

What We Heard About...

# Land is Life

Towards a GNWT Land Use  
and Sustainability Framework

May 2013

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

Making the right decisions on the use of land and its resources is one of our greatest responsibilities. Through Devolution, the Government of the Northwest Territories will have enhanced decision making power about the way land is managed, the way the economy is developed, and the way the environment is protected. The *Land Use and Sustainability Framework* will guide the GNWT in making decisions about land management activities in the Northwest Territories and facilitate consistency in our decision making related to land management.

The concept of a Land Use Framework has been around for many years. The GNWT recognizes that it is one partner in an integrated land management system in the Northwest Territories. With devolution, the scope of the GNWT's responsibility is about to change. A Framework will help to guide our actions and make the right choices about managing land and resources in a way that sustains the environment and maximizes economic opportunities and benefits for all NWT residents.

In November 2011, the 17th Assembly identified the completion of the *Land Use and Sustainability Framework* as critical in achieving its priority of building a strong and sustainable future for our Territory and the goals of a strong and independent north built on partnerships and an environment that will sustain present and future generations.

In July 2012, the GNWT released *Land is Life: Towards a GNWT Land Use and Sustainability Framework*. The Discussion Paper was distributed to Aboriginal governments, community governments, land and water managers, environmental organizations and industry representatives across the Northwest Territories. Advertisements were placed in all northern newspapers and the discussion paper was also made available on the Department of Executive website with an online feedback form. Comments and feedback were originally requested by September 30, 2012. Given the importance of the subject and the desire to get things right, the deadline was extended until December 31, 2012.

This summary report reflects what organizations told us about the Discussion Paper. It presents various and often contradictory viewpoints. The report does not reflect the GNWT's assessment of the feedback or positions on issues raised. It is simply a summary of what we heard about the proposed *Land Use and Sustainability Framework*.

***“The communities involved in the Protected Areas Strategy have stated that establishing protected areas in their traditional territories is an important way to sustain traditional practices.”***



*“True sustainability cannot be reached through a policy that only meets industry’s need.”*

## 2.0 WHAT WE HEARD

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Between July 2012 and January 2013, we heard directly from a number of organizations on the Discussion Paper, as well as their views on land use and land management in the Northwest Territories. A list of organizations that submitted comments is provided in Appendix A.

A variety of types of feedback was received. Some organizations submitted general comments on the purpose and scope of the Framework, while others provided detailed comments on the various components of the Discussion Paper. We also received editorial and formatting suggestions as well as answers to the specific questions that were posed in the Discussion Paper. All comments were reviewed and a summary of the feedback received is presented here.

### 2.1 GENERAL COMMENTS AND THEMES EMERGING

#### *Purpose and Scope of Framework*

Overall, it was recognized that the LUSF is an important policy instrument that will help guide land use planning and decision making in NWT. We heard that the Discussion Paper was a good step forward, but that much work is still needed before the Framework will provide the clarity and certainty necessary to support relevant, responsible and balanced land stewardship. We heard from others that were not as clear as to why a Framework is needed. We were asked what will the Framework do at the end of the day and how will it be used.

We heard that it was not clear from the Discussion Paper what will change when the GNWT assumes new responsibilities after devolution. Some said the LUSF is too ambiguous and that more details are required on how it will advance the existing sustainable development policy.

There were comments as to the overall scope of the Framework. Some felt it was primarily focused on economic development and resource development rather than the sustainable use of resources. It was suggested to incorporate land use plans, protected areas and cumulative effects management more fundamentally into the final Framework.

Others felt the Framework was weak in enunciating the importance of the land in supporting non-renewable resource development – it was pointed out that there is no specific mention of the term non-renewable resources in the document.



Mark Patrick/GNWT



We heard that the concepts presented in the Discussion Paper were not sufficiently described and terms were not used consistently (Appendix B). We also heard that while a number of objectives were listed throughout the document, they did not appear together in a single section. It was suggested that clearly defined objectives and consistent definitions would help to clarify the purpose and scope of the Framework.

