

Status Report to June 2009

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION 2008-2012



Photo Credit: Doug Heard, GNWT

Minister's Message



I am pleased to provide a status report on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) Framework for Action 2008-2012. The status report highlights the Department's activities on action items undertaken from January 2009 to June 2009.

During the past six months, several major action items have been completed and progress has been made on a number of others.

ENR is responsible for the continued delivery of the GNWT's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy. The GHG Strategy identifies northern actions to control the emissions of greenhouse gases, provides linkages to national and international actions on climate change and establishes a target to reduce emissions from GNWT operations. Progress has been made on all 39 actions identified in the Strategy and the final report will be completed by July 2009. Additionally, a draft NWT Biomass Strategy will be released for public input in June 2009.

ENR has undertaken a number of actions to improve and support current knowledge of the NWT environment. This knowledge is vital for the sustainable management of our land and resources. The Taiga Plains and Taiga Shield reports and posters have been completed and distributed to the public. These reports are also available on ENR's website.

ENR completed the design and implementation of an Environmental Assessment Tracking System in April 2009. This system tracks processes, key messages, commitments and issues that arise related to development activities and the environment.

The completion of ENR's Traditional Knowledge (TK) Implementation plan in March 2009 will ensure traditional knowledge about the environment is considered in all related management actions and decisions. ENR will continue to work with the GNWT Interdepartmental TK Working Group to further develop plans for government-wide implementation of the Traditional Knowledge Policy. The GNWT TK Framework will guide that work.

The first NWT State of the Environment Report (SOER) is complete, and is available on ENR's website. The SOER Highlights Report was published and tabled in the Legislative Assembly in June 2009. The report updates residents and decision-makers on the state of the environment, biodiversity and natural resources. The department continues to expand waste reduction initiatives and programs. In preparation for milk containers to be added to the Beverage Container Program, a public information campaign is being developed and consultation with milk distributors is underway.

A paper products diversion initiative has been initiated that provides financial support to businesses, municipalities and environmental groups to investigate and develop creative solutions for diverting paper products from community landfills. ENR is currently reviewing the applications submitted for this initiative. Actions to reduce the use of single-use retail plastic and paper bags are underway. This includes a public information campaign with extensive advertising and the distribution of two reusable bags to every household in the NWT.

ENR continues to work with its management partners to manage wildlife populations. An independent peer review of barren-ground caribou survey methods and outcomes was completed and tabled in the March session of the Legislative Assembly. An NWT Bison Management Strategy was completed and consultations with residents, Aboriginal governments and interested parties are underway. A revised NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou is complete and being sent to co-management boards for approval.

ENR continues to work with municipalities to develop Community Protection Plans that will minimize the risk and potential damage caused by wildfire. A Nature Journal was developed and published to encourage youth to learn about the land and the environment. Work has also been initiated on the development of a new comprehensive forest policy that will lead to legislative development in 2013/14.

ENR continues its partnership work to protect NWT waters. Through continued discussion with communities and multiple agencies, a Draft NWT Water Stewardship Strategy is being developed to define a comprehensive, collaborative approach for the NWT. Public input is welcome through nwtwaterstrategy@gov.nt.ca.

Work continues on many less visible but no less important projects to protect and conserve our natural environment and its resources.

I encourage all NWT residents to continue their involvement in the protection of the NWT environment.

