



Government of Nunavut

Summary of Government of Nunavut-Led or Funded Research and Monitoring

Provided as Supporting Information for the
Nunavut Impact Review Board's Development of a
Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework for the
Mary River Project

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Disclaimer: This summary was developed at the request of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's in support of the Mary River Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Framework process. It is provided for information purposes only and is not intended for application in other regulatory processes, jurisdictions, or decision-making contexts, and any such use may result in misinterpretation or inappropriate conclusions.

Introduction

The Government of Nunavut (GN) has established an Environmental Assessment Review Team (EART) to participate in environmental assessment processes on behalf of the GN. The EART is led by the GN's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA) and comprised of two sub committees:

- 1) Environmental and Human Health Assessment Committee (EHHAC); and the

The Environment and Human Health Assessment Committee (EHHAC) assesses the potential biophysical and human health effects of proposed projects within Nunavut. The committee is chaired by the Department of Environment's land use and environment assessment section who coordinates participation and input from the following departments, divisions and agencies:

- Department of Environment
 - Environmental Protection;
 - Wildlife Research;
 - Wildlife Operations;
 - Parks and Special Places; and,
 - Climate Change Secretariat.
- Department of Health
 - Public Health (Health Protection Unit)
- Nunavut Research Institute

Examples of key legislation implemented by the departments within EHHAC includes, but is not limited to the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Wildlife Act*, the *Territorial Parks Act* and the *Public Health Act*.

EHHAC's role includes reviewing screenings and major projects in the impact assessment process across Nunavut (by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board and the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board). EHHAC is responsible within the GN for identifying potential impacts to the environment and human health from projects. Additionally, the Department of Environment's land use and environmental assessment section represents the Government of Nunavut on proponent-led project-specific working groups to monitor the environment for the Mary River Project, the Meliadine Gold Mine, the Meadowbank Gold Mine and the Back River Project.

- 2) Socio-Economic Assessment Committee (SEAC)

The Socio-Economic Assessment Committee (SEAC) focuses on the potential social, economic and cultural effects and benefits of major development projects. The committee is chaired by Community Services who coordinates participation from the following departments and agencies:

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- Community Services
- Culture and Heritage
- Education
- Family Services
- Finance
- Health (focusing on social service)
- Nunavut Housing Corporation
- Nunavut Arctic College
- Transportation and Infrastructure

The SEAC participates in NIRB's screening and review processes and informs the socio-economic monitoring requirements for both project-specific and regional monitoring. SEAC is responsible for a wide range of GN social, economic, and community services, such as community infrastructure, cultural resources, language, education, training, business development, community economic development, community and family wellbeing, and mental and physical health. The Department of Community Services represents the GN on proponent-led project-specific working groups to monitor the socio-economic environment. This includes the Mary River Socio-Economic Monitoring Working Group.

Both EHHAC and SEAC may occasionally include subject matter specialists from GN departments and agencies, as needed.

Scope

The GN sets its own monitoring and research priorities, and resources are directed accordingly. As such, long-term GN-led or funded research is not designed as a stand-alone project but is part of a larger body of work to support responsible decision-making for government. GN monitoring is not intended to assess project-specific impacts or be a substitute for proponent-led monitoring.

Accordingly, the GN has prepared this summary of GN-led or funded monitoring and/or research to support the Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework (CEAF) initiative for the Mary River Project, as requested by the NIRB. These programs occur primarily in the Qikiqtani region, with a focus on valued components that may be affected by the Mary River Project. The information produced by EHHAC is primarily related to Baffin Island caribou and polar bear (e.g., Davis Strait, Baffin Bay, Foxe Basin, Lancaster Sound), as well as selected human health research. SEAC has provided a focused overview of the regional Socio-Economic Monitoring Committees that support the GN's socio-economic monitoring related to resource development.

