

Opening Remarks

- Housekeeping items
- Overview of CEAF development
- Overview of workshop objectives
- Review of agenda

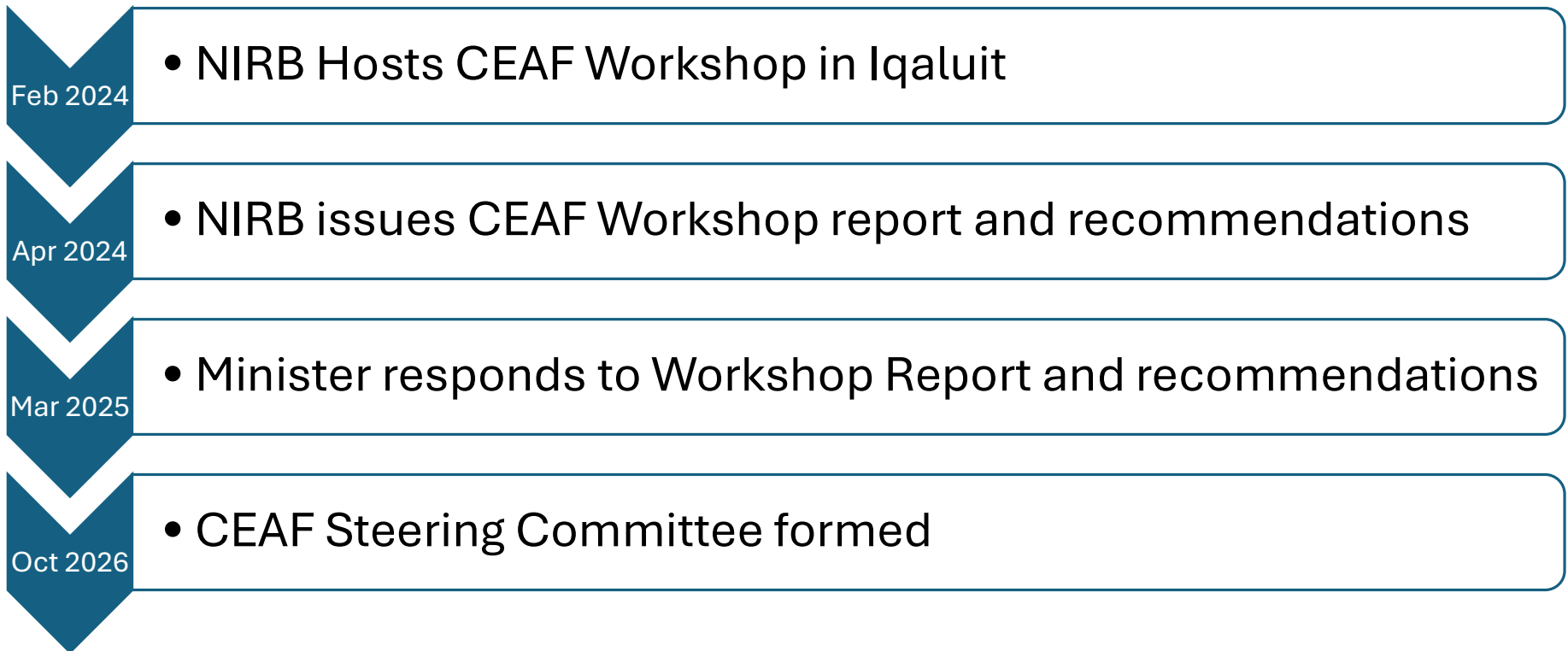
Housekeeping Items

- Online participation
- Health breaks and catering
- Location of emergency exits and washrooms
- Interpretation
- Recording of proceedings
- Attendance of media
- Respectful conduct

What is a CEAF?

- The NIRB administers a monitoring program for the approved Mary River Project
- Parties have raised concerns that the incremental approach to development for the Project has created unique and unpredicted challenges to the consideration of potential cumulative effects
- A new Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework (CEAF) is being developed to guide consideration of the Mary River Project's potential contribution to regional cumulative effects going forward

CEAF Process to date



CEAF Process to date

Feb 2026

- NIRB website updated to include CEAF registry

Apr 2026

- CEAF Discussion Paper released for public review and feedback

May 2026

- NIRB hosts community information sessions

Jun 2026

- CEAF Workshop held in Iqaluit

Who is Involved?

