitor permits and means for ensuring the compatibility of Visitor use with Inuit use and enjoyment of NWAs and MBSs. Where NWAs and MBSs incorporate IOL, the ACMCs may similarly advise the relevant RIA.

14.2.2 Management Plans for NWAs and MBSs shall identify:

- (a) areas in and around NWAs and MBSs used by Inuit for harvesting, recreation and other purposes, including season of use;
- (b) IOL in and around NWAs and MBSs;
- (c) areas in and around NWAs and MBSs used by Visitors, including access points, routes, locations and seasons of use; and
- (d) mechanisms to minimize incompatibility between Visitor activities and Inuit use and enjoyment of NWAs and MBSs and the IOL within them, including recommendations or restrictions, where appropriate, on Visitor use of NWAs or MBSs.

14.2.3 Permits issued to Visitors shall include mechanisms identified pursuant to subsection 14.2.2(d) and any other mechanism required to minimize incompatibility of Visitor activities with Inuit use and enjoyment of NWAs or MBSs and the IOL within them.

14.2.4 CWS shall provide written notice of any mechanisms identified pursuant to subsection 14.2.2(d) in any visitor centre, hotel or other appropriate place in the Associated Community.

14.2.5 Where, in the opinion of CWS or the relevant ACMC, there are bear-Visitor safety and liability issues associated with Visitor use of an MBS or NWA, permits issued by CWS shall be accompanied by materials, provided in collaboration with the ACMCs, to advise Visitors about the risk associated with their activities.

14.3 NOTICE TO VISITORS

14.3.1 CWS shall identify IOL within or adjacent to NWAs and MBSs on all maps that it prints and distributes (on paper or electronically) after the Effective Date.

14.3.2 Any information produced by CWS for use by Visitors to an NWA or MBS shall identify IOL within or adjacent to the NWA or MBS, and shall advise Visitors that, except as otherwise provided in Article 21 of the *NLCA*, persons other than Inuit may not enter, cross or remain on IOL without the consent of the relevant RIA.

14.3.3 An RIA may provide information to CWS regarding Visitor access to and use of IOL that are located within or adjacent to an NWA or MBS. Provided that the information is accurate, CWS shall include such information in any materials it distributes to Visitors.

14.4 RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED GUIDE AREAS

14.4.1 Management Plans shall identify, as appropriate:

- (a) areas and/or circumstances where it is recommended or required that a Visitor be accompanied by an Inuit guide; and
- (b) the recommended qualifications of such guides, including recommendations as regards to liability insurance.

14.4.2 The ACMC shall consult the relevant HTO on areas to be identified in a Management Plan pursuant to subsection 14.4.1(a).

14.4.3 If, after approval of a Management Plan, the ACMC receives notice of other areas within which the use of qualified guides should be recommended or required, it shall consider the matter and if appropriate, take steps to amend the Management Plan as set forth in Part 3.7.

14.4.4 Where an area is identified in accordance with section 14.4.1, CWS shall provide a written notice with an explanation of any requirement for a qualified guide in any visitor centre, hotel or other appropriate place in the Associated Community, along with a list of qualified Inuit outfitters or guides and their contact numbers.

14.4.5 CWS shall incorporate into its permits any guide-related permit requirements and shall attach to its permits any guide-related recommendations identified in Management Plans.

ARTICLE 15 — IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND RENEGOTIATION

15.1 OBJECTIVES

15.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) full, effective and cooperative implementation of the IIBA;
- (b) periodic reviews of the IIBA to ensure that IIBA principles, objectives and obligations are being met;
- (c) ongoing adaptation of the IIBA Implementation Funding Schedule (Schedule 15-1) to ensure that the principles, objectives and obligations of the IIBA are being met and being met in the most cost-effective manner; and
- (d) periodic re-negotiation of the IIBA.

15.2 IIBA IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

15.2.1 CWS shall provide NTI with nine million, two hundred thousand dollars (\$9,200,000), adjusted pursuant to Schedule 15-1 and section 15.2.4, to implement the IIBA (the “IIBA Implementation Funds” or “Funds”). Subject to section 15.2.6, these Funds shall be allocated and expended over a seven (7) year period in accordance with the IIBA Implementation Funding Schedule attached as Schedule 15-1, which may be amended from time to time in accordance with section 2.4.1.

15.2.2 Subject to section 15.2.1, CWS shall provide NTI with the IIBA Implementation Funds in the amounts identified in line 6 of Schedule 15-1 for Inuit secretariat support. Inuit secretariat support funds shall be used by NTI and the RIAs to co-ordinate, plan, administer, implement, monitor and report on activities pursuant to sections 3.2.28, and 7.2.1 to 7.2.4 and to otherwise support overall IIBA planning, monitoring and reporting, to the extent funding allows.

15.2.3 CWS’s payment of funding shall be initiated forthwith to NTI after the Effective Date and in accordance with the transfer payment mechanism.

