

A History of the Northwest Territories Protected Area Strategy

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INTRODUCTION:

The intent of this paper is to provide the background and history of the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy (NWT-PAS); a federal/territorial policy initiative signed on September 27th, 1999 by then Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Minister Nault on behalf of five other federal departments and by then Resources Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Minister Kakfwi on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. This paper is not intended to cover the implementation of the PAS in detail, but does make a short reference to its beginning.

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BACKGROUND:

Protected area work and links to biodiversity began elsewhere in Canada well before any NWT specific or focused action in this area. To quote from the Canadian Biodiversity Web Site: <http://canadianbiodiversity.mcgill.ca/english/index.htm> which is also a good reference for a general read on this subject.

“Responsibilities for protecting Canada's biodiversity fall on the shoulders of both the provincial, territorial and federal governments. Provincial governments deal with sites and issues within their own borders, while the federal government is responsible for trade that crosses borders, migratory birds, fish, marine animals and federally protected areas, such as national parks and wildlife preserves”

However in addition to work within Canadian borders, Canada was also involved in international action and agreements to preserve diversity throughout the world which in part, helped to set the stage for protected area work in Canada. Again as important background information, the following is taken from sections of the Canadian Biodiversity Web Site:

1980 World Conservation Strategy This forerunner to the International Convention on Biological Diversity was developed with the goal of stimulating countries to implement national conservation strategies.

1982 World Charter for Nature (UN) This resolution called for nations to recognize the vital role that nature plays in making our society possible and called on nations to preserve and promote conservation.

1987 Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, recommended that “the total expanse of protected areas needs to be at least tripled (to 12%) if it is to constitute a representative sample of Earth’s ecosystems.”

1988 Diversity United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The second Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity met in November 1988 to explore the need for an international convention on biological diversity. This group, convened by the UNEP Governing Council, was charged with assessing whether a convention on biological diversity was needed and what form such a convention might take. The group found that, although biodiversity issues were addressed individually in other UN conventions, the piecemeal nature of this method did not adequately address global concerns about biodiversity. Their advice was heeded, and resulted in the convening of the 1992 "Earth Summit" (see below).

1990 Wildlife Policy for Canada This piece of legislation was a major step in a new way of looking at conservation, by emphasizing the maintenance and restoration of biodiversity and ecological processes, rather than the more common piecemeal conservation approaches that had been emphasized.

1991 Canadian Biodiversity Convention Advisory Group Now known as the Canadian Biodiversity Forum, this group made up of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other representatives provides advice to the federal government on biodiversity issues. It was originally established to advise the government on the negotiation of an international biodiversity conservation convention.

1992 The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Also known as the "Earth Summit" or "Rio Summit," this UN conference held in Brazil was the source of declarations including The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests, The Convention on Biological Diversity, and Agenda 21¹. The day that the convention came into force, December 29th, 1993, is now International Biodiversity Day.

1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (the Rio Conference, the Earth Summit) This convention, signed by many countries at the United Nations

¹ Agenda 21 is an agreement between more than 178 states and UN organizations outlining goals for environmental action and sustainable development in the twenty-first century. This farsighted agreement made suggestions on social and economic dimensions, natural resources, and strengthening the voice that traditionally marginalized groups have. Agenda 21 was signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

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Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 (UNCED, see above), is a legally binding international agreement which commits its signatory countries² to developing an action plan to preserve biodiversity and allows for international co-operation to achieve this goal. The major objectives of the conservation of biological diversity include the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

In **1989**, World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF-Canada)³ launched the national Endangered Spaces Campaign by publishing *Endangered Spaces: the Future for Canada's Wilderness* (Key Porter Press), and by introducing the Canadian Wilderness Charter to raise awareness among the Canadian public about the need to protect Canada's natural eco-systems. By **1992**⁴, Canada's federal and provincial environment, forestry, parks and wildlife ministers all signed the Tri-Council Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas, by 2000, effectively, endorsing WWF's initiative. The goal of WWF's Endangered Spaces Campaign⁵ was to establish a network of protected areas representing all the ecoregions (natural regions) of Canada by the year 2000.

