



# Ełexé Eghálats'eda Working Together:

*Research and Monitoring in the Sahtú Region*

Leon Andrew (Special Advisor) and Deborah Simmons (Executive Director)

ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı – Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

Joint Polar Knowledge Canada

NASA Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment

Government of Northwest Territories Workshop

Yellowknife, May 10, 2016



Credit: Sahtú GIS



# Sahtú Ecozones

Credit: Sahtú GIS

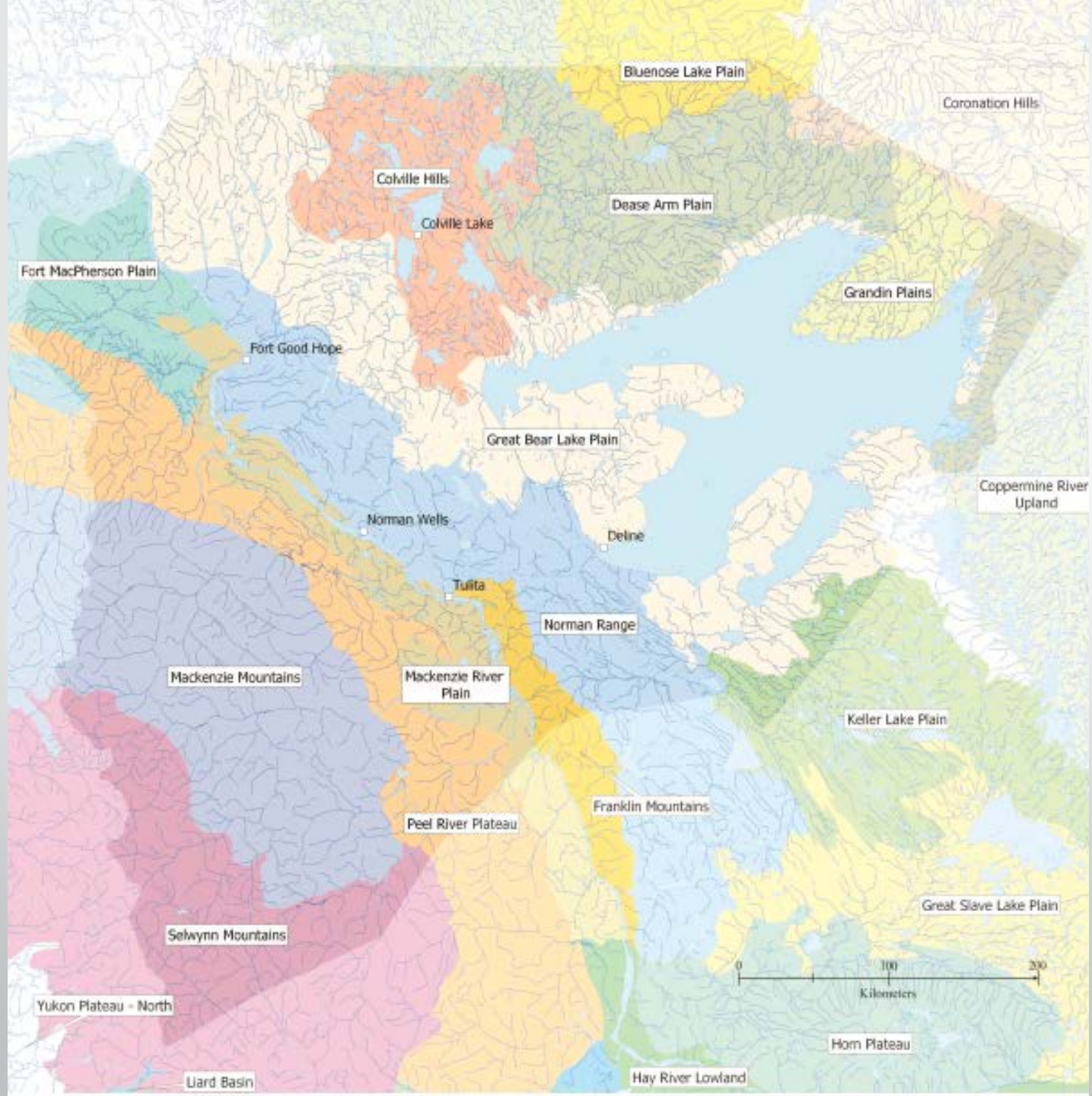


Shúhta Goꝛepé

Tꝛdzi

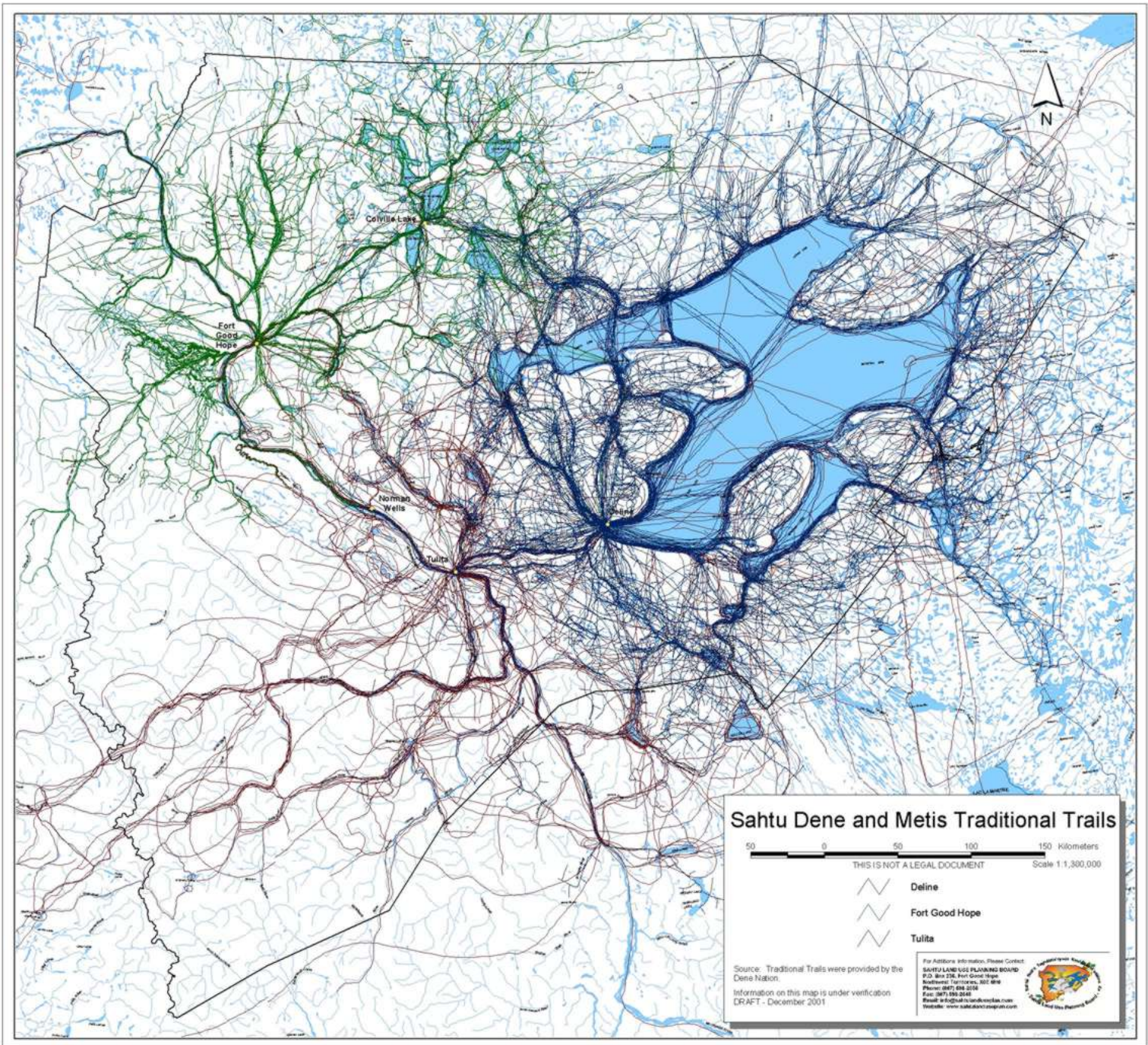
ꝑeda  
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ꝑekwé





