



# Procedural Guidance, and Revised Draft Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á (Plan for the Future) Policy and Guide

Notice to Parties and the public, **April 14, 2022**

This notice provides an update on the Déline 2021 Virtual ʔelets'ewéhkwe Godi (Public Listening Session – PLS), scheduled for **April 25-29**. Clarifications on procedural guidance are provided. As well, a *Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á (Plan for the Future) Policy and Guide*, revised in part based on feedback from Parties, is provided for a second round of review and comment. Parties are encouraged to include comments on the *Policy and Guide* in their written and oral submissions to the PLS.

A reminder that written and/or slide presentations is **April 22, 2022**. Final written arguments are due two weeks after the close of the PLS, on **May 16, 2022**.

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## Procedural Guidance

The SRRB's *Rules for Hearings* (2019) apply, with necessary modifications for the Virtual PLS format being used for the Délı̄nę 2021 Virtual PLS (Rules 3.4-3.8). This procedural guidance supplements the SRRB's existing procedural guidance for this PLS, including:

- December 1, 2020, PLS Notice
- July 7, 2021, Resumption Notice
- December 17, 2021, Notice including Procedural Guidance

## Issues and Presentations

The issues for the Délı̄nę 2021 Virtual PLS are as follows:

1. **Issues for all five PLS:** What is the most effective way to conserve caribou?
2. **Central issue for Délı̄nę 2021 PLS** - What should people's role be in maintaining healthy relationships between caribou and other wildlife?
3. **New issue for Délı̄nę 2021 PLS:** *Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́zá (Plan for the Future) Policy and Guide*

The SRRB will expect parties to attend the PLS prepared to present, discuss and consider approaches to these issues. The SRRB is prepared to receive written presentations and oral submissions at the Délı̄nę 2021 Virtual PLS (Rule 10.5). The SRRB anticipates receiving submissions from parties on:

- The status of caribou, people and planning
- Caribou relationships with predators (including díga/wolf) and any proposed management measures
- Caribou relationships with competitors (including ɔ́jı́re/muskoxen) and any proposed management measures
- Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́zá (Plan for the Future) Policy & Guide*

## Order in PLS

The SRRB will be responsible for the procedure during the PLS, with a Chair and a Facilitator. The Délı̄nę 2021 Virtual PLS will proceed according to the Agenda in the December 17, 2021, PLS Notice, with a slight modification to the order of presentations (see Appendix B). The Agenda follows the Schedule in the Rules for Hearings, with modifications to items eight, nine, and ten for the PLS format to allow multiple presentations and final reply by all parties (see Appendix C).

Presentations will be followed by questions or comments from parties in the order listed below. The presenter will have an opportunity to respond to questions. Comments may be addressed in the presenter's concluding remarks at the end of the question/comment period.

1. Délı̄nę Panel
2. Colville Lake Panel
3. Fort Good Hope Panel
4. Norman Wells Panel
5. Tulıt'a Panel
6. GNWT Environment and Natural Resources
7. Other Parties (order to be determined)
8. SRRB Board/Staff/Advisors

Parties will have the opportunity to make closing remarks before the end of the PLS. The SRRB intends this opportunity to allow for parties to reply to any of the evidence they have heard during the PLS. Final written arguments are due two weeks after the close of the PLS, on May 16, 2022.

## Streaming and Recording

The SRRB convenes proceedings that are open to the public. The Délıne 2021 Virtual PLS will be using internet communications to facilitate the proceeding. The SRRB and parties will be on Zoom, with some attending via community hubs while others may connect directly. The SRRB will make a feed of the PLS available on Facebook Livestream for public viewing. Any chat functions in these platforms will be monitored and moderated for appropriate conduct.

For those attending the Délıne 2021 Virtual PLS, your attending this public proceeding with advance notice of broadcasting is your consent to be filmed and recorded by the SRRB. The SRRB is authorizing a live broadcast of the PLS only. Rebroadcasting is only permitted with the SRRB's consent.

## COVID Safety Planning

We ask local “bubble” coordinators to provide appropriate measures and protocols for COVID-19 risks. All parties are asked to make smart decisions for themselves, their families and community members. Physical distancing, disinfecting, and mask use is still recommended in indoor gatherings.

## Hıdó Gogha Sėnégots'ızá (Plan for the Future) Policy & Guide

The SRRB provided a draft *Hıdó Gogha Sėnégots'ızá (Community Conservation Plan) Process and Components Guide* to the Parties and the public for review and comment on September 14, 2021. The SRRB received some comments that were helpful in preparing a revised document. In addition, the SRRB has further developed its Hıdó Gogha Sėnégots'ızá policy to certainty on the process for approval of plans and plan components. The updated *Hıdó Gogha Sėnégots'ızá (Plan for the Future) Policy & Guide* provided as Appendix A brings together the policy and guide as a single document. The SRRB asks Parties to review this document in preparing written and oral submissions for the April 25-29 PLS.

## PLS Submissions

The SRRB reminds all parties that all submissions for the Délıne 2021 Virtual PLS are available on the SRRB's public registry ([www.srrb.nt.ca](http://www.srrb.nt.ca)). Documents in the registry will be considered evidence and subject to the SRRB's assessment, along with oral submissions during the PLS. If parties intend to rely on a document in the PLS, it should be filed by April 22, the same deadline for written and/or slide presentations (Rules 10.1, 12.5).

## Toolkits and Technical Advisors

The SRRB engaged an Indigenous Knowledge Advisor (Janet Winbourne) and a Science Advisor (Colin Macdonald) to gather evidence relevant to the issues raised in the Délıne 2021 Virtual PLS. The Indigenous Knowledge and Science Toolkits were entered in the public registry on January 16, 2021 for parties to review. The Advisors will also present oral evidence at the PLS.

