

Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

**Five-year Action Plan and Budget
2003–2008**

(DRAFT)

Kuujuaq, March 2003

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I KEAC Five-year Action Plan (2003–2008)

This five-year action plan aims to allow the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) to properly fulfil its mandate under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA). Responses to issues that arise in Nunavik will be founded on policies that respect the commitments and intentions of the signatories of the JBNQA in terms of environmental and social protection, 28 years after the signing of the JBNQA.

Issues

Two principal issues are at the centre of the KEAC's action plan: (A) the structure and operations of the KEAC; and (B) fulfilment of its mandate.

- A. The KEAC's current structure, a secretariat comprising one full-time executive secretary based in Kuujuaq, allows the KEAC to fully assume its responsibilities.
- B. Environmental and social protection are central to the KEAC's role. In light of the changing development dynamics, this requires safeguarding an environment that is capable of supporting sustainable development, maintaining species diversity and ensuring human safety. This in turn means that the KEAC has numerous sources of concern and areas of intervention.

Focus and objectives of environmental protection in Nunavik

The focus and objectives of environmental protection cover the five areas of the KEAC's mandate and responsibilities:

1. act as a consultative body to responsible governments (sect. 23.5.24);
2. make recommendations concerning legislation, regulations and other appropriate measures related to environmental and social protection (sect. 23.5.25);
3. examine environmental and social impact assessment and review mechanisms and procedures (sect. 23.5.27);
4. serve as a link with Nunavik's population and support the regional government and municipalities by providing them with advice and technical assistance (sect. 23.5.33);
5. examine priority environmental issues based on a global, preventive and proactive approach (sect. 23.2.4).

1. Act as a consultative body to responsible governments with respect to the laws and regulations relating to the environmental and social protection regime and the administration and management of the regime

1.1 Focus

It is crucial for the KEAC to work closely with government officials and adopt an approach based on co-operation as well as the sharing of information and opinions. The KEAC therefore intends to develop such co-operation.

The KEAC will enhance its contribution as an advisory and supervisory body. It will improve the way in which it reviews and examines legislation and measures relating to the environmental and social protection regime.

1.2 Objectives

1. Make the KEAC and its mandate known to government authorities and officials whose mission and actions are relative to or impact on the environmental and social protection regime established for Nunavik;
2. Propose a procedure for government consultation of the KEAC that is consistent with the terms and spirit of the JBNQA and will help make KEAC's analyses and advice more effective;
3. Examine amendments to government environmental legislation affecting the North by taking into account the specific characteristics of Nunavik through consultations with the communities and organizations concerned and, where necessary, obtaining expert advice and assistance; after examining the amendments, advise and make recommendations to the responsible governments;
4. Follow up on the receipt and impacts of the KEAC's advice and recommendations;

5. Review certain government measures put in place to implement or control activities and, based on the results of the review, advise and make relevant recommendations; also, propose suitable or essential measures, as needed.

2. *Make recommendations concerning legislation, regulations and other appropriate measures related to environmental and social protection*

2.1 *Focus*

Through its tripartite composition and its knowledge of the physical and social environment of Nunavik, the KEAC is well placed to propose, to the governments concerned, laws, regulations or measures that are deemed useful or necessary for the environmental and social protection of the territory. As needed, the KEAC targets its activities to support legislative authorities.

2.2 *Objectives*

After examining specific, priority problems or actual situations requiring control measures and based on existing legislation, the KEAC will make proposals to laws, regulations or other appropriate measures to ensure respect of the JBNQA and its environmental and social protection regime.

3. *Examine environmental and social impact assessment and review mechanisms and procedures*

3.1 *Focus*

In recent years, the review of environmental and social impact assessment and review mechanisms and procedures has been given special attention by the KEAC. The challenge involved is sizeable, since it relates to the credibility and respect of the JBNQA and the regimes it established. The KEAC will continue working to ensure that the responsible governments respect the JBNQA when planning projects that could have environmental and social impacts in Nunavik.

3.2 *Objectives*

1. Assess the implementation of Section 23 by responsible governments;
2. Review cases of double impact assessment;
3. Follow up on marine infrastructure projects carried out in Nunavik;
4. Review harmonization proposals put forward by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency;
5. Take effective action to ensure that the responsible governments respect the JBNQA and the special rights it grants to Northern communities and their environment.

