



Will you remember the promise? A story of how Dene learned to take care of ası́ı godı́ - the land, water and animals.  
Based on stories told by Sahtú Elders.

in the dialects of  
Tulıt'a and Délı́ne Got'ı́ne

also available in the dialect of  
K'ásho Got'ı́ne



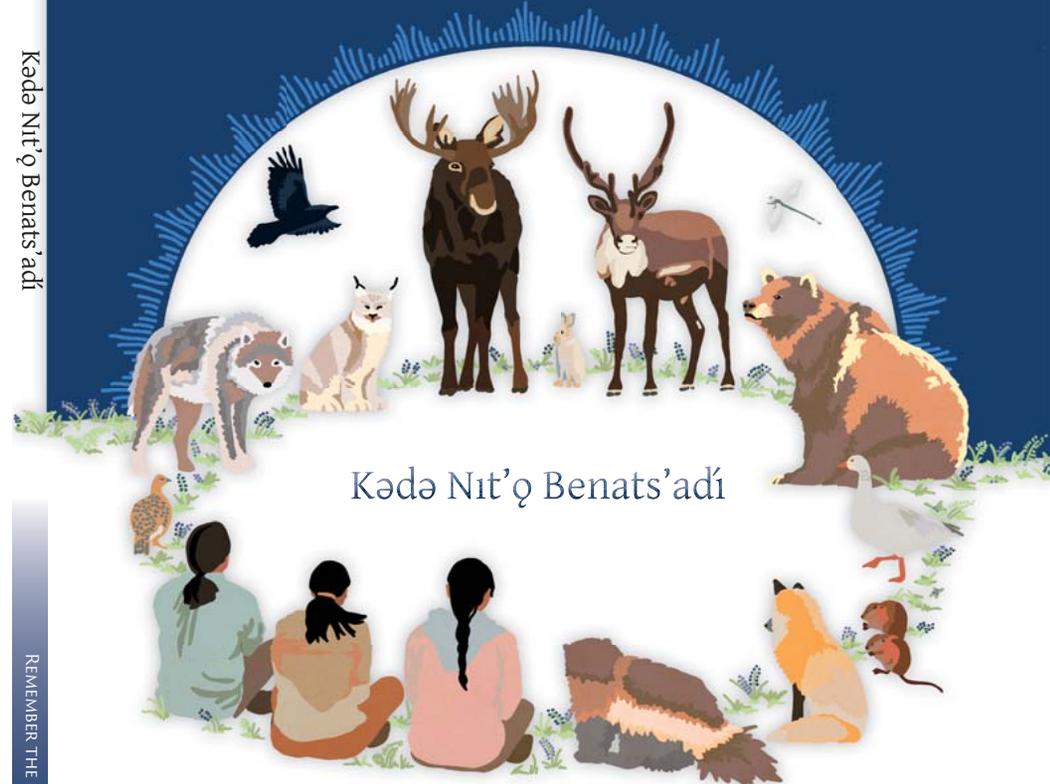
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Tulıt'a, Northwest Territories  
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Kada Nit'ó Benats'adı́

REMEMBER THE PROMISE

Based on stories told by Sahtú Elders



Kədə Nit'ó Benats'adı́

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# Kədə Nit'ə Benats'adí

REMEMBER THE PROMISE

in the dialects of  
Tulít'a and Délıne Got'ıne

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K'ásho Got'ıne

Text compiled by  
Betty Harnum & Deborah Simmons

Species at Risk Workshop  
Délıne, Northwest Territories  
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Artwork by Jean Lieppert Polfus



# Kədə Nit'ò Benats'adí

## REMEMBER THE PROMISE

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Government of the Northwest Territories  
[www.ece.gov.nt.ca/official-languages](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/official-languages)

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## FOREWORD

The environment is changing, and this is causing troubles for some of the wildlife and plants. Something needs to be done. In 2002, Canada made a law, the *Species At Risk Act*, recognizing our promise to protect living things that are in trouble. The Northwest Territories made their own law in 2009. Now it's time for people of the Sahtú Region to learn about this promise and work on ways of keeping the diversity of life in our land.

Dene and Métis have lived on the land for many generations, and their way of life has helped to keep the land healthy. The knowledge and stories of the land express people's relationships with other living things. This is most meaningful in the Dene language.

In March 2013, elders, Dene language specialists and others got together for a workshop to talk about how the story of species at risk can be understood through the language and stories of Dene and Métis. They agreed that the main people who need to work on these things are the present and future youth of the Sahtú Region. This book is dedicated to the workshop participants, and to the youth who are the future stewards of the land.

The first part of this book is a story, Remember the Promise, with Dene words. The meanings of those words can be found in the glossary (page 18). The second part includes more details about the workshop and the terms that were worked on in the dialects of Délı̨ne, Tulít'a, and K'asho Got'ı̨ne. The last part has more information about species at risk in the NWT.