## Post-PLS Reminders and Timeline

The SRRB will have audio, video, and graphic recordings for the PLS, as well as a written transcript. Final written arguments are due **May 16, 2022**. The SRRB will advise if all materials required for decision-making have been received and if the record for the Délı̄ne 2021 Virtual PLS is closed by **May 20, 2022**.

### Timeline

April 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teleconference #3</li><li>• Deadline for written and/or slide presentations</li></ul>
April 25-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Délı̄ne 2021 Virtual ʔelets'ewéhkwe Godı (Public Listening Session)</li></ul>
May 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deadline for Final Written Arguments</li></ul>

### Parties

The parties who have been granted standing in the Délı̄ne 2021 Virtual PLS are confirmed and on the registry (Rules 8.5, 8.6). For each Sahtú community, Parties will be grouped as a single Panel for the PLS agenda. The SRRB reminds stakeholders, particularly harvesters and rights-holders from neighbouring regions, of its long-standing invitation to consider registering to participate in the PLS and these important discussions.

#### *Sahtú Community Panels*

Délı̄ne Panel: Délı̄ne Got'ı̄ne Government, Délı̄ne ʔehdzo Got'ı̄ne (Renewable Resources Council)

Colville Lake Panel: Ayoni Keh Land Corporation, Behdzi Ahda First Nation, Colville Lake Renewable Resources Council

Fort Good Hope Panel: Fort Good Hope Deshı̄ta Got'ı̄neke (Renewable Resources Council)

Norman Wells Panel: Norman Wells Renewable Resources Council

Tulıt'a Panel: *Community organisational Parties unspecified*

#### *Other Parties*

*Listed alphabetically*

Anne-Marie Jackson  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society NWT  
Chapter (CPAWS-NWT)  
Dene Nation  
GNWT Environment and Natural Resources  
Indigenous Leadership Initiative

Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat and Inuvialuit  
Game Council  
Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association  
Lucy Jackson  
Lutsël K'é Dene First Nation  
Sahtú Youth Network  
Tı̄chq Government

### Contact Us!

Please do not hesitate to contact the SRRB at (780) 686-5318 or [info@srrb.nt.ca](mailto:info@srrb.nt.ca) if you have any questions or if you would like more information.

# APPENDIX A: Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á (Plans for the Future) Policy & Guide v2



Submitted for review by Parties to the Dė́lınė 2021 Tė́lets'ewė́hkwé Godı́ Virtual Public Listening Session

## Executive Summary

This *Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á (Plans for the Future - HGS) Policy & Guide* provides clarity and direction relating to the development and review of *HGS – Plans for the Future*. The outlines the HGS policy and principles, provides an overview of key terminology in *Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á*, clarifies the review and approval process, presents information and guidance on undertaking an HGS process, and defines what components should be included in the final written plan.

### *Background*

Over the seven years since the 2016 Bluenose East Tė́kwė́ Hearing in Dė́lınė, the Tehdzó Got'ı́nė Gots'ė́ Nákedı́ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board – SRRB) has been developing guidelines around the process and components of completed HGS plans. This *HGS Policy & Guide* has evolved as part of learning about wise customs and practices in conservation and from guidance from the Sahtú communities. This attempts to distill the SRRB's learning on these topics and provide guidance to communities who will be undertaking a *Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á* process. The SRRB invites comments and feedback on this *HGS Policy & Guide* through the second Public Listening Session.

### *HGS Policy*

*Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á (Plans for the Future - HGS)* are viable conservation approaches that can be more effective, more rights-compliant and community-led alternatives to harvest limits. HGS are community-based, rights-compliance governance frameworks, reflecting and respecting local customs and practices. HGS should be the priority response to wildlife conservation concerns in the Sahtú region.

The SRRB's HGS Policy is guided by three interdependent principles that inform community-led plans in the Sahtú region:

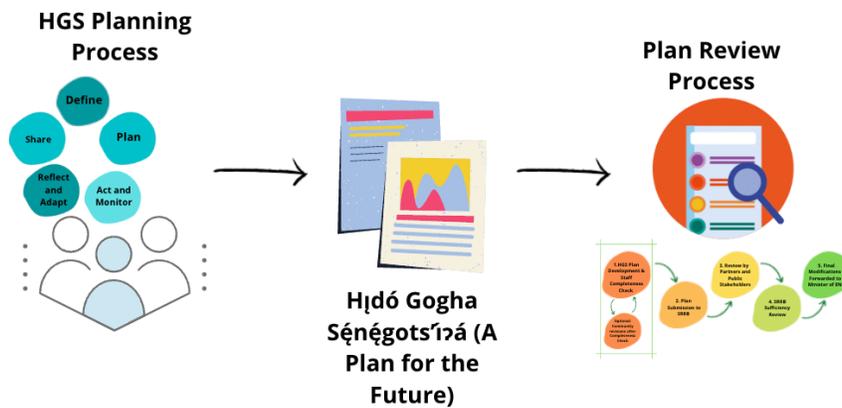
1. Tė́ası́ Godı́ hé Dene Ts'ı́ı́ hé (Biocultural Diversity)
2. Tė́dets'ė́ K'áokerewe (Self-Regulation)
3. Godı́ Kehtsı́ (Ethical Space)

The SRRB is responsible for approving plans for wildlife, habitat and harvesting. The *HGS Policy & Guide* outlines the SRRB's policy and process for plan approval.

*HGS Process, the Written Plan, and the Review Process*

When communities decide to complete an HGS, they will undertake a planning process. This planning process will likely follow through several phases and will include extensive community engagement. Many conversations will be hosted to make important decisions for the future. This *HGS Policy & Guide* provides guidance on what sorts of questions should be asked throughout the process to ensure that the plan is complete. Once the plan is finalized, it will then be submitted to the SRRB for the Plan Review Process.

The SRRB expects that learning about wildlife conservation, the landscape, and Sahtú people will continue to evolve and will inform HGS processes and final plans. This will continue to evolve alongside this learning.