J. Michael Miltenberger

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

1. Governance

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
1.1 Consultation Framework for ENR	<i>1.1.1 Develop a consultation framework for ENR based on the GNWT's Approach to Consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations</i>	ENR Consultation Framework	June 2009	June 2010	Preliminary work is underway to develop a path forward.
1.2 Land Use Policy Framework	<i>1.2.1 Report progress on ENR's participation in collaborative initiatives related to a land use framework, including landscape management activities and regional land use planning.</i>	Progress reports	June 2009 and then biannually		ENR participates in this initiative led by the Department of Executive. ENR participated in two major workshops to review the draft framework.
1.3 NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS)	<i>1.3.1 Develop a preliminary map of important wildlife areas in the NWT.</i>	Preliminary map of important wildlife areas in the NWT	December 2009		A western NWT map will be published in June 2009.
	<i>1.3.2 Prepare a Four-Year PAS Action Plan for 2010-2014.</i>	Four-Year PAS Action Plan: 2010-2014	March 2010		An Action Plan is being prepared by the PAS Steering Committee.
	<i>1.3.3 Work with Nunavut to implement the Thelon Management Plan.</i>	Implementation plan and status report	March 2010		A meeting to form the management committee is expected to be held in 2009.
	<i>1.3.4 Use ENR legislation, such as Critical Wildlife Areas, to sponsor candidate sites.</i>	Candidate site(s) process underway using ENR legislation	December 2011		The Kátlódeèche First Nation submitted a proposal to ENR in April 2009.
1.4 Managing Landscape Change	<i>1.4.1 In partnership with industry and Aboriginal organizations and boards, identify management actions to reduce and mitigate impacts on boreal caribou and their habitat from resource development.</i>	Action plan and status report	December 2009		The analysis of boreal caribou movements in relation to NWT linear features is underway.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	<i>1.4.2 Report on the Environmental Stewardship Framework (ESF) and Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP), progress.</i>	Progress report	December 2009 and then annually		An audit working committee has been formed and preliminary work is underway to plan the next Environmental 5-year Audit, required under the <i>Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</i> .
1.5 NWT Science Agenda	<i>1.5.1 Identify ENR research needs and research priorities.</i>	Annual action plan and status report	June 2009 and then annually		Short term research needs and priorities were established through Divisional workplans. Longer term needs and priorities will be compiled in the summer of 2009.
	<i>1.5.2 Work with other GNWT Departments to prepare a GNWT Science Agenda.</i>	GNWT Science Agenda	September 2009		A multi-department science working group has been established to guide the agenda development. Education, Culture and Employment has provided a casual staff person for five months to work on the agenda.
1.6 ENR Succession Planning	<i>1.6.1 Work with the Department of Human Resources to develop a Succession Plan.</i>	Succession Plan	December 2010		Preliminary work has been initiated. Draft plan is expected by the spring of 2010.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

2. Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
2.1 Energy and Climate Change	<i>2.1.1 Work with energy partners to prepare detailed plans for action on enhancing use of alternative energy sources (biomass, geothermal, wind).</i>	Alternative energy action plan(s) and status report(s)	December 2009		A draft NWT Biomass Strategy will be released for public input in June 2009. The use of geothermal energy will be discussed in a meeting in Fort Simpson in the summer of 2009. Discussions continue on wind energy development in the Inuvik Region.
	<i>2.1.2 Support actions identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and report progress annually.</i>	Progress report	April 2009 and then annually	July 2009	Action has been initiated on all 39 actions identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy. A draft report has been prepared and the final report will be completed by July 2009.
	<i>2.1.3 Support NWT residents, businesses and communities to reduce energy consumption and implement alternative energy solutions.</i>	Support program - Alternative Energy Technologies Program (AETP)	April 2009 and then annually		AETP contributed a total of \$145,161 to 15 projects for NWT residents, businesses, and communities. This created \$89,878 in energy savings and 417 tonnes of CO ₂ reductions per year.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	<i>2.1.4 Work with the Tuktoyaktuk Development Corporation and a wind energy developer to install wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk.</i>	Installation of wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk	July 2011		Community engagement meetings were held in May 2009. Tuktoyaktuk Development Corporation (TDC) will retain an experienced wind energy developer to begin the pre-construction phase. ENR will enter into a formal partnership agreement with TDC to proceed with the project.
2.2 Climate Change Adaptation	<i>2.2.1 Prepare and release a climate change impacts and adaptation plan developed in consultation with affected departments.</i>	Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Plan	December 2009		The NWT Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Report was completed in 2008. Preliminary work has started on the Adaptation Plan and ENR is in the process of staffing a climate change specialist who will complete the plan.
2.3 Climate Change Network	<i>2.3.1 Provide communication and coordination support to organizations involved in greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation.</i>	Establishment of organizational support	September 2009		ENR is in the process of staffing a climate change specialist who will set up and coordinate the Climate Change Network.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