- The process for developing the CEAF is being overseen or coordinated by the NIRB, with a new Steering Committee established to assist the initiative
- The CEAF Steering Committee consists of key representatives from the following organizations:
 - Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
 - Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
 - Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 - Government of Nunavut
 - Government of Canada
- The process for developing the CEAF is open to the public and interested parties to participate

Goals and Priorities

- The following goals have been identified for the development of a CEAF for the Mary River Project:
 1. Improve the assessment of cumulative effects in future amendment applications
 2. Improve the monitoring, mitigation and management of cumulative effects for the approved Project
 3. Improve the understanding of the contribution of the Mary River Project to overall cumulative effects and environmental trends in the Qikiqtani Region

Goals and Priorities

- Additional priorities for the development of the CEAF include:
 1. Providing opportunities for community knowledge and Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit to inform and guide an updated CEA for the Mary River Project;
 2. Improving public awareness and confidence in the monitoring outcomes and oversight for the approved Mary River project; and,
 3. Enhancing the awareness of how cumulative effects are considered within the unique legislative framework of Nunavut for resource development, project assessment and project monitoring.

Workshop Objectives

- This initiative is a rare opportunity to work collectively on a challenging area of impact assessment and project monitoring, cumulative effects, and build consensus on where improvements can be made
- We will be seeking advice and recommendations on how best to address identified gaps and areas of concern moving forward
- Encourage all participants to be considerate with each other and constructive with your comments

Review of Agenda

DAY 1:

1. Opening Remarks

- Housekeeping items
- Overview of CEAF development
- Overview of workshop objectives
- Review of agenda

2. Introduction of parties

3. Feedback from community tour and written submissions

4. Defining cumulative effects

- Reasonably foreseeable future developments
- Other human activities
- Treatment of combined effects

Review of Agenda

DAY 1 (continued):

5. Assessing cumulative effects

- Phased development approaches
- Significance determinations
- Geographic scale
- Temporal scope
- Valued Components
- Consideration of climate change
- List of projects/activities/processes
- Treatment of induced development/future project phases

Review of Agenda

DAY 2:

6. Opening remarks

7. Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

- How cumulative effects are monitored for the current approved project
 - Role of the TEWG and MEWG
 - Adaptive management approaches and how new information informs development of approved and unconstructed project components and activities
- Improving communication of monitoring results
- Distinguishing project-specific effects from broader regional changes
- Identifying research and monitoring that can support management of project effects or be informed by project monitoring

8. Next steps in the development of a CEAF

9. Closing Remarks



Introduction of Parties

Each organization provided with brief opportunity to introduce their representatives in the room and participating online

Feedback Received

- The NIRB recently hosted community information sessions to share information on the process for developing the CEAF, encourage public participation and solicit feedback
- An additional information session will be held virtually to allow an opportunity for participation by those communities that were missed on the tour and for community delegates who encountered travel issues
- The NIRB will produce a summary report of the feedback received and will ensure it's considered in the CEAF development

Feedback Received

- In advance of the workshop written feedback on the Discussion Paper was provided to the NIRB by:
 - Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
 - Qikiqtani Inuit Association
 - Government of Nunavut
 - Government of Canada
 - World Wildlife Fund Canada
 - Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization
- Focusing workshop discussions on this feedback, identifying issues where there appears to be some consensus and where there are divergent views

Feedback Received

- Defining Cumulative Effects
 - Is the proposed definition of cumulative effects sufficiently clear?
- Assessing Cumulative Effects:
 - Is further guidance needed to help differentiate between project-specific effects and cumulative effects?
 - What updates to guidance should be adopted to improve the assessment of cumulative effects in future amendment applications?
 - What geographic scale and temporal boundaries are appropriate for the development of the CEAF?
 - What projects, activities and processes should be considered for development of the CEAF?
 - How should induced development/future phases for the Mary River Project be considered?
 - What Valued Components (VCs) should be the focus of the CEAF?

Feedback Received

- Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects
 - What other sources of research and monitoring information are available to support project-specific cumulative effects assessment and management?
 - How can we improve coordination across governments, proponents, academia and other stakeholders for research and monitoring to inform regional cumulative effects management?
 - How could the monitoring report templates for the Mary River Project be improved to address potential project contributions to regional cumulative effects and enhance readability?
- Next Steps in Development of a CEAF

Feedback Received

- As we move through the agenda we will highlight the feedback received on each issue to stimulate discussion
- Baffinland will be provided with an opportunity to respond to comments for each issue
- Parties that provided written submissions will have opportunity to further comment and provide clarity where helpful
- All parties will be invited to provide feedback as we move through each issue

Defining Cumulative Effects

Is the proposed definition of cumulative effects sufficiently clear?

Cumulative Effects are changes to the ecosystemic and socio-economic environment caused by the combined direct and indirect effects of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future development, other human activities and natural processes (such as climate change).