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## Introduction

Wildlife co-management must accord with the objectives of Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (SDMCLCA). The SDMCLCA envisions a conservation system that is, along with other objectives, aligned with the customs and practices of Dene and Métis beneficiaries, and supports their meaningful participation in wildlife planning and co-management.

The ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę́ Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB) is supporting the development of Hı́dó Gogha Sę́nęgots'ı́á (Plans for the Future - HGS) for wildlife conservation in the Sahtú region, with additional support from Environment and Nature Resources (ENR).

Hı́dó Gogha Sę́nęgots'ı́á, the title the SRRB has adopted for this approach to planning, is a Dene phrase meaning “Plans for the Future.” Hı́dó Gogha Sę́nęgots'ı́á can be rights-compliant, community-led approaches that are viable and effective in addressing SDMCLCA objectives for wildlife, habitat and harvesting. Developing and achieving formal approval of an HGS may lead to all kinds of community-based, rights-compliant initiatives by communities, with recognition and support by regional and territorial authorities.

Currently, the main focus of the conservation planning that occurs in the Sahtú is caribou. This is reflected in the five hot topics of the 2020-2024 Public Listening Series, which relate to caribou but also recognize the holistic nature of wildlife conservation. The SRRB recognizes that HGS may be used to respond to a wide variety of conservation concerns and also expects that new issues will emerge over time. The SRRB expects that the *Hı́dó Gogha Sę́nęgots'ı́á (Plans for the Future - HGS) Policy & Guide* will be adapted accordingly.

The five hot topics of the 2020-2024 Public Listening Series are:

- Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting - “What is the most effective way to regulate the harvest of caribou?”. Based on PLS #1 in 2020, specific questions relating to this topic has been developed. This can be found in Appendix 2.
- Tı́ch'ádıı hé Gots'edı (Living with Wildlife): Caribou Predators and Competitors - “What should people’s role be in maintaining healthy relationships between caribou and other wildlife?”
- Caribou, Wildfires and Climate Change - “What should people’s role be in addressing climate change impacts in caribou landscapes, including wildfires?”
- Knowledge about Caribou and Landscapes - “How can knowledge and planning support caribou conservation?”
- Caribou and the Mixed Economy - “How can people and caribou live well together?”

HGS is a process for decolonizing and working towards reconciliation in wildlife conservation. It involves innovative cross-cultural, on the land, and youth-centered approaches, and supports training, leadership development, and jobs for Sahtú beneficiaries. The HGS approach requires

decision-makers, including the SRRB, to work closely with harvesters, leadership organizations, and community members including youth in the five communities of the Sahtú region.

Planning is a process that results in a document called a plan. A plan guides conservation activities. Having a completed plan is a way to gain recognition and support for the work that needs to be done, including formal approval by decision-makers under the co-management framework defined by the SDMCLCA. Decision-makers are local governance bodies, the SRRB, and the responsible government Minister.

The SRRB supports the idea that the planning process should be defined by the community. Planning processes can be an important opportunity for community members, leaders, and others to come together and discuss what is most important for the future. The hope is that these discussions will inform the development of the plan components and ultimately, the final plan.

This document provides an overview of HGS policy and principles, key terminology in Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á, information and guidance on undertaking an HGS process, and an outline of what should be included in the final written plan.

The SRRB does not tell communities what process or format they should use for developing an HGS, but the SRRB will have to determine if it approves an HGS. HGS review and approval occur according to the HGS Policy outlined in this document.

As well, HGS are meant to be reviewed, updated, amended, or added to as time goes by. A review might be prompted by the community, or by the SRRB, GNWT, or other parties. Communities have to be able to make changes to HGS and, where appropriate, explain those changes. If a community already has an HGS in place, this *HGS Policy & Guide* may provide an opportunity to review and update it.

## Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á Policy

The Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á Policy sets out the foundational values for conservation planning in the Sahtú region. It also addresses how the SRRB will review and approve proposed HGS. The is meant to clarify the SRRB's process for reviewing an HGS, support co-management partners' coordination around HGS, and facilitate decision-making under the SDMCLCA where Community Conservation Planning is concerned.

### HGS Policy

Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á (Plans for the Future - HGS) are viable conservation approaches that can be more effective, more rights-compliant and community-led alternatives to harvest limits. HGS are community-based, rights-compliance governance frameworks, reflecting and respecting local customs and practices. HGS should be the priority response to wildlife conservation concerns in the Sahtú region.

## HGS Principles

The SRRB's HGS Policy is guided by three interdependent principles that inform community-led plans in the Sahtú region.

- 4. ʔasí Godí hé Dene Ts'ı́lı́ hé (Biocultural Diversity)** - Dene expect decisions that affect them to account for ʔasí godí hé Dene ts'ı́lı́ hé (all living things and Dene ways of being).
- 5. ʔedets'é K'áokerewe (Self-Regulation)** - In Dene ʔeʔá (law) people and wildlife are called upon to respect each other's autonomy as a basis for social cohesion and survival in a harsh environment through ʔedets'é k'áots'erewe.
- 6. Godı Kehtsı́ (Ethical Space)** - Dene and Métis participation in conservation efforts with Government depends on godı kehtsı́ (fair consideration or coming together of diverse perspectives), including science and Indigenous knowledge through ʔełexé ʔeghálats'eda (collaborative) systems of accountability.

## HGS Review and Approval

### HGS Review Process

**HGS Plan Development and Staff Completeness Check:** With support from SRRB and ENR staff (as requested by the community), a community will develop an HGS. When communities have a completed HGS, they will submit it to SRRB staff for a completeness check. SRRB staff will identify any gaps or issues, and provide comments related to SRRB's review responsibilities. This staff completeness check occurs according to the HGS Components outlined in Appendix 1. SRRB staff will indicate if any gaps are present in the plan and communities will have the opportunity to make any additions or edits prior to the official plan submission. The community must also go through a community approval process.

