NIRB Application for Screening #126336
GeoNest - Nunavut Base Camps Collection

Application Type:	New
Project Type:	Tourism
Application Date:	Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Period of operation:	from 2027-05-19 to 2030-09-18
Project Proponent:	Martin Gregus 5904 191a street Surrey BC V3S7N1 Canada Phone Number:: 778-858-6016, Fax Number::

DETAILS

Non-technical project proposal description

English: Our GeoNest Arctic collection is envisioned as a remote, off-grid wilderness resort chain located in various epicenters of natural significance in the heart of the Canadian Arctic. Designed to blend into the pristine tundra landscape, the lodges will feature semi-permanent structures built on elevated wooden platforms and sleds, allowing for full disassembly and reassembly with minimal environmental impact. Powered by a hybrid system of solar, wind, and fuel-efficient generators, the lodges will prioritize sustainable operations and environmentally conscious design from the ground up.Each pod will have two single beds, with the option to place them side by side to form one double. Space will be a limiting factor, as we don't want the camp to take up too much room, so guest accommodation will be for two people, while the staff pods could fit up to four in bunk beds.All waste and supplies will be carefully managed—transported in and out by boat or aircraft—to ensure a near-zero footprint on the land. The lodges will serve as both world-class luxury destinations for viewing polar bears, wolves, narwhals, musk ox, and belugas, as well as high Arctic exploration bases for scientists, filmmakers, and researchers studying Arctic wildlife, ecosystems, and the accelerating impacts of climate change.Equipped with satellite communications and radio connectivity, GeoNest Lodges will provide a critical safety and communication hub for regional navigation and emergency response. They will also serve as support stations for local Inuit hunters and travelers, reinforcing our commitment to serving and collaborating with Indigenous communities. A share in revenue will ensure the long-term sustainability of this project, with Inuit communities holding a direct stake in the profits generated from their land.

French: La collection arctique GeoNest est conçue comme un réseau de refuges en pleine nature isolés et autonomes, situés dans plusieurs zones d'importance naturelle majeure au cœur de l'Arctique canadien. Conçus pour s'intégrer harmonieusement au paysage intact de la toundra, les lodges seront composés de structures semi-permanentes installées sur des plateformes en bois surélevées et des traîneaux, permettant un démontage et un remontage complets avec un impact environnemental minimal. Alimentés par un système hybride combinant énergie solaire, éolienne et générateurs à haut rendement énergétique, les lodges privilégieront des opérations durables et une conception respectueuse de l'environnement dès leur création.Chaque module d'hébergement comprendra deux lits simples, avec la possibilité de les rapprocher pour former un lit double. L'espace étant volontairement limité afin de réduire l'emprise au sol du camp, les modules destinés aux clients accueilleront deux personnes, tandis que les modules pour le personnel pourront héberger jusqu'à quatre personnes en lits superposés.Tous les déchets et approvisionnements seront gérés avec soin et transportés vers et depuis les sites par bateau ou par avion, afin d'assurer une empreinte quasi nulle sur le territoire. Les lodges serviront à la fois de destinations de prestige pour l'observation de la faune arctique — notamment les ours polaires, les loups, les narvals, les bœufs musqués et les bélugas — et de bases d'exploration du Haut-Arctique pour les scientifiques, cinéastes et chercheurs étudiant la faune, les écosystèmes arctiques et les impacts accélérés des changements climatiques.Dotés de systèmes de communication par satellite et de liaisons radio, les lodges GeoNest constitueront un pôle essentiel de sécurité et de communication pour la navigation régionale et les interventions d'urgence. Ils serviront également de points de soutien pour les chasseurs et voyageurs inuits locaux, renforçant notre engagement à collaborer étroitement avec les communautés autochtones. Un partage des revenus contribuera à la pérennité du projet, les communautés inuites détenant une participation directe dans les bénéfices générés à partir de leurs terres.

