

Eqe Bay Exploration Program – 2021 Annual Report to the Nunavut Impact Review Board Δናየር 'የσ'σ' ለርኪላ'' – 2021 ላ'ናJCL'''ለ>ና ኦσ'Ն' ወሬ »'ር বৰበርኪσ'Jና ኦበLኑጋና

> Screening Decision 18EN026 "ዋΓንۍΡ< Δ/Lϲ-ΡΡΩΡ/Lۍ°L 18EN026

March 31, 2022 | Ley 31, 2022

## **Baffinland** 2021 NIRB ANNUAL REPORT Popular Summary

## EQE BAY Project

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# THE EQE BAY PROJECT

The Eqe Bay project is a greenfield exploration effort located on the western shores of Baffin Island, south of the proposed Steensby Port for the Baffinland Mary River Project. The area is currently accessed by helicopter from the Mary River Project camp, however Baffinland is currently in the approvals process to build a small exploration camp in the Project area to better explore the exciting mineral potential. There are known iron formations that were identified in the 1960s, as well as more recently discovered mineral prospects that are worth evaluating. This exploration work represents a potential opportunity for resource-driven economic development in the North Baffin region.

The Project currently consists of an Exploration Agreement between Baffinland and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. on Inuit Owned Land parcel IG-03 and mineral claims staked on IG-02 and Crown Land. The mineral tenure covers 86,547 hectares, all in good standing. The project is authorized under QIA Land Use License Type II QL2-2103, Nunavut Water Board Type 'B' Water License 2BE-EQE1926 and NTI Exploration Agreement IG02-20-001. A Land Use Lease is currently in negotiation with the QIA for the development of camp infrastructure and drilling areas.

As no infrastructure development or drilling, currently authorized under the Screening Decision, has yet taken place, this report focuses on the limited scope of activities for which conditions were satisfied.

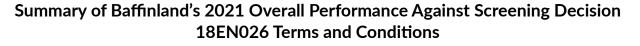
The primary activities carried out in 2021 were the deployment of small, 2-3-person geologic sampling and mapping teams, and archaeologic team, as well as a 5-person geophysical survey team. These teams were supported by Inuit field assistants, providing opportunities for employment and learning prospecting and surveying skills.

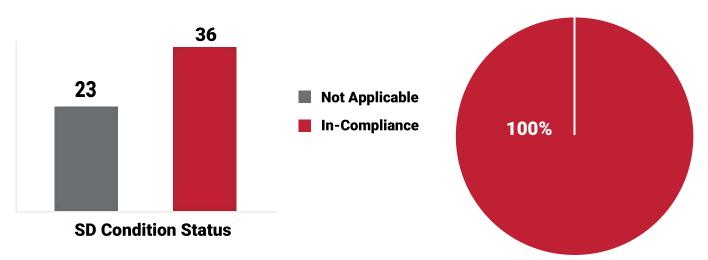
# 2021 COMPLIANCE Performance

The Annual Report (the Report) is a requirement of the Screening Decision 18EN026 issued by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland) outlining the terms and conditions for operation of the Eqe Bay Project (the Project). The Report provides information on how Baffinland is meeting the terms and conditions of the Project Certificate and its performance against them.

The Report also presents an opportunity to discuss the yearly Project activities over the preceding calendar year and highlights what is coming ahead for the following year. The complete Report can be found on the NIRB Public Registry at www.nirb.ca as well as on the Baffinland Document Portal at www.baffinland.com

The following table presents a summary of the performance on the terms and conditions set out in the Project Screening Decision. Due to the limited scope of activities in 2021, many of the terms and conditions were not yet applicable. Overall, Baffinland is in-compliance with the required terms and conditions for the Screening Decision. In areas where improvement is required, Baffinland will continue to make any necessary operational changes and work with regulators and other key stakeholders to make the Project a success.





Condition Status Definitions		
In-Compliance	Condition requirements have been met	
Partially- Compliant	Condition requirements have been partially met. *Demonstrable efforts towards meeting compliance requirements is evidenced.	
Non- Compliant	Conditions requirements have not been met. *Rationale for being unable to meet compliance requirements is provided.	
Not Applicable	Condition is tied to a project phase or component that was not active during the reporting year, or the responsible party is not the Proponent.	

# **HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES**



Baffinland Geologists Learning from a Surficial Geology Consultant about Till Sampling Methods

#### **Permitting Success**

Baffinland, through communication and consultation with affected stakeholders, was able to successfully obtain a QIA Land Use Licence Type II to carry out low-impact exploration activities on Inuit Owned Land parcels IG-02 and IG-03.

#### Inuit Employment and Training

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, Baffinland made Inuit employment and training a key focus for 2021 and is committed to increasing Inuit participation in the Project workforce. Specific to the Eqe Bay Project, during the 2021 field program, Baffinland was able to employ three Inuit on the Project to assist with prospecting and geophysical surveys. Prospector training was provided by Company geologists to Field Assistants and allowed for opportunities for hands-on application of these skills in the field. This training provides GN-recognized certification, allowing graduates to apply for Nunavut Prospector Program funding and grants.



A Geologic Field Assistant Graduating from the Nunavut Prospector Program, Offered for the First Time at the Mary River Mine Site. The Course was Taught by BIM Gologists



