

Délıne 2021 ʔelets'éhkwé Godı
Public Listening Session (PLS) Update

Timelines and Draft *Hıdó Gogha* *Sénégots'ızá Process & Components Guide*



Délıne 2021
Public Listening
Tıch'ádıı hé Gots'edı
Living with Wildlife



Notice to Sahtú leaders and the public, **September 14, 2021**

It's been a difficult time since the COVID-19 outbreak began in the Sahtú region in mid-August. We're all still mourning the death of Dehlá Gotıne elder Gabe Kochon. At the same time, community members have shown amazing support for each other, and it seems like an end may be in sight. We look forward to resuming the PLS process again soon. This update includes an update on the PLS timeline, and a draft updated *Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'ızá (Community Conservation Plan) Process and Components Guide* for review by the Parties.

Timeline

The current outbreak came at a critical time in the schedule for parties to prepare for the PLS. On August 31, the SRRB cancelled the Regional Planning Workshop. Further, we have received a number of requests for an extension to the deadline for Round 2 Responses to Information Requests. Knowing that it has been impossible for Sahtú community Parties to hold meetings, we have decided to accommodate these requests. **The SRRB will issue a revised PLS timeline as soon as possible.**

Draft Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'ızá (Community Conservation Plan) Process and Components Guide

The SRRB is supporting the development of *Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'ızá (Community Conservation Plans – CCP)* in the Sahtú region for caribou conservation. Over the five years since the 2016 Bluenose East ʔekwé hearing in Délıne, the SRRB has been developing the process and components that together make a complete plan. This has evolved as part of learning about wise customs and practices in conservation.

The SRRB has prepared an updated *Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'ızá (Community Conservation Plan) Process and Components Guide* for review by Sahtú leaders and the public, appended to this notice. **We welcome feedback in writing or orally.** The deadline for comment will be included with the revised PLS timeline.

Contact Us!

For more information, contact Catarina Owen at info@srrb.nt.ca or (780) 686-5318.

Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́ǰá (Community Conservation Plan Guide) Guide: Process and Components



September 14, 2021

Prepared by Pehdzo Got'ı́nė́ Gots'ė́ Nákedı́ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB). Please submit written comments to info@srrb.nt.ca or oral comments to 867-588-4040. Oral comments will be validated in writing. Timeline for comment to be confirmed.

Introduction

The Pehdzo Got'ı́nė́ Gots'ė́ Nákedı́ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB) is supporting the development of Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́ǰá (Community Conservation Plans – CCP) for caribou conservation in the Sahtú region. Planning is a **process** that results in a document. A planning document guides conservation activities. It is also a means for gaining recognition and support for the plan, including formal approval by decision-makers under the co-management framework defined by the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (SDMCLCA). Decision-makers are local governance bodies, the SRRB, and the Government of the NWT.

As “the main instrument of wildlife management” in the Sahtú region, the SRRB has an important responsibility in approving CCP. The SRRB has developed this draft guide so that all parties are aware of and can comment on expectations for a plan that is ready for SRRB approval. **CCP components** are the pieces of a CCP that the SRRB will look for when it receives and reviews a proposed CCP. Components address key questions, and include supporting information like the story of the planning process, topics to be addressed in a plan, and actions to be taken.

The SRRB does not tell communities what process or format they should use for a CCP, but the SRRB will have to determine if it approves a CCP. It's important for all parties and the public to be aware of the SRRB's expectations in reviewing plans before they are submitted for approval.

This guide is a new summarized explanation of CCP process and components. The SRRB will use this guide to consider CCPs submitted to the SRRB for review. The guide is intended to assist parties during the process of preparing, reviewing, and implementing a CCP.

CCP are meant to be reviewed, updated, amended, or added to as time goes by. Review might be prompted by the community, or by the SRRB, GNWT, or other parties. Communities have to

be able to make changes to CCP and, where appropriate, explain those changes. If a community already has a CCP in place, this guide may provide an opportunity to review and update it.

Background

Wildlife co-management must accord with the objectives of SDMCLCA. The SDMCLCA envisions a conservation system that is aligned with the customs and practices of Dene and Métis beneficiaries, and supports their meaningful participation in wildlife planning and co-management. Hjdó Gogha Sénégots'ígá (Community Conservation Plans – CCP) can be rights-compliant, community-led conservation approaches that can be viable and effective in addressing SDMCLCA objectives.

