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# **Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board Strategic Plan 2007 – 2012**

**June 2008**

# Introduction

The Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board for the Diavik Diamond Project was formed through the Environmental Agreement (EA), March 8, 2000. The EA defines the Board's Purpose, Guiding Principles and Mandate.

EMAB was incorporated under the Societies Act on January 30, 2001.

EMAB is governed by a Board comprised of appointees from the eight signatories (Parties) to the EA. Signatory Parties to the EA are:

- The Dogrib Treaty 11 Council (now Tlicho Government);
- The Lutsel K'e Dene Band;
- The Yellowknife Dene First Nation;
- The North Slave Metis Alliance;
- The Kitikmeot Inuit Association;
- Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.;
- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Canada;
- Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (now Environment & Natural Resources), GNWT

The Federal and GNWT Ministries are the "*Responsible Authorities*" for the Agreement.

Since its inception the collaborative work undertaken by the Board has supported the mutual interests of Parties to the EA to ensure respect and protection for the Lac De Gras environment.

## **Vision and Mission**

EMAB's vision is: *Working with the people for the environment of the Diavik mine*

EMAB's mission is: *To monitor and provide guidance to Diavik and regulators to ensure that the Diavik Diamond Mine is developed, operated and reclaimed in a manner that:*

- *Protects the environment*
- *Advocates for Aboriginal Involvement*
- *Respects the public interest*
- *Protects the way of life and well-being of Affected Aboriginal Communities*

# Objectives and Outcomes

## Oversight and Monitoring

Objectives	Outcomes
Oversight of Diavik through operation and closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Formal and full review of Diavik's Aquatic Effects monitoring Program and reports, Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program and reports and the Environmental Agreement Annual Report</li><li>✓ Make recommendations</li><li>✓ Participation in Diavik workshops</li><li>✓ Tracking reports</li></ul>
Oversight of regulators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Tracking, assessing and responding to reviews in priority areas</li><li>✓ Watchdog on regulators</li><li>✓ Make recommendations</li><li>✓ Participation in relevant environmental workshop</li></ul>
Compliance with Environmental Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Annual report card on Environmental Agreement implementation</li><li>✓ Tracking and reviewing plans and programs based on Board priorities</li><li>✓ Successful EA implementation</li></ul>

## Prioritized Strategic Initiatives

### Top priority (very important and urgent)

1. Establish a clearly defined process for DDMI to present its monitoring information to communities and EMAB to present its assessment.

### Second priority (important)

2. Conduct an evaluation of Parties' satisfaction with Diavik's role and performance in areas of EA implementation and environmental priorities (speaking with leadership, community, elders and youth).
3. Annual critical review by EMAB of EA implementation.
4. Develop a cooperative work plan with Diavik for EA implementation.
5. Periodically review priorities – currently: water, wildlife, fish, air/dust and reclamation.
6. Advocate for Cumulative effects monitoring Initiatives.
7. Encourage Diavik to participate in Cumulative Effects monitoring initiatives.

## Aboriginal and Community Involvement

Objectives	Outcomes
Increase use of Traditional Knowledge	✓ TK monitoring be considered fully
Enable communities to fully participate in implementing the Environmental Agreement	✓ Increased engagement of communities, especially in monitoring ✓ Training of youth in environmental monitoring
Active communities	✓ Communities feel they play an active role in environmental issues related to Diavik

### Strategic Initiatives

#### Top priority (very important and urgent)

1. Strike a panel to define a relevant role for TK in environmental monitoring.
2. Support and assist Diavik in integrating TK into environmental monitoring.

#### Second priority (important)

3. Monitor and support the development of appropriate environmental training programs (curricula) at Aurora College or MTS, etc.
4. Follow up on Aboriginal Involvement in Environmental Monitoring Workshop recommendations.

## Communications, Relationships, Reputation Management and Advocacy

Objectives	Outcomes
Active and empowered Board members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Board members consistently have the tools in hand to communicate Board activities</li> <li>✓ Board members have the information (in appropriate form) to answer EMAB-related questions</li> <li>✓ Board members enjoy a positive public profile</li> </ul>
Informed communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Affected communities are informed about EMAB, including;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMAB's mandate,</li> <li>• information related to the Environmental Agreement,</li> <li>• how EMAB watchdogs Diavik,</li> <li>• activities involving communities</li> <li>• outcome of activities involving communities</li> <li>• planned activities</li> <li>• EMAB's assessment of Diavik monitoring reports and state of environment at Diavik</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Access for community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community members know how to access information about EMAB and environmental issues related to Diavik</li> <li>✓ Community members feel comfortable and able to reach their Board member</li> </ul>
Informed public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The public knows that EMAB exists and what it does</li> <li>✓ The public does not confuse EMAB with Diavik</li> </ul>
Informed Diavik / regulators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Diavik and regulators recognize EMAB's role and understand EMAB's priorities</li> </ul>

### Strategic Initiatives

#### Top priority (very important and urgent)

1. Write a communications plan including updating the proactive media relations plan.

#### Second priority (important)

2. Develop and administer appropriate plain language mechanism to conduct an evaluation of EMAB's role and performance, including Parties' satisfaction with implementation of EA as part of evaluation of Party satisfaction.
3. Continue public meetings/updates and pass on information in a way consistent with community needs. Report back to communities on actions taken on priority issues.
4. Continue to publish an annual report, maintain a public registry and fulfill other EA requirements.