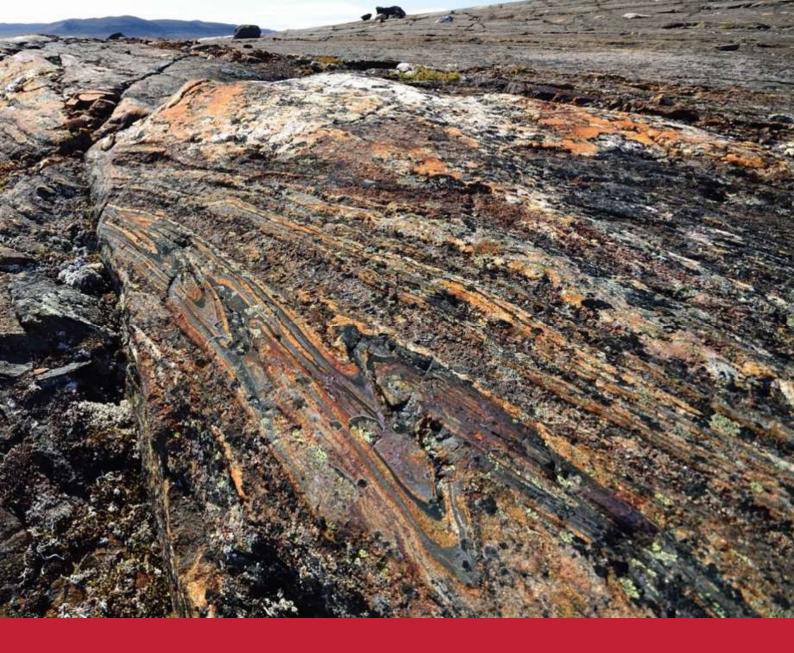
# **PLANNING AHEAD**

In 2022, Baffinland will continue to conduct its grassroots exploration activities in the Eqe Bay area, identifying additional areas of promising mineralization and working to advance our knowledge of the geology. Baffinland also plans to engage with community members to discuss planned developments and employment opportunities that may exist as the project moves forward. Baffinland plans to continue to engage as many local employees as possible and provide on-the-job training to positions relevant to grassroots exploration.

Baffinland's intends to develop the planned exploration camp in 2022 and initiate a drilling program, pending the issuance of a Land Use Lease from QIA. Further consultation is planned to occur in Igloolik and Sanirajak prior to these developments, to keep key stakeholders informed and engaged.



Baffinland Geologist Training Field Technician on Sampling Methods and Observations



## **QUESTIONS? HERE IS HOW YOU CAN REACH US**

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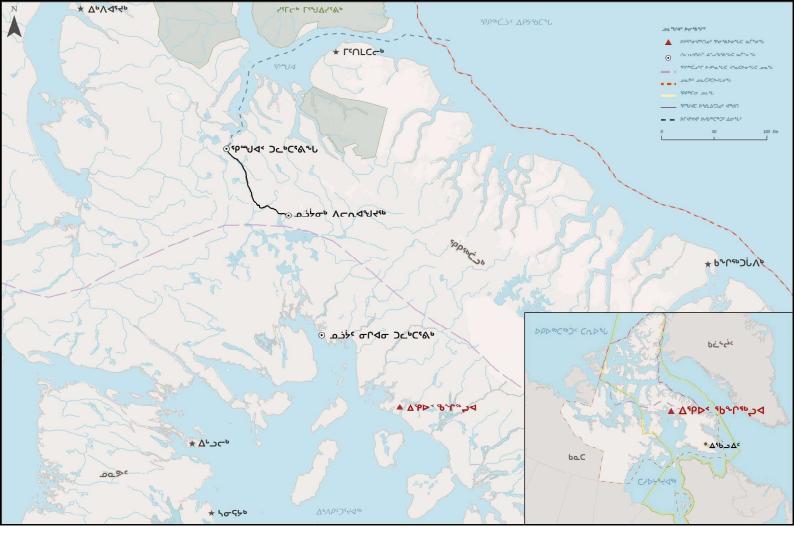
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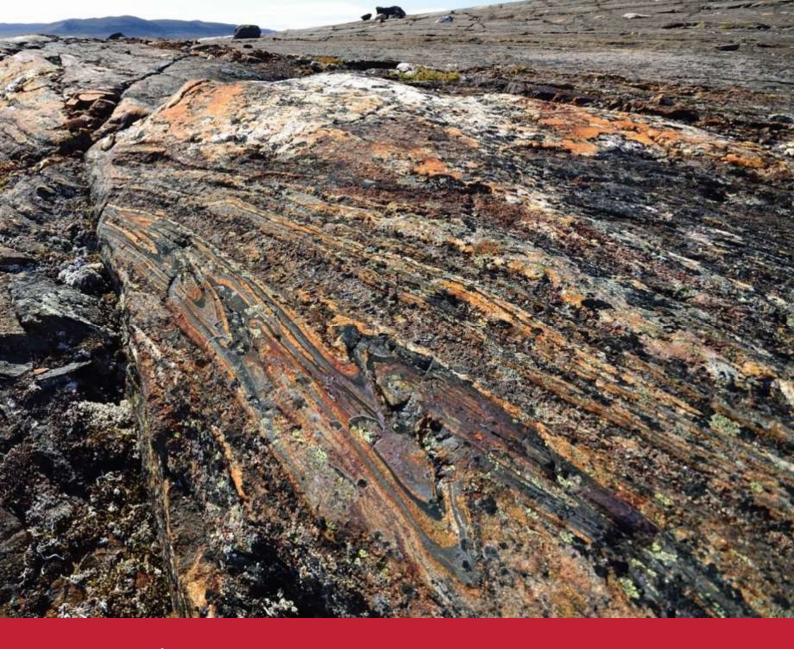
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### Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Eqe Bay Project

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD** 

REV 0

# Baffinland

2022-03-31	0			M
		J. Hey	R. Keen	L. Kamermans
Date	Rev.	Prepared By Reviewed and		Reviewed and Approved By



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#### APPENDICES

APPENDIX A EQE BAY PHOTO LOG

## Baffinland

### ABBREVIATIONS

Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
Community Lands and Resources Committee
Chief Public Health Officer
Inuit Owned Land
Inuit Qaujimaningit
Nunavut Impact Review Board
Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Screening Decision
Eqe Bay Exploration Program

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

This 2021 Annual Report (the Report) to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) is a requirement of Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation's (Baffinland's) Screening Decision (SD) 18EN026 for the Eqe Bay Exploration Program (the Project). This Report summarizes:

- Project activities undertaken during the reporting year (January 1, 2021 December 31, 2021);
- Baffinland's performance against the requirements of the Screening Decision 18EN026; and
- Planned Project-work for the next reporting year (January 1, 2022 December 31, 2022).