These changes may be brought about by the combination of various effects that are additive or interactive, which can change the overall impact of a single effect.

Cumulative ecosystemic and socio-economic effects can also result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over time.

Defining Cumulative Effects

Is the proposed definition of cumulative effects sufficiently clear?

- (NTI/GOC) Support for definition expressed with additional points for clarity noted
- (GN) Definition is clear but broad and data gaps might complicate implementation
- (QIA) Cumulative effects should be considered even after closure and reclamation
- (QIA) What is meant by “other human activities” isn’t explicit
- (NTI) Broaden definition of “reasonably foreseeable”
- (GN) Consider different phases of the same project evaluated through separate assessments

Defining Cumulative Effects

Is further guidance needed to help differentiate between project-specific effects and cumulative effects?

- Treatment of combined effects:
 - (QIA) the distinction between inter- and intra-project effects is accurate, in the context of a project-centered and regulatory cumulative effects assessment. Adopting a valued-component-centred approach, in contrast, would mean no distinction between whether the totality of effects is from multiple actions by the same project or actions from separate projects
 - (QIA) additional guidance may be needed regarding “combined” project effects, consideration for the unique assessment and development history of the Mary River Project; specifically consideration of the contribution of “combined” project effects to cumulative effects, particularly as certain project components are not yet constructed.
 - (GN) the CEA should examine the combined effects of the various phases of the Mary River Project, including reasonably foreseeable future phases, such as the potential Steensby development.
- (GN) the scope of the CEA should remain targeted, with an emphasis on distinguishing project-specific effects from broader regional changes

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What updates to guidance should be adopted to improve the assessment of cumulative effects in future amendment applications?

Phased Development Approaches:

- (GN) “past, present and reasonably foreseeable future development” can be considered as the cumulative effects from different phases of an overarching project, which may have been evaluated through distinct NIRB processes, rather than looking at projects from different proponents or industries.
- (GN) The absence of specific thresholds/triggers has been a noted gap in previous project-specific assessments and is a central complicating factor to project-specific monitoring. If thresholds/triggers were clearer in the EA process, perhaps there would be greater clarity and confidence in project effects from the different phases of the project and reduce the need for further assessment of cumulative effects.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

Significance Determinations

- (CIRNAC) additional clarity may be required concerning significance determinations for cumulative effects assessment and how climate change is considered (e.g., the significance of cumulative effects on Valued Components versus the significance of the Mary River Project's contribution to cumulative effects on Valued Components.)
- (DFO) recommend that guidance for future assessments direct that additional rationale be provided regarding significance considerations, including, for example, the reversibility of impacts.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What geographic scale and temporal boundaries are appropriate for the development of the CEAF?

- Geographic scale:
 - (NTI/GOC) support for broader geographic and temporal scopes for the CEAF while cautioning that quantitative data might not always be readily available
 - (QIA) If the CEAF for the Project is to be meaningful at such broad regional/geographic scales, then there *must* be alignment between monitoring programs by way of common (or multi-scaled) indicators and appropriate meta-data
 - (WWF) The geographic scale of the CEAF should reflect the full range of migratory marine and terrestrial species that may be impacted

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What geographic scale and temporal boundaries are appropriate for the development of the CEAF?

- Geographic scale (continued):
 - (PC) Regarding Aquatic Invasive Species, spatial and temporal boundaries may benefit from reflecting pathways and biological risk, including a broader geographic scope encompassing settlement habits, dispersal zones, and key anchorages.
 - (NRCan) recommend whole watershed and associated drainage area assessment of impacts to water quality
 - (WWF) The geographic scope of the CEAF should include all communities that may be affected by the Mary River Project, its component parts, and reasonably foreseeable future development

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What geographic scale and temporal boundaries are appropriate for the development of the CEAF?

- Temporal boundaries:
 - (QIA) recognize that today's VC conditions *in absence* of the project would not necessarily reflect past, pre-project conditions owing to the effects of other activities and natural or climate-induced change. Thus, temporal trends are likely more valuable for benchmarking the Project's contributions to cumulative effects, and the magnitude of change, provided that such data exists to establish trends and to distinguish project contributions.
 - (QIA) To adopt a future scope of consideration after closure and decommissioning is also a valuable approach to capture the full life cycle cumulative impacts of the project. The caveat is the high level of uncertainty involved in long-term projections, and how interactions will occur with future undertakings that are currently *hypothetical* or not even known.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What geographic scale and temporal boundaries are appropriate for the development of the CEAF?