- 1. HGS Plan Submission to SRRB:** Following a staff completeness assessment of the proposed HGS, the proposed HGS may be submitted as a PLS submission or hearing submission



Figure 1: HGS Review Process

according to the SRRB's Rules for Hearings, with notice to parties and the opportunity to comment.

- 2. Review by Co-management Partners and Public Stakeholders:** The SRRB will provide co-management partners and the public the opportunity to review the proposed HGS. The party submitting an HGS should consider any comments and suggestions from other co-management partners or the public on the proposed HGS and provide responses where appropriate.
- 3. SRRB's Review:** The SRRB will conduct a sufficiency review of the proposed HGS. The SRRB will rely on this, specifically Appendix 1, for its sufficiency review and give reasons for its decision. In this review, the SRRB will consider questions and comments posed in the co-management partner review process, as well as the responses of the party submitting a proposed HGS. See 'HGS Approval' section for further information on approval considerations.
- 4. HGS Final Modifications:** Co-management partners who propose an HGS may be invited to make modifications to their HGS prior to an SRRB final decision in order to make changes prompted by the PLS or hearing process or on the basis of a Ministerial response within the SDMCLCA decision-making process.

#### *HGS Approval*

The SRRB will make a decision on a proposed HGS on the basis of the evidence before it, including questions, responses, or comments on a proposed HGS. Each HGS is distinct and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In order to approve an HGS, the SRRB relies on its authority the main instrument of wildlife management in the Sahtú Settlement Area. An exercise of SRRB's authority is according to its mandate, fulfilling the objectives of the SDMCLCA, and recognizing the central importance of wildlife to Sahtú Dene and Métis. SRRB's decisions on HGS are subject to Ministerial approval. The SRRB is limited to decisions within its authority.

The SRRB is providing the *HGS Policy & Guide* to promote consistency and provide clarity around the exercise of its discretion to approve an HGS. Any decision to approve an HGS has to be made so co-management partners and the public are aware of how the SRRB proceeded and how the SRRB took account of relevant considerations in making its decision. The SRRB provides reasons for its decisions. Reasons are intended to be sufficient to support the exercise of discretion, demonstrate the reasons are supported by facts, and whether a decision to approve an HGS is understandable and justifiable in the circumstances.

The SRRB will consider whether an HGS responds to the Components outlined in this *Policy & Guide*. The SRRB will refer to the questions in the Appendix of the when it considers the sufficiency of any HGS Component. An HGS must sufficiently respond to an HGS Component on the basis of the review record, taking account of comments from other co-management

partners on the proposed HGS and any response of the community proposing the HGS to those comments. The SRRB may recommend changes, or set conditions, prior to approving an HGS.

When reviewing a completed plan, the SRRB will also consider the following overarching questions:

- **Planning Process:** How was the plan developed? How was the community involved?
- **Plan Approval:** Has the plan been approved by community leadership organizations? This must include ʔehdzo Got'ıne (Renewable Resource Councils), and/or other designated bodies as defined by each community.
- **Plan Components:** Does the plan address the HGS components? If components are missing or not addressed, is there a reason?
- **Supporting Information:** Do CCP components include sufficient supporting information?

Appendix 1 provides more detail about HGS Components and the kinds of supporting information the SRRB will be looking for related to each HGS Component when a proposed HGS is submitted to the SRRB. If the SRRB receives a submission for a proposed HGS Component, it will proceed using the same approach for review. For the purposes of this guide, when referring to a completed plan, this also relates to the submission of a completed HGS component.

If an HGS is approved by the SRRB, it will be forwarded to the Minister.

#### *Community Engagement in the HGS Process*

HGS processes must be community-led and owned. The HGS process facilitates the documentation of community-based customs and practices in wildlife conservation for the final plan. Developing a plan provides a structure for local and Indigenous knowledge and practices to be put forward to the SRRB for consideration in decision-making. The SRRB recognizes the importance and value of Sahtú Dene and Métis involvement in decisions about wildlife and landscapes.

The SRRB expects that HGS will be completed with extensive community input and involvement of community leadership. The SRRB recognizes and looks for ʔehdzo Got'ıne (Renewable Resource Council) leadership in HGS development. The SRRB acknowledges that it is up to each community to define their specific HGS process.

#### *HGS and Other Wildlife Conservation Approaches*

It is possible a proposed HGS will include aspects that are different from other wildlife conservation approaches, including laws and regulations.

A proposed HGS has to address conflict with existing laws and regulations, SRRB feedback, and consider other co-management partner feedback. The SRRB may consider ongoing efforts to resolve, minimize, or address conflicts (with progress indicators, accountability measures and/or formal agreements) where conflict between an HGS and other approaches cannot be avoided. If the conflict comes from the proposed HGS, the community proposing the HGS

should explain or otherwise justify why the conflict should not be a barrier to its HGS being approved. It is also important to note any places where the current regulatory framework in the Sahtú may not support the HGS as this will require coordination with other stakeholders (for example, the Sahtú Land Use Planning Board).

## Terminology

The SRRB has been working to adopt culturally appropriate terminology, including the Dene language and English to better reflect the Sahtú approach to implementing the SDMCLCA. This has meant that, at times, the terminology must be discussed.

### *General Terms*

#### **Hjđó Gogha Sėnégots'ıá (Plans for the Future – HGS)**

HGS are community-based, rights-compliant governance frameworks, reflecting and respecting local customs and practices. AN HGS is a plan for how a community wants to address wildlife and landscape conservation in their district. HGS should be the priority response to wildlife conservation concerns in the Sahtú region. HGS contain multiple components that form the completed HGS.