### *Clarity of Roles, Responsibilities and Context*

It is recognized that the regulatory system in the NWT is a collaborative system based on multiple land owners and regulatory bodies, each with their respective rights, roles and responsibilities, working together to make decisions on land use in the NWT. We heard that the linkages between the Framework and existing legislation and existing roles and responsibilities of the various parties needs to be better defined. We heard several times that the relationship between the Framework and regional land use planning and the land use planning boards is not clear.

We heard that community governments are also land owners and the Discussion Paper had little reference to NWT communities as partners or contributors to developing the LUSF. It was noted that the integration of community plans with territory wide or regional land use planning cannot be ignored. It was suggested to add community governments to the circle of partners.

We were also told that there is a need to clearly define the context within which the LUSF will be implemented. The Framework needs to reference the regulatory improvement initiatives that are currently underway and how these will impact the implementation of the Framework.

It was also suggested that the Framework needs to include a section on honouring the past and explaining how decisions made in previous legislative assemblies will be impacted by the articulation of a new LUSF.

### *Balance of land for conservation and development*

We heard a lot about the need to balance the use of land for both conservation and development purposes.

Some called for the GNWT to reaffirm its commitment to the current *Protected Areas Strategy*. It was suggested that the *Protected Areas Strategy* is one way to achieve sustainability and that more needs to be done to protect the land and its values.

***“Regional interests must be integrated and reflected in the GNWT’s NWT-wide interests. The GNWT should consider using this strategy as a vehicle to support the regional differences and build the bridging mechanisms that pull those regional interests together.”***



***“Over the last few decades there has been a move from almost total reliance on traditional land use and harvesting activities to increasing reliance on the wage economy, a trend which we can expect to continue.”***



J.F. Bergeron/GNWT

Others felt more needed to be done to support economic development; the Framework needs more strength on the economic side – using the land for the benefit of all residents. We were cautioned not to be too quick to protect all the land. There are a lot of unknowns and the NWT is one of the least mapped areas in Canada.

Much was heard about the GNWT’s mandate to have 45% of Crown land open for development. It was questioned where the target came from and how the mandate was established. We heard that it is timely to review this policy and if necessary refine it to support decision making under the Framework.

Others suggested that targets and mechanisms for development and conservation could be advanced simultaneously through the LUSF and with equal weight, and that if targets are needed for open Crown land, that targets are also needed for protection and conservation purposes.

### ***Relationship to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights***

We heard several questions and comments on the relationship of the Framework to existing and asserted Aboriginal rights. We heard the expectation that any matter related to land and resources should be discussed through the land claim negotiation process. We also heard that the LUSF was a duplication of the negotiation process and that Interim Measures Agreements address natural resources management decisions.

We also heard about the need for meaningful engagement and Aboriginal consultation and that serious consultation with First Nations must take place.

We heard that Aboriginal land owners are the rightful decision makers and that crown decisions must be in the best interest of Aboriginal land owners. The governing of land must be shared with First Nations. If it is a true framework, it needs to be signed on a nation to nation basis.

### ***Clarity on Next Steps***

Finally, we heard several questions as to what the process will be going forward. We heard that operational guidelines will be needed to implement the Framework.

It was highlighted that many actions are unspecified and yet to be determined and we were asked how decisions will be made consistently, every time.

We also heard that more steps are needed before the Framework can be finalized and that it should be made available for further input before being adopted as a blueprint for land management and decision making in the Northwest Territories.

## 2.2 SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON COMPONENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK

### Vision

A draft vision was put forward in the Discussion Paper:

“Land is life – it sustains and nourishes us spiritually, culturally, physically, economically and socially. Working together, Northerners will responsibly and sustainably manage the lands, waters and natural resources of the Northwest Territories for the benefit of current and future generations.”

Overall, people seemed pleased with the vision statement. There was a suggestion that the vision should be focused more on stewardship as opposed to management. It was also suggested to recognize the past as well as the current and future generations in the vision statement. It should capture the concept of wise use of land as has been done for millennia.

There was a caution that the meaning conveyed in the vision was not always consistent throughout the Discussion Paper. The vision states that Northerners will work together, yet later in the Discussion Paper there is a commitment to partnership with non-northern agencies and stakeholders. Also the vision states that “land is life” but throughout the document land is referenced as “important” or playing a “prominent role.” These have different meanings and varying levels of significance. It was also questioned if the vision included all renewable and non-renewable resources.