#### 1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

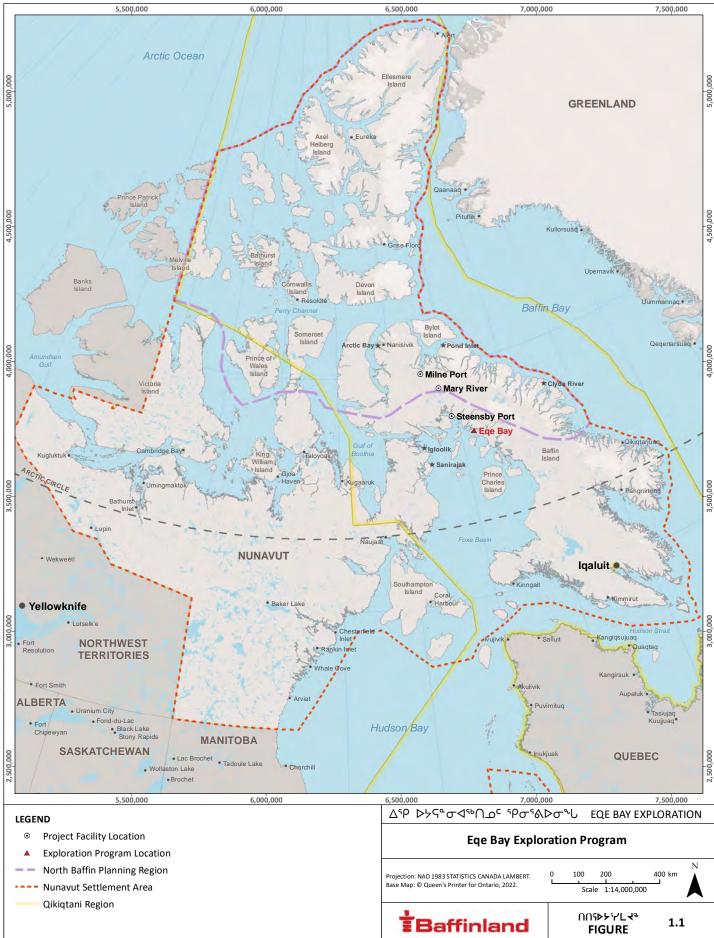
The Eqe Bay Exploration Program (the Project, Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2) is a greenfield exploration program located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, approximately 90 kilometres (km) southeast of Steensby Port, and 190 km northeast from the communities of Sanirajak and Igloolik. There are known iron formations that were identified in the 1960s, as well as more recently discovered mineral prospects that are worth evaluating. This exploration work represents a potential opportunity for resource-driven economic development in the North Baffin region.

The scope of activities in 2021 was limited and is further discussed in Section 3. The full scale of the Project, expected to be active until 2024, include the following undertakings, works and activities:

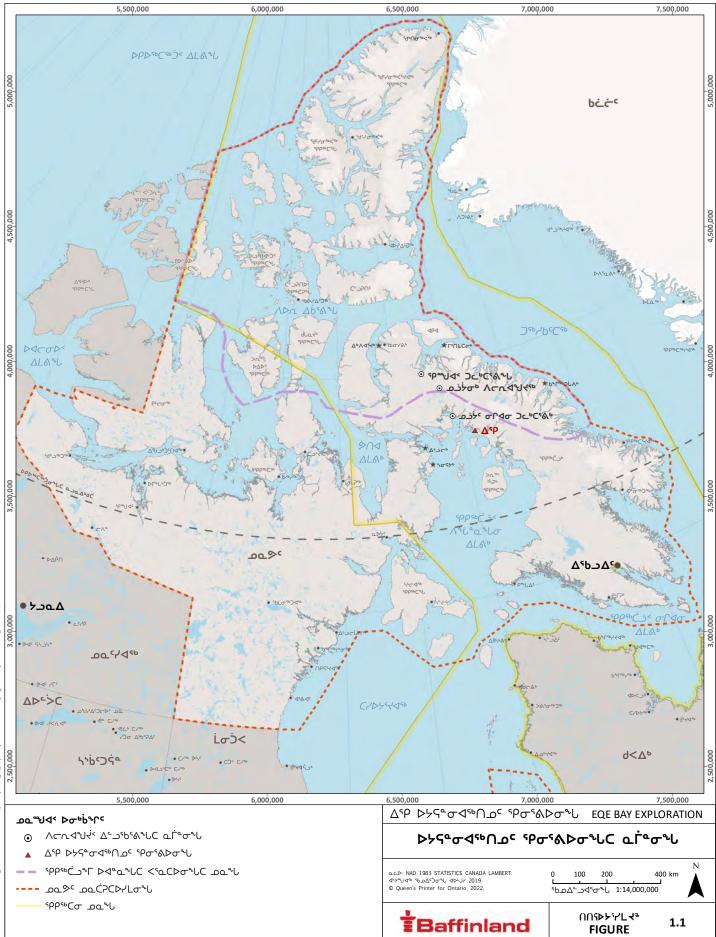
- Use of sealift barges to deliver supplies to the beach near the proposed exploration area (Figure 1.1Figure 1.3);
- Set-up and operation of up to a 50-100 person camp to support personnel and accommodate for subsequent expansion of the camp, complete with kitchen/dining, laundry, recreational space, first aid and associated facilities;
- Land-based and on-ice drilling; geological mapping and sampling, backpack drilling, till sampling and geophysical surveys;
- Use of drill equipment to drill several holes to a depth of up to 500 metres;
- Use of helicopters to move drills and to transport workers between the drill and camp site;
- Use of a Twin Otter aircraft to transport workers and deliver supplies to the camp site from either Mary River, Sanirajak or Igloolik;
- Diesel and Jet fuel will be stored in drums within lined secondary containment areas;
- Installation of a portable water treatment plant, grey water sump, an incinerator and power generators; and
- Use of snowmobiles, a skid steer, a backhoe tractor, and equipment and machinery for site personnel use and transportation including construction and site maintenance.