Keeping the Dene language alive is part of keeping alive people's sacred and respectful relationships with other living things. We hope that this book will encourage people to speak and understand the language of this land, the language of the ancestors. Through the language, we are sure to remember the promise.





Kədə Nıt'q Benats'adı  
REMEMBER THE PROMISE



Long ago, **t̓ich'ádii** were giants  
and they used to talk.

They made their own **ɁeɁa**.



When Dene started to appear in their homelands, the **t̥ch'ádí** said to each other, "Dene are coming to our home. We must learn to live with them. We must take care of them. We can be food for them, but in return, they must promise to respect us and take care of **nę** and **tu** so we will stay healthy."

They talked to the Dene and the people promised to respect the **ɁeɁa** of the **t̥ch'ádí**, so **t̥ch'ádí** welcomed them to share the **nę** and **tu**.



But **nógha**, who is a loner, did not want to follow the new rules so he started causing trouble for the Dene.

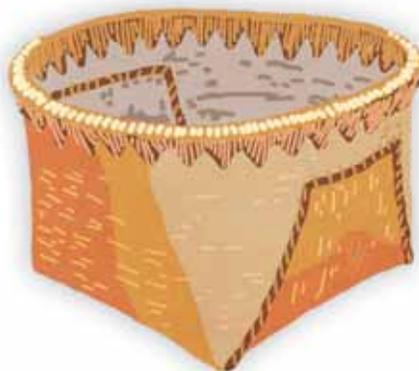
Sometimes he would destroy their belongings or scare them.



The other **tıch'ádıı** talked to **nógha** and said, "You must not behave this way. We want to live in harmony with the Dene. You must give a gift to make up for what you have done."



The **ṭch'ádí** told **nógha** to put the mucus from his nose on the spruce trees so that it would turn into spruce gum for the Dene to use as medicine and for building and fixing things like boats and baskets. So **nógha** did this and the Dene were able to make good use of the spruce gum.



As the years passed, the Dene built homes, hunted, fished, and trapped. They used all of the meat and took great care when handling **ṭch'ádí** that gave themselves to the Dene. They made clothing, tents and boats from the hides. They gathered berries, picked **ɹít'ɔ**, **t'ó**, and **t'eh't'ə** to make medicines. They used the **dechí** for firewood and to build houses, sleds, boats, snowshoes or tools. They used the fresh, clean **tu** for drinking and washing, and they travelled all over the country on the rivers and lakes.

At first, the Dene lived well together with **así godí – ṭch'ádí, det'one, lue, tso, tatsa, ɹít'ɔ, dechí, t'ó, and t'eh't'ə.**





All **ası́ godí** were in harmony.



But before long many more Dene arrived. They started to tear up **ne**, pollute **tu** and air, and make a lot of noise with big machines. They forgot their promise to respect other **ası́ godı́**. The **tı́ch'ádı́** decided to remind the Dene of their promise, so they started to move away and behave in a different way. Some of **ası́ godı́** became sick or died.



The Dene noticed these changes and asked themselves, “Why are **asíı godí** behaving this way? Why are they getting sick? Maybe they are unhappy.” Some of the Dene began to talk about how they were causing hardships for **asíı godí**. The old people reminded them of their promise. So they decided to do something to help.

The Dene said, “**Ası́ godı́** are having a hard time.  
We need to do something to help them.”  
That’s when the people decided to make an **ʔeʔa** to protect **ası́ godı́**.



They called it **Ası́ Godı́ Gogha Horı́la ʔeʔa**.

The Dene decided to find out what they knew about these **tıch'ádı́, det'one, łue, tso, tatsa, Ɂı́t'ɔ, dechi, t'ı́o, and t'eh't'á.** They shared stories about how **ası́ godı́** used to live in harmony.



They set up a special committee called **Ası́ Godı́ Gogha Horı́la Got'ı́ne** to gather all the knowledge they could find. They put this together in a report called **Góhó Dágóht'e Gɔdı́.**

They said, “This report tells us how these **así godí** are doing.”  
The Dene figured out a way to describe how great the hardships were  
so they could think of ways to help.