### Interests

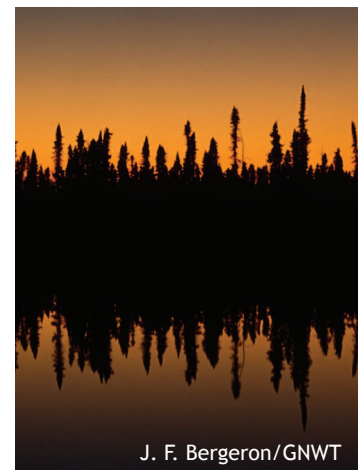
The Discussion Paper set out four broad categories of NWT Land Interests:

- The Land Sustains Us;
- We Support the Sustainability of the Land;
- Land Creates Benefits and Wealth; and
- Land Use is Well Governed.

Overall we heard that the term “interests” did not capture what was being put forward – that perhaps these were really land policy objectives or perhaps they are key land use and management considerations.

We also heard from some that the four interests have a strong focus on economic benefits and opportunities that the land provides through the development of natural resources. The important role of protected areas in sustainable land management has not been conveyed.

*“The NWT is a vast area that to date has seen relatively little development. There exists a rare opportunity to pro-actively implement necessary planning measures for responsible development while maintaining the integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity.”*



J. F. Bergeron/GNWT



***“The Land Use Framework is potentially on of the most important items moving forward after devolution.”***



The interests all focus solely on human interaction and use of the land. None really acknowledge that other species also rely on the land.

More specifically:

- Under ***Land Sustains Us***, we heard that cultural use, conservation of natural resources and protected areas needed to be better incorporated into this interest. The concept of maintaining integrity of watersheds and ecosystems needs to be included. We also heard that messaging needs to be aligned and consistent with land claims agreements and goals of other strategies, such as the *Water Stewardship Strategy*.
- Under ***We Support the Sustainability of the Land***, we heard that it seems like this interest should be about environmental stewardship yet it focuses more on the development of natural resources. Ecological integrity, environmental monitoring and the role of cumulative impacts management should be included. It was suggested to change this interest to ***We are Responsible for the Sustainability of the Land***, rather than just supporting it, to reflect a more proactive approach. Similarly, we heard that reference to “best efforts” and “wherever possible” should be removed as these types of qualifiers did not appear in the descriptions of other land interests.
- Under ***The Land Creates Benefits and Wealth***, we were told that the land does not “create”, it is the people that create cultural and material benefits from the land’s natural resources. It was suggested to rename this interest to ***The Land Provides Benefits and Wealth***. We also heard that this interest should reflect the fact that there are other benefits provided by the natural resources – clean water, air, fish, wildlife – and that social benefits should be referenced as well as economic benefits.
- Under ***Land Use is Well Governed***, we heard about the need to uphold Aboriginal rights and legal rights and also the need for ongoing meaningful engagement with all stakeholders. It was raised that there did not seem to be a link between this land interest and the interest around supporting sustainability. It was suggested that the role of cumulative impacts management should be included.

## Guiding Principles

The Discussion Paper articulated seven principles to guide GNWT actions when making land use and land management decisions:

- Land management decisions shall take into account all NWT Land Interests.
- Aboriginal rights and all legal rights are recognized, respected and valued during land management decision making.
- Sustainable resource development is essential for the economic, environmental and cultural well-being of NWT residents in both the short and long term.
- Decisions about land and resources within the NWT should be made by residents of the NWT.
- Traditional and local knowledge and scientific knowledge are equally important in the decision-making process.
- Land management decision making processes shall be clear, transparent, consistent, and adaptive.
- Trans-boundary issues related to land management require co-operation within the NWT as well as with neighbouring jurisdictions.

In general, no one disagreed with the guiding principles. We received suggestions on wording in order to clarify some of them. We heard that the LUSF principles should align with mandates of regional land use plans.

It was raised that a couple of the principles seemed to contradict each other. If land decisions are to be made by residents of the NWT then what does that mean with regards to cooperation with neighbouring jurisdictions on trans-boundary issues. We were told that residency in the NWT does not make anyone a qualified land steward; there should be an emphasis on a partnership approach to decision making as we rely on outside expertise from time to time.