Under the Endangered Spaced Campaign (ESC), starting in 1989, WWF-Canada funded various individuals in each of the provinces and territories to work with governments and other agencies under various protected area strategies to set aside lands for protection to meet the campaign goal.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES A BEGINNING:

In **June 1990**, the GNWT released its Sustainable Development Policy which contained an objective to establish “conservation areas to protect special values related to wildlife and wildlife habitat, unique or representative ecosystems, prime forests, productive agricultural soils, and heritage, recreational, tourism, scientific, and aesthetic resources.”

During the **early 1990 years** of WWF-Canada's ESC, although the Government of the NWT (GNWT) had signed on the Statement of Commitment, there was no formal

² Canada was the first industrialized country to ratify the convention.

³ WWF-Canada is a member of the world's largest independent conservation organization, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which is based in Gland, Switzerland.

⁴ In 1992, recognizing the many long-term benefits of a community-initiated network of protected areas, the federal, territorial and provincial governments in Canada all committed to completing a network of representative terrestrial protected areas by 2000.

⁵ From 1989 to 2000, it undertook an ambitious Endangered Spaces Campaign to complete a network of protected areas representing all of Canada's natural regions (also known as 'ecoregions') and thereby the range of wildlife habitats. The campaign more than doubled the land protected from coast to coast.

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action⁶ by territorial or the federal governments to establish NWT protected areas within the campaign goal.

In the **early to mid 1990's** WWF-Canada did have under contract on two separate occasions a part-time NWT coordinator which did help put WWF-Canada and to some small degree its ESC on the minds of many individuals in various NWT organizations.

By **1994** a new issue was on the horizon namely the Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the proposed BHP Diamond Mine in the Lac Du Gras area north of Yellowknife. An initial screening conducted by the Regional Environmental Review Committee (RERC)⁷ recommended to the responsible DIAND Minister that a panel review be held. The official decision to refer the project to a panel review was announced on July 26, 1994. The project's implications for protected areas was one key issue raised in the Environmental Impact Statement guidelines.

In **1996** eighteen days of EA BHP Panel Review public hearings were held in various Northwest Territories communities with 75 written submissions and approximately 260 presentations (January 22 – February 23, 1996).

At the EA hearings the subject of protected areas was addressed by the Northern Environmental Coalition. In particular WWF-Canada argued that project approval should be contingent on governments, including Aboriginal governments, establishing protected areas for the region.

June 21, 1996 the BHP EA Panel report was issued and although it reviewed the argument of WWF-Canada, the panel concluded that project approval would not compromise the establishment of protected areas in the region. It did agree, however, that a protected areas strategy should be developed.

On **July 3, 1996**, WWF-Canada announced its intention to seek a judicial review of the EA panel's report on the grounds of procedural unfairness and a failure to address adequately the issue of protected areas. This legal action by WWF to the EA panel report pushed this subject onto the BHP agenda in the summer and fall of 1996 at a time when orders for winter road construction supplies were being made so as to arrive into Yellowknife for the expected late January 1997 opening of the winter ice road to Lac du Gras.

⁶ This likely was not deliberate inaction on protected areas as a great deal of focus was on the settlement of outstanding land claims and within these claims there was protected area references or clauses including the establishment of some National Parks.

⁷ RERC is an interdepartmental committee of federal and GNWT officials and representatives of Aboriginal organizations. RERC's role in the process was to determine whether the potential adverse environmental effects of the project were sufficiently uncertain or significant to warrant further study, up to and including a panel review.

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In letters to BHP and to the Prime Minister, WWF-Canada clearly indicated that its objective in launching the judicial review was to obtain a commitment to protected areas designation, not to stop the project. Nonetheless, the letter to BHP stated that any litigation regarding the panel report could end up in the Supreme Court of Canada and that the result might be to delay project approval.

Regardless of the merits of WWF's application for judicial review, the risk of extended legal action was of concern to BHP. Following discussions between INAC and WWF-Canada a response by the DIAND Minister was agreed upon.