Inuktitut: GeoNest Arctic collection takujaqtuq atuqsimajunut piusirijaujuq nunaqatigiinni avatiitillugit, nunakkut inuittuqanngittumi, Kanataup Avannaani. Taimanna sanajausimallutik nunaqarnikkut piusirijaujunut, sanajausimallutik quttiktumik qiruqatigiinnut qangattarlugit, qimuksigiarutinik sanajausimallutik, pijunnautiqarlutik tamaasa qimaqtiqtillugit qaiqqillugitlu sanajaujut, mikittumik avatittinnut sunniuteqarlutik. Silaannarmi, anuraaqarnikkut, taavalu atuqtiqattarnanngittumik generatorinik atuqarlutik, GeoNest-lodges piqatigiillutik avatittinnut piusirijaujunik atuqtiqarlutik sanajausimallutik.Atuqtitillugit ataasiakkaat pods-niit marluk siniqtut, qanimaniqarlutik ataatsimik siniqtumik sanajaujaqarsinnaallutik. Inugiatigut mikittumik sanajausimallutik, camp mikittumik nunaqarsimanngittumik atuqtiqaqtillugu; taimaattumik igluqatigiit inuit marluk atuqtiqaqtillugit, sulisullu pods-niit sisamat siniqtut bunk beds-nik atuqtiqarlutik.Tamakkuat pisattat tamarmik, igluit, niqit, sanajautit, tamarmik umiakkut timmisartukkutlu qaangiutillugit qimaqtiqtillugitlu, nuna mikittumik imaluunniit naamaktumik sunniuteqqarani. Lodges-at atuqtaullutik qanuqtuuriniarluni

takujaqtuqanngittunik uqsualinnik, amarualinnik, qilalugarnik, umingmaknik, beluga-nillu takujaqtuqanngittumik, taavalu ilisimatuut, filmiliortut, ilinniarutillugitlu atuqtaullutik Avannaani ilisimajunik qanuqtuurniarlugit avatittinnik, uumajunik, silaannarmi allannguqtiqaqtillugu.Satellite-kut radio-kullu attaveqarlutik, GeoNest Lodges atuqtaullutik pingaarutilimmik isumagijaujaullutik avannaani angalanermi annaktuurniarlutillu. Taakkualu ikajuutaullutik nunami Inuit piniartunit, angalasunit, ikajuqtiqarlutik Inuit nunalinginnut sulinirmik. Akiqaqtillugit piqatigiillutik, akiligaksaq avataanut piusirijaujuq, Inuit nunalingit akiqaqtillugit piqatigiillutik aningaasatigut iluaqutiqaqtillugit nunaminni atuqtaunit.

Inuinnaqtun: GeoNest Arctic collection ihumagijauniqhaqtuq nunamiinnaq, avatiitillugu piuninga nunani, Kanatami Avannaani. Lodges-at sanajauniarutillugit nuna sanajauniqhamik maligalugu, quttiktumik qiruktunik sanajaullutik, qimuksiutillugu iligijaullutik, taimaattumik piiqtaujunnaqtuq taimatullu qaiqqillugu sanajauniaqtuq avatittinnut mikittumik sunniutiqarluni. Lodges-at atuqtauniarutillugit silaannarmi nukingit, anurimik, taavalu ikitunik aturiaqanngittunik generator-nik, avatittinnut isumalluarniarluni atuqtillugit.Iglut ataasiakkaat malguk siniktut atugaqaqtillugit, sananirmit qanimaniqarlutik atausirmik siniqtauniqhaqtuq. Nuna mikittuq aturiaqaqtuq, camp angisuujunnaqhuni, taimaattumik guests-at malguk inuinnait aturiaqaqtillugit, sulisullu pods-at sisamanik siniktunik bunk beds-nik atuqtaqaqtillugit.Tamarmik niqit, pisattat, iglu sanajautit, umiakkut timmisartukkutlu tikitillugit qaiqqillugitlu piijaullutik, nuna avatittinnut mikittumik sunniutiqaqtillugu. Lodges-at atuqtauniarutillugit qanuqturiniarluni takujaqtuqanngittunik uumajunik — nanuq, amaruaq, qilalugaq, umingmak, beluga — taavalu atuqtauniarutillugit ilisimatuinnit, filmiliurtiinnit, ilinniarutinit Avannaani uumajunik, avatittinnik, taavalu silaup allannguqtiqaqtillugu ilinniarutillugit.Satellite-kut radio-kullu atuqtaqaqtillugit, GeoNest Lodges annaktuurniarluni ikajuutauniarutillugit, avannaani angalaniarluni isumagijaujunnaqtuq. Taakkualu ikajuutauniarutillugit Inuit piniartunit angalasunit, taimaattumik Inuit nunalinginnut ikajuqtiqarlutik. Aningaasatigut piqatigiinniqarluni, GeoNest aturiaqaqtuq akiqaqtillugit Inuit nunalinginnut iluaqutiqaqtillugit, nunaminni atuqtauniarutillugit.

Personnel

Personnel on site: 38

Days on site: 284

Total Person days: 10792

Operations Phase: from 2025-09-18 to 2027-05-19

Operations Phase: from 2027-05-19 to 2030-09-18

Post-Closure Phase: from to

Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
Location of GeoNest Lodge Connigham Bay	Camp	Crown	n/a	None has been found or identified at this time.	The lodge location at Connigham Bay is 280km from Taloyoak and 350km from Gjoa Haven. The proximity to the nearest protected area is over 300km
Location of GeoNest Lodge Admiralty Inlet	Camp	Crown	n/a	None has been found or identified at this time.	The lodge location at Admiralty Inlet is 70km from the community of Arctic Bay and 150km from the nearest protected area
GeoNest lodge, option one Ellesmere Island	Camp	Crown	n/a	None has been found or identified at this time.	Our number one pick for a lodge location on Ellesmere Island is 20km from Eureka and 400km from Grise Fjord. The proximity to the nearest protected area is over 200km
GeoNest lodge, option two Ellesmere Island	Camp	Crown	n/a	None has been found or identified at this time.	Our number two pick for a lodge location on Ellesmere Island is 15km from Eureka and around 400km from Grise Fjord. The proximity to the nearest protected area is 200km

Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Arctic Bay	Various members of the local community	Arctic Bay HTA	2026-02-01
Resolute Bay	Various members of the local community	Resolute HTA	2026-02-01

Grise Fiord	Various members of the local community	Grise Fjord HTA	2026-02-01

Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

Kitikmeot
North Baffin

Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Nunavut Planning Commission	NPC File # 150927	Active	2026-01-09	
Nunavut Water Board	Type B License	Not Yet Applied		
Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment	Wildlife Observation Licence	Not Yet Applied		
Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	Class A Land Use Permit	Not Yet Applied		
Government of Nunavut, Department of Economic Development & Transportation	0	Not Yet Applied		

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Air	Fixed-wing aircraft will be used to transport guests from regional communities, both locally and from more distant hubs, to access the project areas	
Water	Boats will be used primarily in Admiralty Inlet and Coningham Bay to transport guests between landing areas and camp locations and to support guided marine-based excursions	
Land	Sherps and snowmachines will be used to transport guests from aircraft landing areas to camp and for guided land-based excursions where walking or boat access is not feasible.	

Project accomodation types

Temporary Camp

Other,

Material Use

Equipment to be used (including drills, pumps, aircraft, vehicles, etc)

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
KingFisher Boat	1	9,510 lbs	Transport of tourists and wildlife viewing
Kayak	10	100 lbs	Wildlife viewing and activities
Sherp	2	5,640 lbs	Transport of tourists and wildlife viewing, each Sherp will also have a trailer.
Zodiac	4	350 lbs	Safety and wildlife viewing
ATV	6	500 lbs	Transport of tourists and wildlife viewing, each ATV will also have a small trailer.
Snow Machine	6	700lbs	Transport of tourists and wildlife viewing, each snow machine will also have a sled or komatik.

Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Oil	hazardous	15	20	300	Liters	Maintenance
Aviation fuel	fuel	20	205	4100	Liters	Fuel cache for helicopters and twin otter for safety
Gasoline	fuel	20	205	4100	Liters	Fuel for Zodiac and Sherp
Propane	fuel	20	100	2000	Lbs	Gas for cooking and heating

Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
2	Small-scale surface water collection by pump	Seasonal snow melt and nearby freshwater sources

Waste

Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Tourism Activities	Combustible wastes	0.02 m^3/day ~5–10 m^3/season	Collected in sealed containers, compacted where possible	Removed from site each season for disposal at an approved facility in southern Canada. No burning on site.
Tourism Activities	Greywater	0.5–0.8 m^3/day ~75 m^3/season	Collected in holding tanks.	Screened for solids, stored, and removed from site at season's end. Possible leaching bed
Tourism Activities	Hazardous waste	~200–400 L/season	Stored in clearly labelled sealed containers, secondary containment in place.	Removed annually for disposal at approved southern facilities.
Tourism Activities	Non-Combustible wastes	0.01 m^3/day ~3–5 m^3/season	Sorted, stored in drums or crates.	Backhauled annually for approved recycling or disposal.
Tourism Activities	Sewage (human waste)	0.1 m^3/day ~15 m^3/season	Composting toilets, biological treatment and portable camp-style low-flush toilets and sealed holding tanks.	All sewage collected and removed south at season's end. No pit privies or land discharge.