- Temporal boundaries (continued):
 - (Arviq HTO) support the temporal scope of the CEA including consideration for how the cumulative impacts of the Mary River Project will continue to be felt, and interact with other impacts, even after the closure and decommissioning.
 - (QIA) The consideration of any future developments potentially interacting with Project effects post closure and decommissioning may not align with what is defined in the Discussion Paper as constituting “reasonably foreseeable” future development.
 - (WWF) The temporal scope of the cumulative effects assessment should be expanded to better reflect the lifespan of the project, reasonably foreseeable future development, and other identified activities.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What Valued Components (VC) should be the focus of a CEAF?

- (NTI) support the inclusion of the VCs recommended by QIA and referenced in the Discussion Paper.
- (NTI) The final VCs included in the CEAF should also be informed by Inuit engagement and further collection of Inuit knowledge and Inuit Qaujimagatugangit.
- (NTI) VCs of interest, whether or not they have been assessed to have a residual impact or effect by BIMC, should be included in the CEAF.
- (QIA) consideration **must** be given to indicator effectiveness and selection, thresholds (including maximum levels of acceptable change), and ensuring alignment between VC indicators selected by Baffinland with other monitoring initiatives. Alignment of VC indicators is critical if the project-centered CEAF is to enable understanding of the Project's cumulative effects in a regional context.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What Valued Components (VC) should be the focus of a CEAF?

- (QIA) Attention must also be given to whether VCs (and their indicators) included in existing government or other monitoring initiatives need to be revisited to ensure that such programs are adding value to understanding baseline conditions and effects at multiple scales. This further emphasizes the need to align monitoring and/or assessment programs, as noted in the Discussion Paper, to ensure a meaningful CEAF.
- (GN) Suggest concentrating on a small number of key valued components (VCs), such as narwhal, caribou, and employment, or on key project activities, such as shipping and trucking, which may help prioritize the most relevant pathways of potential cumulative effects. Setting an appropriate baseline will be an important foundation for assessing cumulative effects.
- (GN) Consider including Economy. Employment and access to training begets post-secondary education and career development begets increased skills in communities. Offshoot or induced impacts can include secondary/tertiary businesses and training/education in other fields. VCs could also be chosen by community representatives to decide on which VCs warrant more focus in the process.
- (ECCC) Encourage further discussion on the inclusion of additional marine taxa

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What Valued Components (VC) should be the focus of a CEAF?

- (ECCC) Holistic approaches to considering cumulative effects (beyond Valued Components) should be considered in developing the CEAF.
- (WWF) Include bowhead and beluga, underwater noise and acoustic habitat, and a more detailed breakdown of the components included in “Inuit culture, resources and land use” including Inuit harvesting rights and quotas and the nutritional value of country foods in the list of VCs.
- (Arviq HTO) Impacts and effects from ballast water releases, noise, other shipping-related discharges, air and water pollution, impacts on ice cover and thickness, and ice dependent species, and other impacts, associated with the massive increase in shipping and ice-breaking through Foxe Basin, Hudson Strait, Davis Strait and within the Steensby Inlet must be included in the CEAF
- (Arviq HTO) Relationship between direct impacts and indirect impacts, e.g. impacts to Baffin Island caribou that increase hunting pressure on mainland caribou and impact harvesting rights of Inuit

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What Valued Components (VC) should be the focus of a CEAF?

- (Arviq HTO) Cumulative impacts on air quality, soil and water, and overall impacts on ecosystems, marine and terrestrial habitats and hunting rights, from deposition of dust must be included
- (Arviq HTO) Narwhal is a keystone species for Arviq HTO, and must receive significant treatment as a VC, including in relation to its life cycle, habitat, food sources, migration routes and summering and wintering grounds
- (Arviq HTO) The CEAF should include the following additional VCs: beluga whales, walrus, Hudson Bay caribou, the Lorillard caribou herd, barren ground caribou, bowhead whales, arctic char, arctic fox, musk oxen, and ptarmigan.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

Consideration of Climate Change

- (CIRNAC) additional clarity may be required concerning significance determinations for cumulative effects assessment and how climate change is considered (e.g., the significance of cumulative effects on Valued Components versus the significance of the Mary River Project's contribution to cumulative effects on Valued Components.)
- (QIA) For future bounding, climate scenarios are valuable considerations in any CEAF, with the caveat to defining defensible future climate change scenarios is the possibility that significant (detrimental) changes in future VC condition or sustainability are identified/modeled even in absence of any further project effects. This is not a sound argument for poor project mitigation to reduce cumulative contributions; however, it is possible that such mitigations may have minimal influence on outcomes under certain plausible climate scenarios.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What projects, activities and processes should be considered for development of the CEAF?

