



Arctic Observing Summit

February 2013

Arctic Observing – Nunavut, Canada

Nunavut was created as an outcome of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA, 1993). Formerly the eastern portion of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut covers approximately 2 million km² – 1/5 of Canada’s land surface – and three time zones. The population of approximately 34,000 is over 80% Inuit (with much higher proportions of Inuit in the smaller communities), and represents some 0.09% of the total Canadian population. The inhabitants of Nunavut reside in 3 regions - Kitikmeot, Keewatin (Kivalliq), and Baffin (Qikiqtaaluk). The 27 communities, most of them accessible only by air (other than during sea-lift operations), are shown in Figure 1.

Nunavut general monitoring is an integral requirement of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Article 12.7.6 of the NLCA indicates that:

There is a requirement for general monitoring to collect and analyze information on the long term state and health of the ecosystemic and socio-economic environment in the Nunavut Settlement Area. Government, in co-operation with the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC), shall be responsible for developing a general monitoring plan and for directing and coordinating general monitoring and data collection.

The Nunavut General Monitoring Plan (NGMP) is an ecosystemic and socio-economic environmental monitoring initiative that aims to support, facilitate and coordinate the collection, analysis, management and dissemination of information regarding the long-term state and health of the environment in Nunavut.

Figure 1.



Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) is the lead federal department responsible for implementing the NGMP, as per this requirement. The NGMP is administered by the NGMP Secretariat, located within the AANDC Nunavut Regional Office, and is further supported by AANDC headquarters.

A similar but independent program also exists in the Northwest Territories, called the Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP).

The work of the NGMP is guided by a steering committee comprised of AANDC, on behalf of the Government of Canada, along with the NPC,