Environmental Impacts:

The proposed activities at Coningham Bay, Admiralty Inlet, and Ellesmere Island are expected to result in low, localized, and short-term environmental impacts. Operations will be seasonal, limited in duration, and conducted with small numbers of guests and staff. Potential environmental effects include temporary disturbance to wildlife, localized trampling of tundra vegetation during guided foot travel, limited noise associated with vessel, zodiac, or aircraft operations, and risks related to fuel handling and waste management at temporary camps. To mitigate these effects, all GeoNest facilities will use lightweight, removable, semi-permanent infrastructure installed on elevated platforms or sled systems, leaving no permanent footprint. Site selection at each location will avoid sensitive wildlife habitat, denning areas, migration corridors, and culturally significant sites, informed by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and consultation with local organizations. All activities will comply with Nunavut wildlife regulations and applicable federal and territorial guidelines. Wildlife viewing will follow minimum approach distances, and operational timing will avoid sensitive periods where required. Land-based activities will be conducted in small, guided groups, restricted to defined areas and distances from camp, and motorized travel will be minimized and used only where necessary for safety and logistics. All solid waste, sewage, and hazardous materials will be securely contained and removed from site for approved disposal. Greywater will be treated on site in accordance with best practices. Fuel storage will include secondary containment and be located away from water bodies. Renewable energy systems will be prioritized to reduce emissions and noise. With these mitigation measures in place, the project is not expected to result in significant adverse environmental effects, and will support conservation, and long-term stewardship in collaboration with Inuit partners.

Additional Information

SECTION A1: Project Info

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

SECTION B1: Project Info

SECTION B2: Exploration Activity

SECTION B3: Geosciences

SECTION B4: Drilling

SECTION B5: Stripping

SECTION B6: Underground Activity

SECTION B7: Waste Rock

SECTION B8: Stockpiles

SECTION B9: Mine Development

SECTION B10: Geology

SECTION B11: Mine

SECTION B12: Mill

SECTION C1: Pits

SECTION D1: Facility

SECTION D2: Facility Construction

SECTION D3: Facility Operation

SECTION D4: Vessel Use

SECTION E1: Offshore Survey

SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey

SECTION E3: Vessel Use

SECTION F1: Site Cleanup

SECTION G1: Well Authorization

SECTION G2: Onland Exploration

SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration

SECTION G4: Rig

SECTION H1: Vessel Use

SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea

SECTION I1: Municipal Development

Description of Existing Environment: Physical Environment

The proposed project areas at Coningham Bay, Admiralty Inlet, and Ellesmere Island are located in remote regions of the Canadian Arctic. Existing physical components include seasonal marine routes, informal landing areas, traditional Inuit travel corridors, and limited temporary trails associated with seasonal land use. No permanent road networks are present.The project sites are not located withi, but may be adjacent (20km or less) to regions of recognized ecological, cultural, and environmental importance. These include designated or proposed protected areas, national parks, and marine conservation planning zones, as well as Inuit heritage sites and long-established harvesting areas. The surrounding environment includes sensitive marine habitats, recreational and subsistence use areas, sport and commercial fishing zones, breeding and nursery areas for marine mammals, and known migration routes for both terrestrial and marine species.The physical landscape includes a range of unique Arctic landforms such as eskers, raised beaches, gravel plains, wetlands, floodplains, glacial valleys, and fjords. Ellesmere Island is dominated by polar desert terrain, exposed bedrock, glaciers, and rugged mountains, while Coningham Bay and Admiralty Inlet include tundra lowlands, coastal flats, and steep fjord systems shaped by glacial processes.Surface and bedrock geology consists primarily of ancient crystalline and sedimentary formations. While regional seismicity is low, localized slope instability, erosion, and rockfall may occur in steep terrain, particularly along fjords and coastal cliffs. Seasonal thaw may result in thermokarst features, ice lenses, and minor ground subsidence in tundra areas.All project areas are underlain by continuous permafrost, with a shallow active layer that thaws during the summer months. Permafrost depth and stability vary depending on topography, soil composition, and proximity to water bodies. Taliks may occur beneath lakes, rivers, and nearshore marine environments.Topography across the sites ranges from low-lying coastal tundra and gently sloping shorelines to steep cliffs, fjords, mountainous terrain, and glaciated valleys. Elevation changes are most pronounced on Ellesmere Island, where rugged terrain and glaciers dominate the landscape.Soils are thin, poorly developed, and nutrient-poor, with limited organic content. Sediments range from coarse gravels and sands to finer materials in wetlands, floodplains, and marine environments. Due to cold temperatures and short growing seasons, natural recovery from disturbance is slow.Hydrological features include small lakes, ponds, seasonal streams, wetlands, and meltwater channels that form during the summer thaw. Watershed boundaries are influenced by permafrost conditions and glacial history. Surface water flow is highly seasonal, with peak flows occurring during snowmelt and periods of increased precipitation.Marine environments are strongly influenced by seasonal sea ice, tidal processes, bathymetry, and ocean currents. Fjords and embayments vary in depth and circulation patterns, affecting both ecological conditions and navigation. Ice conditions play a critical role in shaping coastal processes and accessibility.Water quality across the project areas is generally high due to limited industrial activity, though freshwater systems are sensitive to contamination because of low dilution capacity. Water quantity varies seasonally and is dependent on precipitation, snowmelt, and glacial runoff.Air quality is pristine, with minimal anthropogenic emissions. Existing air quality conditions are influenced primarily by natural processes, with occasional localized emissions from seasonal vessel or aircraft activity.The climate is polar, characterized by long, cold winters and short, cool summers. Weather conditions can change rapidly, with strong winds, fog, and storms common. Climate change is already affecting sea ice extent, permafrost