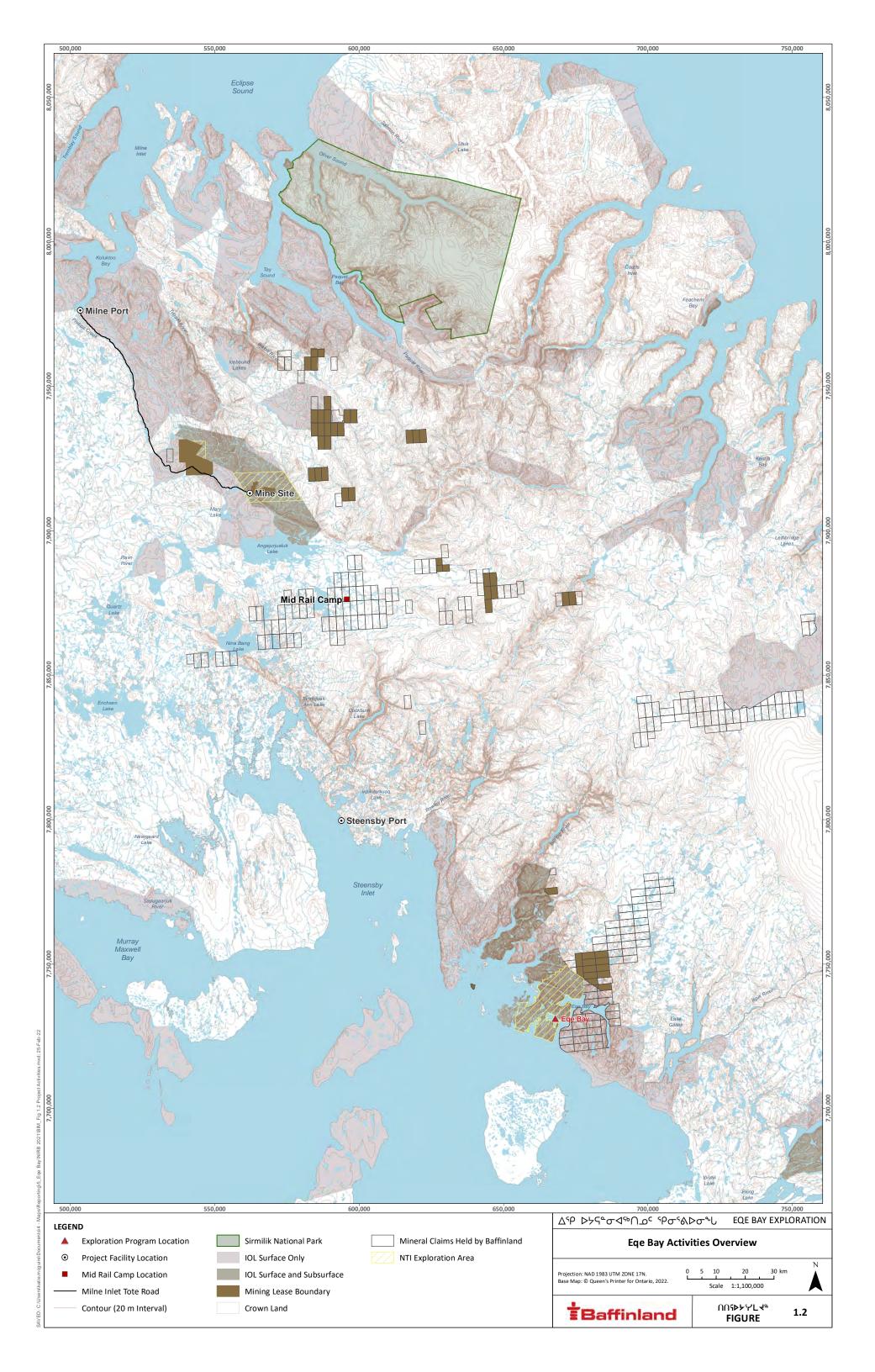
#### 1.2 REGULATORY CONTEXT

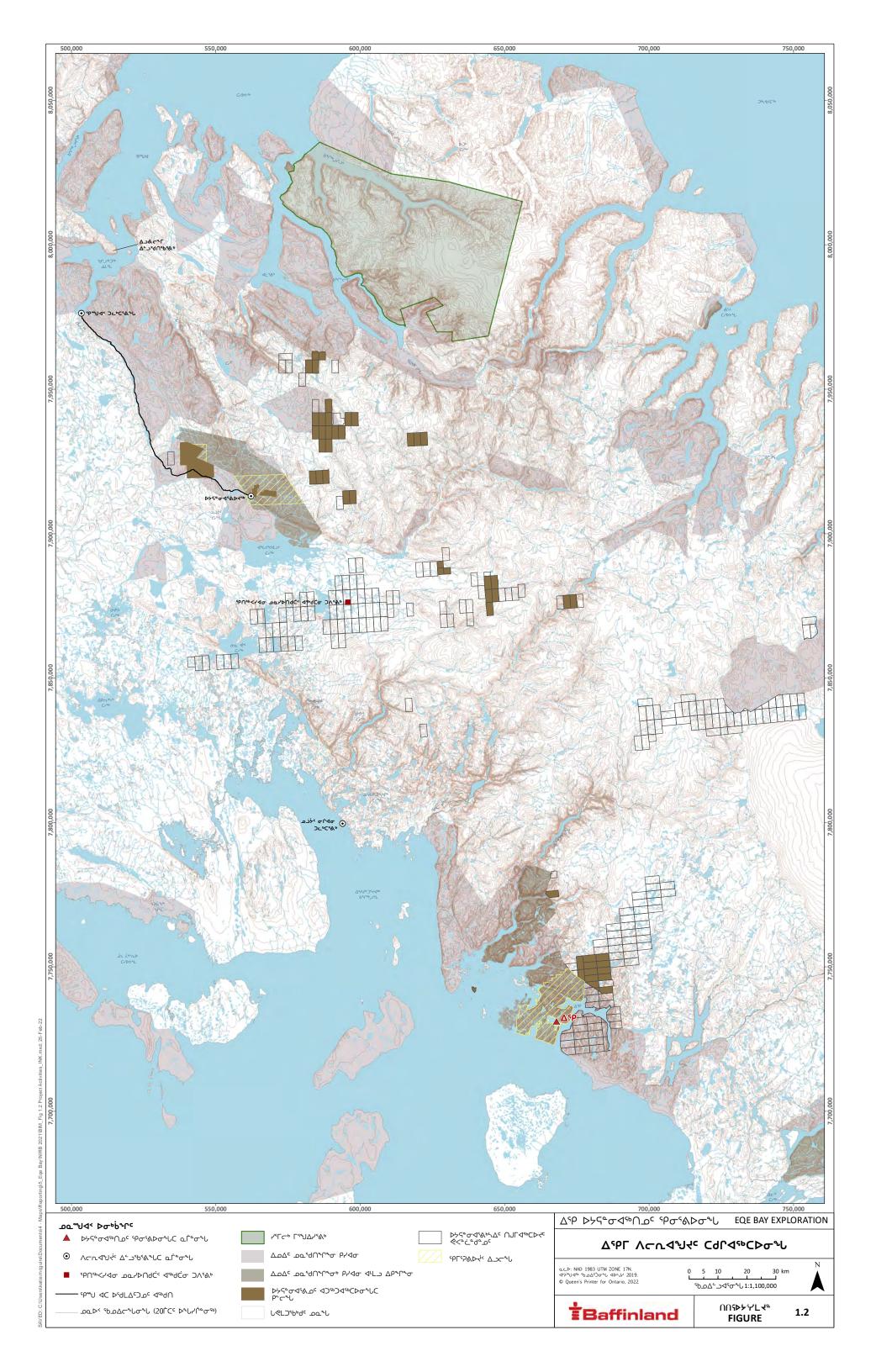
On August 17, 2018, the NIRB issued SD 18EN026 for the Project to Baffinland (NIRB, 2018) pursuant to Article 12 of the Nunavut Agreement, and Section 87 of the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA). The basis for the SD is Baffinland's proposed scope, which gives an overview of the early phases of the Project and a potential 5-year outlook.

