



APPENDIX A

PROJECT OBJECTIVES



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1. Review

State-of-the-Art review of the theory and methodology of ecological carrying capacity and development of ecological and socio-economic thresholds in managing human activities. The review will consist of three components:

- a) Review of pertinent academic and other literature on thresholds and carrying capacity as they relate to resource management, particularly at the landscape or regional level. For example, relevant literature on ecological systems, organizations and hierarchies, sustainable development, ecological and social indicators, ecological integrity and ecosystem health will be reviewed.
- b) Interviews with experts in the field in Canada and elsewhere.
- c) Verify examples within Canada and internationally where the concepts of ecological carrying capacity and thresholds have been used at the landscape or regional level with a focus on approaches which could be applied to northern Canada. Where possible, the success of these efforts will be evaluated.

2. Analysis

The analysis will consist of three components:

- a) Develop definitions of VECs, VSCs, indicators, thresholds and ecological integrity and ecosystem health which include an explanation of how they are related to one another.
- b) Identify gaps in the research and make recommendations for further research or study to assist with the development and implementation of thresholds for the management of human activities in the NWT.

3. Approach

Develop an approach to integrating the principles of carrying capacity and thresholds into cumulative effects assessment and management in Canada's North following from the review in objective 1.

4. Legal Framework

Review and discuss the potential use of the approach outlined in objective 3 in the integrated resource management system set up under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and Inuvialuit Final Agreement, building on the work done by CIRL. Barriers to the adoption of carrying capacity and thresholds are to be documented and reviewed and potential solutions proposed.

5. Report

Liaise with an Advisory Committee consisting of acknowledged experts in the fields of environmental assessment, cumulative effects, and similar studies. The project authority (CARC) will establish and maintain the Committee.