stability, hydrology, and coastal erosion, with projected trends indicating continued warming and increased environmental variability.Ambient noise levels are very low and dominated by natural sources such as wind, ice movement, and wildlife. Human-generated noise is infrequent, seasonal, and typically associated with vessel traffic or aircraft operations.Additional physical valued ecosystem components identified through literature review and Inuit knowledge include sea ice integrity, coastal erosion zones, visibility conditions, landscape integrity, and traditional access routes, all of which are important for wildlife habitat, safe travel, and cultural land use.

Description of Existing Environment: Biological Environment

The proposed project areas at Coningham Bay, Admiralty Inlet, and Ellesmere Island support Arctic ecosystems characterized by high biological sensitivity, strong seasonal variation, and close ecological linkages between marine, coastal, and terrestrial environments. Biological productivity is generally low compared to southern ecosystems; however, these regions support species of high ecological, cultural, and subsistence importance.Vegetation across the project areas is limited and slow-growing due to cold temperatures, permafrost, and short growing seasons. Plant communities are dominated by tundra species, including mosses, lichens, sedges, grasses, dwarf shrubs, and flowering plants adapted to Arctic conditions. On Ellesmere Island, vegetation cover is sparse and patchy, reflecting polar desert conditions, while Coningham Bay and Admiralty Inlet support relatively higher tundra productivity in sheltered lowland areas.Terrestrial mammals present in or near the project areas include polar bears, Arctic wolves, muskoxen, Arctic foxes, caribou (regionally), and small mammals such as lemmings. These species rely on large, undisturbed landscapes for foraging, denning, migration, and predator–prey interactions. Polar bears are of particular importance and use coastal areas and sea ice extensively for travel and hunting.Marine mammals are a key biological component of the project areas. Beluga whales and narwhals are seasonally abundant in Coningham Bay and Admiralty Inlet, using these areas for moulting, feeding, and summer residency. Ringed seals, bearded seals, and harp seals are present and provide important prey for polar bears. Killer whales occur seasonally, particularly in Admiralty Inlet, influencing marine mammal distribution and behaviour.Bird species in the project areas include seabirds, shorebirds, and migratory waterfowl, many of which nest or stage during the summer months. Cliffs, coastal areas, wetlands, and tundra provide nesting and foraging habitat. Bird populations are seasonally sensitive to disturbance during breeding and chick-rearing periods.Fish and marine invertebrates form the foundation of marine food webs in the region. Species include Arctic cod, char, sculpins, and various invertebrates that support higher trophic levels such as marine mammals and seabirds. Fjords, embayments, and nearshore waters provide important feeding and nursery habitat.Freshwater ecosystems consist of small lakes, ponds, and streams that support limited but important aquatic life, including Arctic char and invertebrates adapted to cold, low-nutrient conditions. These systems are closely linked to seasonal meltwater and are sensitive to changes in hydrology and temperature. Ecological processes in the project areas are strongly influenced by sea ice dynamics, seasonal light cycles, and climate variability. Sea ice provides critical habitat and travel corridors for polar bears and seals, while also influencing marine productivity and species distribution.Several species present in the project areas are listed under federal or territorial conservation frameworks or are considered species of concern due to climate change and habitat sensitivity. The biological environment is also closely tied to Inuit subsistence harvesting, cultural practices, and traditional ecological knowledge.Due to the slow growth rates of Arctic species and limited reproductive capacity, ecosystem recovery from disturbance is slow, making the biological environment particularly vulnerable to cumulative effects. Maintaining landscape connectivity, minimizing disturbance, and respecting seasonal sensitivities are therefore critical considerations.