15.2.4 IIBA Implementation Funds paid after the Effective Date shall be adjusted using the Final Domestic Demand Implicit Price Index (FDDIPI), in accordance with standard Government of Canada application of this Index (adjustments in the second year and following).

15.2.5 The Parties acknowledge the DIO’s view that FDDIPI does not accurately reflect northern circumstances. In the event that future Government of Canada policy provides for the application, in the NSA, of an index other than FDDIPI, then, with the agreement of the Inuit Parties, the new index shall apply to this IIBA.

15.2.6 IIBA Implementation Funds not expended in any given year or at the end of the seventh year of the IIBA shall, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, be added to the next year's funding for the same purpose.

15.3 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

15.3.1 Implementation of this IIBA shall commence on the Effective Date, and shall proceed, to the extent practicable, in accordance with an implementation plan as developed by the Parties and reviewed annually by the Parties.

15.4 ANNUAL REVIEWS

15.4.1 The Parties shall meet in or about March of each year, commencing on the first anniversary after the signing of the IIBA, for an annual review of the implementation of the IIBA. They shall:

- (a) review the IIBA Implementation Funding Schedule 15-1 and the implementation plan for the past year, and assess the Parties' performance against the IIBA's principles and objectives, the Parties' respective obligations, and available funding;
- (b) subject to section 15.2.1, amend, as required, Schedule 15-1 to ensure that IIBA principles, objectives and obligations will be met and will be met in the most cost-effective manner;
- (c) prepare a summary report of the results of that year's annual review and make the report available to the public; and
- (d) consider any other matter which will assist with the effective implementation of the IIBA.

15.4.2 In performing the review under section 15.4.1, the Parties may seek information and advice from the ACMCs or other persons or bodies involved in the implementation of the IIBA.

15.4.3 The Parties may also undertake a mid-year review on or about October of each year to re-allocate funds and amend workplans.

15.5 AGREEMENT ON INTERPRETATION

15.5.1 The Parties agree to resolve any dispute regarding the interpretation of the IIBA or section 8.4.4 and Schedule 8-3 of the *NLCA* within the first five (5) years of the IIBA in accordance with Article 16 of the IIBA or Article 38 of the *NLCA*, as applicable.

15.6 YEAR FIVE REVIEW

- 15.6.1 Unless otherwise agreed, the Parties shall conduct a joint review of the implementation of the IIBA five (5) years after it is signed, in order to ensure that the objectives of section 8.4.4 of the *NLCA* and this IIBA are being met.
- 15.6.2 Unless otherwise agreed, the Parties shall prepare a written IIBA implementation report as part of the review conducted pursuant to section 15.6.1.
- 15.6.3 CWS and NTI shall jointly fund the review conducted and the report prepared pursuant to section 15.6.1.

15.7 RENEGOTIATION OF THE IIBA

- 15.7.1 This IIBA shall continue until it is terminated by the written consent of the Parties or until it is replaced by a new IIBA negotiated in accordance with section 15.7.2.
- 15.7.2 In accordance with section 8.4.7 of the *NLCA*, the Parties shall, unless otherwise agreed, renegotiate this IIBA after seven (7) years; negotiations shall commence at the beginning of year six (6).
- 15.7.3 The Parties shall review the IIBA implementation reports prepared pursuant to section 15.6.2, among other information sources, when determining whether renegotiation or amendment of the IIBA may be required.

IIBA Implementation Funding Schedule
Schedule 15-1 (Section 15.2.1)

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	TOTAL
1. ACMC Operation	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$2,000,000
2. RIA Travel (for ACMCs)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$150,000
3. Cultural Resources Inventories	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$1,400,000
4. Interpretive Materials	\$57,142	\$57,142	\$57,142	\$57,142	\$57,142	\$57,142	\$57,148	\$400,000
5. Inuit Tourism Providers Fund ⁱ	\$2,300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$4,100,000
6. Inuit Secretariat Support	\$64,285	\$64,285	\$64,285	\$64,285	\$64,285	\$64,285	\$64,290	\$450,000
7. Inuit Mentoring Program ⁱⁱ	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$350,000
8. Inuit Field Research Assistants ⁱⁱⁱ	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$350,000
TOTAL	\$3,196,427	\$1,196,427	\$1,096,427	\$1,046,427	\$891,427	\$886,427	\$886,438	\$9,200,000

- i. The Parties agree that this funding is divided as follows: \$2,100,000 for existing projects (Arviat, Gjoa Haven, Cape Dorset), and \$2,000,000 for new projects.
- ii. Funds to be held by CWS pursuant to Section 9.2.2
- iii. Funds to be held by CWS pursuant to Section 10.3.2

ARTICLE 16 — DISPUTE RESOLUTION

16.1 OBJECTIVES

16.1.1 This Article has the following objectives:

- (a) establish a timely, cost-efficient, effective and productive dispute resolution process; and
- (b) protect and, where possible, strengthen the relationships among the Parties.