They  
are all gone  
from the world

They are all gone from the NWT

They might be gone in our lifetime

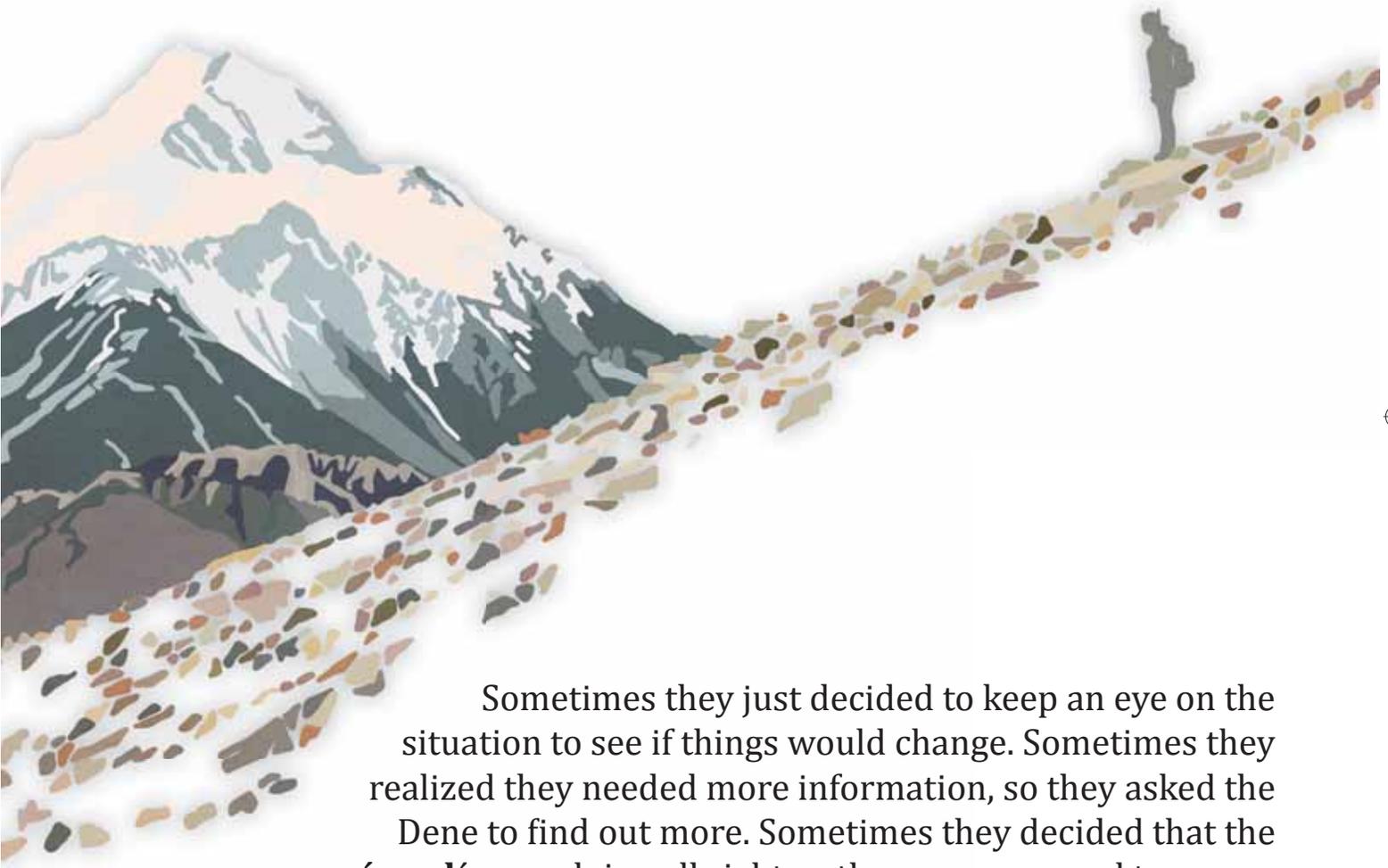
They might be gone in our children's lifetimes

We need to keep an eye on them

We don't have enough information

They are doing fine

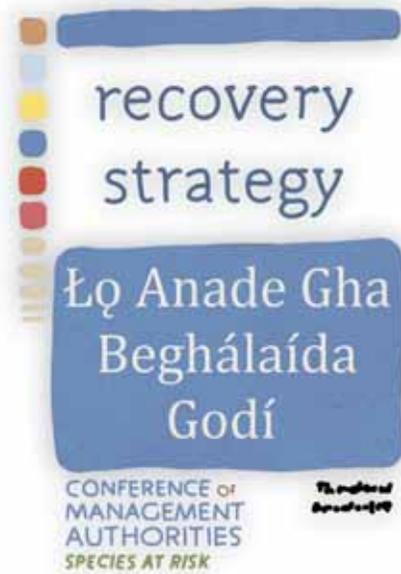
The Dene then decided to bring together all of the  
decision-makers from across the land to agree on what  
needed to be done. This group was called the  
**Así Godí Gogha Horíla K'áowə Kə.**



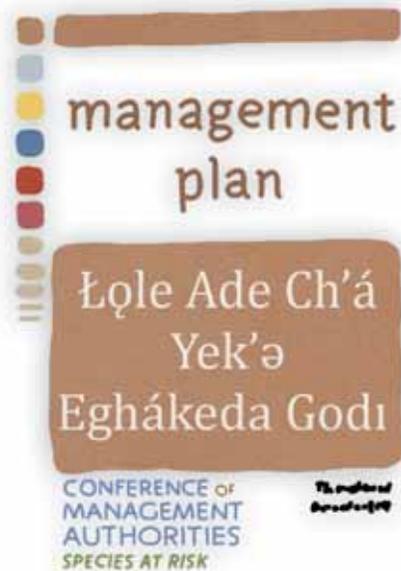
Sometimes they just decided to keep an eye on the situation to see if things would change. Sometimes they realized they needed more information, so they asked the Dene to find out more. Sometimes they decided that the **ası́ godí** were doing all right so there was no need to worry.