Description of Existing Environment: Socio-economic Environment

The proposed project areas at Coningham Bay, Admiralty Inlet, and Ellesmere Island are located in remote regions of Nunavut with no permanent settlements at the project sites themselves. Nearby communities are small, predominantly Inuit, and rely on a mixed economy that combines wage employment, traditional harvesting, tourism, and government services. Access to these regions is primarily by air and seasonal marine transport.Inuit communities in the broader project region maintain a strong connection to the land and sea through subsistence harvesting, including hunting, fishing, and trapping. Marine mammals, terrestrial wildlife, fish, and birds contribute significantly to food security, cultural identity, and intergenerational knowledge transfer. Seasonal travel routes and harvesting areas are actively used and remain an essential part of daily life.Traditional land use in the region includes hunting camps, travel corridors, fishing areas, and culturally important sites. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) plays a critical role in understanding wildlife behaviour, environmental change, and safe travel conditions. These land uses and knowledge systems continue to guide decision-making at the community level and are integral to resource

management.Economic opportunities in the surrounding communities are limited and often seasonal. Employment is largely concentrated in public services, construction, transportation, resource management, and tourism. Tourism activities are typically small-scale and focused on wildlife viewing, cultural experiences, and guided travel, with growing interest in environmentally responsible and community-led tourism initiatives.Infrastructure in nearby communities includes airports, small harbours, community roads, fuel storage facilities, and limited accommodations. Outside community boundaries, infrastructure is minimal or absent. Emergency services, search and rescue, and health care capacity are limited by distance and weather, making coordination and communication important considerations.Cultural and heritage values are closely tied to the land and marine environment. Many areas surrounding the project sites hold historical significance related to long-standing Inuit use, travel, and settlement. Respect for culturally important sites and practices is a key socioeconomic consideration.The region has experienced increasing interest in Arctic tourism, research, and marine activity, driven in part by climate change and longer ice-free seasons. While this presents opportunities for economic development, it also raises concerns related to cumulative effects, community capacity, and protection of cultural and environmental values.Socioeconomic conditions are also influenced by climate change, which is affecting travel safety, wildlife availability, infrastructure stability, and cost of living. These changes underscore the importance of adaptive planning and meaningful engagement with communities.Community well-being, employment opportunities, training, and fair compensation are important socioeconomic values identified through community engagement and regional planning processes. Projects operating in the region are expected to contribute positively to local economies while respecting community priorities and decision-making authority.