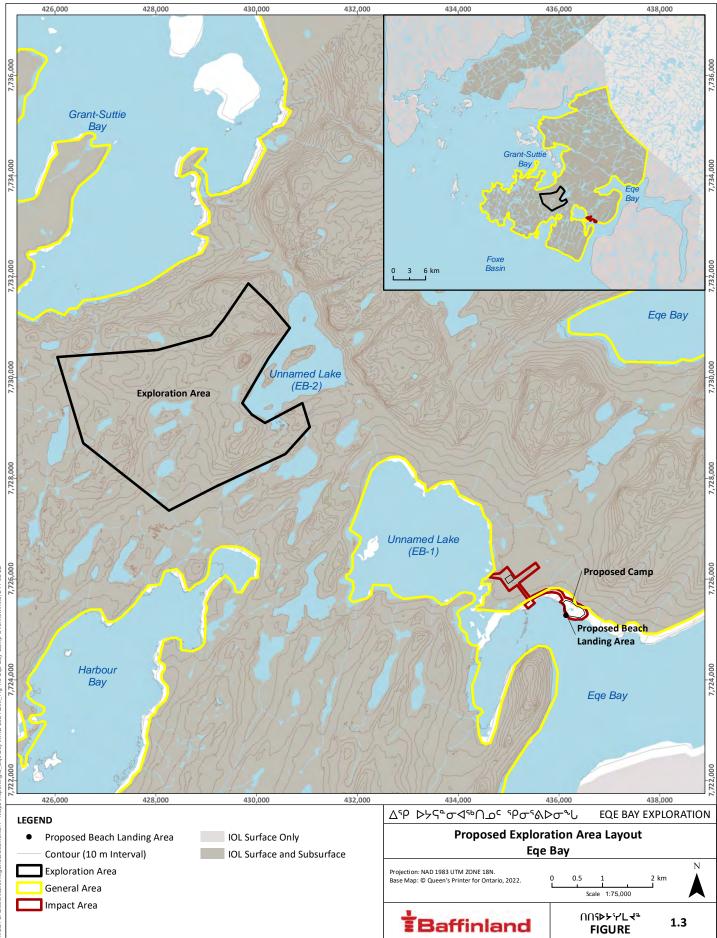


VED: C:Users\katie.mcguire\Documents\4 - Maps\Reporting\5\_Eqe Bay\NIRB 2021\BIM\_Fig 1.1 Project Location.mxd; 22-Feb-22

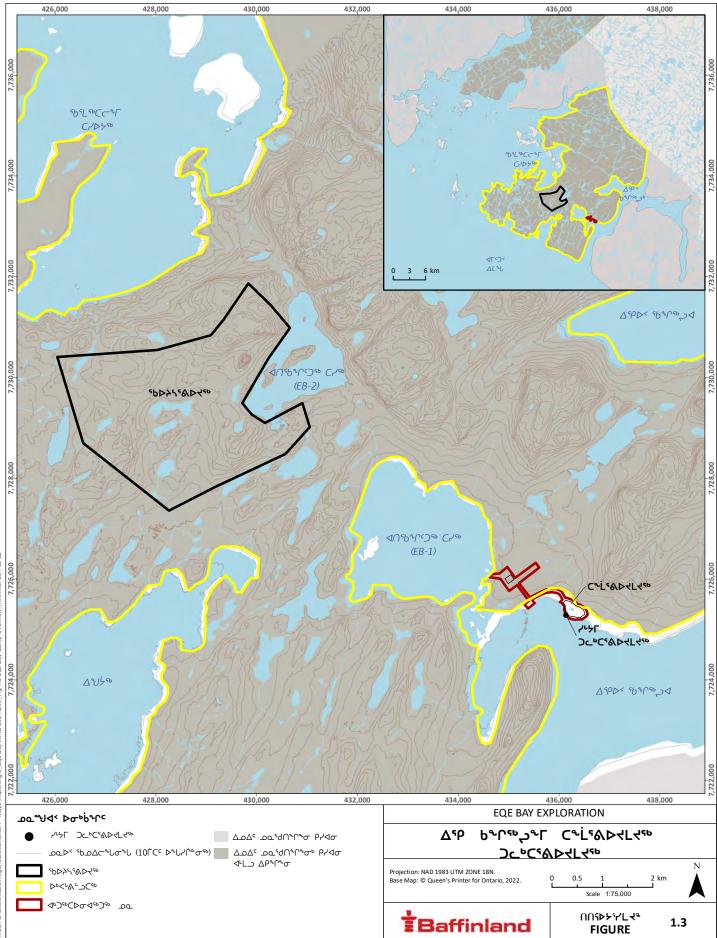








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SAVED: C:\Users\katie.mcguire\Documents\4 - Maps\Reporting\5\_Eqe Bay\NIRB 2021\BIM\_Fig 1.3 Eqe Bay Camp Overview\_INK.mxd; 25-Feb-22

Development of the approved Project includes:

- The construction, operation, closure and post-closure activities associated with the camp and its related infrastructure;
- The operation of up to nine (9) diamond drills for exploration purposes;
- The development of two (2) quarries for aggregate; and
- The execution of low-impact exploration and environmental ground-work.