3. Environmental Knowledge

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
3.1 Classifying and Mapping Ecosystems	<i>3.1.1 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Taiga Shield Ecozone.</i>	Ecozone classification map and descriptors	March 2009		✓ Completed Ecological land classification for the Taiga Shield Ecozone has been completed. The Taiga Plains (Mackenzie Valley) and Taiga Shield (forested areas north and south of Great Slave Lake) reports and posters have been distributed to the public (schools, industry, land and water boards, communities, etc) and are available on the ENR website.
	<i>3.1.2 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Cordillera Ecozone.</i>	Ecozone classification map and descriptors	September 2009		The field work for the Boreal and Taiga Cordillera and the analysis is complete. Publication of the report and the poster is on track.
	<i>3.1.3 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Southern and High Arctic Ecozones.</i>	Ecozone classifications map and descriptors	September 2011		Fieldwork for the Southern Arctic ecozone will be completed in the summer of 2009. The analysis and reporting will be completed by the fall of 2010.
3.2 Gathering Baseline Information and Monitoring Cumulative Effects	<i>3.2.1 Expand the existing air quality network into small NWT communities.</i>	Network expanded and operational	June 2009	September 2009	Existing ENR staff will work towards establishing a dust monitoring station in a smaller community. However, completion of this task is somewhat contingent on re-staffing the Air Quality Programs Co-ordinator position for which a competition is currently underway.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	<i>3.2.2 Review available baseline data on wildlife and vegetation and develop a plan to address data gaps to ensure cumulative impacts and landscape change are well monitored and assessed.</i>	Action plan to address data gaps	December 2009	17 th Legislative Assembly	This action has been deferred to develop a comprehensive path forward on ENR's role in cumulative effects management.
	<i>3.2.3 Implement programs through the Western NWT Biophysical Study to address gaps in baseline data and information and enhance monitoring of cumulative impact indicators.</i>	Implementation of program(s); status report	December 2010		A report on 2007-08 NWT Biophysical Program has been completed. Projects related to boreal caribou and grizzly bear continue.
3.3 Building a Forest Management Information System	<i>3.3.1 Design and develop a Wildfire Management application (EMBER Module).</i>	Wildfire Management (EMBER) Application	September 2009	March 2010	Final design and software development will be completed over the summer of 2009. Implementation and testing will be completed in fall and early winter 2009, with a warranty period extending to March 2010.
3.4 Environmental Assessment Tracking System (EATS)	<i>3.4.1 Design, build and implement the EATS system to better manage the GNWT's environmental assessment processes and associated information management library.</i>	Environmental Assessment Tracking System operational	June 2009		✓ Completed EATS was formally implemented in April 2009. Tracking of liabilities from past Reports of Environmental Assessment is now underway.
3.5 Compliance Database	<i>3.5.1 Design, build and implement the Compliance Management Information System (CMIS). CMIS will enhance the ability for the Department to effectively carry out the compliance duties of its Officers through enhanced case management and intelligence collection functions.</i>	Compliance Management Information System Operational	June 2010		Work is currently underway on the detailed analysis in order to determine functional requirements and build a design specification. Work is also underway on evaluating sourcing options.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
3.6 Reporting on the Northwest Territories "State of the Environment"	<i>3.6.1 Develop a 'State of the Environment' report on the NWT environment, focusing on its air, wildlife and forests.</i>	NWT State of the Environment Report	June 2009		✓ Completed The NWT State of the Environment Report has been completed and the Highlights Report published.
3.7 Traditional Knowledge (TK) Policy Implementation	<i>3.7.1 Work with Aboriginal governments and partners, including communities and regional resource management agencies, to support the implementation of the ENR TK Implementation Framework through a formal process of discussions and report on findings.</i>	Implementation plan and status report	March 2009	March 2010	Work on the implementation plan and the status report will begin in the summer of 2009
	<i>3.7.2 Develop and implement protocols with regional Aboriginal governments and agencies to access and share TK.</i>	Protocols for information access and sharing	June 2012		Work on protocols for information access and sharing will begin in the fall of 2009
	<i>3.7.3 Work with the GNWT Interdepartmental TK Working Group to develop a plan for government-wide implementation of TK Policy.</i>	GNWT TK Implementation Framework	September 2012	March 2009	✓ Completed The GNWT TK Framework was completed in March 2009. Work will continue on developing individual department plans, as required.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