- (NTI) the northern components, the Milne Port, the Tote Road and the northern shipping route that are geographically separate from the southern components should all be assessed as contributing to cumulative effects.
- (NTI) recommend that due to the unique circumstances of the Mary River Project that the CEAF direct that project components of the Mary River Project be assessed as cumulative effects, as opposed to combined effects.
- (GN) Chidliak and the Iqaluit Nukkiksautit Projects are other proposed potential major development projects that may be considered and could be included. For example, employment and business development out of Iqaluit would overlap.
- (GOC) Specific projects, activities and processes to consider would depend on the timing of the updated assessment, and agreement on Valued Components and geographic and temporal boundaries.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What projects, activities and processes should be considered for development of the CEAF?

- (GOC) highlight several recent regulatory submissions and/or investment announcements relating to projects that should be considered in an updated cumulative effects assessment of the Mary River Project (e.g., the Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Hydro Project, the newest iteration of the Grays Bay Road and Port Project, the Port of Churchill Plus, etc.).
- (ECCC) recommend consideration of relevant external drivers of wildlife population trends, including those unrelated to projects and activities (e.g., migratory influences and natural population cycles), to support more accurate interpretation of cumulative effects.
- (WWF) include Port of Churchill expansion, Milne Port as dual use military infrastructure, increased construction and shipping associated with the \$1B Arctic Infrastructure Fund, High Seas Treaty, and ongoing wildlife co-management processes.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

What projects, activities and processes should be considered for development of the CEAF?

- (Arviq HTO) support inclusion of all the activities listed in section 4.4 of the Discussion Paper in the CEAF.
- (Arviq HTO) cumulative shipping impacts associated with the anticipated high volumes of shipping to and from the proposed port on Steensby Inlet must also be assessed within the context of all shipping that will, or may occur, as other developments in the region are constructed and operated.
- (Arviq HTO) plans for development of the Port of Churchill and the associated large increase in shipping volumes from that port must be included in the CEAF. Projected international shipping passing through the region, even if not associated with particular regional projects or activities, must also be included in the scope of the CEAF.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

How should induced development/future phases for the Mary River Project be considered?

- (GOC) With respect to the consideration of induced development/future phases for the Mary River Project supportive of the approach taken by Baffinland for the Sustaining Operations Proposal 2 assessment (i.e., consideration of Deposits 2-3 as reasonably foreseeable development and Deposits 4-9 as potentially induced future development).
- (NRCan) recommend additional scenarios for the project be considered, as appropriate, to capture reasonably foreseeable and potentially induced future developments.
- (WWF) Potential induced development of other commodities on Baffin Island, including those for which Baffinland currently holds rights (e.g. gold and base metals) should be included into the mapping of different development scenarios, alongside the full suite of identified iron ore deposits, including deposits 1-9 as referenced on page 40 of the Discussion Paper.



Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework Workshop

June 9-10, Iqaluit, NU

NIRB File No. 08MN053: Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s
Mary River Project

Review of Agenda

DAY 2:

6. Opening remarks

7. Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

- How cumulative effects are monitored for the current approved project
 - Role of the TEWG and MEWG
 - Adaptive management approaches and how new information informs development of approved and unconstructed project components and activities
- Improving communication of monitoring results
- Distinguishing project-specific effects from broader regional changes
- Identifying research and monitoring that can support management of project effects or be informed by project monitoring

8. Next steps in the development of a CEAF

9. Closing Remarks

Opening Remarks

Feedback from Day 1:

- Talked through how we define cumulative effects, where additional clarity might be helpful, and where updates to the approach for the assessment of cumulative effects may be warranted
- Achieved greater clarity on written feedback provided by parties, where there is consensus and divergent views on issues
- Discussion of where the scope of previous CEAs could be broadened, with consideration for the desired outcomes and potential costs
- Today we will focus on the monitoring and management of cumulative effects for the Project and where improvements may be targeted

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

How Cumulative Effects are monitored for the current approved project

- The NIRB has a well-established ongoing monitoring program for Project Certificate No. 005 for the Mary River project which regularly evaluates the effectiveness of each term and condition for existing project components through its annual reporting process.
- NIRB monitoring programs must specify what's to be monitored and may require that:
 - regulatory authorities and the proponent provide the NIRB with information on project activities, impacts and the implementation of mitigation measures;
 - the NIRB carry out periodic evaluations of the program; and
 - the NIRB produce a report of the adequacy of the program, based on its evaluations and the impacts of the project.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

The purpose of a NIRB Monitoring Program is to:

Measure the impact of the project on the ecosystemic and socio-economic environments;

Determine whether the project is carried out in compliance with the Project Certificate terms and conditions;

Provide the information necessary for regulatory authorities to enforce the terms and conditions of licences, permits or other authorizations that they issue in relation to the project; and

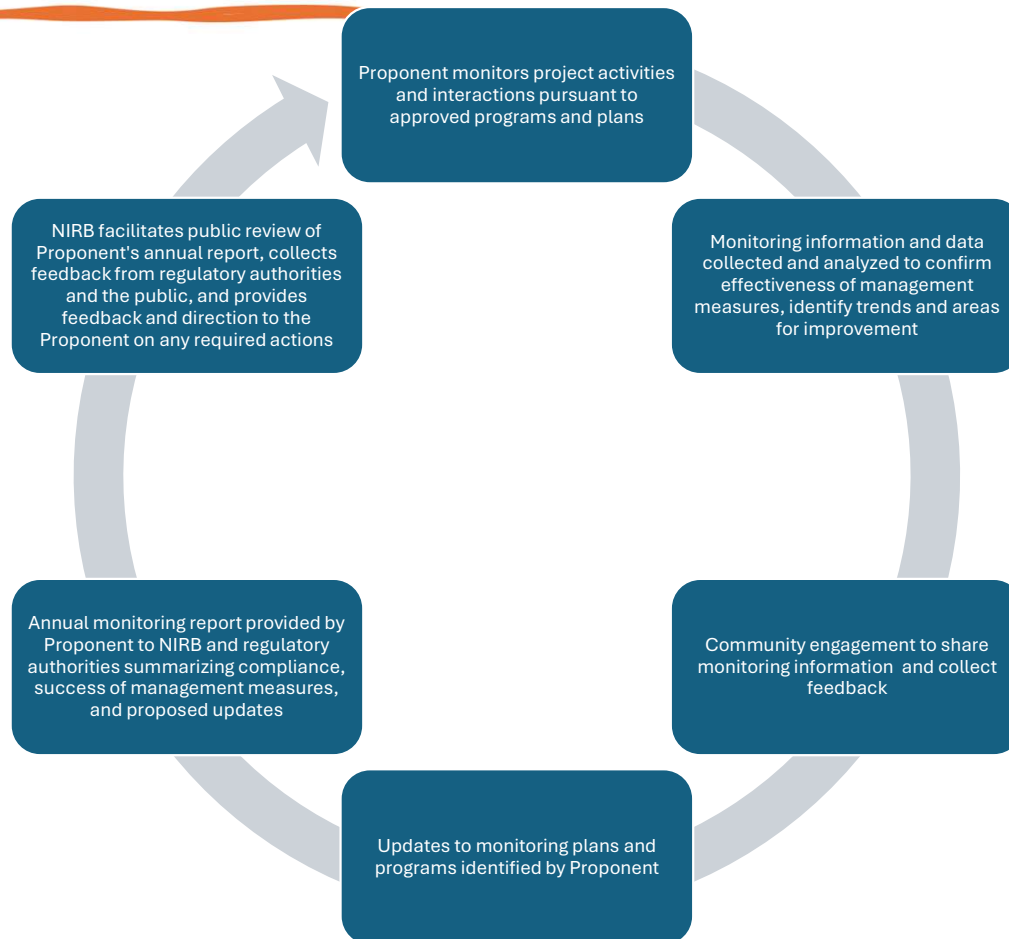
Assess the accuracy of the impact predictions made for the project.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

How Cumulative Effects are monitored for the current approved project

- Each year Baffinland must provide the NIRB with an annual report on all project activities for the previous year, providing details on how the terms and conditions of the Project Certificate have been implemented, how monitoring results compare with impact predictions, adaptive management decisions undertaken, summary of work completed, etc.
- The NIRB circulates these reports for feedback and issues its own annual report and recommendations for the Proponent's monitoring program.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects



Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

How Cumulative Effects are monitored for the current approved project

- The CEAF initiative will not duplicate that process but will consider whether modifications to the annual reporting format may be helpful to more clearly present where monitoring results are compared to impact predictions and, where necessary, outline where cumulative effects may be occurring and develop recommendations for the Mary River Project during the annual NIRB monitoring process.
- Consideration for how results from project monitoring informs regional cumulative effects monitoring and vice versa, and where improvements may be realized.

Feedback Received

- Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects
 - How could the monitoring report templates for the Mary River Project be improved to address potential project contributions to regional cumulative effects and enhance readability?
 - What other sources of research and monitoring information are available to support project-specific cumulative effects assessment and management?
 - How can we improve coordination across governments, proponents, academia and other stakeholders for research and monitoring to inform regional cumulative effects management?

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

How could the monitoring report templates for the Mary River Project be improved to address potential project contributions to regional cumulative effects and enhance readability?

- (QIA) largest challenge in completing comprehensive annual report reviews is a lack of consistency in the review period. Though NIRB has often provided 30-day review periods, Baffinland's release date has been inconsistent which is problematic from a resourcing perspective. Recommend that the NIRB impose a strict annual report release date on the Proponent and provide an annual review period of 30 days from the release date (with extensions on the review period granted to intervenors should a delayed release be received)
- (CIRNAC) recommend inclusion of a standalone summary which provides not only conclusions comparing monitored impacts with assessment conclusions, but also quantitative summary data (where available) for both.
- (NRCan) recommend inclusion of a section describing how any gaps or inconsistencies in monitoring methodologies were (or could be) addressed, as well as how engagement has informed any changes in monitoring.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

How could the monitoring report templates for the Mary River Project be improved to address potential project contributions to regional cumulative effects and enhance readability?

- (GN) Consider whether simple plain language one-page documents or visual representations of current monitoring work that is being undertaken by the proponent may have a place in communicating annual monitoring results. This could be a good first step, to ensuring that there is an understanding of the monitoring information and work done to detect project effects currently and what are the results before moving to more complicated analyses.
- (GN) Further clarity on what the potential outcomes might be here would be appreciated, to close the gap between what information is being collected and what communities/public would like to know.
- (GN) Monitoring and reporting must fit the needs of the Mary River project and the North Baffin communities, however ensuring that reports can be compared with other projects, regions would be valuable. Consideration for monitoring and reporting to satisfy the Mary River CEF may lead to streamlining regional reporting initiatives.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

What other sources of research and monitoring information are available to support project-specific cumulative effects assessment and management?

- (QIA) As the CEAF progresses (i.e. once valued components (VCs) are selected), it will be essential to turn greater attention to the specific nature of these programs or data sets to determine their utility. Consider results from the previous analysis of the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program
- (WWF) There are several community-led and independent research and monitoring studies that should be reviewed to support project-specific assessment and management. Baffinland-funded research and monitoring need to be supported and complemented by third-party independent studies to avoid a conflict of interest.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

How can we improve coordination across governments, proponents, academia and other stakeholders for research and monitoring to inform regional cumulative effects management?

- (QIA) If the project CEAF is to be meaningful at broader regional/geographic scales, then there must be alignment between monitoring programs by way of common (or multi-scaled) indicators and appropriate meta-data. This must be a priority of developing the CEAF initiative.
- (QIA) If there is no regional coordinating mechanism (e.g. cumulative effects secretariat) with clear governance responsibilities, there is risk of the CEAF not meeting expectations beyond assessing the project's effects. The importance of a data governance or coordinating structure warrants much greater attention.
- (GN) it is understood that the objectives of CEAF for the Mary River Project including helping understand better ways to improve project management, monitoring and understanding of real or perceived effects and impacts that communities have identified with respect to project effects and should not be an exercise to direct higher-level monitoring or research to occur.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

How can we improve coordination across governments, proponents, academia and other stakeholders for research and monitoring to inform regional cumulative effects management?

- (ECCC) highlight national and international efforts to coordinate monitoring approaches to support regional cumulative effects assessments, including the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) and the CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) Network. Consideration could be given to how such work can inform improved coordination across governments, proponents, academia and other stakeholders.
- (WWF) Due to the number of rightsholders and stakeholders contributing to local research and monitoring efforts, it would be prudent to create a database that collects, summarizes and shares all known work in the region, while also respecting Inuit data sovereignty. Such a database would allow all rightsholders and stakeholders to upload relevant research, provide contacts for collaboration, and provide an overview of all regional research to avoid duplication and overlap.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

- To distinguish project-specific effects from broader regional changes, some alignment/communication of monitoring and reporting is required

Questions for consideration:

- How are regional research and monitoring initiatives and their associated outcomes informing project-specific monitoring and adaptive management approaches?
 - Do the working groups established under the Project Certificate have a role in bringing this information in for consideration?
- How are the outcomes from the Project-specific monitoring program informing regional cumulative effects monitoring?
 - Is there a role for the NGMP or others in facilitating this?