Non-Exhaustive List of GN-Led and/or Funded Monitoring and Research

Specific data or information from these reports and programs, may be available through specific agreements with the GN, such as a Data and/or Sample Sharing Agreement (DSSA). This summary is not intended to be exhaustive or provide a finite list of the GN’s monitoring and research activities. Additional details are available in the referenced reports or upon request (where specified).

#	Valued Component(s)	Report/Program Name	Description of Research or Monitoring Activities	Timelines	Final/Planned Outcomes	Access to Information
1	Polar Bear	Polar Bear Harvest Reports	Logging of harvested polar bear samples, condition, sex, dates and locations.	2000–2010	Report shared with Baffin Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) and interjurisdictionally.	Report(s) available on GN website .
2	Polar Bear	Inuit Knowledge Regarding Climate Change and the Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population	Discussions on Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population.	Dec. 2005	Report shared with Baffin HTOs, QWB, and interjurisdictionally.	Report(s) available on GN website .
3	Caribou	Estimating Peary Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus pearyi</i>) and Muskox (<i>Ovibos moschatus</i>) Numbers, Composition and Distributions on the High Arctic Islands of Nunavut	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of Peary caribou and muskox on Southern and Northern Ellesmere Island, Nunavut.	April–May 2005 & 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Ellesmere Island communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available on GN website .
4	Polar Bear	Abundance Estimates for Five Polar Bear Populations: A Comparison Between Estimates Derived from Preliminary and Extensive Data Sets (2005, 2006)	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of Polar Bears within the Davis Strait of Nunavut.	April 2005 & 2007	Results shared with Baffin communities, QWB and interjurisdictionally.	Report(s) available on GN website .

#	Valued Component(s)	Report/Program Name	Description of Research or Monitoring Activities	Timelines	Final/Planned Outcomes	Access to Information
5	Polar Bear	Temporal and Spatial Trends in Organic and Metal Contaminants in Canadian Polar Bears: 2006–2007 Northern Contaminants Program Project Summary Report	Liver, fat, and muscle tissue samples were collected and analyzed from bears harvested in late winter/early spring 2007 from locations encompassed within the seven Canadian polar bear management zones.	2006–2007	Results shared with Baffin and Kivalliq communities, Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB), QWB, and interjurisdictionally.	Report(s) available on GN website .
6	Caribou	Space Use and Movement Patterns of North Baffin Caribou	The deployment of satellite collars on North Baffin Island caribou to determine seasonal range and movements relative to industrial activities and associated infrastructure.	March/April 2007 & 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available on GN website .
7	Polar Bear	Foxe Basin Polar Bear Project 2007–2012	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of Polar Bears within the Foxe Basin of Nunavut.	Sept./ Aug. 2007–2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin and Kivalliq communities, KWB, QWB and interjurisdictionally. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available on GN website .
8	Polar Bear	The Documentation of Inuit and Public Knowledge of Davis Strait Polar Bears, Climate Change, Inuit Knowledge and Environmental	Discussions on Davis Strait research and general concerns.	August 2009	Report shared with Baffin HTOs and QWB, Interjurisdictionally.	Report(s) available on GN website .

#	Valued Component(s)	Report/Program Name	Description of Research or Monitoring Activities	Timelines	Final/Planned Outcomes	Access to Information
		Management using Public Opinion Polls				
9	Caribou	Caribou Health Monitoring Program Baffin Island	The purpose of this project is to continue a collaborative community-GN sampling program to monitor caribou health that will contribute to the management of ungulates in Nunavut.	2008–2026	Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB.	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
10	Caribou	Distribution and Abundance of Barren-Ground Caribou on Baffin Island, Nunavut	Reconnaissance survey of North Baffin barren-ground caribou to determine relative densities and distribution.	March 2009 & 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
11	Caribou	Space Use and Movement Patterns of North Baffin Caribou	The deployment of satellite collars on North Baffin Island caribou to determine seasonal range and movements relative to industrial mining activities and associated infrastructure.	March 2009 & 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
12	Polar Bear	Foxe Basin Polar Bear Project, 2010 Interim Report – Part 1 (Part 2 - Population Survey Report)	Movements, habitat, population delineation and Inuit Qaujimagatugangnit	Nov. 2009 & 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin and Kivalliq communities and KWB, QWB and interjurisdictionally. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available on GN website .