In recent years, caribou conservation concerns have become increasingly acute. The SRRB has encouraged communities in the Sahtú to prepare CCP focused on caribou conservation, and has planned a series of five Public Listening Sessions (Hearings – PLS) to discuss key caribou conservation “hot topics.”

Hjdó Gogha Sénégots'ígá, the title we've adopted for CCP, is a Dene phrase meaning “planning for the future.” Developing and maintaining a CCP may lead to all kinds of community-based, rights-compliant conservation initiatives. While the current focus is on caribou conservation, the SRRB recognizes that CCPs may be used to respond to a wide variety of conservation concerns. Communities may wish to broaden the scope of planning as time goes on, and the SRRB expects that the *CCP Process and Components Guide* will be adapted accordingly.

CCP is a Sahtú-specific adaptation of the Healthy Country Planning model developed by Australian Indigenous peoples. CCP 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. CCP considers the SRRB's obligations under the SDMCLCA, and is informed by conversations with Sahtú communities.

CCP is a process for decolonizing and reconciliation in wildlife conservation. It involves innovative cross-cultural, on the land and youth-centred approaches, and supports training, leadership development, and jobs for Sahtú beneficiaries. The CCP approach requires decision-makers, including the SRRB, to work closely with harvesters, leadership organizations, and youth in the five communities of the Sahtú region.

To date, three community conservation plans have been developed by Sahtú communities: Déljñę's *Belare Wile Gots'ę ʔekwę – Caribou for All Time* plan (2016), Colville's *Dehlá Got'jñę ʔada Plan and Ts'jduweh ʔada ʔeʔá* (2020), and the Nío Nę P'ęñę *Begháré Shúhta Goʔepę Narehǎ – Trails of the Mountain Caribou* plan that was forged through a partnership of Tulít'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 Délı̨ne, the SRRB has been developing the process and minimum required components for a CCP to be ready for submission and SRRB review. 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 CCPs are likely to be broader than single species plans. The SRRB recognizes that CCP is connected to food security planning, the stewardship of other wildlife and wildlife landscapes, and cultural expression. In order to be effective, the SRRB expects that the scope and focus of the CCPs will continue to evolve as the planning work progresses and the landscape changes.

Process, Components and Supporting Information

This guide brings together and briefly explains the process and components that are used to assess CCPs submitted to the SRRB for review. The guide is intended to provide a predictable structure for confirming when a CCP is ready to be reviewed for approval. While a CCP must be assessed against certain criteria, the SRRB avoids prescriptions that might undermine community-led CCP processes.

Based on the Sahtú experience so far, the SRRB has identified five “**phases**” that a planning process will go through. In each phase, the planning team will be addressing certain questions or issues, and this work will result in plan “**components.**” Each component needs to include supporting “**information**” in order to show that each component has been fully considered and will be effective in achieving conservation goals. The appendix provides more details about the kinds of supporting information that the SRRB will be looking for related to each component.

Each phase and component of the plan is important because it provides information that helps to justify the actions that the community has decided upon. The CCP brings these together to tell the story of community governance in caribou conservation, addressing the SDMCLCA’s objectives.

The SRRB reminds parties that each CCP coming before the SRRB is distinct and will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with the *CCP Process and Components Guide* informing the SRRB’s work. We expect this guide will evolve as we proceed through the five part PLS series.

The SRRB is working to develop additional resources and tools to support communities as they undertake CCP processes. These will build on the work that has already been completed, and will aim to support the development of planning capacity within Sahtú communities. These tools will break down how to facilitate a planning process, based on the requirements for CCPs. In the meantime, this guide is meant to provide background on CCP, and guidance on the minimum required elements for a CCP to be ready for submission and SRRB review.

Terminology

The SRRB has been adopting 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.

Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á (Community Conservation Plan – CCP) - CCPs are community-based, rights-compliant governance frameworks, reflecting and respecting local customs and practices. CCP should be the priority response to wildlife conservation concerns in the Sahtú region.

CCP Process – CCPs are developed through community-led processes, which have tended to proceed through different phases. Thinking about process is a way of thinking about how a successful CCP can be developed.

CCP component - CCP components are the pieces of a CCP that the SRRB will look for when it receives and reviews a proposed CCP. Components address key questions, and include supporting information like the story of the planning process, topics to be addressed in a plan, and how the plan will be implemented.