Feedback Received

- Next Steps in development of a CEAF
- Other identified areas of interest

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

Other identified areas of interest

- (QIA) an adaptive management plan for the Project has not yet been finalized and approved and remains in draft form.
- (CIRNAC) the CEAF initiative could be an opportunity for parties to discuss recommendations regarding the Nunavut Planning Commission's ability to refer project proposals to the NIRB that would normally be exempt from assessment (where there are concerns for potential cumulative impacts in relation to other projects and activities in a region), should there be identified regional contributors to cumulative effects that may otherwise not typically be assessed.
- (GN) It may be useful to have a better understanding for what communities want or hope to get out of this process, and where this aligns or does not align with what other intervenors envision. It is unclear if communities want to simply understand the project monitoring better or if they see deficiencies in the cumulative effects assessments completed by the proponent.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

Other identified areas of interest

- (GN) There may also confusion about perceived or real impacts from communities that may not be addressed by the monitoring. A better understanding about what is from the project and what may be attributed to other factors would be helpful.
- (WWF) for a cumulative effects framework to be effective, it must be completed and integrated *before* permits are approved and *before* construction on the Steensby Component of Baffinland's Mary River Project begins. We urge the NIRB and the Steering Committee to ensure the process is complete and fully integrated into the Mary River Project Certificate before construction on the Steensby Component is allowed to proceed so that the potential cumulative effects of construction and operations can be understood and addressed before work commences.

Monitoring and Management of Cumulative Effects

Other identified areas of interest

- (WWF) Baseline conditions should be updated before construction to reflect current pre-Steensby Component conditions to ensure an accurate reference point for assessing future cumulative impacts.
- (WWF) The scope of the CEAF should clearly indicate that a primary function of a cumulative effects assessment is to enable adaptive management and regulatory oversight, including reconsidering project terms and conditions where cumulative effects warrant such action.
- (Arviq HTO) Dated studies underlying previous assessments of the Mary River Project and associated amendments cannot be relied on for the CEAF process and must be updated in accordance with new developments and research.

Key Deliverables

- **Project Charter:** outlines what the initiative is about, identifies goals and priorities for development of a CEAF and who will be involved in the Steering Committee
- **Discussion Paper:** sets out foundational knowledge to generate feedback and help advance the development of a CEAF
- **Interim CEAF Report:** details feedback received from community sessions, written submissions and CEAF Workshop, and identifies preliminary findings
- **Final CEAF Report:** provides updated cumulative effects assessment guidance for future applications, identifies potential improvements for the monitoring, management and mitigation of cumulative effects for the approved project, and delivers findings on how to improve the understanding of the contribution of the Mary River project to regional cumulative effects

Remaining CEAF Process

April 30, 2026:	• NIRB issues CEAF Discussion Paper for public review and feedback
May 9-15, 2026:	• NIRB hosts community information sessions for CEAF development
June 1, 2026:	• Written comments received on Discussion Paper
June 9-10, 2026:	• NIRB hosts CEAF Workshop in Iqaluit
July, 2026:	• NIRB issues Summary Report from community visits and CEAF Workshop
September, 2026:	• NIRB issues Interim Report on CEAF and preliminary findings
October, 2026:	• Comments received on Interim Report on CEAF
October/November, 2026:	• NIRB hosts CEAF Workshop in Iqaluit
November, 2026:	• Final Written Submissions received
February/March, 2027:	• NIRB issues Final Report on CEAF

Remaining CEAF Process

Feedback received on process

- (NTI) the CEAF must be informed and developed considering Inuit knowledge, and particularly Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, of all the affected communities and HTOs. The methodology of a comprehensive CEA, and subsequent monitoring and mitigation measures, must directly involve communities and use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and western science equally.
- (WWF) Insufficient time was provided for interested parties to provide comprehensive and meaningful feedback on procedural steps related to the CEAF and Mary River Project. Comments should be considered as initial, and we urge the NIRB to provide additional time to interested parties to engage in meaningful ways with these processes.
- (Arviq HTO) The discussion paper and supporting materials are very detailed and technical. Consequently, the 30-day review period is much too short to permit an in-depth review of the material or the implications of what is set out in the materials. An additional 60 days is requested to review these materials, consult with elders and scientists, and provide more detailed comments on the discussion paper.
- (Arviq HTO) concerned that not enough time has been allocated for the overall CEAF process, particularly for engagement with impacted Inuit hunters, rightsholders and impacted communities.
- (Arviq HTO) Further time should be built into the CEAF process to allow Arviq HTO time to gather Inuit knowledge and expertise, and for western scientific reports to help inform a fulsome cumulative effects assessment. More funding should be made available to support these efforts. At present, the CEAF process structure does not allow for detailed submissions and only provides for comments on draft and final materials prepared by others.

