



NIRB File No.: 19AN008
NPC File No.: 148982

February 15, 2019

Sarah Walsh
Silverback Films Ltd
1 Augustines Yard, Gaunts Lane
Bristol BS1 5DE
United Kingdom

Sent via email: sarah.walsh@silverbackfilms.tv

Re: Notice of Screening for Silverback Films Ltd.'s "BBC Perfect Planet – Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Karrak Lake) – Arctic Foxes" project proposal

Dear Sarah Walsh:

On January 15, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Silverback Films Ltd.'s "BBC Perfect Planet – Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Karrak Lake) – Arctic Foxes" 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 s. 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 and has assigned it file number **19AN008** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On January 15, 2019 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 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. On February 12, 2019 the NIRB followed up with the Proponent requesting an online application, and received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “BBC Perfect Planet – Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Karrak Lake) Arctic Foxes” project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 232 kilometres (km) southwest of Gjoa Haven and approximately 285 km southeast of Cambridge Bay. The Proponent intends to film and document how animals cope with periods of perpetual sunlight by focusing on arctic fox pups during their first initial weeks and any predatory activities on snow geese nests in the area. The program is proposed to take place from May to July 2019.

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

- Filming arctic foxes and pups around active dens to document their activities and the pups in their first few weeks;
- Filming of snow geese nests around Karrak Lake with the aim to film predatory activities by arctic foxes and other opportunistic predators;
- Opportunistic filming of other wildlife such as caribou, Grizzly bear and muskox;
- Use of an unmanned air vehicle (UAV) for filming of scenic landscapes and nesting goose colonies to showcase scale;
- Travel on foot and use of small boats owned by Karrak Lake Research Station to access fox dens;
- Use of accommodations as well as approved facilities and equipment at the Karrak Lake Research Station; and
- Use of Polar Continental Shelf Program charter to transport personnel between Cambridge Bay and the Karrak Lake Research Station.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

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 accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125436.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut*
- *Project Summary*
- *Maps noting research area as well as the Karrak Lake Research Station*

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 Silverback Films Ltd. project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **March 8, 2019**.

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.

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/project/125436.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or at motokiak@nirb.ca or Sophia Granchinho, Manager of Impact Assessment, at (867) 857-4829 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service