Suggestions were made on several additional principles to be added to the list. These included: ecological integrity, adaptive management, precautionary principle and addressing the issue of balance of available and protected lands.

Finally we were asked how these guiding principles will be used to inform land decisions and how they complement one another to achieve LUSF goals.

***“Devolution provides the opportunity for the GNWT to develop a land use sustainability framework and associated decision making process based on meaningful engagement with NWT residents.”***



DPR Canada

*“The document appears focused primarily on economic development and resource development rather than resource use.”*



Greg Hancock/GNWT

## **Strategic Directions**

The Discussion Paper sets out three key strategic directions for land management:

- NWT Way of Life
- NWT Environmental Stewardship
- NWT Economic Stewardship

Most of the comments received on the strategic directions were about how they work together along with the other components of the Framework to achieve the goals of the LUSF. We heard that much more detail is required for all three of the strategic directions in order to fully understand the direction the GNWT intends to follow and the relative weighting that each will have in decision making. We were asked how decisions will be made based on all Strategic Directions. And we also heard that it was not clear how the strategic directions will complement or compete with one another when the LUSF is implemented. It was stated that the Discussion Paper is at a very high level and lacks detail to provide any certainty that the three strategic directions can be achieved to provide the foundation for sustainability.

Furthermore, we heard that the diagram does not reflect the vision statement – land should underpin all three of the strategic directions. We were also told that the word AND needs to be placed between the strategic directions; it is not an either/or situation – we want to have it all.

### **NWT Way of Life**

We heard that there is not one way of life in the NWT and the Framework needs to acknowledge this diversity.

It was suggested that this direction be re-framed to be more about the social aspects of land, to complement the environmental and economic strategic directions. We heard about the need for education so northerners can be self-reliant – some felt we should use the land to help build self-reliance. It was also said there is a need for education of NWT residents on the value of land and the resources and benefits it provides.

We were told that more analysis is required as to how changing demographics presents challenges for land use and management. For example, the movement away from traditional land use and harvesting activities to increasing reliance on wage economy needs to be considered in the land use framework. We heard that the establishment of protected areas is one way to maintain and respect traditional and cultural activities.

### **Environmental Stewardship**

We heard that environmental stewardship should be the foundation of the LUSF and that the GNWT needs to continue with its role in environmental stewardship – to engage in and commit to completing initiatives currently underway, such as the *Protected Areas Strategy*.

It was asked how an ecosystem based approach will be applied and how this will affect land management and decision making. We heard that biological diversity cannot be achieved or maintained without long term research and monitoring programs and this requires adequate resourcing. The LUSF should include the need for core representative protected areas, cumulative effects management and ecologically based land use plans.

### **Economic Stewardship**

We heard that the LUSF must be more outspoken in supporting non-renewable resource development. We also heard that this strategic direction should address the needs of all types of economic development in all sectors. The examples for economic development in the Discussion Paper are primarily based on land uses that are industrial, commercial and extractive of non-renewable resources; there is little mention of tourism and traditional uses of land such as hunting, trapping, arts and crafts.

We heard that economic development needs to be linked to ecological stewardship. It was also mentioned that the development of a hydraulic fracturing policy framework is needed to support this strategic direction.

### **Regional Land Use Planning**

We heard from several groups about the need to clarify the relationship of the Framework to regional land use plans. We were told that effective land use plans should form the core of any land use framework and that there is the need to complete and approve effective land use plans as soon as possible.

We were reminded that land use plans are legally binding documents that stem from land claim agreements. Regional plans are intended to address the vision and aspirations of the residents of a region – the LUSF and territorial interests cannot override this. Rather than using the LUSF to specify GNWT-wide interests, it was suggested to use the Framework as a vehicle to support the regional differences and build bridging mechanisms that pull those regional interests together.

*“You can establish land use certainty through completing regional land use plans and network of protected areas in the NWT.”*





***“It is important to form partnerships and engage the public to make the right decisions on future uses of land, water, wildlife and other resources.”***



It was recognized that there will be conflict between regional aspirations and territorial land interests, but that GNWT’s interests need to be informed and shaped by regional interests. Perhaps regional plans can complement and coordinate with one another to achieve the overall LUSF vision.