## Leadership and Governance

Objectives	Outcomes
Accountability and transparency	To be accountable and transparent
Board development	Ongoing Board development - stay current on evolving issues Transfer EMAB memory to new members
Strategic relationships	Diavik, regulators, Regulatory Authorities, and Party leaders understand and support EMAB priorities

## Strategic Initiatives

### Second priority (important)

1. Hold workshops where EMAB has technical experts explain technical issues for Board and community participants.
2. Undertake a review of the effectiveness of EA implementation with the Parties to identify areas needing greater attention and those of highest priority to the Parties
3. Annual governance and team building workshop to clarify roles, responsibilities and conflicts
4. Effective Board orientation materials
5. Measure Parties' satisfaction with EMAB

### Third priority (important)

6. Develop written guidance/criteria for "by exception" process for involvement of EMAB in review of issues.

### Fourth priority (less important)

7. Management plan for development of strategic relationships with Diavik executive, regulators, Regulatory Authorities, Party leaders.

## **Links Between Community Workshops and the Strategic Plan**

The goal of Community Engagement Workshops was to ensure EMAB was in tune with the people and to identify gaps in performance which could be used in developing a strategic plan.

After informing communities of its recent activities, EMAB asked four questions relating to priorities mandated in the EA, the use of Traditional Knowledge in monitoring, monitoring by Aboriginal people of the Affected Communities, and what information communities wanted and how it should be delivered.

Responses from communities were generally consistent. When rolled together there were 11 critical areas – either input or concern – identified for EMAB to action.

The table, below, captures communities' input and concerns and identifies the link with EMAB's strategic initiatives. In simpler terms this means here's what the communities said they wanted and here's how EMAB is going to deliver on it.

**Topic Area: EMAB environmental monitoring**

<b>Community Input/Concern</b>	<b>Link to EMAB's Strategic Initiatives</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Page #</b>
<p>Animal health and fish health are of greatest concern. The quality of the air, water and environment relates directly to the health of the animals and fish. People are concerned with dust and emissions into the air as they affect vegetation that animals eat. People live off the land; maintaining the quality of what they eat is primary. Further, the general well-being of the animals is important. Water is equally important as people drink it from the source. Secondary concerns were more future-oriented, such as reclamation and cumulative effects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periodically review priorities – currently: water, wildlife, fish, air/dust and reclamation.</li> </ul>	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of Parties' satisfaction with Diavik's role and performance with respect to EA implementation and environmental priorities.</li> </ul>	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for effective cumulative effects monitoring.</li> </ul>	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage Diavik to participate in Cumulative Effects monitoring initiatives.</li> </ul>	4
<p>The Board does not do enough technically (read: scientifically).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a clearly defined process for DDMI to present its monitoring information and EMAB to present its assessment.</li> <li>Hold workshops where EMAB has technical experts explain technical issues for Board and community participants.</li> <li>Develop written guidance/criteria for "by exception" process for involvement of EMAB in review of issues.</li> </ul>	4 7 4

**Topic Area: use of traditional knowledge/ Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit**

<b>Community Input/Concern</b>	<b>Link to EMAB's Strategic Initiatives</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Page #</b>
<p>There's a feeling that TK/IQ has not enjoyed continuous use, despite initial consultations before mine construction. There are knowledgeable people in the communities that have great ideas about including TK/IQ in monitoring. Teaming up elders (for their TK) and youth (to learn both TK and scientific methodologies) was also raised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strike a panel to define a relevant role for TK in environmental monitoring.</li> </ul>	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and assist Diavik in integrating TK into environmental monitoring</li> </ul>	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a cooperative work plan with Diavik for EA implementation</li> </ul>	4

**Topic Area: Increased Aboriginal involvement in monitoring**

<b>Community Input/Concern</b>	<b>Link to EMAB's Strategic Initiatives</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Page #</b>
<p>Direct involvement of Aboriginal people in monitoring is a major priority ie. involving youth in environmental monitoring and training them is a priority.</p> <p>People see Diavik's community-based camp as an asset with the potential for more use. Elders are an asset and should be included in monitoring.</p> <p>Emphasis was placed on people in communities <i>seeing</i>, rather than hearing about, monitoring activities.</p> <p>The idea of a cooperative approach, either with the mine or with other communities, was raised several times.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up on Aboriginal Involvement in Environmental Monitoring Workshop recommendations.</li> <li>• Develop a cooperative work plan with Diavik for EA implementation</li> <li>• Undertake a review of the EA's implementation with the Parties to identify areas needing greater attention and those of highest priority to the Parties</li> <li>• Support the development of appropriate environmental training programs (curricula) at Aurora College or MTS, etc.</li> <li>• Undertake a capacity fund review and implement new initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <p>4</p> <p>7</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p>

**Topic Area: Communication with communities**

<b>Community Input/Concern</b>	<b>Link to EMAB's Strategic Initiatives</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Page #</b>
<p>Communities seem to lack information on what's going on with caribou (population and migration), the winter road, and incidents at the mine when they happen. When they are informed about developments, such as Diavik's ammonia amendment application, communities feel there is no follow-up reporting on results.</p> <p>People really like to meet in person with people who have the direct hands-on experience. The idea that Diavik's environmental technicians could speak directly on what they see, and that Diavik needs to spend some time reporting to communities solely on the environment came through loud and clear.</p> <p>People like EMAB's public and workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write a communications plan including updating the proactive media relations plan.</li> <li>• Establish a clearly defined process for DDMI to present its monitoring information and EMAB to present its assessment.</li> <li>• Develop a cooperative work plan with Diavik for EA implementation</li> <li>• Report all actions back to communities</li> <li>• Continue with community meetings, consistent with the mandate and the overall expectations of the Parties</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>6</p> <p>6</p>
<p>To complement public meetings and workshops EMAB should try to make sure our annual report is developed in plain language.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write a communications plan including updating the proactive media relations plan.</li> <li>• Continue to publish EMAB annual report, maintain a registry and library, and other communications elements required by the EA</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <p>6</p>