To help the **asú godí** that were facing the greatest hardships, the Dene realized they needed to make a plan.





“If they might be gone in our lifetime or our children’s lifetimes, then we need to take action. We don’t want them to disappear!”



“If the **asíı godí** are not doing too well and we need to keep an eye on them, then we must make a plan so they remain healthy.”



The Dene talked amongst themselves and said, “We need to take care of all **ası́ godı́ – tıch’adı́, łue, det’one, tatsa, tso, ɀıt’o, dechi, tı’o, and tı’eht’ó.** We have depended on them for so long. Now they are counting on us.”





**Dahsíı godí hek'óts'edi** – the people learned to take care of the  
**nę** and **tu** and all **asıı godí**.

But sometimes they needed to be reminded of their promise.

So now, when you look at the land and all **asíı godí** –  
**tıch'ádıı, łue, det'one, tatsa, tso, ııt'o, dechi, tı'o,** and **tı'eht'ó** –

if you listen carefully, you will hear them say:



**Will you always remember the promise?**

**Will you take good care of asíı godı?**

**We are counting on you!**

# MÁHSI CHO

Many thanks to the participants in the Sahtú Species at Risk Terminology Workshop.

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## OTHERS WHO ASSISTED:

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## GLOSSARY



**Ṯch'ádí** – Animal(s). In Dene language this word refers to certain animals but not birds, fish or insects. It is used in this story as a general term to refer to all the animals.



**ʔeʔa** – Law(s).



**Dene** – A person or people or human(s). It can also be used to refer specifically to the Aboriginal people in the north who are part of the Ṯcẖo, Gwich'in, Ḏene S̱łíné, North Slavey and South Slavey First Nations.



**ʔit'̱, decẖ, t'̱o, t'̱eht'̱** – Plants, flower, tree, grass, fungus. In order to include all types of plant life it is necessary to use all of these words in the Dene language.



**Ṉe** – The land.



**As̱ı́ godí** – Species or living thing such as **ṯch'ádí**, **det'̱o̱e**, **łue**, **tso**, **tats̱a**, **ʔit'̱**, **decẖ**, **t'̱o**, or **t'̱eht'̱** – animal, bird, fish, fly, beetle, flower, tree, grass, or fungus.



**Gogha horíla** – At risk. The word means that the living thing is facing some kind of serious stress or hardship. It is having a hard time.



**Así t'á gogha horíla** – Hardship or threat. Something that is causing difficulty for living things, such as pollution of land, water or air, habitat loss, drought, forest fires, disease, or starvation. Some hardships are normal but when the hardship is too great the living thing is said to be “at risk”.



**Así Godí Gogha Horíla ʔeʔa** – *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. This is the name of the law in the NWT that helps identify and protect species at risk.



**Daréhcho t'á gogha horíla** – How great the risk is for the living thing. These terms are used to describe the status or how much hardship a living thing is facing:

**Areyoné húle** – *extinct* – they are all gone from the world

**Denewá néné k'ə húle** – *extirpated* – they are all gone from the NWT

**Káfále wíle ade sóʔni** – *endangered* – they might all be gone in our lifetime

**Łálak'oonʔ xae kúhyə wíle ade gha sóʔni** – *threatened* – they might all be gone in our children's lifetimes

**Bek'e k'énadets'ewə** – *special concern* – we need to keep an eye on them

**Begodí k'éerúya/Begodi k'eruzha** – *data deficient* – we don't have enough info

**Beghʔ náadets'e wále/Bewonádets'í véle** – *not at risk* – they are doing fine





**Góhó Dágóht'e Gódi** – Status Report. Words and stories about how the living thing is doing.



**Ło Anade Gha Beghálaída Godí** – Recovery Strategy. This is a plan that is created to help the living thing increase in number.



**Łole Ade Ch'á Yek'ə Eghákeda Godí** – Management Plan. This is a plan that is created to ensure the number of the living thing does not decrease.



**Dahsı́ godí hek'əts'edí** – Stewardship. Taking good care of something living. By being good stewards, people can ensure that living things stay healthy.