Credit: Sahtú GIS



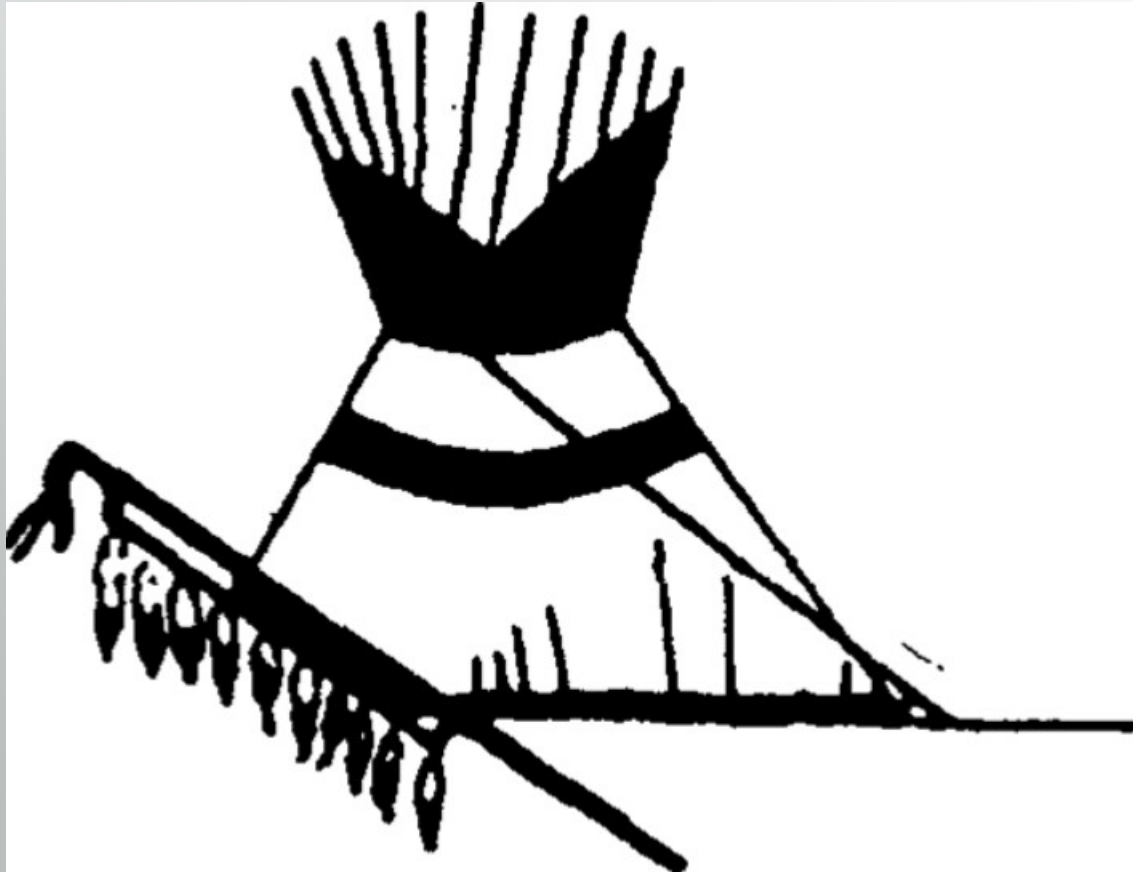


Credit: Dene Nation





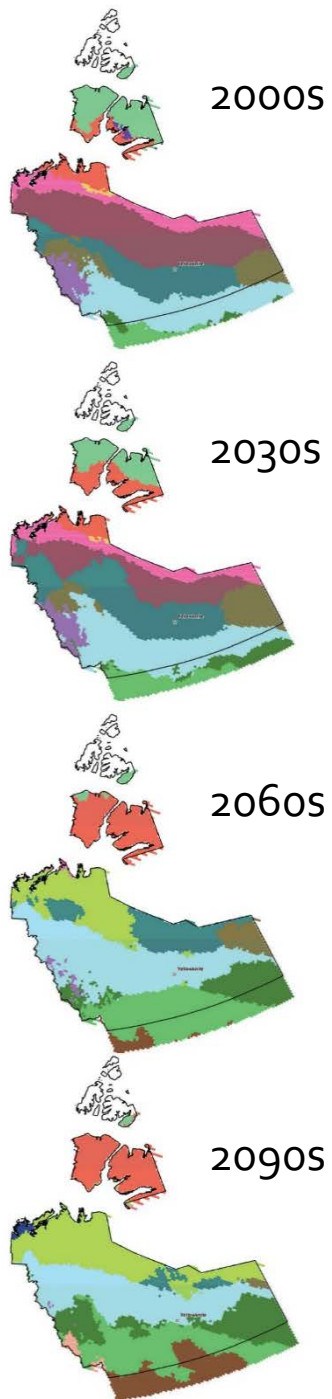
# Co-Management and Research



“... shall directly involve Renewable Resources Councils and participant harvesters to the greatest extent possible.” *Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* 13.8.40