August 8⁸, 1996 saw the government's public response to the WWF's lawsuit with a promise in DIAND Minister Irwin's announcement⁹ to put in place a protected areas strategy in the Northwest Territories by the end of 1998, in consultation with Aboriginal organization and others (environmental non-government organizations & industry). In addition, Environment Canada agreed to include in all future Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency assessments, consideration of a project's impact, not just on existing protected areas, but on the potential to complete a network of representative protected areas in all the affected natural regions. With this announcement, WWF temporarily suspended its legal action pending clarification of the government's commitment to protected areas. Discussions on protected areas were concurrently carried out along with the other negotiations during a 60-day period following the Minister's announcement.

The GNWT¹⁰ offered to take the lead on a protected areas strategy, and circulated an initial document in **October of 1996**. Discussions among government officials, Aboriginal representatives and environmental groups to develop a protected areas strategy framework resulted in some progress during the 60-day period. The Minister's announcement of November 1, 1996, stated that priority would be placed on identifying sites in the West Kitikmeot/Slave Study Area¹¹ (WKSS)¹² and that

⁸ **Note** the press release may have been dated and released on August 10th, 1996

⁹ In the INAC Ministerial Press Release announcing 'Canada is one step close to having its first diamond mine', by way of a separate paragraph Minister Irwin basically stated "...and furthermore **the federal and territorial governments working with Aboriginal organizations and otherswill develop a protected areas strategy for the Northwest Territories by the end of 1998.**

¹⁰ Although perhaps attempting to play the role of a provincial-like land owning government, it was almost out of place that the GNWT would take the lead as they have no significant ownership of land in the NWT. In fact as a land owner or manager, the GNWT has only 1 to 2% of the NWT lands and these are so-called "Commissioners Lands" located primarily in and around NWT municipalities. Furthermore the only GNWT legislation at the time remotely applicable was the NWT Parks Act. The majority of lands in the NWT are Crown lands managed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The remaining lands in the NWT are mainly private fee simple lands resulting from signed and constitutionally entrenched Land Claim Agreements.

¹¹ The Slave and West Kitikmeot are the geological provinces to the north of Yellowknife where the diamond staking first occurred.

¹² WKSS is a related research initiative with partnership funding from government, industry, Aboriginal groups and environmental groups. This study is not directly linked to the BHP project, but it was initiated with the decision to refer BHP's application to an EA panel review and it shows a concern that

there was "a clear commitment from all parties to continue work to address this initiative and implement the strategy once finalized". A final agreement was reached in mid-January. Key to this agreement was a commitment by the federal government, represented by INAC, and the GNWT, to produce a protected areas strategy by the end of 1998 and to provide interim protection for high-priority sites. The federal government also agreed that impacts on protected areas should be taken into consideration in the EA process for future industrial projects.

January 13, 1997, the noted agreement resulted in a formal announcement by WWF-Canada that it was withdrawing its application for judicial review of the EA panel report.

NWT PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY:

In March of 1997 the GNWT Parks and Tourism Division RWED held a protected areas workshop in Inuvik as the first meeting aimed at advancing a protected areas strategy for the NWT. Participation varied widely, with Nunavut (prior to NWT division) attending but noting no further involvement as protected areas would be dealt with under their final agreement; the Deh Cho¹³ First Nations attended as observers only; invitations did not go to all Aboriginal organizations¹⁴; and some invitees failed to attend. In summary the Inuvik area workshop took place as follows:

- The meeting was intended to gather initial direction for the PAS; it was hosted by GNWT, and chaired by Stephen Kakfwi, who was Minister of RWED at the time.
- Kakfwi gave an opening address and stayed very actively involved in the meeting right through to its conclusion, sending a clear signal that this was a priority for him as Minister.
- The meeting was by invitation, and included about 50/50 aboriginal and non-aboriginal representatives, including a number of southern-based "experts" on protected areas system design etc.
- Representatives from Nunavut were invited, though didn't participate officially; the single attending delegate, Adrian Boyd, simply said Nunavut wouldn't

BHP's diamond mine may be the first of many in the region. The EA panel acknowledged the importance of the WKSS, in light of deficiencies in baseline information on caribou and grizzly bears, and recommended that the study program be designed to provide the information necessary for regional decision making, including cumulative effects assessment of future development in the region. Its goal is to collect and make available information on the West Kitikmeot/Slave area in order to assist informed decision making by the partners in the study and to facilitate sustainable development.