Baffinland currently operates the exploration program in accordance with the permits, licences, approvals, authorizations and agreements identified in Table 1.1. Additional authorizations will be required to implement the full scope of the Project, including authorizations from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, however these have not been sought at this early stage of the exploration program. A Land Use Lease agreement with QIA is currently under review, which would allow for the development of camp infrastructure on Inuit Owned Land (IOL). Additionally, Baffinland has sought a new Land Use License II to replace QL2-1910/QL2-2103 with QIA.

#### Table 1.1: Permit Registry

Approval	Project Activity	Expiry
Nunavut Impact Review Board		
Nunavut Agreement, and the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act as of July 9, 2015		
Screening Decision 18EN026	Required to obtain the requisite permits and approvals to proceed with Project	No Expiry
	Qikiqtani Inuit Association	
Agreements is	sued under Articles 6, 20 and 26 of the Nunavut Agreement	
Land Use Lease – Under Review	Camp development and Exploration activities on Inuit Owned Land	N/A
Land Use License – Under Review	Required for access to IG-02 and IG-03 for low-impact exploration and scientific research activities	N/A
Land Use License – QL2-2103	Required for access to IG-02 and IG-03 for low-impact exploration and scientific research activities	May 16, 2022
	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada	
	Letters of Advice	
Letter of Advice – 21-HCAA- 00685	Rock/Boulder Removal, Eqe Bay, Foxe Basin, Qikiqtani Region	N/A
	Nunavut Water Board	
Water Licences issued under th	e Nunavut Agreement (Article 13), the Nunavut Waters and N	unavut Surface
Rights Tribu	nal Act, and the Northwest Territories Water Regulations	-
Type B Water licence 2BE- EQE1926	Regional exploration activities, including exploration drilling	April 3, 2026
	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada	
Mineral Claims on Crown La	nd, issued under the <i>Territorial Lands Act</i> and associated Cana	dian Mining
R	egulations and Territorial Land Use Regulations	_
Mining Recorders Office	Prospecting, geologic mapping, geophysical surveying, etc. on crown land and IG-02	Various
	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)	
Exploration Agreements		
NTI Exploration Agreement IG03-20-001	Joint-venture agreement between NTI and Baffinland for IG-03	May 1, 2028



#### **2 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

#### 2.1 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Meaningful stakeholder, community, and Inuit engagement is valued by Baffinland as a means of building and maintaining community relationships and maximizing benefits from the Project. Baffinland's approach to engagement emphasizes the importance of informing Inuit, affected communities, and other stakeholders, as well as establishing effective dialogue, and collecting feedback and resolving issues and concerns (Figure 2.1).



#### Figure 2.1: Baffinland's Approach to Engagement

Baffinland had to make changes to its engagement approach in 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Travel restrictions and increased focus on community and employee health and safety moved many engagements from inperson to online (teleconference/videoconference) formats. While these types of engagements are not ideal from an Inuit cultural or relationship building perspective, they have proven successful in ensuing that stakeholders and community representatives have been able to continue dialogue with Baffinland throughout the Pandemic. Public engagement has been most affected by the COVID-19 restrictions. In response, Baffinland increased use of social media and local radio as a means to ensure that information about the Company and its activities have been shared with wider audiences. As travel restrictions and public health orders are continually evolving, Baffinland continually evaluates what methods of engagement will inform an effective approach while ensuring that individual and community health and safety remains the foremost priority. This continual evaluation and adaptive approach to engagement is predicted to continue until the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health orders and advice allow for in person engagements to once again be the most used engagement technique.

## Baffinland

#### 2.2 ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Baffinland is committed to meaningful engagement with stakeholders potentially affected by the Project, including the five (5) North Baffin Communities (Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Sanirajak, Igloolik and Pond Inlet), the QIA, applicable regulatory agencies and the general public.

The objectives of Baffinland's engagement efforts are to:

- Provide Inuit, communities and other stakeholders with relevant Project information in a timely, accessible and culturally appropriate manner in order to identify issues and concerns and provide input into the development of appropriate mitigation measures and issues resolution;
- Ensure that Inuit, communities and other stakeholders have the opportunity to understand and meaningfully engage in the processes initiated by the Project;
- Consider Inuit traditional knowledge as well as scientific expertise and community feedback in decision-making processes;
- Build constructive and positive relationships with communities most likely to be affected by the Project; and
- Focus priorities so that potential adverse effects are mitigated, and Project benefits are enhanced.

#### 2.3 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

In support of the Company's focus on continuous improvement and the engagement objectives defined for the Project (Section 2.2), Baffinland implements a variety of engagement mechanisms that are intended to ensure that a broad and comprehensive approach to the identification of stakeholders and that the creation of enhanced opportunities for dialogue and input are executed.

#### 2.3.1 Communicating Field Activities During COVID-19

In prior years, Baffinland's Exploration and Sustainable Development departments have sent representatives to the communities of Igloolik and Sanirajak to discuss planned field work for the upcoming field program. Following the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Baffinland did not hold any in-person communication or engagement sessions in the communities, in accordance with guidance from the Government of Nunavut Department of Health to ensure the health and safety of all Nunavummiut. Despite the inability to meet in-person, Baffinland endeavoured to ensure communication with communities remained open and transparent. Specifically, Baffinland took the following measures to communicate details of the planned field activities:

- 1. Received approval from the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) for travel to the area of work.
- 2. Received approval from CIRNAC and the QIA to continue exploration activities and land access.
- 3. Baffinland sent letters to the nearby communities in advance of the field activities outlining the details of work, mitigations and safety measures being taken to avoid any contact with the communities. Ongoing communication with the communities was maintained until the field activities were completed. A complete list of engagement with communities for 2021 is outlined below in Table 2.1.
- 4. Baffinland notified the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health, as well as local airports and health centers of the nearby communities regarding our activities.