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## Climate-Biome Change



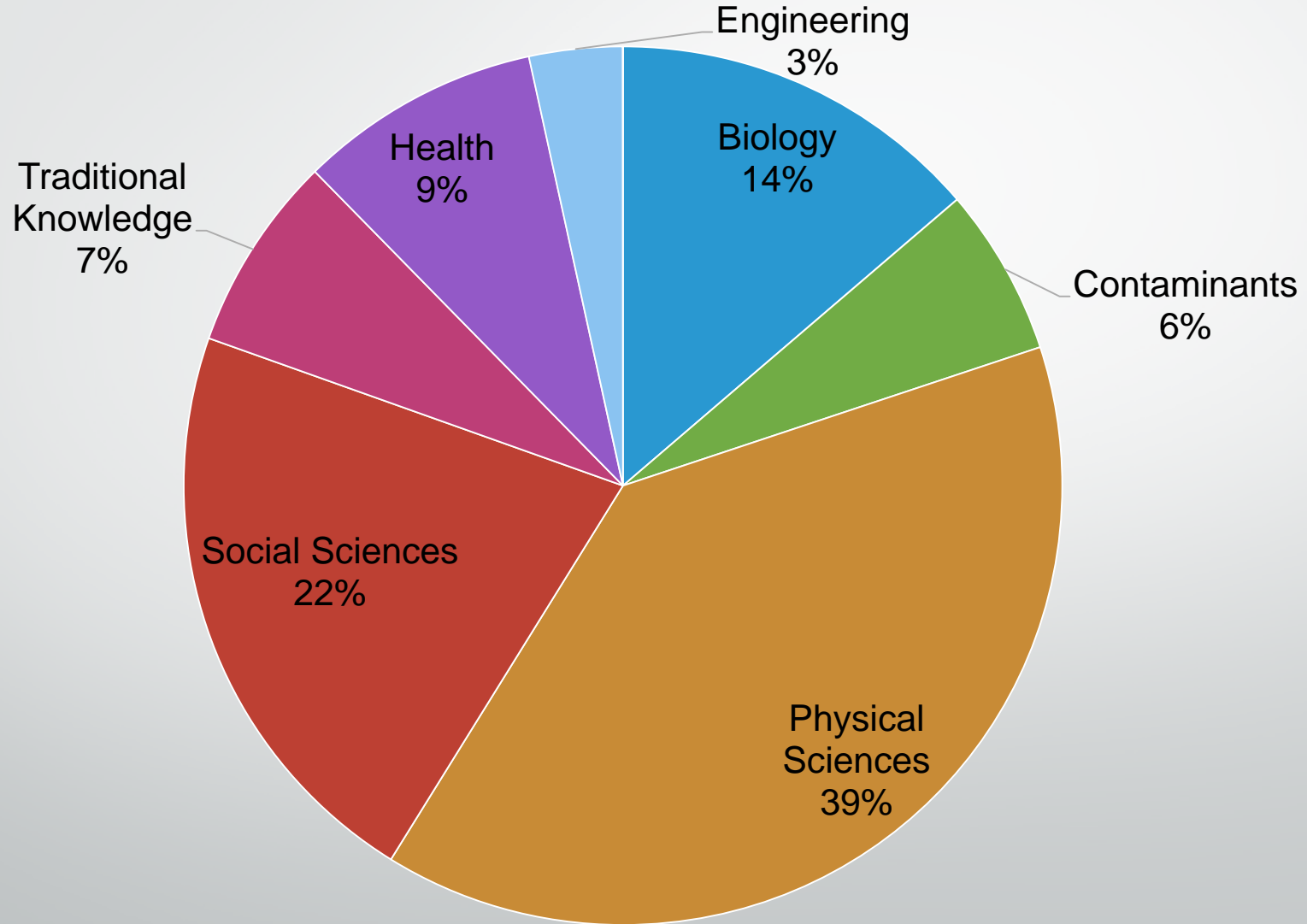
- Sahtú may undergo 2-3 biome shifts between 2000s and 2090s.
- From arctic shrubs, open canopy forest, to mixed (teal) and closed-canopy (blue) boreal and coniferous wooded grasslands (lime).