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13	Polar Bear	Re-Assessment of the Baffin Bay and Kane Basin Polar Bear Subpopulations [Chapters 1–8]	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of Polar Bears within the Baffin Bay and Kane Basin of Nunavut.	2009–2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin and Kivalliq communities and KWB, QWB and interjurisdictionally. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available on GN website .
14	Polar Bear	Elder and Hunter Knowledge of Davis Strait Polar Bears, Climate Change, and Inuit Participation	Discussions on Davis Strait research and general concerns.	Aug. 2010	Report shared with Baffin HTOs, QWB, and interjurisdictionally.	Report(s) available on GN website .
15	Polar Bear	Foxe Basin Polar Bear Aerial Survey, 2009 and 2010	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of Polar Bears within the Foxe Basin of Nunavut.	Sept./Aug. 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin and Kivalliq communities and KWB, QWB and interjurisdictionally. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available on GN website .
16	Caribou	Kivalliq Caribou Monitoring Program	The deployment of satellite collars on Ahiak, Wager Bay, and Lorillard caribou cows to determine seasonal range and movements and to assess impacts from Industrial mining activities and associated infrastructure.	April 2010–2026 (periodic deployments)	Results shared with Kivalliq and Baffin communities, KWB and QWB.	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
17	Caribou	Subpopulation Structure of Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus L.</i>)	Using telemetry and spatial analysis to identify barren-ground	Telemetry data up to 2011	Final Report developed and distributed.	Report(s) available upon request from the

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		in Arctic and Subarctic Canada	caribou herd structure and affiliations.			Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
18	Caribou	Estimating the Abundance of South Baffin Caribou	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of barren-ground caribou across southern Baffin Island, including Prince Charles Island.	March–May 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
19	Caribou	Baffin Island Caribou Consultations, 2012. Draft.	Discussions on caribou research and general concerns.	Winter 2012	Report shared with Baffin HTOs and QWB.	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
20	Caribou	Working Together for Baffin Island Caribou. Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut. Workshop Report	Discussions on the future of caribou on Baffin Island.	Winter 2013	Report shared with Baffin HTOs and QWB.	Report(s) available on GN website .
21	Caribou	Aerial Abundance Estimates, Seasonal Range Use, and Spatial Affiliations of the Barren-Ground Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) on Baffin Island – March 2014	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of barren-ground caribou across southern, central and Northern Baffin Island, including Prince Charles Island.	Feb. –March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available on GN website .
22	Caribou	South Baffin Caribou Fall Composition/ Demographic Surveys	Fall composition survey to estimate sex ratio, calf to cow ratios, and to determine relative	Oct. 2015 & 2016	Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB.	Report(s) available on GN website .

#	Valued Component(s)	Report/Program Name	Description of Research or Monitoring Activities	Timelines	Final/Planned Outcomes	Access to Information
			densities and distribution.			
23	Caribou	Baffin Island Caribou Composition Summary Report 2015–2018	To track Baffin caribou productivity, distribution, and relative density to inform on population trend and general vulnerability.	March/April & Oct. 2015–2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
24	Caribou	North Baffin Caribou Fall Composition/ Demographic Survey, 2016	Fall composition survey to estimate sex ratio, calf to cow ratios, and to determine relative densities and distribution	Sept. 2016	Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB.	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
25	Polar Bear	Re-Estimating the Abundance of the Davis Strait Polar Bear Subpopulation via Genetic Mark-Recapture Sampling	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of Polar Bears within the Davis Strait of Nunavut.	Aug.–Oct. 2017	Results shared with Baffin communities, QWB, and interjurisdictionally.	Report(s) available on GN website .
26	Caribou	Baffin Island Caribou Spring Composition Survey Report 2019	To track Baffin caribou productivity, distribution, and relative density to inform on population trend and general vulnerability.	March/April & Oct. 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
27	Caribou	Baffin Island Caribou Composition Survey – Spring 2021	To track Baffin caribou productivity, distribution, and relative density to inform on population trend and general vulnerability.	March/April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.

