

Decision: _____

Dated: May 1st, 2013

Community Based Monitoring Network Co-management Partner Workshop
Frobisher Inn, Iqaluit Nunavut March 5th and 6th, 2013



Acknowledgments

I would like to thank everyone who attended this workshop and helped to make it such a success.



“It is amazing how one thing can make a difference to the community and for the future of hunters”
Ryan Angohiatok , Data Clerk, Cambridge Bay

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List of Participants

Allison Dunn
Contaminants Specialist
AANDC

Andrew Mahar
Parks Canada
Resource Conservation Manager

Christianne Lafferty
Ecosystemic Monitoring Analyst
Nunavut General Monitoring Plan
Aboriginal Affairs and Development Canada

George Angohiatok
Harvester with CBMN
Cambridge Bay

Howard Greenley
Board Member
Cambridge Bay HTO

Jamal Shirley
Manager, Research Design
Nunavut Research Institute,
Nunavut Arctic College

Janelle Kennedy
Senior Science Advisor
Government of Nunavut
Department of Environment -Fisheries and Sealing

Joesph Pameolik
Data Clerk with CBMN
Arviat

John Frost
Noreca Inc

Justin Hack
Socio Economic Monitoring Analyst
Nunavut General Monitoring Plan
Aboriginal Affairs and Development Canada

Lynda Orman
Manager, Wildlife Research
Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Louis Angalik
Board Member
Arviat HTO

Marlene Doyle
Landscape Science and Technology Division
Environment Canada

Mathieu Dumond
Manager, Wildlife-Kitikmeot
Government of Nunavut
Department of Environment -Wildlife

Paul Irngaut
Wildlife Communications Advisor
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Peter Evans
EverNorth Consulting

Peter Kydd
Wildlife Management Biologist
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Rebecca Jeppesen
Director of Wildlife
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Ryan Angohiatok
Data Clerk with CBMN
Cambridge Bay

Sally Wong
Fisheries Management Biologist
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Sarah Spencer
Terrestrial Wildlife Management Biologist
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Tina Rose
Executive Assistant
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Thomas Alikaswa
Harvester with CBMN
Arviat

Vicki Sahanatien
Senior Officer
Government and Community Relations
World Wildlife Fund Canada

Agenda

Day One	No.	Item	Presenter	Maximum Time
8:30		Coffee/Tea		30 minutes
9:00		Call to Order		15 minutes
9:15		CBMN-Overview of pilot study	NWMB	45 minutes
10: 00		Break		15 minutes
10:15		CBMN-Technology and Data	Noreca Inc	45 minutes
11:00 AM		CBMN-Project Management-working with the communities	IMG-Golder	30 minutes
11:30 AM		CBMN-Community feedback and comments	Data Clerks/Harvester s/ NWMB	30 minutes
12:00 PM		Lunch		1hour 30 minutes
1:30 PM		Presentations on other monitoring initiatives: Janelle Kennedy- N-CAMP Mathieu Dumond- HEROS Marlene Doyle- Circumpolar	Co-management partners	
3:00 PM		Break		
3:15 PM		Setting objectives for Day 2		1 hour 45 minutes
5:00 PM		Adjournment		

Day Two	No.	Item	Presenter	Maximum Time
8:30		Coffee/Tea		30 minutes
9:00		Call to Order		15 minutes
9:15		Focus Groups-Data Collection		45 minutes
10: 00		Break		15 minutes
10:15		Group Discussion- Data Collection		45 minutes
11:00		Focus Groups- Data Usage		45 minutes
11:45		Lunch		1 hour 30 minutes
1:15 PM		Group Discussion- Data Usage		45 minutes
2:00 PM		Focus Groups- Optimizing Co-management opportunities		45 minutes
2:45 PM		Break		15 minutes
3:00 PM		Group Discussion-Optimizing Co-management opportunities		45 minutes
3:45 PM		A way forward-next steps		45 minutes
4:30 PM		Feedback from workshop participants		30 minutes
5:00 PM		Adjournment		

Background:

The Community-based Monitoring Network (CBMN) relies upon Harvesters, recognized by their respective communities as highly skilled and accomplished hunters, to record wildlife observations and harvests. The intent of the CBMN is to help compile information that is needed to address concerns affecting wildlife management, conservation, and Inuit harvesting rights.

The data collection period for the CBMN pilot study began in February 2012 and ended on January 31st, 2013. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) established the CBMN in three communities (Arviat, Cambridge Bay and Sanikiluaq) for one year to test the methods and get feedback from participants before deciding whether to expand the network to a full-scale, multi-year study in more Nunavut communities.

The CBMN Pilot Study brings together respected Nunavummiut Harvesters to share their knowledge and observations about wildlife and the environment. Rather than rely on interviews to collect this information, participating Harvesters were trained to use specially designed hand-held computers (MESAs) to record wildlife sightings, harvests, and other environmental observations while on the land.

When Harvesters return from the land, trained Data Clerks in each of the communities transfer the information contained in the hand-held computers into a regional database, where it may be used to improve local, regional, and Nunavut-wide wildlife management practices.

Purpose of Workshop:

- 1) to provide a summary of the CBMN Pilot Study to co-management partners;
- 2) to have focused discussions on data collection and data usage;
- 3) to find common ground in terms of community based monitoring; and
- 4) to discuss ways to pool resources in order find a way forward for the CBMN that optimizes opportunities for co-management partners.

Overview:

Overwhelming support for the project was expressed by all participants. The majority of the feedback received was positive. All feedback was constructive and helpful. In addition several co-management partners identified potential opportunities for collaboration. In particular the CBMN was thought to be an opportunity for good collaboration between communities and researchers. Potential funding sources for community based monitoring initiatives were also identified and discussion during the workshop.

This method of collecting data was discussed by workshop participants, who also expressed the benefits to utilizing the hand-held devices. Workshop participants felt that a meeting of this type was long overdue and participants stated that a yearly workshop of this nature should be held to discuss community based monitoring in Nunavut.

As has been the case throughout the pilot study it was apparent at the workshop that the three participating communities; Arviat, Cambridge Bay and Sanikiluaq, have really taken ownership of the project and participants have initiated many improvements. For example, Joe Pameolik, the data clerk in Arviat, initiated a research and development project that is currently underway to create a heated MESA mount for ATVs and snowmobiles. It is anticipated that the creation of a heated MESA mount will help to mitigate the issue of short battery life in temperatures below -25 Celsius (batteries often last only a few minutes in extreme cold.) In many cases communities have made small adaptations to the program to make it run more smoothly and efficiently. Community buy-in is strong and there is interest in all participating communities to increase the number of harvesters collecting data.

“Harvesters are the best eyes and ears on the land in terms of wildlife management. This program is valuable because it validates their knowledge and relies on them as experts” Paul Irngaut, NTI

The following pages contain a summary of discussions and recommendations that were heard during the workshop.

Utility of CBMN in wildlife management:

During the workshop there were many suggestions as to how the methods used to collect data and the type of data collected could be beneficial to wildlife management locally, regionally and territorially. Communities are collecting oral knowledge and making it easily accessible. Traditionally hunters monitored their environment to know how to hunt efficiently and safely. With this program we can tie that knowledge into the objectives that are necessary to achieve in terms of accountability of our wildlife management.

The CBMN is a valuable tool in the collection of harvest data which is important in allowing Government agencies and co-management partners to respond to international claims and to justify current management practices and new management actions.

The program is valuable because it collects real-time data that is available for use immediately after upload and can provide the NWMB with the most current information to help in decision making.

This data collection method could also allow Hunters and Trappers Organizations and Regional Wildlife Organizations to help the NWMB address requests for decisions directly, as it is community-members who are collecting the data. This method of data collection also avoids gaps in the collection period (i.e. seasonally) and eliminates the issues with harvester recall (as was apparent in previous harvest studies) as harvesters take the device with them on the land and record the information immediately.