Source: Scenarios Network for Arctic Planning (SNAP), 2012



# Research Licenses by Category 1991-2014

Total = 141





Credit: Jean Polfus



Sahtú Research and Monitoring Coordination Workshop, Tułit'a 2014





ations  
city issues  
r next few years  
ern)  
how to align  
scientific research  
practical way

Can you study impacts on  
the ENVIRONMENT  
without studying impacts  
on PEOPLE?

NO !!!  
Environment and people are  
interconnected.  
• The web of life - you can look at  
things separately but they always  
interact and affect each other.  
• Humans are naturally curious about  
the world.  
• People who don't understand  
the world study people who  
do.  
• People have always studied  
the world around them.  
• We are always studying  
the world around us.



IMP  
coordinates  
in decision  
making, research  
and policy

NPMO  
Can Not  
Federal  
1997

Can Not  
can take  
lead on  
data collection

COOL  
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# GOALS of a COORDINATING GROUP

Protect  
TK that cannot  
not be shared

Data sharing

See bigger picture  
also history

Support  
clinical  
decision  
making

Build  
knowledge  
- supporting  
TK

Build  
network's  
knowledge  
relationships

Build in

Get more TK together  
to then you to MAKE local  
started with people to help  
to research

COMMUNITY  
OWNERSHIP  
- RESEARCH

# What would a COORDINATING GROUP do NOT DO?

Support  
OTHERS  
to do this

Decision  
making?

Solve all  
problems

Replace  
local / local  
TK's  
- responsibility

Make local  
TK's  
- responsibility  
- responsibility

Protocols  
TK research  
- responsibility  
- responsibility

Set  
cumulative  
impact  
targets

Ending  
new TK  
- strategies

Different  
program's  
producing  
- responsibility  
- responsibility

Fund projects


Make sure  
young  
- responsibility  
- responsibility

TA  
- responsibility  
- responsibility



“If someone from our group is sitting on this, I want it to be someone with passion.”

Edwin Erutse (Fort Good Hope)



# Sahtú Environmental Research and Monitoring Forum TERMS OF REFERENCE

***Vision*** - Environmental monitoring and research programs and projects in the Sahtú are coordinated and conducted in ways that reflect regional and community priorities, engage communities, value both western science and traditional knowledge, and support wise decision-making.





# Sahtú ERM Forum MEMBERSHIP

- Five ?ehdzo Got'ine
- Federal, Territorial, Sahtú governments
- Industry
- Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
- Youth

# Sahtú ERM Forum

*Participants at this workshop!*

Members	Fellow Travellers
Andrew Applejohn	Cristina Soto
Bruce Hanna	David Livingstone
Deborah Simmons	David Miller
Heather Sayine-Crawford	Mike English
Julian Kanigan	Susan Kutz
Leon Andrew	Tom Andrews



Research Results Workshop, Tułit'a 2014





Sahtú Cross-Cultural Research Camp 2014









BEAHR/Aurora College Environmental Monitor Training, Tetsexé, 2014







Sahtú Youth Network Presentation, Research Results Workshop, Tułit'a, 2015

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Polfus, J. L., M. Manseau, D. Simmons, M. Neyelle, W. Bayha, F. Andrew, L. Andrew, C. F. C. Klütsch, K. Rice, and P. Wilson. 2016. Łeghágots'enetę (learning together): the importance of indigenous perspectives in the identification of biological variation. *Ecology and Society* 21(2):18. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-08284-210218>



*Research*

## Łeghágots'enetę (learning together): the importance of indigenous perspectives in the identification of biological variation

*Jean L. Polfus*<sup>1</sup>, *Micheline Manseau*<sup>1,2</sup>, *Deborah Simmons*<sup>3,4</sup>, *Michael Neyelle*<sup>3,5</sup>, *Walter Bayha*<sup>6</sup>, *Frederick Andrew*<sup>3</sup>, *Leon Andrew*<sup>3</sup>, *Cornelya F. C. Klütsch*<sup>7</sup>, *Keren Rice*<sup>8</sup> and *Paul Wilson*<sup>7</sup>