**ʔehdzo Got'ı́ne** – Renewable Resources Council (RRC)



**Ası́ Godí Gogha Horı́la Got'ı́ne** – Species at Risk Committee (SARC)



**Ası́ Godí Gogha Horı́la K'áowə Kə** – Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)



**ʔehdzo Got'ı́ne Gots'ė Nákedı́** – Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB). For more information visit the SRRB website at [www.srrb.nt.ca](http://www.srrb.nt.ca).



# SPECIES AT RISK TERMINOLOGY LIST

There are several dialects in the Sahtú region. The specific dialect for each term in this report is shown in brackets:

**(S)** = Shúhta/Shíhta Got'ine or Mountain and K'áalo Got'ine or Willow Lake dialects (Tulít'a)

**(D)** = Dél'ine Got'ine

**(KG)** = K'ásho Got'ine (Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake)

Each of the Sahtú dialects differs more or less from the others. Because of the many differences, as well as the differences between the way individuals speak even within the same community, there are translations that have not been included. Some translations might change and new ones will be added in the future as people do more research on the language. For more information about Dene language sounds and pronunciation please visit the SRRB website at [www.srrb.nt.ca](http://www.srrb.nt.ca).

Term	English Definition	Translation	Reverse Translation
<b>Assessment/ Assess</b>	SARC reads information on a species and decides how well the species is doing. How much risk/trouble/difficulty is the animal or plant having?	daréhcho t'á gogha horíla (S, D) dádéhshó t'á gogha ts'ónét'e (KG)	How great is the difficulty they are experiencing; how much hardship they are experiencing.
<b>At risk</b>	The species is under stress of some kind; It could disappear from the NWT or the world or numbers could decline significantly; risk factors include predation, habitat loss, disease, new animals or plants moving into their area, etc.	asíí godí gogha horíla (S, D) t'áhsí gódi gonezó begóh-díle (KG)	Anything alive that is having a hard time.
<b>Barren-ground Caribou</b>	Caribou that migrate to the tundra to calve in the spring and spend the winters in the boreal forest.	zekwé (D) zepé (S) zedə (KG)	Barren-ground caribou
<b>Bats</b>	These animals have just recently appeared in Sahtú.	dléa det'one (S, D, KG)	Flying squirrel (new name).
<b>Bird(s)</b>		det'one (S, D) det'one (KG)	Any bird.
<b>Caribou that travel between the mountains and the forest</b>	A different group altogether from tōdzí or zepé/zekwé/ zedə; the only caribou species that goes away and then returns; the others stay there all the time; (not much is known about them)	tənat'əa (S, D, KG)	The caribou that migrate between the mountains and the forest; (means "long distance runner"?)

Term	English Definition	Translation	Reverse Translation
<b>Collared Pika</b>	Small mouse-like rodent that lives in the Mackenzie Mountains; the KG and D terms are newly created names as they don't know this animal.	zehpah (S) shúhta godlį́ą (D) shíhta godlį́ye (KG)	collared pika Mouse that comes from the mountains.
<b>Community knowledge</b>	Knowledge held by any members of an NWT community.	denewá há (S, D) kóta dene ts'į́į gháré yerı hots'enihsq (KG)	Community knowledge/knowledge from living in a community.
<b>Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)</b>	Group of wildlife co-management boards and governments that share responsibility for managing species at risk. The group includes: Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, SRRB, Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board, Tłıchǝ Government, Government of Canada, and the GNWT. They make the final decision about whether or not the species will be listed.	Asį́ Godı Gogha Horıla K'áowə Kə (S, D) T'áhsı Gódi Gonezó Be-góhdıle Gha K'áhoweke (KG)	The species at risk bosses; bosses for living things having a hard time.
<b>Consultation</b>	Talking with people about species at risk; hearing what people think about species at risk.	dałets'erekə (S, D) daluts'edeke (KG)	Talking and asking questions both ways; listening to information from the people to make a decision (an exchange).
<b>Data Deficient</b>	SARC can't decide how healthy a species is because there is not enough information.	begodı k'éerúyá (D) begodı k'eruzha (S) wáı begodá hots'enihsq gha got'ódéza (KG)	We need more information; more information is needed.
<b>Decline/Decrease</b>	When something goes down in numbers.	łqle ade gha (S, D) hıłqle gú zadadə/k'éts'ęne zaréht'e zadadə (KG)	To become less; the numbers are going down.
<b>Disease</b>	Something that is making the animals/plants sick.	eyáa (S, D) zéya (KG)	Sickness.
<b>Endangered</b>	Status of a species that may soon be gone from the NWT or the world (in our lifetime).	káfále wıle ade sóqıı (S, D) ká nıwále behúle rágudı (KG)	They might disappear soon.
<b>Extinct</b>	Status of a species that is gone from the whole world.	areyqné húle (S, D) t'áhsı gódi líe lahot'e húle (KG)	All dead or all gone; species of one kind completely gone.

