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Cooperative Management in *Qausuittuq National Park, NU*

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Overview

- Understanding Nunavut Context: Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA) & Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements (IIBAs)
- An Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Qausuittuq National Park
- Cooperative Management in Qausuittuq National Park: Challenges and Opportunities

Objectives of the NLCA

1. Provide for certainty and clarity of rights to ownership and use of lands and resources, and **rights for Inuit to participate in decision-making** concerning the use, management and conservation of land, water and resources.
2. Provide Inuit with wildlife harvesting rights and rights to participate in decision-making concerning wildlife harvesting
3. Provide **Inuit with financial compensation and means of participating in economic opportunities**
4. Encourage **self-reliance and the cultural an social well-being** of Inuit

What is an Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement?

An IIBA may include anything connected to a major development project that could have a detrimental impact on Inuit or that could reasonably confer a benefit on Inuit, on a Nunavut Settlement Area-wide, regional, or local basis.

For most federal parks and sites, IIBAs outline cooperative management arrangements to ensure benefits and to minimize detrimental impacts for Inuit—typically at a local level.

Why an Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement?

- Sections 8.4.4 and 9.4.1 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* **require IIBAs prior to the establishment** of a Park or Conservation Area, except in cases of emergency, such as establishment of a critical wildlife area.

Qausuittuq National Park IIBA Objectives

1. *Ensure Inuit participation in planning, management and operation of the park*
2. *Respect and promote greater awareness of Inuit rights*
3. *Generate economic benefit for Inuit*
4. Recognize the importance of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for the Park area and commit to its use in planning management and operation of the park
5. Ensure the integrity and conservation of natural and heritage resources
6. Showcase the vitality of Inuit culture and the beauty and uniqueness of the high arctic
7. Build relationship between the government and Inuit in a manner that ensures this agreement is implemented in the spirit and intent in which it was negotiated

Park Management and Administration

- Joint Inuit/Government Planning and Management Committee, known as the Qausuittuq Park Management Committee (QPMC)
- Ensure effective cooperative management
- Six members—three appointed by Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and three by the minister responsible for Parks Canada Agency
- Members shall act in the best interest of the Park, recognizing that members appointed by QIA shall bring the interests of Inuit to the QPMC
- IIBA expenditure model secures the budget for operation of the QPMC

QPMC Role:

- The QPMC shall work with the Superintendent in matters related to the Park management, including Park management planning
- In accordance with the Nunavut Agreement (8.4.12), the QPMC may provide its advice to the minister on any matters related to park management

QPMC Operation:

- Meet a minimum of twice a year
- Meetings open to public, except that the QPMC may meet in camera as it determines appropriate
- Meetings conducted in Inuktitut
- QPMC shall determine its own operating procedures
- The QPMC shall make every effort to reach consensus
- If consensus not possible, majority vote

Remoteness of Qausuittuq National Park

Challenges:

- Short operational season
- Challenging weather
- High cost of accessing the park (reduced opportunities for committee visits to the park)
- Less scientific data/knowledge to inform management decision compared to southern parks

Opportunities:

- Fewer anthropogenic disturbances (including visitation) compared to southern parks means there is less pressure for development and more time for consultations
- Working with QPMC and Inuit Knowledge Working Groups to gather Traditional Inuit Knowledge which can inform management planning and decisions

Operationalizing QPMC

Challenges:

- Recruitment of QPMC members
- Bridging the gap between QPMC's roles and Parks Canada operations
- Advisory vs. Approval role of QPMC

Opportunities:

- Goal: QPMC is part of Parks Canada team with a common vision and goals
- Training/On-boarding QPMC members: Providing context in which Parks Canada operates internally
- Other training opportunities for the QPMC members
- Increasing the frequency of meetings between Parks Canada and QPMC
- Seeking advice early on by including the committee in brainstorming stages ahead of decision making process
- Work on projects together where possible

Management Planning and Execution

Challenges:

- Starting from scratch – no management plan
- Understanding Parks Canada management planning process and applying it to the northern context
- Lack of knowledge on the current state of the park

Opportunities:

- Starting from scratch – although bound by the scope of Parks Canada planning process, QPMC and Parks Canada can work together on creating a common vision and setting priorities for the park
- Opportunity to gather more Traditional Inuit Knowledge, and Inuit knowledge of the area in general, as part of the management strategy
- Working on interim management plan provides a learning opportunities for all involved before legislated management plan is developed

Allocating Resources

Challenges:

• IIBA outlines asset, human and financial resources that were agreed upon during the negotiating process

• These allocations were determined prior to the vision for the park or development of the management plan

• Effectively they provide a scope that might or might not fit well with the outcome of the visioning exercise or desired management approach

Opportunities:

• At the minimum those resources that were agreed upon shall be available to the Park Management Team to work with

• In the spirit of IIBA, there is an opportunity for Parks Canada, QPMC and QIA to work together and agree on reallocation of some of the resources to better fit the needs of the park – in line with the agreed vision for the park and current management needs

Questions/Comments/Discussion