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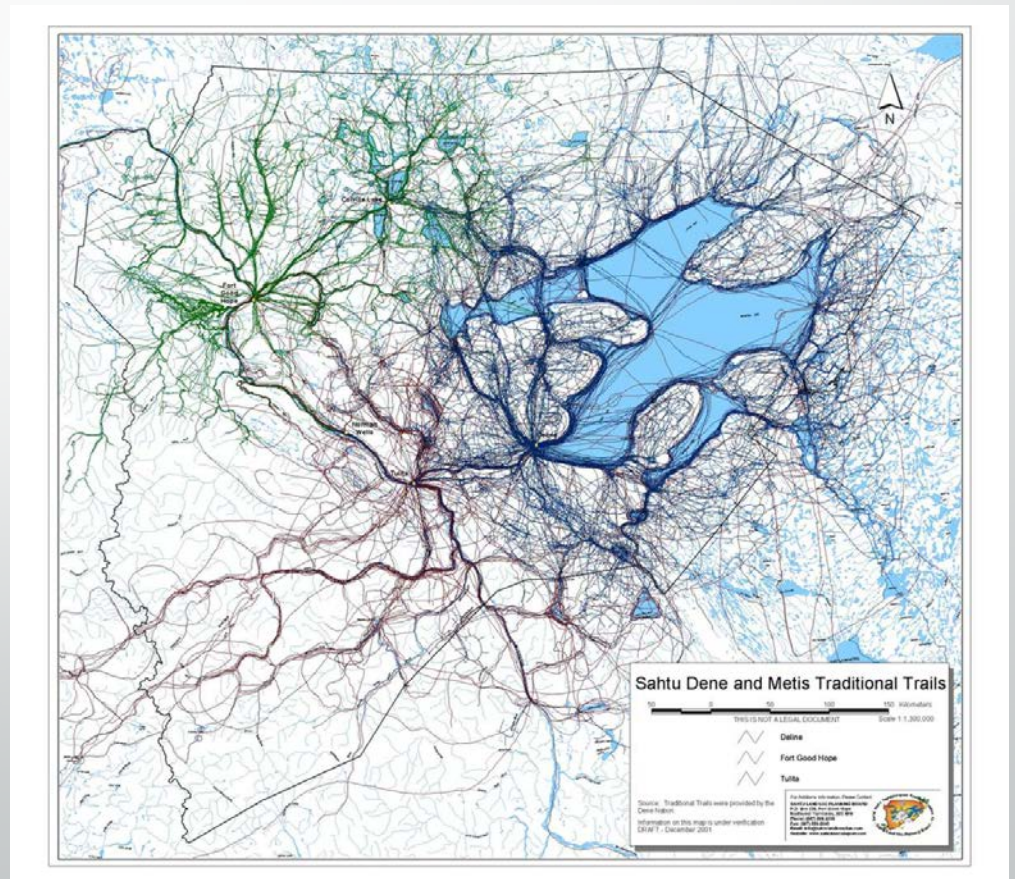
**ABSTRACT.** Using multiple knowledge sources to interpret patterns of biodiversity can generate the comprehensive species characterizations that are required for effective conservation strategies. Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) display substantial intraspecific variation across their distribution and in the Sahtú Region of the Northwest Territories, Canada, three caribou types, each with a different conservation status, co-occur. Caribou are essential to the economies, culture, and livelihoods of northern indigenous peoples. Indigenous communities across the north are insisting that caribou research be community-driven and collaborative. In response to questions that arose through dialogue with five Sahtú Dene and Métis communities, we jointly developed a research approach to understand caribou differentiation and population structure. Our goal was to examine caribou variation through analysis of population genetics and an exploration of the relationships Dene and Métis people establish with animals within bioculturally diverse systems. To cultivate a research environment that supported łeghágots'enetę “learning together” we collaborated with ?ehdzo Got'ıneę (Renewable Resources Councils), elders, and an advisory group. Dene knowledge and categorization systems include a comprehensive understanding



# Toward a Place-Based Research and Monitoring Strategy

## *Biocultural diversity in the context of change*

- People, language, stories of survival
- Caribou and fish ecology and livelihoods
- Arezhoné asǰǰ godı (all the living beings)
- Water, snow and ice systems





# Máhsí!

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[www.facebook.com/sahtuwildlife](http://www.facebook.com/sahtuwildlife)