#### **Public Listening Series**

The SRRB convenes a public hearing under its powers in section 13.8.21 of the SDMCLCA regarding wildlife co-management in the Sahtú. “Hearing” includes a hearing of a management proposal, the hearing of a motion, a written hearing, an electronic hearing, a joint hearing, public listening sessions, or any other proceeding that the Board deems to be a hearing, and all the procedures related to a hearing from the time when the Board issues a Notice of Hearing until the time when the Board issues a decision on the subject matter of the hearing. To achieve the goal of maximizing participation in this process and address concerns raised during previous hearings in the Sahtú region, the SRRB is using the term “public listening sessions” instead of hearings. Listening is intended to denote active acknowledgment and accommodation of the full range of evidence presented.

In April 2019, in response to conservation concerns about the three caribou ecotypes that inhabit or travel through the Sahtú region, the SRRB decided to undertake a series of five public listening (hearing) sessions to address the question “What is the most effective way to conserve caribou?”

#### **Co-management Partners**

The SRRB was created under Chapter 13 SDMCLCA as “the main instrument of wildlife management” in the Sahtú region, and oversees implementation of the collaborative management or co-management framework set out in the claim. The SCMCLCA outlines roles for local Renewable Resource Councils (ʔehdzo Got'ıne) and for government as co-management partners. As well, collaboration of wildlife management authorities across regions is envisioned for addressing conservation issues related to migratory species and transboundary landscapes.

## Public Stakeholders

Public stakeholders in conservation planning are the people and organizations involved in or affected by the community conservation planning process and can be directly or indirectly included in the decision-making process. In HGS, stakeholders typically include government representatives, representatives of interested organizations, scientists, and local users of resources in the Sahtú. These stakeholders often have very different positions and values that may be difficult to reconcile with the HGS.

### *Terms regarding the Process of Developing a Plan*

**HGS Process** – Hjdó Gogha Sėnégots’ı́á or HGS are developed through community-led processes, which have tended to proceed through different phases. Thinking about the planning process is a way of thinking about how a successful HGS can be developed. What meetings need to be held? What decisions need to be made? Who needs to be involved? How can you engage people who may be hard to reach? The process of developing an HGS is an opportunity to come together and plan for the future, while discussing the important questions and concepts that will be addressed in the final plan.

**HGS Phases** – During the HGS process, there are certain phases of developing a plan that a community usually works through, including:

- **Define** – Gather background information and define the current challenges and opportunities
- **Plan** – Together, define the Vision, Goals, and Actions in the plan. Develop a work plan for how to implement the plan and how to monitor progress. At this point, you can write the final plan.
- **Act and Monitor** – Work on implementing the plan. This stage is a lot of work and involves collaboration, creativity, and perseverance.
- **Reflect and Adapt** – Based on the progress implementing the plan, the plan may need to be updated or changed based on what you have learned.
- **Share** – Celebrate and share your results.

These phases help to guide the conversations and engagement during the planning process to make sure that everything is covered. The SRRB recognizes that communities will not necessarily start at the beginning and progress in a linear way through the planning process. Instead, communities will have likely already completed work from different planning phases and this information can be gathered and built upon in the final written plan.

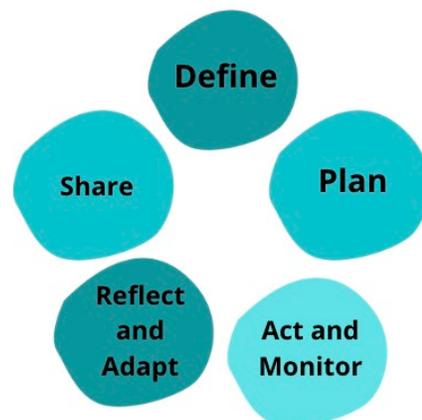


Figure 2: Phases in an HGS Process

### Terms regarding the Final Written Plan

**HGS Section** – The final written plan will be organized into chapters (or sections) that loosely correspond with the planning phases. This is a way to organize the plan to ensure that all of the important parts are included and nothing is missed.

**HGS Component** - HGS Components address key questions and concepts like the story of the planning process, background on the current challenges, the vision, goals, and actions in the plan, and how the plan will be implemented. AN HGS component refers to content that will be found within the final written plan. It usually includes supporting information. Taken together, all the HGS components make up a complete HGS.

**Supporting Information** - Each component generally needs to include supporting information in order to show that it has been fully considered and will be effective in achieving the conservation and stewardship goals that have been defined by the community. Guidance is provided in Appendix 1.

### The Planning Process, the Written Plan, and the Review Process

A community-led planning process leads to a completed HGS plan that can be submitted to the SRRB for review. One important consideration throughout the planning process is what content needs to be included in the HGS. This *HGS Policy & Guide* explains the criteria that the SRRB will look for when a completed HGS is submitted to the SRRB for review. In Appendix 1, each section and component of the final plan is described with multiple guiding questions meant to provide insight into what the component is about. Every plan will be different as it reflects the unique community or communities that completed the plan.

While the components in completed HGS will be assessed against the table in Appendix 1, the SRRB avoids prescriptions that might undermine community-led HGS processes. This means that communities should define **how** they go about completing their planning process, whether it be through forming a Caribou Committee, hosting open community engagement sessions, hiring a consultant, depending on local technical expertise, or any other approach that is

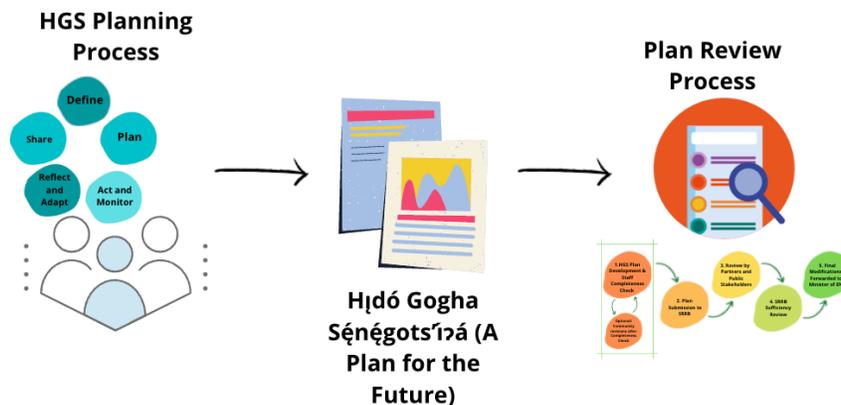


Figure 3: Steps for developing a plan

deemed appropriate. Planning processes can be a powerful tool for bringing the community together to define a common vision, goals, and actions for the future.