¹³ Now spelled Dehcho

¹⁴ The Métis Nation of the NWT being an example

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participate in the PAS because all this was already covered in the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. This lack of interest and co-operation was very frustrating to a number of attendees, including the Chair.

- After various presentations, Minister Kakfwi summed up the meeting as having given clear direction to guide the PAS process, namely that it would be led by the people who lived in the North, that the areas needed to be priorities first and foremost to them, and that all treaty and land claim protocols were to be respected.
- This set the tone early in the day for giving priority to areas that are culturally and naturally significant to the people of the North.

Following the Inuvik workshop a joint GNWT/INAC protected area working group was established and met once every 2 weeks chaired by the GNWT Parks and Tourism Director. The GNWT team consisted of individuals from Wildlife, Policy & Planning and Parks. INAC representatives were from Environment and Conservation. The initial focus, led by GNWT, appeared to be development of a timeline and to advise various provincial, federal and international agencies of plans for a protected areas strategy.

December 1997 a new WWF Regional Coordinator (Bill Carpenter) was appointed to manage the Endangered Spaces Campaign in the NWT. In **December 1997 and January 1998** initial meetings occurred between the WWF Regional Coordinator and the GNWT Chair of GNWT/INAC protected area working group with the following observational notes:

- The working group efforts were flawed as it failed to include Aboriginal organizations or northern residents nor others such as Environmental Non-government Organizations (ENGOS) or industry.
- The Chair of the GNWT/INAC protected area working group was reluctant to invite anyone else and had said 'no' to having others involved until they had a document written. However by the end of January 1998 the draft had not yet begun to be written
- INAC Environment and Conservation meanwhile began an outreach process by offering funding to the Liidlii Kue First Nation to host a Willow Lake workshop to provide input into the development of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. In the workshop, they would be using the Horn Plateau as a pilot case study to illustrate basic principles and concepts that could form the basis for a Strategy to advance a protected area.
- WWF made similar plans to start consulting with Aboriginal groups, other ENGOS and industry.

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February 1998, WWF Regional Coordinator negotiated with the Chair of the GNWT/INAC protected area working group to attend the bi-weekly meetings with the Chair, who was pleased that WWF would bring substantial funding to the PAS development process from the Endangered Spaces Campaign.

By **March of 1998** WWF's Regional Coordinator had consulted with some Aboriginal groups¹⁵, other ENGOs and industry¹⁶ and came to the conclusion that in order to meet Minister Kakfwi's priority that a PAS process be led by Northerners; then the drafting process for a PAS needed immediate input from groups outside of government.

This led to WWF funding and holding an invitational meeting¹⁷ on **March 13th** in the Yellowknife Inn. Not only did it include "available" Aboriginal representatives and leaders, but also the NWT Chamber of Mines and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-NWT Chapter. The attendees at the meeting created what came to be known as the "Founding Members" of a Protected Areas Strategy Advisory Committee". The Chair of the GNWT/INAC protected area working group was immediately informed of this as was the RWED Deputy Minister (DM) in a one-on-one meeting¹⁸. The DM gave his full support to this new direction and advised Minister Kakfwi.

At the next meeting of the GNWT/INAC protected area working group a new direction evolved whereby the Chair requested a full briefing of the meeting that led to the "Founding Members of a Protected Areas Strategy Advisory Committee". The working group also requested input and direction from the WWF Regional Coordinator as to the new formal role of the "Protected Areas Strategy Advisory Committee" and were advised that the 'Committee' would meet by conference call and determine next steps.

By conference call the founding members of the "Protected Areas Strategy Advisory Committee" decided to hold a large all-inclusive PAS workshop for April 1998, and

¹⁵ This included: meeting leaders from the Deh Cho Region, the Dogrib Treaty 11 Tribal Council & the Akaitcho Territory Tribal Council; contacting representatives of the Inuvialuit, Sahtu & Gwich'in land claim regions who were dealing with protected areas within their land claim agreements; making a presentation to the AGM South Slave Métis Tribal Council; participating in the Protected Areas "Visioning Workshops at Ft. Resolution; participating in a CPAWS sponsored Y2Y Planning Workshop in Ft. Simpson.