We heard that we could better reflect the significance and influence of regional land use plans on the Framework in the guiding principles and strategic directions sections. The importance of land use planning as key driver of land management in the NWT needs to be fully explained.

We also heard that the LUSF must provide guidance to land use planning. We must be careful not to rush to permanently alienate lands from future development. Non-renewable resource development is our economic strength; it is the only activity powerful enough to support a self-reliant economy in the NWT.

### **Other Land Management Challenges and Opportunities**

Under this section, people took the opportunity to bring forward ideas and initiatives that were not raised elsewhere in the Discussion Paper.

It was suggested to look at other models for sustainable land use in other jurisdiction. One example was from Russia where small parcels of land surrounding communities are set aside for community residents for farming and harvesting. The Framework should support the development of a way for the general public to have access to land to gather or produce the basic things needed for subsistence.

We heard that the GNWT should consider creating an approach that rewards regions that attract economic growth and self-reliance – in essence, flipping the welfare mentality on its head. Each region should develop a self-reliance plan, measure progress towards it and be rewarded for progress.

We also heard that filling gaps in knowledge will continue to be important – especially in geoscience, environmental, and cultural knowledge. We also heard that a Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Database needs to be put in place so that all knowledge can be brought together in one place making it easier to identify gaps.

### **45% Open Crown Land Mandate**

We heard a lot about the GNWT’s mandate to retain 45% of Crown land in any region open for development. A lot of questions were raised as to the process used to establish the mandate and how the number was determined. It was also questioned on how this policy is used in making land decisions.



While it was recognized that the GNWT has broader interests than conservation and protection of land, it was suggested that there are other means of achieving the same objective. It was pointed out that the 45% will not necessarily result in a guaranteed revenue stream for the GNWT to invest in programs, services and infrastructure. We heard support for the GNWT's objective to establish a sustainable economy but perhaps this could be approached through careful and controlled development. Economic opportunities in areas of high potential could be advanced and ecological sensitive and culturally significant areas could be preserved.

It was suggested that as the Framework is intended to be territorial in scope, then the policy could be applied territorially rather than regionally in order to allow for regional differences in interests and resource distribution.

We also heard that clear definitions are needed for "region" and "open for development."

### **Balance of Available and Protected Lands**

We heard that this section should be expanded to deal with balancing conservation and economic development rather than just focusing on land protection. It was suggested that the term "available" is inaccurate as some protected areas are still available for some uses, depending on the type of protection and the type of activity. It was also suggested that the benefits of conservation should be described as well as the benefits of resource extraction.

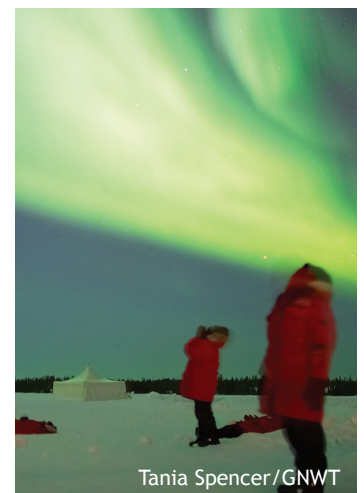
We heard that the need for biodiversity should be referenced. It was proposed that targets for land protection and achieving conservation outcomes should be established, and that a plan and schedule for completing the network of protected areas is needed. It was also suggested that a comparison of NWT protection/open crown land standards with other provincial, national or international standards would be useful.

We were told that it was the mandate of the Land Use Planning Boards to establish a balance of available and protected lands.

We also heard that the following principles should be used in order to balance conservation and economic development:

- » Maintain and strengthen open to development crown land mandate,
- » Make permanent protections as small as possible,
- » Use conservation areas rather than permanent protection tools,
- » Do not withdraw any lands with moderate to high mineral potential,
- » Do not render open lands closed by blocking essential transportation to them.

***"The role of communities and the importance of the integration of community plans cannot be ignored in the LUSF."***



*“Targets and mechanisms for development and conservation can be advanced simultaneously and with equal weight.”*



Terry Parker/GNWT

### **Trans-boundary**

We heard very little on this topic other than it was not clear how the LUSF will clarify and expand the GNWT’s roles and responsibilities on trans-boundary matters and how the LUSF will impact on existing agreements.