Based on the Sahtú experience so far, the SRRB has identified phases that a planning process usually goes through to gather the necessary information to write the final plan (see figure 2). However, planning processes often do not happen in such a linear way and each community session may address questions from different phases at different points in their process.

As communities go through their planning process, it will be helpful to refer often to the plan components table to ensure that all components are being considered and addressed. Each component of the plan is important because each provides information to justify the actions that the community has decided upon. The final plan brings these components together to tell the story of community governance in wildlife conservation, addressing the SDMCLCA's objectives.

The SRRB reminds parties that each proposed HGS coming before the SRRB is distinct and will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with the informing the SRRB's considerations. We expect this *HGS Policy and Guide* will evolve as we continue to work with HGS in the Sahtú.

The SRRB is developing additional resources and tools to support communities as they go through the planning process to develop the final plan. These tools will build on the work that has already been completed and aims to support planning capacity within Sahtú communities. In the meantime, this guide is meant to provide information on the planning process, and required elements for an HGS to be ready for submission and SRRB review.

## The Written Plan: Plan Sections and Components

As a community goes through a planning process, the content needed to write the components of the final plan will be gathered.

More details and guiding questions are provided in Appendix 1. The title of each component is provided below, organized by section of the plan.

### Our Story Section

*Tell the story of your community's plan, including key issues that set the stage for this planning process.*

### Components

- Plan Purpose and Scope
- Context and Background
- Current Challenges and Opportunities
- Knowledge and Values
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- Regulatory Supports

## Vision Section

*Present the Vision, Goals, and Actions needed to address issues affecting wildlife, the landscape, and people.*

### Components

- Vision and Goals
- Plan Actions

## Work Plan Section

*Based on the Vision section and the actions described within it, provide a work plan outlining who will do what and when to implement the plan.*

### Components

- Timelines
- Support for Implementation
- Resources for Implementation

## Monitoring and Evaluation Section

*Define how progress on the plan will be tracked, and how updates and changes to the plan will be made in the future.*

### Components

- Monitoring the Plan
- Monitoring Wildlife
- Plan Revisions

## Sharing Results Section

*Explain how the story about plan outcomes will be told.*

### Components

- Sharing results

## Appendix 1 - Writing the Final Plan - Hjdó Gogha Sėnégots'ıá Sections and Components

This appendix provides additional details about what to include in the final plan. All of these questions can be answered through the planning process and can act as a loose guide for what conversations can be hosted in your planning process.

The plan components are organized by section of the plan. Each plan component addresses a key overarching question, and includes additional questions to spark your thinking. These questions also point to the kinds of supporting information that the SRRB will be looking for in determining whether an HGS or HGS component is ready for review and will be used to ultimately approve an HGS. Once a community has completed their plan, they will be expected to follow the approval process set out earlier in this guide.

The SRRB recognizes that each planning process will be determined by communities, and will approach HGS Components and their final plan differently. This provides a predictable framework to support the work of Hjdó Gogha Sėnégots'ıá in the Sahtú region, while recognizing diversity in the contents of a community plan.

### Our Story Section

*This section compiles background information on the story of your community and key conservation issues that set the stage for this planning process.*

#### *Components and Guiding Questions*

<b>Plan Purpose and Scope - What is this plan trying to achieve? What is the key issue or issues that it will address?</b>
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why do you need a plan?</li> <li>- What values or principles guide this plan?</li> <li>- How will the plan help the community?</li> <li>- How does the plan meet the objectives of the SDMCLCA?</li> <li>- What do healthy relationships between wildlife, landscape, and humans look like?</li> <li>- Does the plan focus on a specific animal or issue?</li> </ul>
<b>Context and Background - Provide an overview of the status of wildlife, people, and planning in your area related to the plan issues.</b>
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What area does the plan cover? Are there other administrative units within the area? For example, hamlet/community, conservation areas, etc.</li> <li>- What is the history or status of planning for wildlife in your area?</li> <li>- What, if any, are the unique circumstances of the planning area?</li> <li>- What kinds of wildlife and landscapes are present where the plan applies?</li> <li>- What are the land use activities in the area?</li> <li>- What is the status of animals in your area? Does the plan account for other perspectives such as government abundance estimates?</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the harvesting activities in the area? Who harvests in the area?</li> <li>- What are the key strengths and challenges in the community relating to wildlife?</li> <li>- What are the conservation education activities available and the role of youth in them?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Current Challenges and Opportunities - What is the current situation for wildlife in your area?</b></p>
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the current challenges, key issues, and opportunities relating to wildlife conservation in your area?</li> <li>- What new or current information is prompting the plan?</li> <li>- What knowledge gaps will this plan address? What changes may threaten wildlife populations?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Knowledge and Values – What types of knowledge informed this plan?</b></p>
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the role of science (traditional, community, and western) in the plan?</li> <li>- What is the role of ɔ́ɔɔ (law) in the plan?</li> <li>- What are the practices, customs, stories, or knowledge that inform the plan?</li> <li>- What are the relevant Dene terms and concepts in this plan?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Engagement - Who was involved in developing the plan in the community?</b></p>
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who are the HGS authors / leaders / coordinators? Is it a person or body? What were their roles in developing the plan?</li> <li>- Was a steering or advisory committee formed or utilized? What was their role?</li> <li>- What community organizations were involved and what were their roles?</li> <li>- How did groups like youth, elders, women, and hunters within the community participate in the planning process?</li> <li>- Has the plan been approved by community leadership organizations? This must include ɔ́ehdzo Got'ɔ́ne (Renewable Resource Councils), and/or other designated bodies as defined by each community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stakeholder Involvement - How did the planning team engage with other stakeholders?</b></p>
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What neighbouring jurisdictions, governments or other stakeholders (such as ACCWM) were engaged? How were they engaged in the development of the plan? Does the plan account for, reflect or otherwise consider the potential actions for caribou conservation from the 2014 ACCWM Taking Care of Caribou Plan?</li> <li>- What is the response to the proposed plan from stakeholders? Were changes made to the plan or other actions taken as a result of stakeholder response?</li> <li>- How was the Government of the Northwest Territories informed about this planning process?</li> <li>- What does the plan include to address accountability for engagement with other stakeholders?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regulatory Supports - What issues, challenges, or opportunities arise with other regulatory bodies for habitat/landscape protection?</b></p>
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p>