¹⁶ NWT Chamber of Mines who had previously expressed concern to the Chair of the GNWT/INAC protected area working group about not being involved.

¹⁷ Government officials were not invited and were to be informed of the outcome after the meeting.

¹⁸ Having a one-on-one meeting with the DM had the benefit of bypassing government protocol which would have involved delays while briefing notes (including recommendations) were prepared and approved all the way up the line. The Chair of the GNWT/INAC working group did not approve of the one-on-one direct meeting with the DM but was not given a choice as it was a necessary approach to give power and control to the new "Protected Areas Strategy Advisory Committee"

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that it would be organized by the Founding Members - not government. The GNWT/INAC protected area working group was advised of this and government staff assisted with logistics only.

Over 60 delegates attended the **April 1998** workshop¹⁹ from all interest groups in the western – NWT. It was viewed as highly successful and credit was given publicly to WWF for making it possible. From the Workshop came a new Advisory Committee²⁰ with representation from the Land Claim regions of Sahtu, Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit plus the non-settled areas of the Deh Cho, Dogrib Treaty 11, Akaitcho Treaty 8, South Slave Métis Tribal Council as well as Industry (CAPP & NWT Chamber of Mines), Environmental Organizations, INAC and the GNWT. Nunavut was given a seat and invited to attend but declined claiming other issues had a higher priority.

The Workshop delegates directed the GNWT²¹ and INAC to immediately prepare a draft strategy based on principles, goals and themes identified, and to submit it to the new PAS Advisory Committee for review and input.

The workshop delegates also agreed to work towards having a completed strategy by the fall so it could receive both territorial and federal Cabinet approval by the end of 1998 to meet the previously committed deadline announced by the DIAND Minister in August 1996. Following the workshop INAC, GNWT and WWF officials worked daily in preparing the first draft of the strategy.

In mid **June 1998**, the new PAS Advisory Committee held its first meeting to review the first draft of the Protected Areas Strategy. Numerous changes were recommended and a revised second draft was faxed out during the first week in July. Over the next 6 months,²² through numerous drafts and conference calls, the PAS Advisory Committee produced by early December a near final draft of the community-driven PAS.

The PAS Final document²³ was approved on **February 15²⁴, 1999** (six weeks late of the end of the 1998 deadline) by the PAS Advisory Committee members, and

¹⁹ Funded by INAC, GNWT & WWF

²⁰ At the April workshop with additional members, officially became the NWT Protected Areas Strategy Advisory Committee

²¹ Prior to the April workshop the GNWT had hired Ron Seale (now deceased see later note on this) to take the lead in working on a PAS & in preparation for the workshop based on his vast experience prepared some draft principles, goals and themes for the delegates to consider

²² During that period tragedy struck and Inuvialuit representative Nelson Green on the Committee died in a terrible winter snowmobile accident while returning to Paulatuk.

²³ It included "*For greater clarity*" a 3 part footnote on page 1 that was the culmination of final negotiations on the last conference call noting that "...no process under the Protected Areas Strategy, including the establishment of interim protection, shall take place without the consent and participation of..." the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated.

²⁴ Sadly we lost another Committee member when Ron Seale died of heart failure while in Iqaluit the day after being on our last conference call to approve the PAS

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submitted to the GNWT with a cover letter signed on behalf of the Committee by Dogrib Treaty 11 representative Ted Blondin.

It was approved by the GNWT Cabinet and reported as approved to the Legislative Assembly on April 19, 1999 and listed in Hansard²⁵ Summary for the 7TH Session 13th Legislative Assembly, April 19, 1999.

With the PAS approved by NWT Cabinet, WWF-Canada approved Local Action Funds for Endangered Spaces (LAFES) to Liidlii Kue First Nation to formally advance Horn Plateau into PAS Step 1 - 2 processes and to begin mapping, documenting ecological and economic information plus Traditional Knowledge.

