



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Cumulative Effects Management



Cumulative Effects Management (CEM) Framework for the Métis Nation of Alberta

In July 2017, GREENLAND® was retained by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to review and assess a Cumulative Effects Management (CEM) framework proposed by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER). Support was also provided to the MNA in developing a Cumulative Effects Management policy framework and implementation plan specific to the interests, needs and vision of the MNA and its membership.

The first phase of the project focused on reviewing and assessing the AER document titled, “*Cumulative Effects Management Framework*”, which was written from a western science perspective. This review included the preparation of a framework document brief and supporting presentations, which supported recommendations primarily focused on promoting more meaningful inclusion of Traditional Ecosystem Knowledge and the participation of MNA citizens with future versions of the framework.

Phase ‘2’ of the project included the development of a MNA CEM policy and associated framework using knowledge and insight of MNA members collected through six (6) focus group discussions and held throughout the Province. Discussions held with MNA citizens in each region allowed GREENLAND® to gain insight on the unique Cumulative Environmental Effects now seen and felt by MNA citizens living in close geographical proximity to these impacts. Using this collected knowledge, a CEM policy and framework was developed by GREENLAND®. The purpose of this document was to provide recommendations on how to better manage Cumulative Environmental Effects as they pertain to the Métis People of Alberta, as well as determining how to effectively integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) of the Métis with western science. Therefore, this will enable the MNA to play a future role in the management of the cumulative effects occurring within all Alberta MNA regions.

The next phase of the project proposed to develop a "THREATS" decision support platform and with MNA staff participation. This Internet platform will allow for western science data to be overlaid with Métis TEK. This will then help achieve an overall goal of validating and informing western science on CEM through a Métis perspective. Consultations were also held with Cabinet Members from Government of Canada to expand the MNA project approach for use in other Provinces and Territories too.