16.2 DEFINITIONS

16.2.1 In this Article:

- (a) “mediation” means a collaborative process in which the Parties meet and attempt, with the assistance of a mediator, to resolve issues in dispute among them; and
- (b) “mediator” means a neutral and impartial facilitator with no decision-making power, who assists the Parties in negotiating a mutually acceptable settlement of issues in dispute among them.

16.3 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

16.3.1 With the exception of matters addressed under Part 4.3, disputes between the Parties pertaining to the interpretation, application or implementation of this IIBA shall be resolved as follows:

- (a) in the first instance, the Parties shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve their dispute through discussion and negotiation. The Parties shall act in good faith;
- (b) if the Parties are unable to resolve their dispute through discussion and negotiation, any Party may give notice to the other Party that it wishes to attempt to resolve the dispute through mediation. The Parties shall then retain the services of a mutually acceptable mediator and they shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve their dispute through mediation;
- (c) if the Parties are unable to resolve their dispute through subsection 16.3.1(a), and (b) as applicable, any Party may, subject to the agreement of the other Party, refer the dispute to a mutually-acceptable arbitrator(s) and arbitration process. No Party shall unreasonably withhold agreement to refer a dispute to arbitration.

16.3.2 Nothing in this Article shall limit the legal remedies of any Party.

16.3.3 Each Party shall pay its own costs of dispute resolution undertaken pursuant to this Article, and the Parties shall share equally all costs associated with the hiring of a mediator pursuant to subsection 16.3.1 (b) and with references to an arbitrator pursuant to subsection 16.3.1 (c).

APPENDIX I — NINGINGANIQ NWA

1.0 INUIT OWNED LANDS

- 1.1 CWS shall issue the necessary permits under the *CWA* to allow the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (“QIA”) or their designate(s) to build an ecotourism lodge and research facility, a Twin Otter airstrip and docking facilities on the Ninginganiq IOL in the vicinity of the easternmost point of Cape Raper.
- 1.2 The specific location and the construction and operation schedules related to the facilities described in subsection 1.1 shall be as agreed between QIA and CWS, in consultation with the Ninginganiq ACMC.
- 1.3 CWS shall consider any *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* respecting the matters in subsection 1.2 which QIA, the HTO or the ACMC document and present to it.
- 1.4 If CWS and QIA are unable to agree on the matters in subsection 1.2, the decision-making test and process as set forth in Part 4.3 of the IIBA shall apply. For greater certainty, the Part 4.3 process shall be used to determine the location and the construction and operating schedules of the facilities, and not whether the permits shall be issued.

2.0 RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

- 2.1 The Minister shall recommend to the Governor in Council or to Parliament, as required, such legislative changes as are necessary to provide to QIA or its designate a right of first refusal to carry on outfitting or guiding operations in Ninginganiq NWA in accordance with the provisions set forth below.
- 2.2 Sections 2.3 to 2.7 below shall apply only where a limited entry system is in effect in Ninginganiq NWA.
- 2.3 If a non-Inuk or non-Inuit firm applies for an NWA permit to carry on an outfitting or guiding operation in Ninginganiq NWA, CWS shall give QIA or its designate a right of first refusal to acquire a permit to carry on a business that is substantially similar to that described in the non-Inuit application.
- 2.4 The right of first refusal referenced in sections 2.1 to 2.3 shall also apply to renewals or amendments of existing permits, where the renewal or amendment is substantially different in nature or location from the existing permit.
- 2.5 Upon receiving a permit application or letter of interest from a non-Inuk or non-Inuit firm, CWS shall provide QIA or its designate with written notice of the application or letter of interest. QIA or its designate shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of CWS’s notice to give CWS written notice of its intent to exercise its right of first refusal, and ninety (90) days after giving notice to CWS to submit an application for a permit to carry on a substantially similar business.

- 2.6 If QIA or its designate submits a timely and acceptable application for a permit, CWS shall issue the permit to QIA or its designate.
- 2.7 If QIA or its designate fails to meet either the thirty (30) day notice deadline or the ninety (90) day application deadline set forth in section 4.4, CWS may issue a permit to the non-Inuk or non-Inuit firm.
- 2.8 Disputes regarding the permit applications described in section 2.6 above, including any terms and conditions which CWS attaches to such permits, shall be resolved in accordance with Part 4.3 of this IIBA.

SIGNATURES

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of the Environment

Date

THE INUIT OF THE NUNAVUT SETTLEMENT AREA

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated:

Cathy Towtongie, President
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Date

Kitikmeot Inuit Association:

Stanley Anablak, President
Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Date

Kivalliq Inuit Association:

David Ningeongan, President
Kivalliq Inuit Association

Date

Qikiqtani Inuit Association:

Pauloosie Akeegok, President
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Date