4. Environmental Stewardship

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines		Status
			Original	Revised	
4.1 Past Environmental Legacies	<i>4.1.1 Work with the federal government to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for managing contaminated soil along the Northern Transportation Route (NTR).</i>	NTR contaminated soil management plan	December 2009		Since completion of the removal and disposal of the soil from Tulita, work on this file by the federal government has slowed. ENR will continue to press for the development and implementation of the plan.
	<i>4.1.2 Report progress on implementation of the approved closure and reclamation plan by Miramar Con Mine Ltd.</i>	Progress report(s)	Ongoing until remediation of site is complete and continued site monitoring		Reclamation of the mine site continues. ENR is arranging for a briefing by the company at the end of summer 2009 activities.
	<i>4.1.3 Support the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) processes to complete the Environmental Assessment for Giant Mine's remediation in partnership with the Giant Mine Remediation team.</i>	N/A	December 2009		ENR continues to work with the Giant Mine Remediation Office to complete the environmental assessment (EA) process.
	<i>4.1.4 Address recommendations resulting from the review of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan and begin remediation of the Giant Mine site.</i>	N/A	September 2010 (begin remediation)		Upon completion of the EA process, ENR will work with the Giant Mine Remediation Office to implement the approved reclamation plan.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
4.2 Waste Recovery Programs	<i>4.2.1 Introduce a Paper Products Diversion Initiative to provide financial support for NWT businesses, municipalities and environmental groups to investigate and/or pilot creative solutions for diverting paper products from community landfills.</i>	Paper Products Diversion Initiative status report	June 2009		A Paper Products Diversion Initiative has been initiated and applications are under review.
	<i>4.2.2 Implement actions to reduce the use of single-use retail plastic and paper bags including introduction of a fee on single-use retail bags.</i>	Environmental fee for single-use retail bags introduced	September 2009		A public information campaign is underway with extensive advertising and the distribution of reusable bags to every household in the NWT. Consultation is underway with retailers in the Northwest Territories. Legislation drafting instructions are being prepared in order to have the program in place by October 2009.
	<i>4.2.3 Add milk containers to the Beverage Container Program.</i>	Updated Beverage Container Program Regulations	June 2009	December 2009	A public information campaign is being developed and consultation with milk distributors commenced in May 2009. Legislation drafting instructions are being prepared in order to have the program in place by December 2009.
	<i>4.2.4 Determine the appropriate approach to, and the setting up of a comprehensive electronics waste recovery program in the NWT.</i>	Discussion Paper	September 2010	September 2011	ENR will investigate e-waste approaches in other jurisdictions and the potential costs of implementing similar programs in the NWT. Detailed studies of the financial viability of the most promising approaches will be conducted as funding permits.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
4.3 Best Management Practices, Standards and Guidelines	<i>4.3.1 In collaboration with Environment Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, develop NWT-wide Guidelines for Seismic Operations, to address the ecological impacts of seismic operations in a proactive manner.</i>	Guidelines for Seismic Operations in the NWT	March 2009	December 2009	A third draft has been approved by all parties. Public consultation is to begin June 2009.
	<i>4.3.2 Develop 'air quality best management practices' for the oil and gas industry, including exploration, preliminary processing and transport.</i>	Air Quality Best Management Practices	December 2009		A draft document has been prepared. Completion of this action will be contingent upon re-staffing the Air Quality Program Co-ordinator position.
	<i>4.3.3 Identify additional 'best management practice' guidance documents for minerals, oil and gas development, and other industrial activities to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts, especially on forests, wildlife and habitat.</i>	Action plan for additional guidance	Summer 2010 and annually		ENR is finalizing best management practices for camps.
4.4 Managing Shared Wildlife Populations	<i>4.4.1 Conduct an independent peer review of barren-ground caribou survey methods and outcomes.</i>	Independent peer review	March 2009		<p>✓ Completed</p> <p>The independent peer review has been completed. Barren-Ground Caribou Management in the NWT: An Independent Peer Review was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 2009.</p>
	<i>4.4.2 Develop a Five-Year NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2010-2015.</i>	NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2010-2015	June 2010		ENR is updating population estimates of barren-ground caribou herds as a basis for the new strategy.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	<i>4.4.3 Develop agreements with the Governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut on the management of shared wildlife populations, including polar bears, barren-ground caribou and boreal caribou.</i>	Bilateral agreements on shared wildlife populations for each jurisdiction	December 2010		An agreement on shared boreal caribou populations has been completed with Alberta. A draft Nunavut/NWT polar bear management agreement has been completed.
4.5 Species at Risk	<i>4.5.1 Develop a NWT Bison Management Strategy.</i>	NWT Bison Management Strategy	December 2008		✓ Completed An NWT Bison Management Strategy has been completed.
	<i>4.5.2 Develop a NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou.</i>	NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou	June 2009		✓ Completed The revised action plan is being sent to co-management boards for approval.
	<i>4.5.3 Develop Wood Bison Management Plans for the Liard, Mackenzie and Slave River Lowland Populations.</i>	Management Plans for each population	December 2010		Joint planning committees are being established with communities.
	<i>4.5.4 Update the General Status Ranks of Wild Species in the NWT 2011-2015.</i>	Status report	June 2011		Work on the status report is underway.
4.6 Environmental Legislation					
<i>4.6.1 Species at Risk Legislation</i>	<i>4.6.1.1 Introduce the NWT Species at Risk Act.</i>	Species at Risk Act introduced in Legislative Assembly	December 2008		✓ Completed A new Species at Risk Act has been introduced.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	<i>4.6.1.2 Implement actions under the NWT Species at Risk Act.</i>	Progress report	June 2010		The Bill has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure. The bill was amended, reprinted and returned to the Legislative Assembly for third reading.
	<i>4.6.1.3 Sign Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on NWT Species at Risk.</i>	Bilateral Cooperation Agreement	March 2010		Environment Canada has provided comments on the draft agreement.
4.6.2 A New Wildlife Act	<i>4.6.2.1 Release a draft Wildlife Act for public consultation</i>	Draft NWT Wildlife Act	March 2011		Wildlife Act Working Group met in January, February and April 2009.
	<i>4.6.2.2 Introduce the revised Wildlife Act.</i>	Introduce revised Wildlife Act in Legislative Assembly	December 2011		Work is underway.
4.6.3 Forest Management Legislation	<i>4.6.3.1 Identify framework components and major steps for development of new forest and fire management legislation and policy.</i>	Forest Management Legislative and Policy Framework	December 2008		<p>✓ Completed</p> <p>ENR has received the final report on major steps towards legislative and policy framework for the NWT, prepared under contract by KBM Consulting.</p>