Term	English Definition	Translation	Reverse Translation
<b>Extirpated</b>	Status of a species that is gone from the NWT. The species no longer exists in the wild in the NWT but it does exist in the wild outside the NWT.	Denewá néné k'ə húle (S, D) júhdá hínéné t'áhsı gódi líe lahot'e húle (KG)	On Dene lands, they are all gone; in north land, species of one kind completely gone.
<b>Factors that affect the species</b>	The things that are affecting how well or how poorly a species is doing; SARC uses these to decide how to assess the health of a species.	begháré kagóht'e (S, D, KG)	The reasons for how they are doing.
<b>Fish</b>		húe (S, D) luge (KG)	Any fish.
<b>Flowering plant</b>		zít'ó (S, D) zít'ó (KG)	Any flowering plant.
<b>Fungus</b>		t'əht'ə (S, D) t'əht'ə (KG)	Fungus.
<b>Grass</b>		t'ó (S, D, KG)	Any type of grass.
<b>Grizzly Bear</b>		sahcho (S, D) sahsho (KG) ----- gokw'ı sahcho káyelə (D) gokw'ı sahcho kárelə (S) gow'ı sahsho káyelə (KG) ----- gokw'ı sahcho káyelə kálə (D) gokw'ı sahcho kárelə kálə (S) gow'ı sahsho káyelə kálə (KG)	Grizzly bear. ----- Big grizzly that's coming into Sahtú area. ----- The biggest grizzly that drags cubs from their den (often has sand on its forearms because of this).
<b>Increase</b>	When something goes up in numbers.	ıq ade gha (S, D) hııq zádádə (KG)	The numbers increase.
<b>"It has been predicted by the Elders that it will disappear"</b>		zohda kə kagerıdı behúle ade gha (S, D) Dene Hıshaike radá "dubonáı gha", kədəyıdı. (KG)	"It has been predicted by the elders that it is going to disappear".
<b>Listing/Listed</b>	Adding a species to the legal list of species at risk - the law says it is at risk.	gogha horıla nıde zeriht'é k'ə gozi wezq gha (S, D) gódi beghq zagodədi zedit'é k'e gohızi dát'e (KG)	If it's at risk its name gets put (written) down.  Names of species at risk written on paper.



Term	English Definition	Translation	Reverse Translation
<b>Management/ Manage</b>	To take care of a species and help it stay healthy: help them not go down in numbers.	łqle ade ch'á yek'ə eghálakeda (S, D) hłłqle gú ʔawodə goch'á zəghálakeyeda (KG)	To work against it becoming less; to work against a decline in numbers.
<b>Management Authority</b>	An organization that has the power and responsibility to manage species at risk.	K'áowə (S, D) K'áhoweke (KG)	Bosses.
<b>Management Plan</b>	A written plan of what people will do to manage a species and help it stay healthy. If a species is listed as Special Concern, it needs a Management Plan.	łqle ade ch'á yek'ə eghálakeda godí (S, D) hłłqle gú ʔawodə goch'á dá kigháláyúda gha godə dát'e (KG)	A report to work against there being less; a report on how to work against there being less.
<b>Mountain goat</b>		ʔehbah (S)	Mountain goat (Tulít'a only; others don't have a name for this species).
<b>Mountain Sheep</b>		sahyóné (KG) sahzhóné (S) ----- doghe (S, D, KG)	Male sheep with horns. ----- Female or young male.
<b>Not at Risk</b>	Status of a species that is healthy or has a large number in NWT.	beghə náadets'e wóle (D) bewónadets'í véle (S) beghə ʔagudədíle (KG)	We are not worried about it; there is no risk.
<b>NWT List of Species at Risk</b>	The legal list, written under the law, of species that are at risk in the NWT.	asíi godí gogha horíla gozí (S, D) t'áhsı gódı beghə ʔagodədı gohızí (KG)	The names on paper of plants and animals having a hard time; list of species at risk.
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>		tatsəa (D) fənisən (S) fəsəne (KG)	Hawk/falcon; lives on the rocks.
<b>Recovery/ Recover</b>	The numbers are going back up again.	łq anade (S, D) hłłq ʔaradadə (KG)	The numbers are going up again.
<b>Recovery Strategy</b>	A written plan of what people will do to help a species get healthy again. If a species is listed as Endangered or Threatened, it needs a Recovery Strategy.	łq anade gha beghálaída godí (S, D) hłłq ʔarawodə gha bálats'eyúda hadədı (KG)	A report about how to increase the numbers again.
<b>Review</b>	A chance for people to look at the report and decide if it's right.	beghánats'eda (S, D) beghárats'ey'úda (KG)	Looking at it again.
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>		góhk'e (S, D, KG)	Small raven.