Policy and Principles

Policy Statement

In fulfillment of its role as main instrument, the SRRB undertook work on Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á (Community Conservation Plans – CCPs) to enhance the understanding, respect and consideration of traditional and local knowledge in wildlife management. Based on evidence presented at the Déłı́nė 2016 Bluenose East ʔekwé Hearing and Colville 2020 Public Listening Session, the SRRB released a policy statement regarding CCP in March 2021:

Hı́dó Gogha Sė́nė́gots'ı́á (CCPs) are viable conservation approaches that can be more effective, more rights-compliant and more community-led, and should be considered before and in place of total allowable harvest limits, which are only to be used when required and to the extent necessary.

CCPs are community-based, rights-compliant governance frameworks reflecting and respecting local customs and practices. CCP should be the priority response to wildlife conservation concerns in the Sahtú region.

Principles

The present CCP policy is guided by three interdependent principles that guide community-led plans in the Sahtú region.

1. **ʔası́ı́ Godı́ hé Dene Ts'ı́ı́ hé (Biocultural Diversity)** - Dene expect decisions that affect them to account for ʔası́ı́ godı́ hé Dene ts'ı́ı́ hé (all living things and Dene ways of being).

2. **ʔedets'ę 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'ę k'áots'erewe.
3. **Godı Kehtsı (Ethical Space)** - Dene and Métis participation in conservation efforts with Government depends on godı kehtsı (fair consideration or coming together of diverse perspectives), including science and Indigenous knowledge through ʔeʔexé ʔeghálats'eda (collaborative) systems of accountability.

Community Involvement

Hıdó Gogha Sėnégots'ıá (CCP) processes must be community led and owned. CCP facilitates the documentation of community-based customs and practices in wildlife conservation. CCP 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 CCPs will be completed with extensive community input and involvement of community leadership. The SRRB recognizes and looks for ʔehdzo Got'ıneę (Renewable Resource Council) leadership in CCP development. However the SRRB acknowledges that it is up to each community to define their specific CCP process.

The SRRB has noticed that communities in the Sahtú have had positive experiences with forming caribou committees that are comprised of a group of representatives from the various leadership organizations in the community, along with knowledge holders and youth. This helps to ensure that all organizations are involved and represented in the process.

SRRB Review and Approval Process for CCP

A proposed CCP has to be reviewed and approved by the SRRB before it is submitted to the Minister of ENR, who has ultimate authority for wildlife management. This process is set out in the SDMCLCA.

Decision Steps

1. Prior to CCP submission, communities will consult with SRRB staff. This will help the SRRB identify preliminary issues and provides comments related to SRRB review responsibilities.
2. Following staff assessment of the proposed CCP, the proposed CCP may be submitted as a PLS or hearing submission, with notice to parties and the opportunity to comment. The party submitting a CCP should consider any comments and suggestions from other parties on their CCP, and consider providing their response.
3. The SRRB will review the proposed CCP and provide opportunities for review by other co-management partners and the public. The SRRB will consider questions and issues posed in the review process, as well as the responses of the party submitting a CCP in its review. The

SRRB will rely on the *CCP Process and Components Guide* for its review and give reasons for its decision.

4. If a CCP is approved by the SRRB, it will be forwarded to the Minister.

Considerations

In its review of CCP, the SRRB will consider the following:

Process

- How was the plan developed?
- How was the community involved?
- Has the plan been approved by community leadership organizations? This must include ʔehdzo Got'ɪnɛ (Renewable Resource Councils), and/or other designated bodies as defined by each community.

Plan Components

- Does the plan address the CCP components? If components are missing or not addressed, is there a reason?

Supporting Information

- Do CCP components include supporting information?
- Is information provided in support of the plan reliable and relevant? This may include Indigenous, local and traditional knowledge (including stories), science, or some combination of all these.
- Submissions from other parties related to CCP components will also be considered.

Planning Phases

In this overview, the five planning phases are briefly described. The five phases include pre-planning, planning, action, learning, and sharing the story. A list of Hɪdó Gogha Sɛnɛgots'íɾá (CCP) components that arise from each phase is included here. More details are provided about the kinds of supporting information that the SRRB will look for in each component in the appendix.