### **Supporting the Framework**

The Discussion Paper recognized that many elements will be needed in order for the GNWT to achieve the vision it sets out in the LUSF. People were asked to comment on a number of these elements.

### **Working Together**

We heard that cooperation and adaptability across multiple jurisdictions and governments, and interactions with industry, Aboriginal groups and the public will be essential to an effective land management decision-making process moving forward. We were reminded that there are already mechanisms planned or in place at the regional level and not to reinvent the wheel. We should continue to work with existing co-management and advisory boards.

It was asked how the GNWT will continue to meaningfully participate, support and achieve goals of these various initiatives given the emerging Framework. It was also asked how the GNWT will identify all interested parties to engage with, particularly from a resource development perspective.

We heard that the Framework seems to be top down – the GNWT establishing the rules through which their partners are expected to operate.

The need to highlight partnerships that can capitalize on both conservation and economic development opportunities in the NWT was also mentioned.

### **Creating Linkages**

The Discussion Paper states that the LUSF does not intend to replace existing strategies and initiatives but to use these as the foundation to move forward. Many strategies, frameworks and initiatives were referenced throughout the Discussion Paper and people provided yet others that should be considered when finalizing and implementing the Framework (Appendix C).

We heard that it is unclear how the Framework guides an approach to balancing, prioritizing and integrating the many current and future territorial and federal initiatives that influence NWT land management. It was asked whether some would be pushed aside or changed.

We also heard that education was not mentioned in the Discussion Paper and that it should be. If we are to create a new and vibrant economy post devolution, then we need to develop our people through better education, a stronger understanding of science and economics, and sustainable resource development.

### Using the Best Available Information

We heard that availability, management and sharing of data are central to facilitating consistent decision making. We also heard that the NWT is one of the least mapped jurisdictions and we still have much to learn.

We were told that the NWT Centre for Geomatics has a role to play in ensuring consistent information is available to all land users. It was also suggested to use a Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Database and the Board's public registry to share information. We also heard that the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) has a role to play in providing more and higher quality data to inform decision making for responsible resource development, safety and security, and environmental stewardship.

We were told that the Land Use Planning Boards already do extensive data gathering, analysis and reporting and that we should support regional boards in their work and then focus efforts on building linkages between and across regions.

We heard that it was important to check back on outcomes of decisions that have been made and use that to inform future decisions and to mitigate the uncertainty in data by using principles of adaptive management.

### Making Responsible Decisions

We were told that it was best to build on existing land management initiatives such as land use plans – to take a bottom up approach. We also heard it was important to use science as a basis for decision making.

### Measuring Progress and Communicating Results

We heard that goals need to be established if we are going to measure progress. Thresholds should be developed for measuring impacts in keeping with an ecosystem-based approach. We were told to report on impacts and cumulative impacts, as well as the benefits of activities permitted. It was also suggested to measure self-reliance.

In terms of reporting, we heard that it is best to start with existing channels such as the NWT State of the Environment Report and the independent audit required pursuant to Part V of MVRMA. We were told to ensure that reports should be available to broader audience than just NWT residents.

*“We know that the future will bring new technologies that are friendlier to the land, new ways of looking at development, and new needs for communities and the NWT. We must be careful not to rush to permanently alienate lands from future development.”*



***“We have lots of land and very few people. Let’s use the land to reduce the cost of living by allowing people to provide for themselves.”***



Terry Parker / GNWT

### 3.0 NEXT STEPS

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The Government of the Northwest Territories is preparing for its new role as a land owner and responsible land manager on April 1, 2014.

Over the past year, we have shared the GNWT’s thinking and proposed approach to land management and we have heard from our partners and stakeholders. We heard that people are comfortable with the vision and principles that were presented in *Land is Life: Towards a GNWT Land Use and Sustainability Framework*. We heard about the need to balance conservation and development, the role of regional land use planning, and the need to work together. We also heard that more clarity is needed about how the Framework will be implemented, how the principles and interests will be applied, and what the land management context will look like.

The Framework, when finalized, is intended to be a vision document for the GNWT – it will set out where we want to go and what we consider important when making land management decision on behalf of all residents of the NWT. It will provide transparency and consistency to the interests that the GNWT will bring to various tables.