Term	English Definition	Translation	Reverse Translation
<b>Scientific knowledge</b>	Knowledge that comes from scientific study.	móla há (S, D) t'áhsı́ godó káhshu ts'ę yeri hots'enihsq (KG)	Science; knowledge from information collected.
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>		báhdzi bedzi netsíla (S, D, KG)	Owl, his ears are short.
<b>Special Concern</b>	Status of a species that might become Endangered or Threatened if nothing is done to help it. Species needs to be monitored.	bek'e k'énadets'ewə (S, D) bek'e k'ínazadits'ewe gha got'ódéza (KG)	We need to keep an eye on it.
<b>Species</b>	Each different type of plant, tree, grass, fungus, animal, fish, bird, insect, etc. is a species. 'Species' means all the plants and animals of that type, not just one individual. Example: A pine tree is one species of tree and a birch tree is another species.	ası́ı godı́ (S, D) t'áhsı́ godı́ (KG) ----- (tıch'ádı, ııt'q/ııt'q, de- chı/deshı, t'ó, tatsa, tso, łue/luge, det'qne/det'qne, t'eh't'á/ t'əhtá)	Anything alive / living things. ----- (Animal, plant, tree, grass, bug, fly, fish, bird, fungus).
<b>Species at Risk (NWT) Act</b>	A law from the GNWT to protect species that are in danger of disappearing from the NWT.	Ası́ı Godı́ Gogha Horı́la ʔeʔa (S, D) T'áhsı́ Godı́ Gonezq Be- góhdı́le ʔeʔa (KG)	Law for anything living that is having a hard time.
<b>Species at Risk Committee (SARC)</b>	Independent group that decides how well a species is doing (i.e. how healthy a species is in the NWT). SARC is made up of experts - people who know about the plants and animals. It is their job to assess the status of species in the NWT.	Ası́ı Godı́ Gogha Horı́la Got'ıne (S, D) T'áhsı́ Godı́ Gonezq Begóhdı́le Gha Godəke (KG)	Species at Risk group; the people (organization) that work on the species at risk.
<b>Status</b>	What state the species is in because of the risks it is experiencing.	dárehcho t'á gogha horı́la -or- horı́la t'á gohé dágúʔq (S, D) béhé dágqht'e (KG) -or- gódı kádeʔa yeri t'á begha ts'ónét'e góʔq ts'ıʔqne béhé dágqht'e (KG)	How great the risks or hardships are; how they are doing because of the risks.  How they are doing; how much the living thing is suffering from hardship.
<b>Status Report</b>	Written summary of knowledge on a species that SARC uses to decide how healthy a species is.	Góhə Dágqht'e Gqdı: De- newá Hé Móla Hé Náow- eré (S, D) Gódı Hé Dágqht'e Kodúya Gha ʔedıht'é Dát't'e (KG)	Words/stories about how they are doing; that includes traditional and scientific knowledge. Written paper to inform how a species is doing.





Term	English Definition	Translation	Reverse Translation
<b>Stewardship</b>	Things that people do to help a species stay healthy or help it recover. Examples: teaching people good hunting practices to reduce wounding animals, or posting signs asking people to avoid trampling a Whooping Crane nesting area.	dahsîi godí hek'áts'edí (S, D) t'áhsîi gódi, gúdi gha bek'áts'édí (KG)	Taking care of living things; acting as stewards. Taking care of living things to keep them living.
<b>Threatened</b>	Status of a species that might be gone from the NWT in our children's lifetimes.	łálak'óonq xae kúhyə wíle ade gha sǫǫni (S, D) líla horéno xai egúhyá behúle rágudi (KG)	Might disappear within 100 years.
<b>Threats (risk factors)</b>	Things that could decrease the numbers of a species. Example: pesticide use in the 1960s caused problems with the eggs of Peregrine Falcons. It was a threat to Peregrine Falcons.	asîi t'á gogha horíla (S, D) yeri gháré beghq ?agudədi (KG)	What's giving them a hard time; what is putting them at risk.
<b>Traditional Knowledge</b>	Knowledge held by Aboriginal people that has been passed down through the generations	denewá há (S, D) neh k'e dene ts'îli gháré yeri hots'enihshq (KG)	Dene knowledge. Dene knowledge from living on the land.
<b>Tree(s)</b>		dechî (S, D) deshî (KG)	Any tree.
<b>Wolverine</b>		nógha (S, D, KG)	Wolverine.
<b>Woodland Caribou (boreal population)</b>		tǫdzî (S, D) gop'í gotǫdzî (S, D)* tǫdzî (KG) deshiwánéné tǫdzî (KG)*	Boreal forest woodland caribou.
<b>Woodland Caribou (northern mountain population)</b>		tǫdzî (S, D) shúhta gotǫdzî (S)* tǫdzî (KG) shíhta gotǫdzî (KG, D)*	Mountain woodland caribou.