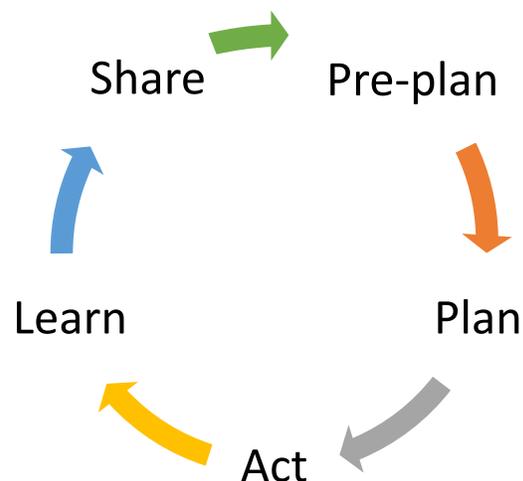


Figure 1: Planning Phases

Phase 1: Pre-Plan

Compile background information on key conservation issues to set the stage for planning.

Components (Questions Addressed)

- What is this plan trying to achieve?
- What is the current situation for caribou in your area?
- What is the context for the plan?
- Who needs to be involved in developing the plan?
- How will the planning team engage with the community and others?

Phase 2: Plan

Present the action plan for how the community will steward caribou and the landscape.

Components (Questions Addressed)

- What are the vision and goals? What is the plan for achieving the vision and goals?
- What actions are planned for caribou conservation?
- What issues (challenges or opportunities) arise with other regulatory bodies for habitat/landscape protection?

Phase 3: Act

Provide a workplan outlining who will do what, and when.

Components (Questions Addressed)

- What are the timelines for putting the plan into action?
- Who is involved?
- What resources are needed?

Phase 4: Learn

Define how plan success will be monitored, and how plan changes will be made in the future.

Components (Questions Addressed)

- How will you know the plan is meeting its vision and goals?
- How will the status of caribou and people be monitored?
- How and when will the plan be evaluated and updated?

Phase 5: Share

Explain how the story about plan outcomes will be told.

Components (Questions Addressed)

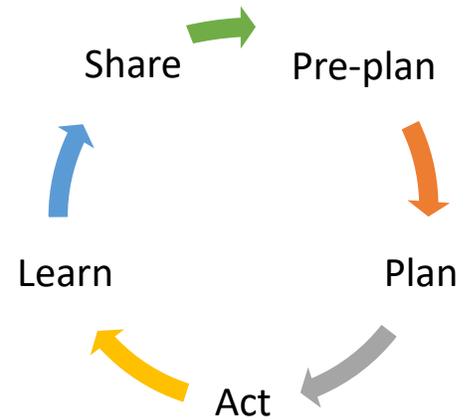
- How will you share the results of your plan?

APPENDIX

Hjdó Gogha Sėnégots'ígá (Community Conservation Plan)

Phases, Components, and Supporting Information

This appendix provides additional details about plan components that will result from each of the five planning phases. Each plan component addresses a key question, and includes certain kinds of supporting information that the SRRB will be looking for in determining whether a plan is ready for review. At the same time, the SRRB recognizes that each planning process will be determined by communities, and will address the key questions differently. This guide provides a predictable framework to promote the work of Hjdó Gogha Sėnégots'ígá in the Sahtú region, while also supporting diversity in the contents of each community plan.



Phase 1: Pre-plan

Present the action plan for how the community will steward caribou and the landscape.