Miscellaneous Project Information

n/a

Identification of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

he proposed GeoNest activities are designed to operate at a small scale, seasonally, and with a strong emphasis on community collaboration and environmental stewardship. While activities in remote Arctic environments have the potential to cause localized and short-term impacts, the project incorporates extensive mitigation measures intended to minimize environmental disturbance and provide positive socioeconomic outcomes for Inuit communities.Human presence has the potential to temporarily disturb wildlife and sensitive habitats if not properly managed. Mitigation measures include strict compliance with Nunavut wildlife regulations, maintaining minimum approach distances, operating only with experienced guides, and avoiding sensitive periods such as denning, breeding, or moulting where applicable. The camp design minimizes footprint by using elevated structures mounted on sleds, preventing ground compaction and vegetation damage. Camps can be relocated or removed entirely should environmental or community concerns arise.Ground disturbance is expected to be minimal due to the absence of permanent foundations or excavation.Mitigation measures include the use of above-ground, movable infrastructure, limited land-based activity zones, small group sizes, and full removal of all structures at the end of the operating season. This approach allows the landscape to remain largely unchanged and capable of natural recovery.Waste, Fuel, and Environmental ProtectionImproper waste or fuel handling could result in contamination of land or water. Mitigation measures include secure fuel storage with secondary containment, spill response planning, on-site greywater treatment, and removal of all solid waste and sewage from the site for approved disposal. These measures are intended to maintain the high existing quality of land, air, and water.Socioeconomic Benefits and Community FundThe project is designed to deliver direct and indirect benefits to nearby Inuit communities. GeoNest will establish a community fund dedicated to supporting community-identified projects that require financial assistance, such as cultural initiatives, youth programs, equipment purchases, or other locally prioritized needs. The fund will be developed and administered in collaboration with local HTAs/HTOs and community representatives to ensure transparency and relevance.Where possible, GeoNest will prioritize hiring local Inuit, including guides, cultural interpreters, logistics support, transportation providers, and other seasonal roles. This approach supports local employment, skills development, and income generation while ensuring that operations are informed by Inuit knowledge and experience.A core component of the project is educating guests about the importance of the Arctic landscape, wildlife, and biodiversity, as well as Inuit cultural values and stewardship practices. Guided activities and interpretation will emphasize respect for wildlife, the fragility of Arctic ecosystems, and the role Inuit communities play in caring for these environments. This educational focus is intended to foster greater awareness and long-term conservation-minded behaviour among visitors.The project’s small scale, limited season, and low visitor numbers reduce the potential for cumulative effects. Ongoing communication with communities and regulatory bodies will allow for adaptive management, including

modification or relocation of camps if environmental conditions, wildlife patterns, or community priorities change.With the proposed mitigation measures in place, residual effects are expected to be minor, temporary, and reversible. The project is intended to leave no permanent footprint while contributing positively to community well-being, environmental awareness, and long-term stewardship of the land.

Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects in the Canadian Arctic are influenced by a combination of climate change, increasing marine traffic, growing interest in Arctic tourism, scientific research activities, and ongoing community use of the land and marine environment. These pressures may interact over time to affect wildlife behaviour, habitat integrity, and community values.Climate change is the most significant cumulative influence in the project region. Observed and predicted trends include rising temperatures, reduced sea ice extent and duration, permafrost thaw, coastal erosion, and changes in wildlife distribution and migration patterns. These changes are occurring independently of the proposed project and contribute to increased sensitivity of Arctic ecosystems.Human activity in the project areas remains limited, but seasonal increases in vessel traffic, tourism, and research activity may contribute to cumulative disturbance, particularly for wildlife species sensitive to noise and human presence. Potential cumulative effects include increased wildlife avoidance of certain areas, disruption of traditional land use, and incremental pressure on sensitive habitats.The GeoNest project is designed to minimize its contribution to cumulative effects through small-scale, seasonal operations, limited guest numbers, and low-impact infrastructure. Camps are above ground, movable, and fully removable, ensuring no permanent footprint or long-term alteration of the landscape.Coordination and communication with local communities, HTAs/HTOs, and regulatory bodies will help ensure activities do not overlap with sensitive harvesting periods or areas. The use of Inuit knowledge will further reduce the potential for cumulative impacts by guiding timing, location, and operational decisions.In addition to minimizing impacts, the project is expected to contribute positive cumulative effects through local employment, capacity building, support for community-identified projects via the community fund, and increased awareness among visitors of Arctic conservation, biodiversity, and Inuit stewardship.Given the project’s design, scale, and mitigation measures, its contribution to cumulative effects is expected to be negligible and not significant when considered in combination with other existing or reasonably foreseeable activities in the region.