But the operating environment is still unfolding. We are working with Canada to plan the transition of land and water management functions from the federal government to the GNWT. Canada’s regulatory improvement regime is ongoing, with legislative amendments to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* expected in the coming months.

The Devolution Agreement contains provisions for intergovernmental coordination and collaboration on lands and resources management. We need to work with the other significant land owners in the NWT to establish how we will collectively manage lands. The Framework will inform the GNWT’s participation in these discussions.

In the meantime, the GNWT is hard at work advancing our thinking and incorporating changing realities and new responsibilities. Sustainability is much broader than just the physical landscape – it must consider water, wildlife, land, energy, renewable and non-renewable resources. We have completed a *Water Stewardship Strategy*. We have recently undertaken significant discussion and engagement on energy planning, economic opportunities, and mineral development in the NWT. And consultations are currently underway on a proposed new *Wildlife Act*.

All of these are connected under the broad vision of the LUSF. The values and operating principles of the Framework build on the GNWT’s existing *Sustainable*



*Development Policy* and also provide guidance to other GNWT strategies and initiatives such as the *Mineral Development Strategy*, a *Vision for Energy*, the *NWT Water Stewardship Strategy*, and emerging infrastructure and transportation strategies.

The comments we received on the LUSF Discussion Paper will be considered in the coming months as we move toward the devolution effective date and toward finalizing a land use framework. In the meantime, it is important for other parties to know that our actions and engagement will be guided by the vision, principles and interests set out in the Discussion Paper. Once we have a better sense of how land management will operate post devolution, the Land Use and Sustainability Framework will be completed.

The GNWT recognizes it must involve and work with Aboriginal governments, industry groups, ENGOs, municipalities and the people of the NWT in our shared responsibility to use our lands wisely. The Framework will provide the foundation for decision making and make clear to other parties the policy framework the public government will use to manage lands. We hope that a *Land Use and Sustainability Framework* will help all parties to better understand the perspectives of the GNWT and enhance our future discussions and decisions.



DPRA Canada





## Appendix A – Who We Heard From

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Between July 2012 and January 2013, the following organizations raised questions or provided comments on the Discussion Paper:

- Natural Resources Canada
- *Protected Areas Strategy* Managing Director
- Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- NWT Chamber of Commerce
- Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter
- NWT Association of Communities
- Canadian Boreal Initiative
- Salt River First Nation
- NWT/NU Chamber of Mines
- Territorial Farmers Association
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- Town of Hay River
- Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk
- Hamlet of Aklavik
- Hamlet of Enterprise
- Pedzeh Ki First Nation
- Dehcho First Nation
- Akaitcho Dene First Nation
- Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly on Priorities and Planning
- Government of the Northwest Territories
  - Department of Justice
  - Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
  - Department of Industry Tourism and Investment
  - Department of Environment and Natural Resources
  - Department of Transportation
  - Department of Education, Culture and Employment
  - Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Affairs.

## Appendix B – Terms for Clarification and Definition

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It was recommended that the following concepts and terms be clarified or better defined in order to support the *Land Use and Sustainability Framework*:

- Land management vs. stewardship
- Environmental stewardship and economic stewardship, not just the term stewardship
- Sustainability, includes fiscal and economic sustainability
- Partner—who are land management partners? Are there others – academics?
- Land – does it include water, resources, wildlife?
- Resources, natural resources, non-renewable resources
- Renewable and non-renewable resource development
- Region
- Open for development
- Commissioners land
- Crown land
- Northerners