**Engagement Activities** 

#### Table 2.1: Record of Engagement

Date	Letter/Event	Topics Discussed
2021-03-26 2021-03-28	North Baffin Communities - Planned 2021 Field Activities Initial Notification	Initial notification of planned work and projected timing of these works. Identified COVID-19 mitigation measures in place and plans for ongoing communication regarding status of all activities. Requested feedback on plans, if any. Notified Hamlet Councils, Hunters & Trappers Associations and administrative officers Maps of planned work areas and detailed letters delivered in English and Inuktitut. Specific teleconference requests delivered to Igloolik and Sanirajak for the weeks of May 3 – 7. No responses received.
2021-04-21	Sanirajak & Igloolik – Follow Up	Follow up notification sent to Mayors and HTA Chairpersons reminding them of Baffinland's offer for teleconferences to discuss planned work at Eqe Bay.
2021-05-07	Sanirajak & Igloolik – Radio Show notification	Notifications sent to Hamlet Councils and HTAs in Igloolik and Sanirajak of planned community radio shows to discuss planned fieldwork in the Eqe Bay area for 2021. Public comments and questions are welcomed.
2021-05-12	Igloolik Radio Show	Baffinland staff delivered information regarding planned field work in the Eqe Bay area over the radio and accepted call-in questions, comments and concerns. Answers and/or commitments to follow up were provided.
2021-05-13	Sanirajak Radio Show	Baffinland staff delivered information regarding planned field work in the Eqe Bay area over the radio and accepted call-in questions, comments and concerns. Answers and/or commitments to follow up were provided.
2021-05-18	Sanirajak CAO	E-mail received stating that Hamlet Council would like to meet with representative from Baffinland before making a decision on the matter of supporting field work at Eqe Bay in 2021. BIM commits to calling in to Council meeting on the 31 <sup>st</sup> .
2021-05-31	Sanirajak Hamlet Council Meeting	BIM staff phone in to Hamlet Council Meeting. Overview of the 2021 Eqe Bay Exploration program is provided. Questions and comments are received and responded to appropriately. Hamlet council passes motion to support the program.
2021-06-18	Sanirajak & Igloolik – Eqe Bay Program Commencement	Notified Mayors and HTA Chairpersons of the commencement of field activities in the Eqe Bay area as described in our previous communications.
Weekly (x13)	Sanirajak & Igloolik – Eqe Bay Program Update	Provided weekly update to Mayors and HTA Chairpersons summarizing the past week's activities and the plan, including areas of work, for the coming week.
2021-09-27	Sanirajak & Igloolik – Eqe Bay Program Completion	Notification delivered announcing the end of field activities in the Eqe Bay area for 2021.
2021-12-07	Igloolik – Eqe Bay Program CLARC Meeting & Public Town Hall	BIM staff presented an overview of the 2021 Eqe Bay Exploration program and outlined potential activities for the 2022 Eqe Bay Exploration program. Questions and comments were received and discussed. Answers and/or commitments to follow up were provided.



#### 2.3.2 Community Group Meetings

Baffinland meets with various community groups on a regular basis to discuss aspects of the Project and ongoing issues, concerns or recommendations community representatives may have. Baffinland engaged with several community groups during 2017 and 2018 including Hamlet Councils and local community HTOs. These meetings were held predominantly to garner feedback on plans presented during the permitting phase. As part of the Land Use Lease negotiation process with the QIA, Baffinland attended a Community Lands and Resources Committee (CLARC) meeting and hosted a public Town Hall meeting on December 7, 2021. During both engagements Baffinland was given the opportunity to present plans related to proposed exploration and development in the Eqe Bay area and to garner CLARC and community feedback.

As with previous community group meetings in Sanirajak and Igloolik, CLARC and community members brought forward several comments related to the Project. The feedback provided was a mix of comments that were both supportive of the Eqe Bay Project and comments related to concerns or issues the participants perceived or were experiencing. Most of the comments raised at the meeting were related to:

- Potential for Inuit Employment
- Marine Environment
- Terrestrial Environment
- Potential effects on Land Use and Harvesting Practices
- Training Opportunities
- Effects of the Project on Heritage Sites

Many of the above subjects have overlap with the Mary River Project and some of the questions/comments primarily concerned ongoing or proposed activities there. In these cases, questions or comments were noted and forwarded to the appropriate Baffinland departments and/or personnel to be addressed.

Baffinland, through in-person meetings and newsletters regarding project updates, as well as following all bestpractice guidelines, will endeavour to address these issues and provide feedback throughout the Project.

#### 2.3.3 Engagement with QIA

Baffinland will continue to implement a proactive approach to engagement with various stakeholders, through meetings, workshops, surveys and dissemination of information and reports. This will ensure that the communities, Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), regulators and the public are informed in a timely and culturally sensitive manner of the Project's progress and the potential environmental and social impacts of ongoing exploration.

In the spring of 2020 exploration activities throughout much of Nunavut were effectively halted due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting associated protocols to ensure the safety of Nunavummiut. As a result, Baffinland was given amnesty from exploration spending requirements by the Mining Recorders Office for claims on Crown land, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. for land held in the Exploration Agreements. As the Land Use Licence for parcels IG-02 and IG-03 (QL2-1910) would effectively be unused for the 2020 field programs, Baffinland approached the QIA about granting a one-year extension to Land Use Licence QL2-1910. A new one year Land Use Licence (QL2-2103) was granted to allow for fieldwork to continue in 2021. Discussion are ongoing with QIA regarding the issuing of a Land Use Lease agreement to allow the development of the camp described in SD 18EN026.



#### **3 OPERATIONS OVERVIEW**

#### 3.1 SITE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN 2021

Activities in 2021 consisted of a geophysics survey, till sampling, geologic mapping, permafrost survey and an archaeologic survey. No drilling or camp development or operation occurred in 2021, as Baffinland continued to pursue the relevant regulatory approvals, primarily the Land Use Lease for IOL. A survival shack was established near the work area in 2019 (UTM NAD83 18W 430790E, 7729380N), and has been left in place over the winter for use again in 2022.