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28	Caribou	Abundance Estimates of the Northeastern Mainland Tundra Wintering Subpopulations of Barren-Ground Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) on the Nunavut Eastern Mainland – June 2021	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of barren-ground caribou within the known calving distributions of the Ahiak, Wager Bay, and Lorillard barren-ground caribou herds.	June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Kivalliq and Baffin communities and KWB and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
29	Polar Bear	Re-Assessing the Abundance and Distribution of Polar Bears in the Lancaster Sound Subpopulation in Nunavut, Canada, by Aerial Survey, March 2023	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of Polar Bears across the Lancaster Sound study area.	March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report in preparation. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
30	Caribou	Aerial Abundance Estimates and Trends of the Barren-Ground Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) of Baffin Island, Nunavut – March 2024 and 2025	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of barren-ground caribou across southern, central and Northern Baffin Island, including PCI Island.	March 2024/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results shared with Baffin communities and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. • Final Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.
31	Polar Bear	Re-Assessing the Abundance and Distribution of the Foxe Basin Polar Bear population in fall 2024 and 2025	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of Polar Bears within the Foxe Basin of Nunavut.	Aug. 2024 & 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary results shared with Baffin communities, Kivalliq communities, KWB and QWB. • Status Report developed and distributed. 	Report(s) available upon request from the Department of Environment, Wildlife Research Division.

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Report in preparation. 	
32	Caribou	Borden Peninsula Caribou Abundance Survey March 2025	The intent of the proposed work is to finish the North/Central Baffin survey from the previous year and to obtain a current estimate of the number of Adults and yearling caribou within the Borden Peninsula caribou group.	March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal submitted and approved Work in process. 	N/A
33	Caribou	Baffin Island Caribou Telemetry Studies	To track Baffin caribou productivity, distribution, and relative density to inform on population trend and general vulnerability.	March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal submitted and approved Work in process. 	N/A
34	Caribou	<u>PROPOSAL</u> Melville Peninsula Caribou Abundance and Distribution Survey	To estimate the relative density, abundance, and distribution of barren-ground caribou across southern, central and Northern Baffin Island, including PCI Island.	Tentatively planned for June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Research Proposal shared with Baffin communities and QWB. 	N/A
35	Caribou	<u>PROPOSAL</u> Caribou Health Monitoring Program 2026, Baffin Island and Wager Bay	The purpose of this project is to continue a collaborative community-GN sampling program to monitor caribou health that will contribute to	Tentatively planned for March 2026 – Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Research Proposal shared with Baffin communities and QWB. 	N/A

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			the management of ungulates in Nunavut.			
36	Human Health/ Wellbeing	Early life nutrition in Nunavut, Canada: a retrospective descriptive study of food security, vitamin D and rickets	The study looked at food security, vitamin D supplementation (as well as other variables) and its relation to rickets (an outcome of severe vitamin D deficiency) prevalence among Inuit children in Nunavut.	2010–2013	Published in International Journal of Circumpolar Health	https://doi.org/10.1080/22423982.2025.2580100
37	Human Health/ Wellbeing	“We call it soul food”: Inuit women and the role of country food in health and well-being in Nunavut	The study used a community-led, Inuit-centred research approach to characterize the use and meaning of country food in the context of community well-being for Inuit women in Nunavut.	Spring 2022	Published in Arctic Science	https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/10.1139/as-2023-0038
38	Human Health/ Wellbeing	Niqivut Silalu Asijjipalliajuq: Building a Community-Led Food Sovereignty and Climate Change Research Program in Nunavut, Canada	The study details the process (workshops, discussions) undertaken to create a research program guided by the National Inuit Strategy on Research (NISR) to address food security, nutrition, and climate change in Inuit Nunangat.	Oct. 2018– March 2019	Published in Nutrients	https://doi.org/10.3390/nu14081572