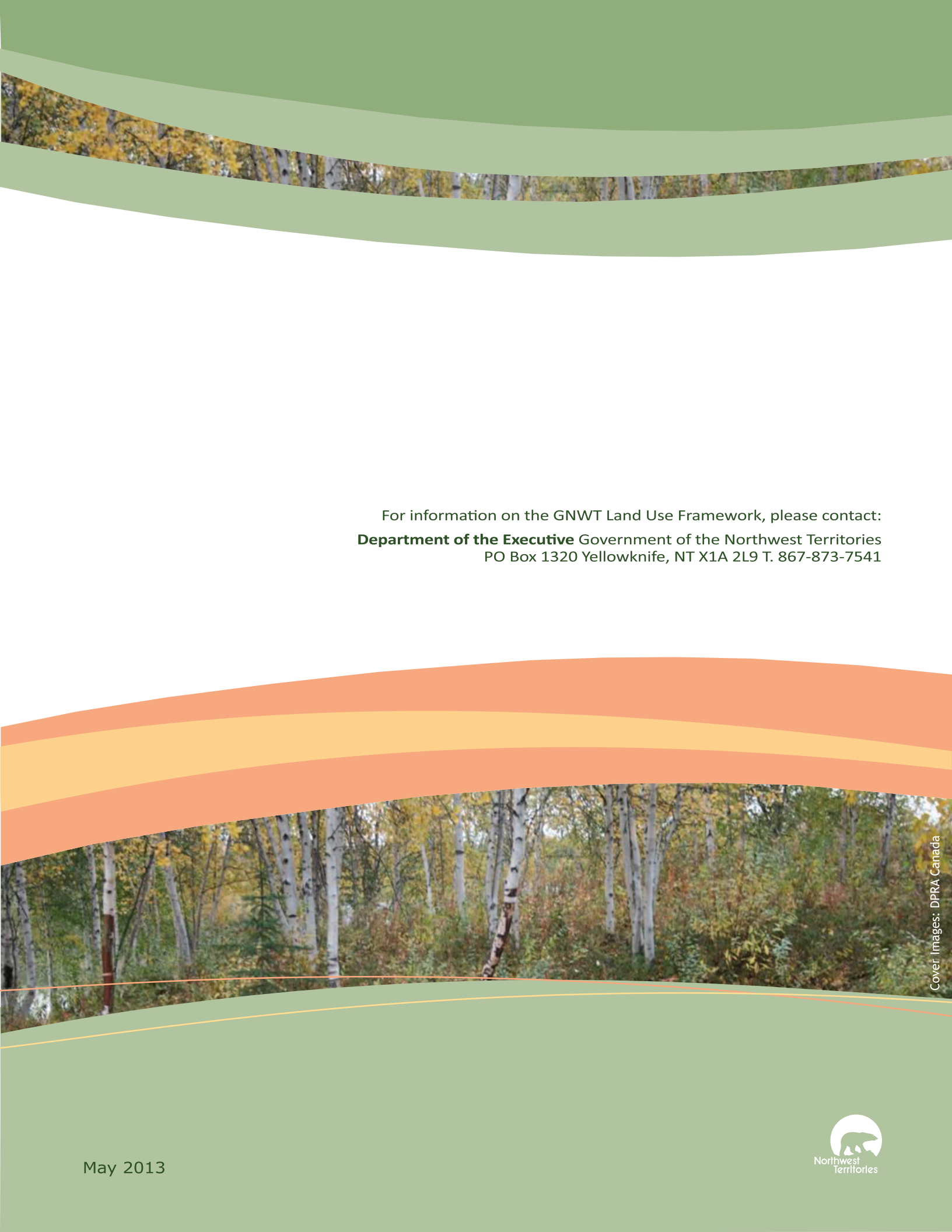


## Appendix C – Related Strategies and Frameworks

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It was recognized that there are many existing strategies and initiatives that support the implementation of the Framework. It was suggested rather than trying to list them all, that it would be better to try to articulate the interrelationship of them and the role of the Framework in their implementation. Along with the ones referenced in the Discussion Paper, the following linkages were also suggested:

- The LUSF should include a link to Science Agenda – ongoing commitment to science and traditional knowledge research in order to support adaptive management
- Coordination and coherence with *Mineral Development Strategy* and the *Economic Opportunities Strategy* currently under development
- The relationship with the *Environmental Stewardship Framework* previously developed
- Climate change is affecting our relationship to the land
- There is no reference to renewable resource strategy
- *Hydraulic Fracturing Policy Framework*
- *Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program*
- *Federal Species at Risk Act*
- *North American Waterfowl Management Plan*
- *Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy*
- *Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren-ground Caribou Management Agreement*
- *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement*
- *Fisheries Act*
- *National Parks Act*
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act*
- *Canada Wildlife Act*



For information on the GNWT Land Use Framework, please contact:  
**Department of the Executive** Government of the Northwest Territories  
PO Box 1320 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9 T. 867-873-7541

