



Déljñę Got'jñę Government

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July 17, 2018

Heather Bourassa, chair
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
PO Box 235
Fort Good Hope, NT XOE OHO

RE: Process for Amending the Sahtú Land Use Plan

Further to the Board's request for comments on the scope of potential amendments to the Sahtú Land Use Plan ("the Plan") and to our previous correspondence of 14 February, 2018, the Déljñę Got'jñę Government ("DGG") wishes to provide further comment on the scope of the amendment process.

DGG Recommendations:

The DGG wishes to ensure that amended Plan reflects:

- the 2016 designation of Great Bear Lake as the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)¹,
- Canada's Aichi Target 1 commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity to achieve 17% protection of terrestrial and inland waters by 2020², and
- the aspirations of the DGG to work with Canada and the GNWT to manage and maintain the ecological integrity of Great Bear Lake and its watershed as an Indigenous Protected Area ("IPA").

These goals are of critical importance to the DGG. It is accordingly the view of the DGG that the process for amending the Plan should include:

1. Measurable conservation outcomes that are reflected in the Vision and Goals of the Plan, and in the designation of zones, conformity requirements, actions and recommendations under the Plan;
2. Revisions to the zones in the Déljñę region to reflect the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve as a Conservation Initiative Zone prior to 2020;

¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/europe-north-america/canada/tsa-tue/>

² <http://www.conservation2020canada.ca/home>



3. Scope for additional Conservation Initiative Zones that include candidate Indigenous Protected Areas proposed by Sahtú communities as well as federal and territorial designations; and
4. Clear procedures that enable Conservation Initiative Zones to efficiently transition to Established Protected Area zones once final protection designations are made under legislation, establishment agreements, or other legally effective means.

Discussion:

As noted by the Board in the January 2018 “Look Back, Look Forward” scoping document, the existing Conservation Initiative Zones established under the existing 2013 Plan did not anticipate the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve. The DGG notes that the 2013 Plan also did not anticipate the ambitious goals set by the Government of Canada to achieve 17% protection of terrestrial and inland waters by 2020 in accordance with Canada’s Aichi Target 1 commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In the communique released by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Parks, Protected Areas, Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity on June 28, 2018, the Ministers stated that “Indigenous protected and conserved areas that will serve as foundational guidance to facilitate immediate conservation planning and action”, and committed that the federal, provincial and territorial governments would:

...work with Indigenous Peoples to further elaborate the concept of Indigenous protected and conserved areas, and clarify their contributions to Canada Target 1 and to Indigenous cultural and conservation priorities. We will work in the spirit and practice of reconciliation, consistent with legal duties and mutual commitments in treaties, land claim and self-government agreements, and other agreements as required.³

This represents a significant shift in how conservation areas should be planned and designated under the Plan. Previously, federal and territorial designations provided the basis for a Conservation Initiative Zone designation in the Plan. Given the results of the Pathways process and the Ministerial commitments cited above, the inclusion of Indigenous Protected Areas as a basis for conservation planning and action in the Sahtú region must be considered as a best practice, and reflected in the process of amending the Plan.

Ultimately, an IPA designation for Tsá Tué will enable the DGG to collaborate with Canada and the GNWT to develop management plans for Tsá Tué that will support local

³ <http://www.scics.ca/en/product-produit/news-release-canadas-natural-legacy/>



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stewardship, provide a focus for Indigenous Guardians employed by the DGG to work in partnership with other governments to maintain ecological integrity, support community on-the-land programs, revitalize Sahtuto'ine culture, and ensure that resources are used wisely and in accordance with the laws and customs of the people who have cared for this land for thousands of years.

Given the Board's experience with Náát'ishch'oh', the DGG believes that an appropriate first step towards an IPA designation for Tsá Tué is an amendment to the zones in the Déljñę region to reflect the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve as a Conservation Initiative Zone. This should be accomplished during this 5-year review process, rather than being pursued as an ongoing amendment at a later stage. The DGG requests that the Board work with the DGG, other Approving Parties and Planning Partners, to ensure that these revisions are made as soon as possible, keeping in mind that the Pathways 2020 deadline is less than 18 months away.

Finally, the DGG notes that other Sahtú communities are also interested in advancing IPA proposals, and that the amendment process should provide scope for review and revisions to the existing Conservation Initiative Zones or additional Conservation Initiative Zones that include candidate Indigenous Protected Areas proposed by other Sahtú communities in addition to or in partnership with federal and territorial proposals for conservation initiatives.

The amendment process should also include opportunities for the Board to seek the views of the DGG and other Sahtú communities, other Approving Parties and Planning Partners on the process of revising the Plan to enable Conservation Initiative Zones to efficiently transition to Established Protected Area zones once the necessary steps are taken to give effect to the permanent protection of such areas through legislation, establishment agreements, or other legally effective mechanisms.

We look forward to your response to these recommendations.

Máhsi,

Chief Raymond Tutcho
Déljñę Got'jñę Government

cc: Sahtú Leadership
Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated