



NIRB File No.: 18YN003
NPC File No.: 148694

February 20, 2018

Dr. Masaki Uchida
National Institute of Polar Research
Midori-cho, 10-3
Tachikawa Tokyo 190-8518 Japan

Sent via email: uchida@nipr.ac.jp

Re: Notice of Screening for National Institute of Polar Research's "Climate – Terrestrial Biodiversity Investigation in Tundra Vegetation along an Arctic Longitudinal Gradient" project proposal

Dear Masaki Uchida:

On January 24, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen National Institute of Polar Research's "Climate – Terrestrial Biodiversity Investigation in Tundra Vegetation along an Arctic Longitudinal Gradient" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On January 24, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that the information provided be sufficient to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and that sufficient information has been provided to commence screening. Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on January 29, 2018 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On February 14, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Climate – Terrestrial Biodiversity Investigation in Tundra Vegetation along an Arctic Longitudinal Gradient” project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 13 kilometres north of the community of Cambridge Bay within the Greiner Lake watershed. The Proponent intends to conduct a biodiversity study to clarify plant biodiversity and microorganism biodiversity living in the tundra ecosystem. The program is proposed to take place in September 2018.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Conduct vegetation surveys by collecting samples from 50-70 quadrants (approximately 1 metre by 1 metre in size);
- Collecting small amounts of soil samples to conduct soil microorganism investigation and carbon dioxide fluxes measurements;
- Use of one (1) vehicle, one (1) boat and two (2) all-terrain vehicles (ATV’s) to transport personnel and equipment to and from research sites; and
- Use of accommodations and facilities at the Canadian High Arctic Research Station for up to three (3) personnel.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Climate - Terrestrial Biodiversity Investigation in Tundra Vegetation along an Arctic Longitudinal Gradient
- NIRB File No.: 18YN003
- Application No.: 125252

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuinnaqtun*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB’s online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by National Institute of Polar Research, Japan project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 2, 2018**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Climate – Terrestrial Biodiversity Investigation in Tundra Vegetation along an Arctic Longitudinal Gradient
- NIRB File No.: 18YN003
- Application No.: 125252

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or at motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Johann Wagner, Polar Knowledge Canada
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuinnaqtun)
Comment Forms (English and Inuinnaqtun)

Appendix A

Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. National Institute of Polar Research, Japan (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 148694) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, February 14, 2018).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Waste Disposal

5. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Wildlife - General

6. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
7. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
8. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

10. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

11. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
12. The Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration, and shall cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have passed.

Ground Disturbance

13. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.

Other

14. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
15. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
16. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.