\*In North Slavey, the same name (tǫdzî) is used for both the boreal woodland caribou population and the mountain woodland caribou population, but for the purposes of describing them, shúhta/shíhta (mountain) and deshiwánéné/gop'í (boreal forest, bush) can be added.





# ABOUT SPECIES AT RISK

The story in this book represents the process, under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, used for identifying species at risk and for taking actions, when necessary, to address the problems species are facing. This process is explained briefly below.

First, a species is identified as one that needs to be studied. These species can be identified by the Species at Risk Committee (SARC), the Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) or people of the NWT.

The species is referred to SARC. An assessment of that species is done by pulling together all of the existing traditional, community, and scientific knowledge. The assessment is SARC's recommendation about what the status of the species should be, and whether they feel the species is at risk and should be added to the NWT list of species at risk.

This assessment goes to the CMA, which is made up of representatives from the groups responsible for managing wildlife in each of the regions of the NWT. The CMA then does community consultations to ask people what they think should be done. After this, the CMA decides on the status of the species, and whether or not the species should be added to the NWT list of species at risk.

If the species is given the status 'Special Concern', a management plan is developed to ensure their numbers do not decrease.

If the species is given the status 'Endangered', 'Threatened', or 'Extirpated in the NWT', then a recovery strategy is developed to help their numbers increase.

In the NWT, at the time of writing this book, four species have been put on the NWT list of species at risk: boreal caribou, Peary caribou, polar bear and hairy braya (a plant).

The assessment process is ongoing and the assessment schedule is revised each year. The following section lists species in the NWT that have been assessed or that are scheduled for assessment. To learn more visit [www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca).

SPECIES ON THE NWT LIST OF SPECIES AT RISK		STATUS
Hairy Braya	( <i>Braya Pilosa</i> )	Threatened in the NWT
Peary Caribou	( <i>Rangifer tarandus pearyi</i> )	Threatened in the NWT
Polar Bear	( <i>Ursus maritimus</i> )	Special Concern in the NWT
Woodland Caribou boreal population	( <i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i> )	Threatened in the NWT



# ASSESSMENT OF SPECIES IN NWT BY SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE (SARC)

SPECIES ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED		STATUS
Dolphin and Union Caribou	( <i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus x pearyi</i> )	Special Concern in the NWT (SARC 2013)
Northern Leopard Frog	( <i>Lithobates pipiens</i> )	Threatened in the NWT (SARC 2013)
SPECIES TO BE ASSESSED IN DECEMBER 2014		
Wolverine - Western population	( <i>Gulo gulo</i> )	
Nahanni Aster	( <i>Symphyotrichum nahanniense</i> )	
Western Toad	( <i>Anaxyrus boreas</i> )	
SPECIES TO BE ASSESSED IN DECEMBER 2015		
Barren-ground Caribou (except Dolphin and Union population)	( <i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i> )	
Wood Bison	( <i>Bison bison athabasca</i> )	
SPECIES TO BE ASSESSED IN DECEMBER 2016		
Drummond Bluebell	( <i>Mertensia drummondii</i> )	
Grizzly Bear - Western population	( <i>Ursus arctos</i> )	
Big Brown Bat, Little Brown Myotis, Long-eared Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, Northern Myotis*	( <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> ), ( <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> ), ( <i>Myotis evotis</i> ), ( <i>Myotis volans</i> ), ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	
SPECIES TO BE ASSESSED IN DECEMBER 2017		
Ashton Cuckoo Bumble Bee, Western Bumble Bee, Yellow-banded Bumble Bee**	( <i>Bombus astoni</i> ), ( <i>Bombus occidentalis</i> ), ( <i>Bombus terricola</i> )	
Mountain Goat	( <i>Oreamnos americanus</i> )	
Peregrine Falcon	( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	
SPECIES TO BE ASSESSED IN DECEMBER 2018		
Banks Island Alkali Grass	( <i>Puccinellia banksiensis</i> )	
Canadian Toad	New: ( <i>Anaxyrus hemiophrys</i> ) Old: ( <i>Bufo hemiophrys</i> )	
Rusty Blackbird	( <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> )	
Sand Bluegrass	( <i>Poa ammophila</i> )	
SPECIES TO BE ASSESSED IN DECEMBER 2019		
American White Pelican	( <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> )	
Collared Pika	( <i>Ochotona collaris</i> )	
Red-sided Garter Snake	( <i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i> )	
SPECIES TO BE ASSESSED IN DECEMBER 2020		
Short-eared Owl	( <i>Asio flammeus</i> )	

\*The five bat species will be bundled together into one species status report, but assessed separately.

\*\*The three bee species will be bundled together into one species status report, but assessed separately.