4. *Serve as a link with Nunavik's population and support the regional government and municipalities by providing them with advice and technical assistance*

4.1 *Focus*

The KEAC intends to respect the foundations of Section 23 of the JBNQA and foster more meaningful involvement of the Inuit and their representatives, both as holders of concrete and specific knowledge of the problems and situations brought to the KEAC's attention and as the preferential beneficiaries of the KEAC's expertise and actions related to environmental and social protection in Nunavik.

4.2 *Objectives*

1. Establish a policy governing relations (information sharing, consultation, etc.) with the local and regional governments in Nunavik, especially as concerns environmental issues submitted to the KEAC for consultation and comment;
2. Provide the governments in Nunavik with the support needed to ensure that the public is adequately and properly informed, that development projects impacting on the well-being and safety of Nunavik residents are known, and that the real impacts, both positive and negative, are identified so that the necessary choices can be made and actions taken;
3. Invite, from time to time, resource people and elected officials from Nunavik to KEAC meetings;
4. Create a program to highlight environmental achievements at the local level and thereby encourage government or private-sector organizations and individuals to care about the quality of the environment in Nunavik.

5. *Examine priority environmental issues based on a global, preventive and proactive approach*

5.1 *Focus*

It is not the KEAC's intention to act in the place of any other body; however, given its mandate, the KEAC considers that it is its obligation to become involved in environmental issues that are considered a priority and are of concern to the people of Nunavik. Therefore, it intends to review matters and projects submitted for consultation in a broad enough manner to be able to identify the attendant environmental impacts, especially from the perspective of ecological integrity and possible social repercussions. Where possible, the KEAC aims to act in a preventive and proactive manner by proposing legislation and other measures before problems arise or become critical.

5.2 *Objectives*

1. Begin or continue studying or following up on various matters, such as the characterization of abandoned mining exploration sites, energy conservation, waste recycling/recovery, soft energies, air pollution, the decline in caribou populations, etc.;
2. Take relevant and effective action where required so as to ensure that Inuit rights are respected and the natural and social environments are protected.

II – KEAC Budget (2003–2008)

The attached KEAC budget covers five fiscal years, from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2008. The annual budget indicates the human and physical resources required by the KEAC's secretariat in Kuujjuaq.

The KEAC's head office in Kuujjuaq comprises two locations: one for the storage of archives and the other for the activities of the secretariat. The offices include the work space and physical resources necessary to welcome the general public and allow the executive secretary to perform her duties. However, the operation of offices in Kuujjuaq incurs recurrent costs that are higher than originally forecast.

The increased operating costs of the secretariat, as indicated in the 2003–2008 budget, relate mainly to higher rental expenses (office space), physical resources, wages and employee benefits, equipment acquisitions and other operations (travel, telephone rental, long-distance charges, etc.). As a result, the KEAC's adjusted financial needs now total \$240,000 annually for the fiscal years 2003–2008. A detailed budget is presented below.

KEAC
Annual Budget, April 1–March 31
2003–2008

Personnel

Executive secretary		\$45 058
Cost of living differential, Kuujjuaq (1 employee with 2 dependants)		\$9 795
Annual leave trips (1 employee with 2 dependants)		\$12 000
Food allowance (1 employee with 2 dependants)		\$2 945
Housing (1 employee with 2 dependants)		\$30 000
Health care insurance		\$500
	Subtotal	\$100 298

Physical resources (Kuujjuaq)

Office space	• rental from KRG	\$3 800
Archival storage	• rental from KRDC	\$3 000
Telephone and fax	• rental from KRG	\$2 760
Teleconferences		\$1 000
Internet and e-mail	• rental from KRG	\$2 000
Stationery (use of KRG photocopier)		\$1 500
Printing annual report (100 copies)		\$1 000
Postage		\$1 000
Various (diskettes, etc.)		\$1 000
	Subtotal	\$17 060

Administration

Payroll services		\$575
Bank fees		\$120
Accounting fees (annual audit and income tax return)		
	\$1 100	
CSST		\$692
	Subtotal	\$2 487

Annual meeting expenses

Rentals	• meeting room, audio-visual equipment	\$5 000
Travel (executive secretary)	• travel, flights, accommodations	\$15 000
KEAC (KRG participation)	• 3 members X 4 meetings	\$20 000
COFEX-North (KRG participation)	• 2 members X 3 meetings	\$10 000
Translation	• annual report, meeting minutes	\$12 000
	Subtotal	\$62 000

Advice and opinions

Consultations	• outsourcing	\$40 000
Consultant travel expenses	• travel, flights, accommodations	\$15 000
	Subtotal	\$55 000

Other expenses

Advertising and communications		\$3 000
	Subtotal	\$3 000

ANNUAL TOTAL **\$239 845**