The many features of the hand held computers (MESAs) make them very versatile in terms of data collection. Audio recording can be used to document and substantiate oral knowledge. Harvesters can record observations such as changes in animal behavior, migration patterns and changes in habitat. For example, changes in sea ice along with a geo-tagged photo can be used to document new species and diseases for identification. The community-based monitoring data and observations could be used as an early warning system to changes brought on by climate change.

As well, the MESA software can be changed to collect additional data that may be needed to address specific issues in communities. Data might be collected to address public safety concerns of polar bear near communities; or caribou migration routes and calving grounds, which can then be protected during the land use planning process. Harvesters could use the MESA to record changes in wildlife populations over time, for example an increase in predators like grizzly bears or wolves; changes in the health of wildlife populations, including documenting new diseases; and changes in habitat including changes in sea ice patterns.

Data Storage and Access:

The issues of data storage and access were also discussed during the workshop. Many ideas were presented. In terms of data storage there was discussion on creating a large central database for co-management partners to house data collected through community based monitoring. However, concerns were raised over who would be responsible for managing a large database of this nature and the resources both, personnel and financial, that would be required to do this.

Using a metadata system was also discussed, and there was more support for this idea, however no decisions were made on the issue of storage and more discussion will need to occur prior to expanding the program to other communities.

Concerns were raised about how community data would be used and especially the integrity and intent of those individuals who may be requesting access to data in the future.

Several suggestions were made in regards to data access including having different levels of access for different users such as communities, NWMB and co-management partners, and the general public. The merits of allowing access to summary data as opposed to raw data were also discussed.

No decisions were made on the issues of data storage and access, however many valuable ideas were put forth. This topic requires further discussion with participating communities and co-management partners.

Communications:

All participants in the workshop believed that positive media exposure was important for the CBMN. It was suggested that more information about this program be posted on the NWMB website so that the public has access to updates about the program. Many people were unaware of the CBMN website as it was not promoted. It was also stated that results of the pilot study and the workshop should be shared widely.

Throughout the pilot study; the NWMB, co-management partners, community participants and HTOs from participating communities have received regular updates on the project.

At the workshop it was suggested that further feedback should be provided to all communities (not just participating communities) in terms of what type of data is being collected and what it is being used for. This will increase buy-in from across Nunavut.

Next Steps:

The NWMB is working with the contractor (IMG-Golder) to complete a Contractor's Report which will summarize all aspects of the pilot study. Following the completion of this report, NWMB staff will draft a Final Report on the pilot study, summarizing the information and recommendations from the Contractor's Report, the co-management partners' workshop, and the in-person meetings held with participants in all three communities.

Following the workshop, the NWMB extended data collection until June 30th, 2013, in order to allow time for a full review of the pilot study and to work towards an expanded CBMN program. A full review of the pilot study will include a discussion on the utility of all hardware and software used during the pilot study, an exploration of options to incorporate suggestions for improvement; and further review of data utility and data collection methods.

Prior to expanding the CBMN to other communities the NWMB will determine the best and most economically feasible method of expanding the program to more communities, which may include collaboration with co-management partners in order to pool personnel and financial resources. The NWMB will also work with participating communities and co-management partners to develop access and permissions for data and discuss ways to encourage buy-in from other communities while maintaining momentum in communities currently participating in the program.

Other suggestions which stemmed from the workshop will be discussed further and include the formation of a working group/steering committee to facilitate community based monitoring in Nunavut and the establishment of a yearly meeting to discuss current community-based monitoring initiatives in Nunavut.

Since the Workshop

The workshop has really helped to spread the word about the Community- based Monitoring Network. Community participants were interviewed by CBC during the workshop and these interviews appeared on both radio and internet. As well, many participants in the workshop have been spreading the word about this program and as a result the NWMB has been contacted by several researchers involved in community-based monitoring initiatives who are interested in learning more about the CBMN.

Appendices