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39		Regional Socio-Economic Monitoring Committees (SEMC)	<p>The GN-Department of Community Services chairs and funds the three Regional SEMCs. Each Committee holds an annual meeting that brings together affected communities, industry, government, Designated Inuit Organizations, and other interested parties to share information, research, project-specific monitoring results, and government data. Issues and observed changes in the region are discussed. Identified issues and data help to inform ongoing monitoring programs and future impact assessments.</p> <p>More information is provided on regional SEMCs below.</p>	2007 - present	Annual reports issued for each region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Qikiqtani SEMC report • 2025 Kitikmeot SEMC report • 2025 Kivalliq SEMC report <p>SEMC reports are available upon request from the Department of Community Services</p>

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40	Demographics; Health and Well-being; Food Security; Education and Training; Housing; Economic Activity; Employment and Income; Inuit Language; Traditional Activities and Skills	Nunavut Socio-Economic Monitoring Report	Socio-economic data is collected at a community, regional, and territorial level by various GN departments and independent external entities. This includes data in the areas of economic development, health, social services, and education collected as part of the design, delivery, and management of GN programs and services. This information can assist in understanding the impacts of projects on people and the economy.	2018-2020	Reports available for 2018, 2019, 2020	Data obtained from individual departments and the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. Reports available from the Department of Community Services.

Regional Socio-Economic Monitoring Committees

In 2007, the GN established regional Socio-Economic Monitoring Committees (SEMC) to support socio-economic monitoring activities related to resource development. The SEMCs act as a forum for government, Designated Inuit Organizations, industry, affected communities, and other interested parties to share information and participate in the monitoring of socio-economic effects. The activities and functions of SEMCs are independent of the assessment and monitoring activities overseen by NIRB. Nonetheless, proponents may be required to participate in regional SEMCs as part of the terms and conditions included under project certificates. Project-specific monitoring programs and government data for the region are shared and socio-economic effects are discussed among the participants. Community input helps to inform analysis of the effects. Committees may offer input into and recommendations for ongoing or future monitoring initiatives.

The GN plays a lead role in planning, organizing, and facilitating annual SEMC meetings across each of Nunavut's three regions. This role includes responsibility for developing agendas, coordinating participation of presenters and attendees, chairing and facilitating discussions, and producing reports summarizing the proceedings of each annual meeting. From 2007 to 2025, these responsibilities rested with the former Department of Economic Development & Transportation. Following a reorganization of GN departments in 2025, responsibility for SEMC meetings – including the development and dissemination of SEMC reports – resides with the newly-formed Department of Community Services.

Activities of SEMCs are coordinated through annual meetings held in each of Nunavut's three regions (i.e., Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot). The SEMCs are intended to address the following objectives:

1. Support efforts to ensure major development projects comply with relevant socio-economic monitoring requirements associated with the environmental assessment, project approval, and monitoring provisions by the NIRB and the Nunavut Agreement.
2. Bring together communities, governments, Designated Inuit Organizations, and resource development companies in a dedicated forum that encourages open and engaged discussions and information-sharing among all parties.
3. Support an efficient and consistent approach to socio-economic monitoring at both a regional and territorial level.
4. Collect and share regional socio-economic data with impacted communities and stakeholders that is validated by local and traditional knowledge.

In addition to these objectives, annual SEMC meetings and reports help to inform the Nunavut Socio-Economic Monitoring Report, which profiles socio-economic impacts and monitoring data across the territory.