May 1999, the Protected Areas Strategy was then sent by the GNWT to the federal Minister of DIAND, Honourable Jane Stewart, for her approval. INAC approval on behalf of Canada required further consent from all federal partners of the joint federal/territorial PAS initiative (Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Environment Canada (EC), Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Canadian Heritage (CH), Parks Canada (PC) and INAC itself). At the end of June 1999 INAC send it out to the other departments for approval.

June to Sept 1999 – All federal partners (NRCan, DFO, CH, PC, EC) gave written support to DIAND Minister, to proceed with federal signing of PAS.

In **early September of 1999** WWF announced plans for a media and PAS partner tour²⁶ of the Horn Plateau site thus putting major pressure on the federal government to approve the PAS.

Two days before the tour, Robert Nault, federal Minister of DIAND and Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Government of the Northwest Territories, announced the formal Federal and Territorial approval, with DIAND Minister Nault adding his signature to that of GNWT Minister Kakfwi. As such the official implementation date for the NWT-PAS became **September 27, 1999**,

IMPLEMENTING THE PAS:

On **October 1, 1999**, the tour of the Horn Plateau was hosted and funded by WWF and INAC. The Horn Plateau became the first candidate site to be advanced under the Implementation Phase of the PAS. The tour group met with Dehcho community

²⁵ Hansard from the 7th Session 13th Legislative Assembly, April 19, 1999 includes Minister Kakfwi's remarks "Mr. Speaker, the Protected Areas Strategy is the culmination of several years work by the Advisory Committee. It is dedicated to the memory of two members of that group: Mr. Nelson Green, a champion of Inuvialuit culture, traditions, language and harvesting rights; and Mr. Ron Seale, a man who devoted both his professional and personal life to preserving our wild spaces and parks.

²⁶ INAC and WWF funded this tour.

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representatives who were completing a workshop at their Willow Lake camp on the Horn Plateau. Liidlii Kue consultant Peter Cizek presented highlights of the Horn Plateau workshop to the visiting group. A great deal of positive press cover was generated as a result of the tour.

November 1999 WWF Regional Coordinator suggested to the Déline Dene Band that they should advance Sahoyúé/Ehdacho (previously designated as a National Historic Site in 1998) through Steps 3 and 4 of the NWT PAS. The Band decided this was an appropriate way to obtain the permanent protection they were seeking. WWF and CPAWS-NWT supported the Band's PAS work, which led to a five-year interim land withdrawal of 5,550 sq km of land in **November 2000**, becoming the first land withdrawal under the PAS.

Work on the Horn Plateau continued, including gaining full Dehcho support for linking Mills Lake and the Horn River areas of Fort Providence with the Horn Plateau to advance it as a single candidate area called Edézhzhíe.

Funding of the implementation of the PAS was initially a partnership between WWF-Canada, INAC and GNWT-RWED with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) NWT Chapter joining shortly after.

The Protected Areas Strategy Advisory Committee became the PAS Implementation Advisory Committee (PASIAC) once the Strategy was signed in 1999. PASIAC evolved in 2005 to become the PAS Steering Committee.

ⁱ July 1st, 2006, to present date is Senior Advisor to WWF-Canada and the WWF member of the Edézhzhíe Working Group; July 2000 to 2006 was NWT Regional Conservation Director, WWF Arctic Conservation Program and a member of PAS Steering Committee; December 1997 was appointed as the WWF Regional Coordinator to manage the WWF Endangered Spaces Campaign in the NWT and a member of original PAS Advisory Committee.

November 2002 was one of the northern recipients of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal given to Canadian citizens who have made an outstanding and exemplary contribution to the community or to Canada as a whole. September 2003 received the 2003 "Gold Leaf Award" from the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas in recognition of dedicated efforts to develop and implement a Protected Areas Strategy for the Northwest Territories and for work with local communities to establish interim protection for the proposed Edézhzhíe Wildlife Area. June 2005 in Vancouver, received a 2005 WWF International award for outstanding Lifetime Achievement in Conservation.