- Are there regulatory conflicts with the plan? Does the plan explain the issue(s) and justify the proposed action(s)?
- Does the plan identify any important habitat or landscape that are not currently protected under the Sahtú Land Use Plan or other regional land use plans in neighbouring areas?
- How did the collaboration with other community institutions contribute to overcoming the identified challenge(s)?

## Vision Section

*This section will present the action plan for how the community will steward wildlife, the landscape, and people. This includes the Vision, Goals, and Actions.*

### Components and Guiding Questions

#### **Vision and Goals - What are the vision and goals in the plan?**

*The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:*

- What is the vision for the future?
- What are the main goals in the plan? Why are these important / why were they chosen?
- How do the goals relate to or address the conservation challenges you are facing?

#### **Plan Actions - What actions are planned for wildlife conservation?**

*The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:*

- What specific actions will be taken to meet the vision and goals? How were actions decided on?

*When deciding on your actions, here are some questions to consider:*

- How will knowledge gaps be filled with these actions?
- What is the strategy to build capacity in your community as you address these actions?
- How will these actions reduce challenges or threats?
- What will be done to promote compliance with the plan?

If the HGS relates specifically to caribou, please refer to Appendix 2 for specific questions on harvest regulations.

## Work Plan Section

*Based on the Vision section and the actions described within it, provide a work plan outlining who will do what and when to implement the plan.*

### Components and Guiding Questions

#### **Timelines - What are the timelines and steps for putting the plan into action?**

*The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:*

- What steps need to be taken to complete each action? When will these happen?
- How will progress be tracked?
- Has there been any progress to date? (Some work may be already ongoing)

#### **Support for Implementation - Who is involved in implementing the HGS?**

*The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:*

- Who is responsible for the plan's implementation? How will they implement the plan?
- Who will participate in the plan's implementation? Is there a variety of community groups involved?
- Who is interested in hearing about progress on the plan's implementation? How will they be informed about the plan's implementation?

**Resources for Implementation - What resources are needed to implement the plan?**

*The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:*

- How will sufficient resources (such as funding, staff or technical capacity, etc.) to support plan implementation be accessed?
- Are there gaps in resourcing for the plan? Please identify.

## Monitoring Section

*This section will define how progress on the plan will be tracked, and how updates and changes to the plan will be made in the future.*

### *Components and Guiding Questions*

**Monitoring the Plan - How will you know that the plan is meeting its vision and goals?**

*The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:*

- How will monitoring of the plan's implementation occur? Who will conduct monitoring?
- How will actions be measured? What are the indicators that will show us positive or negative progress?
- How will actions from the plan be recognized as successful or not?
- What will happen if actions are not successful?
- What is your plan to assess how well did people did in complying with the plan (if applicable)?

**Monitoring Wildlife - How will the status of wildlife and people be monitored?**

*The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:*

- How and when will monitoring of caribou and other wildlife occur? Who will conduct monitoring?
- What indicators will be used to assess how things are going?
- How will harvesting be monitored? How will regulations be enforced? (See appendix 2 for further questions on this topic)

**Plan Revisions - How and when will the plan be evaluated and updated?**

*The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:*

- How will you decide if the plan itself needs to be revised? Who will be responsible for making these changes?
- Are there specific triggers or minimum time periods for plan review?
- How will plan revisions get made?

## Sharing Results Section

*This section of the plan will explain how the story about the outcomes of the plan will be told.*

### *Components and Guiding Questions*

**Sharing Results - How will you share the results of your plan?**

*The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:*

- How will the story of the plan be shared – including impacts of actions taken and lessons learned?
- How will monitoring information be shared?
- Who are the audiences to target (i.e. your community, SRRB, other stakeholders, etc.)?

## Appendix 2 – Harvest Regulation and HGS

Harvest regulation is a topic that requires significant work and careful consideration because of how it effects the whole system of co-management. Communities in the Sahtú have been working diligently to establish regulations relating to caribou harvest and this is often included in HGS plans or plan components.

The SRRB proposes the following questions to guide this work:

- How will the plan address caribou conservation with respect to caribou harvest regulation?
  - o For example, drawing on the Colville 2020 PLS, the SRRB will look for the following kinds of information in an HGS related to harvest management:
    - Caribou and harvest monitoring
    - Hunter and youth education and training
    - Harvest areas/seasons
    - Methods for managing harvesting
    - Harvesting practices and meat handling protocols
    - Harvest sharing protocols and agreements with other users within and beyond the Sahtú
    - Harvest reporting
    - Enforcement measures

As the Public Listening Series unfolds and the hot topics are addressed, further questions may be presented by the SRRB for consideration by communities.