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	<i>4.6.3.2 Develop draft action plan for new forest and wildland fire management legislation and policy.</i>	Forest Management Legislative and Policy Action Plan	June 2009	June 2010	ENR has contracted a consultant to conduct background research and issues scoping on forest policy and legislation. Target completion is March 2010. Following this, a draft action plan identifying the project through to completion will be complete by June 2010.
	<i>4.6.3.3 Develop and implement regulations that require issuance of an Incidental Timber Harvesting Permit when cutting trees related to an industrial development activity.</i>	Incidental Timber Harvesting Regulations	December 2009		Consultation with Justice will lead to understanding the issues and solutions in the creation of an Incidental Timber Permit and implementation under the current land management jurisdictions in the NWT.
4.7 Maintaining Forest Fire Management Services Program Effectiveness	<i>4.7.1 Conduct a review of ENR's strategic approach to wildland fire management that includes recommended changes. This will include a review of how the NWT Forest Fire Management Policy is implemented related to values at risk and the need to consider natural resource values such as habitat and needs of migratory species such as caribou.</i>	Discussion paper	September 2009		Community consultation was undertaken during 2008-2009 in a sample of communities. Issues and concerns identified in the consultations will be compiled and a discussion paper will be completed.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	<i>4.7.2 Develop a Forest Fire Management Action Plan to address issues or gaps identified through the aforementioned review.</i>	Forest Fire Management Action Plan	December 2009	September 2010	Based on results obtained above, further action will be required to develop a clear understanding and approach to the public issues in fire management in the NWT. A facilitated discussion format will be undertaken winter 2009-2010, with a final action plan in place by fall 2010.
4.8 Wildland Fire Management					
<i>4.8.1 Protecting Communities from Forest Fire</i>	<i>4.8.1.1 Develop FireSmart interface fire management plans for Fort Smith, Kakisa and Tsiigehtchic.</i>	FireSmart plans for each of Fort Smith, Kakisa and Tsiigehtchic	December 2009		Community Wildland Interface fire management plans will be completed for Fort Smith, Tsiigehtchic, and Kakisa on target. Contract specialists have completed field work and initial community meetings. Draft plans will be in hand June 2009, with review and final plans complete on target.
	<i>4.8.1.2 Develop a new inter-jurisdictional multi-year research plan to identify and address research gaps in community protection.</i>	Community protection multi-year research plan	December 2009		Work is underway on the research plan, which will include research work at the Fort Providence research site and cooperative ventures with partner agencies, to address wildland fire research in terms of community protection.
<i>4.8.2 Forest Renewal</i>	<i>4.8.2.1 Prepare a Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT to ensure sustainable use of forest resources.</i>	Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT	June 2009		A draft Forest Renewal Strategy has been received from contract specialists. A Forest Management specialist is reviewing the recommendations and will prepare an implementation proposal on target.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
4.9 Managing Forest Resources	<i>4.9.1 Develop a forest management plan for management of forest resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Region.</i>	GSR Forest Management Plan	June 2009		The Gwich'in Forest Management Plan: A Framework for Forest management has been completed. The Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board have confirmed their agreement with the plan. A process for approval by the GNWT is under discussion.