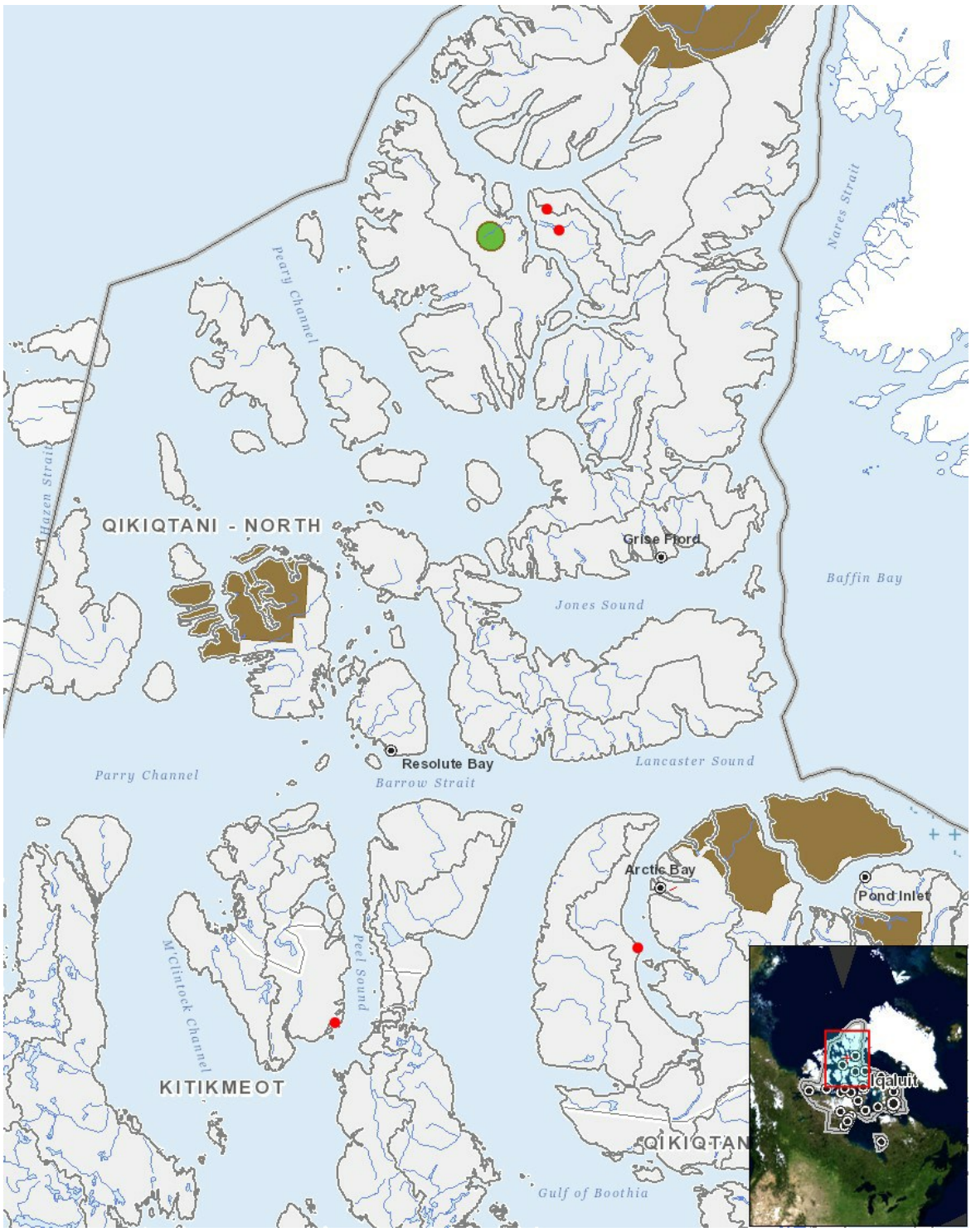
Impacts

Identification of Environmental Impacts

	PHYSICAL	Designated environmental areas	Ground stability	Permafrost	Hydrology / Limnology	Water quality	Climate conditions	Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes	Surface and bedrock geology	Sediment and soil quality	Tidal processes and bathymetry	Air quality	Noise levels	BIOLOGICAL	Vegetation	Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns	Birds, including habitat and migration patterns	Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning	Wildlife protected areas	SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Archaeological and cultural historic sites	Employment	Community wellness	Community infrastructure	Human health
Construction																									
Camp		-	P	P	-	M	-	-	-	M	-	-	M		M	M	M	M	-		-	P	P	P	-
Operation																									
Camp		-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	M	-	-	M		M	P	P	M	-		-	P	P	P	-
Decommissioning																									
-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-

(P = Positive, N = Negative and non-mitigatable, M = Negative and mitigatable, U = Unknown)

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

1	polygon	Geo Nest Land Use Area Connigham Bay
2	polyline	Geo Nest Land Use Area Admiralty Inlet
3	polyline	GeoNest lodge, option one Ellesmere Island
4	polyline	GeoNest lodge, option two Ellesmere Island
5	point	Location of GeoNest Lodge Connigham Bay
6	point	Location of GeoNest Lodge Admiralty Inlet
7	point	GeoNest lodge location, option 1 Ellesmere Island
8	point	GeoNest lodge location, option 2 Ellesmere Island