

## **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**POLICY:** Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Purpose**

The Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund (NWSF) (through the NWMB) provides funding for Inuit and community-based organizations to lead and carry out wildlife related research in order to help establish an effective system of wildlife management in Nunavut. The NWSF provides an annual allocation, which is administered by the NWMB, to address wildlife management and research priorities as identified by the NWMB.

Research is necessary to ensure that wildlife resources are managed and harvested in a sustainable way so that Nunavummiut can continue the hunting and fishing that is so essential to their way of life. The NWMB has a lead role to play in this area and is committed to making wildlife research responsive to the needs and concerns of the people of Nunavut.

### **Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Authority**

The NWMB's authority under the NLCA pertaining to research is provided in subsections 5.2.37 (a), (b), (c), (d) and 5.2.38 (a), (b), (c), (d).

### **Policy Statements**

The NWMB adopts the following policy statements for the Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund. It shall be NWMB policy that the NWSF:

1. will focus on projects led and developed by Inuit and community-based organizations;
2. will focus on addressing NWMB and Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities;
3. will fund scientific and TEK/IQ research, and encourage incorporation of both knowledge systems in all research projects;
4. will focus on research applicable to the NWMB's management functions;
5. will be administered in the most cost and time efficient manner; and
6. will promote and encourage the employment of Inuit and Inuit organizations in research.

### **Funding**

Projects may be funded under the NWSF as single year projects (up to a maximum of \$30,000) and preliminary studies (up to a maximum of \$7,500). The NWSF annual allocation in a given year for preliminary projects shall not exceed 10% of the total amount of funding available. The Board will only consider a package of the top ranked proposals making up not more than 135% of the amount available to allocate.

The NWSF will be restricted to projects led and developed by eligible Inuit and community-based organizations, which include, but are not limited to, Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs), Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs), non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and residents of Nunavut. To be eligible

the research must be conducted within the Nunavut Territory and benefit Nunavut's wildlife management.

### **Administration**

The Board will determine the amount of funding available for allocation each year as part of the budget review process. The Director of Finance and Administration is responsible for preparing all fund dispersal for the Board. The Director of Wildlife Management is responsible for the general administration of the fund as directed by the NWSF Funding Guide.

The NWMB will consider applications for funding quarterly, at regular Board meetings. NWMB staff will prepare and present a one page summary of each of the NWSF applications at the NWSF meeting. In an effort to streamline the NWSF review for the Board NWMB staff will not present each interim progress or interim financial report at the NWSF meeting unless requested. NWMB staff will be prepared to respond to any questions from Board members.

The NWSF application process will require applicants to submit applications available from the NWMB's website or from the NWMB Office. Proposals must score a minimum of 50 points to be considered by the NWMB. The Director of Wildlife Management shall have the authority to reject NWSF applications that are not submitted in adequate detail, do not meet the funding guide criteria or minimum score, or where reporting requirements are not met. As with the research trust the NWSF projects shall be approved through a single motion.

Funding will be provided to the Inuit or community-based organizations by the NWMB once the applicant has demonstrated that funding conditions for the project have been met. If a project does not meet the required funding conditions, that project will be excluded from the contribution agreement. The contribution agreement will be negotiated for those projects having met the requirements, and any excluded project(s) must reapply for funding the following year.

The Board will review the NWSF policy and procedures once every three years.

### **Consultation and reporting requirements**

The NWMB anticipates that most research will be done with the cooperation and active participation of local people. For NWSF projects that affect more than five communities, a letter of support from the affected Regional Wildlife Organization(s) is required. Plans for community reporting must be provided in the proposal. Copies of community reports must be provided to the NWMB.

All proponents will be required to meet the NWMB reporting requirements as per the NWMB funding guide unless there are extenuating circumstances to be considered for future research funding. The Director of Wildlife Management will be responsible for ensuring that NWSF reporting requirements are fulfilled.

### **Proposal evaluation:**

The evaluation process of applications for NWSF funding involves a two-fold review process which includes a scoring of the proposals by the NWMB's Wildlife Section and then a review by the members of the NWMB at its March meeting. The NWMB's Wildlife Section evaluation will be based on a set scoring system conducted by at least two staff, in which consensus must be reached on the score for all project proposal evaluations.

The NWSF evaluation process will use four main criteria when scoring proposals to determine a total score out of 100, which are:

1. Research Priority (25 points)
2. Quality of Research (35 points)
3. Funding and Training (25 points)
4. Consultation and Reporting (15 points)

The NWMB scoring systems places priority on projects that focus on addressing identified *NWMB and Regional Wildlife Management Priorities* by awarding points in proportion to the ranking of the priority that the project addresses. The *NWMB and Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities* will be reviewed and updated once every three years.

### **Notification of funding decisions**

All individual applicants and organizations will be advised through written notification of the NWMB's funding decisions. Projects that have been approved for funding will also be notified of the funding conditions that are required to be met.

Once the funding conditions have been met the NWMB will contact the representatives of the organization and arrange for the contribution agreements to be signed and funding disbursed.

### **Unused Funds**

All unused funds will be returned to the NWMB. The NWSF does not allow the carry-over of funds from one year to the next.