5. Protect Territorial Waters

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
5.0 Protect Territorial Waters	<i>5.0.1 Compile NWT transboundary water data for use in future transboundary agreement negotiations, based upon concerns and issues identified.</i>	Technical information report	December 2009		Considerable background work has been compiled by a GNWT and federal working group.
	<i>5.0.2 Engage Aboriginal governments, Land and Water Boards and others to develop a draft NWT water resources management strategy to address concerns and issues.</i>	NWT Water Resources Management Strategy	June 2009	October 2009	Initial draft has been completed. Draft Strategy to be published by October 2009 and finalized in spring 2010 after consultation.
	<i>5.0.3 Work with interested parties to identify appropriate aquatic ecosystem approaches, including indicators that will help in monitoring NWT values at risk.</i>	Aquatic Ecosystem Approach	December 2010		Preliminary work is underway to plan path forward.
	<i>5.0.4 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations for Peace-Athabasca-Slave watersheds (AB-NWT primary).</i>	Bilateral Water Management Agreements	December 2011		Preliminary work is underway to complete a template for agreements.

Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	<i>5.0.5 Work with the Federal Government, Land and Water Boards, communities and others to develop an implementation plan and inter-jurisdictional agreement, and implement the endorsed the Canada-Wide Strategy for Municipal Wastewater Effluent.</i>	Implementation Plan and Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement	March 2011		Preliminary work is underway to establish communications and form a northern working group.
	<i>5.0.6 Develop effective resources, management and assessment tools, like catchment area maps, to help NWT communities manage risk to watersheds that are the source for public water supplies.</i>	Community risk assessment tools	June 2012		Preliminary work is underway to establish appropriate methods.
	<i>5.0.7 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations for Hay and Great Slave watersheds.</i>	Bilateral Water Management Agreements with Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan	December 2012		Preliminary work is underway to complete a template for agreements.

