

Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
FOR

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** To provide information to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the Government of Nunavut (GN), and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) (the Parties), which describes how the Parties will collaborate and share information about ECCC's National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs) in Nunavut.

**Background Information:**

*Overview of the Nunavut Memorandum of Understanding For Coordination and Cooperation with Respect To Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas ('MOU')*

- To support the effective management and conservation strategies of these areas and to promote coordination and cooperation between NTI GN and ECCC after Devolution, the Parties agreed to the MOU.
- The MOU was signed by the Parties on January 11, 2024, and will be in effect for 10 years. The MOU will have an automatic 10-year renewal period, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties.
- The purpose of the MOU is described in Article 1 in which the Parties acknowledge that mutual information sharing and the exchange of ideas between them concerning these areas is beneficial in order to:
  - o confirm that all parties agree that National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are to be administered and managed for conservation purposes;
  - o provide a venue for the Parties to discuss their interests regarding the administration and management of these sanctuaries and areas, including adjacent lands;
  - o ensure that relevant information is shared; and
  - o contribute advice, support decision-making, and improve transparency.
- As described by the MOU, the National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries Coordination and Cooperation Committee ('the Committee') will discuss matters regarding the management and administration of NWAs and MBSs.
- The Committee may contribute advice and support the consistent, efficient, responsible and transparent administration and management of National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
- The Committee will be composed of two senior official representatives for each party (total of 6 members), with role of the Chair alternating between the Parties on an annual basis.
- The Committee will meet at least once a year but may call an *ad hoc* meeting to address urgent concerns as needed.

- With the consensus, the Committee may invite the participation of other parties, Experts, or Indigenous Groups as needed. However, consensus is not needed where there may be a Consultation requirement for the Government of Canada or Government of GN. The MOU can be amended with the unanimous written agreement of the Parties and may be terminated by any Party with one year's notice.

#### History of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas Prior to the Signing of the Devolution Agreement

- In Nunavut, NWAs and MBSs are designated on various land tenures, including federal crown land and Inuit-owned land. Historically, administration and control of these lands were divided between ECCC for NWAs and the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) for MBSs.
- During the Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement (Devolution Agreement) negotiations, the GN, NTI, and the Government of Canada (the Parties to the Devolution Agreement) had to determine if the CIRNAC-administered lands in MBSs would be transfer to the Government of Nunavut (GN).
- In May 2021, the Parties to Devolution agreed that the MBSs should remain under federal jurisdiction.
- There are Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements (IIBAs) between the Inuit of Nunavut and the Government of Canada in place that cover all NWA's and MBSs in the Nunavut Settlement Area. Each NWA and MBS is co-managed by a Designated Inuit Organization and the Government of Canada. IIBAs, management plans and co-management structures are not affected by this MoU.

#### **Consultations:**

- Consultations on this MOU were not required as the Parties to the MOU are the legal representatives of their beneficiaries.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Appointment of senior officials to the Committee.
- Determine date and logistics of the Committee's first meeting.

#### **Recommendation: n/a**