## Appendix 3– HGS Background

HGS is a Sahtú-specific adaptation of the Healthy Country Planning model developed by Australian Indigenous people. HGS also draws upon other planning processes like *Taking Care of Caribou: Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East Barren-Ground Caribou Herds Management Plan* developed by the ACCWM (Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management), the NWT Recovery Plan for Boreal Caribou, and the Federal Management Plan for Mountain Caribou. HGS considers the SRRB’s obligations under the SDMCLCA and is informed by conversations with Sahtú communities.

To date, three community conservation plans have been developed by Sahtú communities: Délı̨ne’s *Belare Wı̨le Gots’ę ęekwę – Caribou for All Time* plan (2016), Colville’s *Dehlá Got’ı̨ne ęada Plan and Ts’ı̨duweh ęada ęeá* (2020), and the Nı̨o Nę P’ęęę Begháre Shúhta Goęepę Narehąá – *Trails of the Mountain Caribou* plan that was forged through a partnership of Tulıt’a,

Norman Wells and neighbouring Tu Łidlini (Ross River, Yukon Territory). There has been a lot of support for more planning work among the five Sahtú communities, both led by individual communities and including coordination and agreements among communities.

Over the five years since the 2016 Bluenose East ʔekwé Hearing in Délıne, the SRRB has been developing guidelines around the process and components of an HGS. This has evolved as part of learning about wise customs and practices in conservation.

Caribou have been the focal point of planning so far, but these plans are likely to be broader and more holistic than single species plans. The SRRB recognizes that HGS is connected to food security planning, the stewardship of other wildlife and wildlife landscapes, cultural expression, and many other aspects of Sahtú Dene and Métis life. In order to be effective, the SRRB expects that the scope and focus of the HGS will continue to evolve as the planning work progresses and the landscape changes.

Most recently, through the Public Listening Series, Sahtú communities have been engaging with HGS in a modular way, focused on the following hot topics:

- Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting - “What is the most effective way to regulate the harvest of caribou?”
- Tıch'ádıı hé Gots'edı (Living with Wildlife): Caribou Predators and Competitors - “What should people’s role be in maintaining healthy relationships between caribou and other wildlife?”
- Caribou, Wildfires and Climate Change - “What should people’s role be in addressing climate change impacts in caribou landscapes, including wildfires?”
- Knowledge about Caribou and Landscapes - “How can knowledge and planning support caribou conservation?”
- Caribou and the Mixed Economy - “How can people and caribou live well together?”

The SRRB expects that learning about these topics and others will continue to evolve and inform HGS processes and final plans.

## APPENDIX B: Modified Order of Events

### Modified Order of Events (from Schedule I, SRRB Rules for Hearings)

*Schedule I: Order of Events at a Public Hearing of the ʔehdzo Got'ıne Ǿots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)*

- 1) Opening Prayer
- 2) Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3) Introduction of Board Members, Board Staff and Technical Consultants
- 4) Introduction of the Parties
- 5) Review of Agenda for the Hearing
- 6) Preliminary and Procedural Matters (if any)
- 7) Acknowledgement of Written Submissions
- MODIFIED** 8) Presentations from Parties
- MODIFIED** 9) Questions and Comments from Parties on Presentations (repeated for each presentation)
- MODIFIED** 10) Comments from the Public
- 11) Closing Remarks
- 12) Adjournment of the Hearing
- 13) Closing Prayer

## APPENDIX C: Agenda for the Déljñę 2021 Virtual PLS

The SRRB provided Procedural Guidance and an Agenda on December 17, 2021. The Procedural Guidance remains valid and unchanged. The Agenda has been updated with revised dates.

It is still expected that participants will gather in community bubbles each day at 9:00 am so that technical issues can be addressed and the proceeding can start promptly at 9:30 am. The schedule provides for two-hour sessions each morning and afternoon, with a lunch break. If needed, there will be other health breaks during each day. Breaks will be called where there are suitable opportunities in the agenda.

### Monday, April 25

9:00 *Community bubble gathering, Party preparations, and technical checks*

9:30 *Opening prayer*  
Chair and Déljñę Co-Host Opening Comments  
Introductions  
Review of Public Listening Agenda and Procedures  
Acknowledgement of Written Submissions  
Overview of key terminology and concepts  
Presentation by Déljñę Panel (1 hour)  
Parties' Questions/Comments (15 min. each)  
*Closing prayer*

### Tuesday, April 26

9:00 *Community bubble gathering, Party preparations, and technical checks*

9:30 *Opening prayer*  
Agenda, key terminology and concepts  
Presentations by Sahtú communities (30 min. each)  
Parties' Questions/Comments (15 min. each)

- Colville Lake Panel
- Fort Good Hope Panel

*Closing prayer*

### Wednesday, April 27

9:00 *Community bubble gathering, Party preparations, and technical checks*

9:30 *Opening prayer*  
Agenda, key terminology and concepts  
Presentations by Sahtú communities (30 min. each)  
Parties' Questions/Comments (15 min. each)

- Norman Wells Panel
- Tulít'a Panel

*Closing prayer*

## Thursday, April 28

9:00 *Community bubble gathering, Party preparations, and technical checks*

9:30 *Opening prayer*

Agenda, key terminology and concepts

Presentation by NWT Environment & Natural Resources (1 hour)

Parties' Questions/Comments (15 min. each)

Presentations on Indigenous Knowledge and Science Toolkits (Janet Winbourne and Colin Macdonald) (1 hour); Parties' Questions (15 min. each)

*Closing prayer*

## Friday, April 29

9:00 *Community bubble gathering, Party preparations, and technical checks*

9:30 *Opening prayer*

Agenda, key terminology and concepts

Presentations by visiting Parties and the public

Closing remarks by the Panels/Parties

SRRB Closing Comments

*Closing prayer*

## Contact Us!

Please do not hesitate to contact the SRRB at (780) 686-5318 or [info@srrb.nt.ca](mailto:info@srrb.nt.ca) if you have any questions or you would like more information.