Phase 1 Components (Questions Addressed) and Supporting Information

What is this plan trying to achieve?
<i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why do you need a plan? - What values or principles guide this plan? - How will the plan help the community? - How does the plan meet the objectives of the SDMCLCA? - What do healthy relationships between caribou and other wildlife look like?
What is the current situation for caribou in your area?
<i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What new or current information is prompting the plan? - What are the practices, customs, stories or knowledge that inform the plan? - What are the current challenges and opportunities relating to caribou conservation in your area? - What are the key issues and knowledge gaps that this plan will address? What changes may threaten caribou populations? - What are the key strengths and challenges in the community?
What is the context for the plan?
<i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What area does the plan cover? Are there other administrative units within the area? For example, hamlet/community, conservation areas, etc. - What is the history or status of planning for caribou in your area? - What, if any, are the unique circumstances of the planning area?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What kinds of wildlife and landscapes are present where the plan applies? - What are the land use activities in the area? - What is the status of caribou in your area? Does the plan account for other perspectives such as Government abundance estimates? - What are the harvesting activities in the area? Who harvests in the area? - What are the conservation education activities available and the role of youth in them? - What are the relevant Dene terms and concepts in this plan?
<p>Who needs to be involved in developing the plan?</p> <p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who are the CCP authors / leaders / coordinators? Is it a person or body? - Was a steering or advisory committee formed? - What community organizations are involved and what is their role? - How did groups like youth, elders, women, and hunters within the community participate in the planning process? - What is the capacity assessment of the community parties and their roles in planning? - What is the role of ᓕᓕᓂ (law) or science in the plan?
<p>How will the planning team engage with the community and others?</p> <p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What neighbouring jurisdictions, governments or other stakeholders were engaged? How were they engaged? - What is the response to the plan from stakeholders? Were changes made to the plan or other actions taken as a result of stakeholder response? - How was the Government of the Northwest Territories informed about this planning process?

Phase 2: Plan

Present the action plan for how the community will steward caribou and the landscape.

Phase 2 Components (Questions Addressed) and Supporting Information

<p>Component (Question Addressed): What are the vision and goals? What is the plan for achieving the vision and goals?</p> <p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the main goals in the plan? Why are these important? - How do the goals relate to or address the caribou conservation challenges you are facing? - What specific actions will be taken to meet the vision and goals? How were actions decided on?
<p>Component (Question Addressed): What actions are planned for caribou conservation?</p> <p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will knowledge gaps be filled and what are the timelines? - What is the strategy to build capacity and reduce challenges or threats? - How will information about critical habitat be gathered (if it is not already known)? - Are there regulatory conflicts with the plan? Does the plan explain the issue(s) and justify the proposed action(s)?

- What will be done to promote compliance with the plan?
- 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 a CCP 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
- How will the plan address caribou conservation with respect to healthy wildlife relationships?
 - o For example, drawing on the key theme of the Délı̨nę 2021 Public Listening Session, the SRRB will look for the following kinds of information in a CCP submitted after 2021:
 - Food security/alternative harvest
 - Predators and competitors
- Does the plan address caribou conservation with respect to other topics in the SRRB PLS: Tı̨ch’ádı̨ hé ʔekwé hé Gots’eredı̨ (including predators and competitors); Wildfires and Climate Change; Knowledge about Caribou and Landscapes; and the Mixed Economy?
- Does the plan account for, reflect or otherwise consider the potential actions for caribou conservation from the 2014 ACCWM Taking Care of Caribou Plan?

What issues (challenges or opportunities) arise with other regulatory bodies for habitat/landscape protection?

The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:

- 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?

Phase 3: Act

Provide a workplan outlining who will do what, and when.

Phase 3 Components (Questions Addressed) and Supporting Information

What are the timelines for putting the plan into action?

The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:

- How will actions be taken to meet the Vision and Goals?
- How will implementation be accountable?

Who is involved?

The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who is responsible for the plan’s implementation? How will they implement the plan? - Who will participate in the plan’s implementation? How will they participate in the plan? - Are groups like youth and harvesters from other communities involved? - Who is interested in the plan’s implementation? How will they be informed about the plan’s implementation?
What resources are needed?
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will sufficient resources be accessed?

Phase 4: Learn

Define how plan success will be monitored, and how plan changes will be made in the future.

Phase 4 Components (Questions Addressed) and Supporting Information

How will you know the plan is meeting its vision and goals?
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will monitoring occur? Who will conduct monitoring? - How will actions be recognized as successful or not? - How will actions be measured? What are the indicators? - What will happen if actions are not successful? - How well did people do in complying with the plan?
How will the status of caribou and people be monitored?
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will monitoring occur? Who will conduct monitoring? - What signs are used to assess how things are going? - How will harvesting be monitored?
How and when will the plan be evaluated and updated?
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will possible plan revisions be identified? - Are there specific triggers or minimum time periods for plan review? - How will plan revisions get made?

Phase 5: Share

Explain how the story about plan outcomes will be told.

Phase 5 Components (Questions Addressed) and Supporting Information

How will you share the results of your plan?
<p><i>The SRRB will look for certain information, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will learning be documented? - How will monitoring information be shared? - How will the story of the plan be shared – including impacts of actions taken and lessons learned? - Who are the audiences?