The geophysics survey consisted of one team of four to five people travelling by helicopter from Mary River to the Eqe Bay area to perform an induced polarization (IP) survey on Baffinland's mineral claims on Type II IOL parcel IG-03. A typical work day consisted of laying out a cable along pre-determined lines, setting metal rods into the ground (transmitters and receivers) at 100 m station spacing, and measuring voltage at different intervals. Current was produced using a gasoline generator. No equipment was left on site after the end of the survey and any potential effect on the environment is negligible. This survey was conducted over 12 days from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Of the original planed survey, only ~30% was completed due to inclement weather and to accommodate other exploration programs.

A regional till sampling campaign took place from June 18<sup>th</sup> to September 11<sup>th</sup>, often being delayed due to inclement weather. The program consisted of two sampling teams (two to three personnel per team) walking pre-defined traverses and collecting ~2kg of till from a frost boil roughly every kilometer.

A focused structural geology mapping program took place between August 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in the vicinity of Cake Lake. A mapping team of three walked the area, collecting structural measurements using compasses to assess the deformation in the rocks.

A permafrost assessment was completed at proposed camp locations between August 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> to assess ground conditions at potential/proposed camp and infrastructure locations.

An archaeologic survey was completed at proposed camp and infrastructure locations between August 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, with any identified sites being fenced off and reported to the Territorial Archaeologist.

No drilling, camp development or operation occurred in 2021, as Baffinland continued to pursue a Land Use Lease from the QIA. A survival shack was established in 2019 near the work area (UTM NAD83 18W 430790E, 7729380N), and left in place over the winter for use again in future seasons.

#### 3.2 LOOKING AHEAD

Due to limited work being done in 2021, nearly the entirety of the 2021 workplan has been rescheduled for 2022.

A summary of the planned 2022 activities (subject to change) are as follows:

- 1. Use of sealift barges to deliver supplies to the beach near the proposed exploration area.
- Set-up and operation of a 25-30 person soft-wall camp to support personnel and accommodate for subsequent expansion of the camp complete with kitchen/dinning, laundry, recreational space, first aid and associated facilities.
- 3. Bathymetric surveys of Lakes EB-1 and EB-2, and if time and manpower permits, other nearby water bodies.
- 4. Use of drill equipment to drill several holes to a depth of up to 500 metres.

### Baffinland

- 5. Use of helicopters to move drills and to transport workers between the drill and camp site.
- 6. Use of a Twin Otter aircraft to transport workers and deliver supplies to the camp site from either Mary River, Sanirajak or Igloolik.
- 7. Diesel and Jet fuel will be stored in drums within lined secondary containment.
- 8. Installation of a portable water treatment plant, an incinerator and power generators.
- 9. Use of snowmobiles, a skid steer, an excavator and bulldozer for site personnel use and transportation including construction and site maintenance.
- 10. Environmental monitoring in accordance with the approved Screening Decision, licenses, authorizations, management plans and environmental effects monitoring plans.
- 11. On-going exploration activities including land-based drilling; geological mapping and sampling, backpack drilling, till/soil sampling and geophysical surveys. Planning of the details of the summer drilling and/or trenching program is not yet finalized.

#### **4 PERFORMANCE ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The following sections provide a discussion of Baffinland's self-assessed status of compliance and performance related to each of Terms and Conditions in SD 18EN026 for the Project in 2020.

Each SD condition is assigned a status of compliance (Table 4.1). Where a SD condition is designated as being only 'Partially-Compliant' or 'Non-Compliant', a rationale explaining why 'In-Compliance' was not achieved in 2021 and, where applicable, a strategy for moving towards full compliance for the 2022 reporting year has been provided.

Status of Compliance	Criteria	
In-Compliance	Condition requirements have been met.	
Partially-Compliant	Condition requirements have been partially met.	
	*Demonstrable efforts towards meeting compliance requirements is evidenced.	
Non-Compliant	Conditions requirements have not been met.	
	*Rationale for being unable to meet compliance requirements is provided.	
Not Applicable	Condition is tied to a project phase or component that was not active during the 2019 reporting year, <i>or</i> the responsible party is not the Proponent.	

 Table 4.1:
 Status of Compliance Terminology and Criteria

Baffinland has taken a conservative approach to self-assessing the status of compliance with SD Conditions for 2021. When determining a status of compliance for each of the SD conditions, the following process was implemented by Baffinland and its technical experts:

- 1. A review of the specific requirements outlined in each SD condition is conducted.
- 2. A review of all relevant work completed by Baffinland in the reporting year and/or previous reporting years (if applicable) relevant to the SD condition is conducted.
- 3. A gap analysis is completed to assess whether or not there is a delta between the requirements of the SD condition and the work completed by Baffinland to meet these requirements.
- 4. Stakeholder comments relevant to the SD condition are considered.
- 5. A status of compliance based on the results of the analysis is assigned.
- 4.1 APPROACH TO REPORTING ON PERFORMANCE

An individual summary sheet for each of the terms and conditions has been provided in Section 4.2. The category and content of information provided in these summary sheets is outlined in Table 4.2.

Item	Summary of Content	
Category	Category as defined in SD 18EN026	
Term or Condition	The term or condition as written in SD 18EN026	
Status of Compliance	A self-assessed status of compliance for the SD Condition In-Compliance Partially-Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable	

Table 4.2: Layout of SD Condition Summary Sheets

## Baffinland

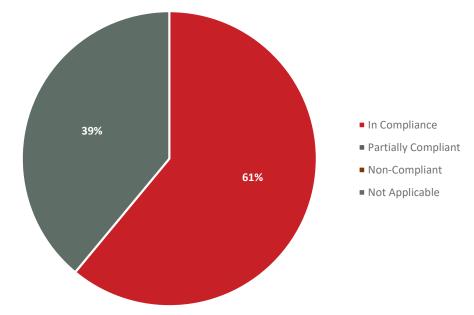
Performance on Terms and Conditions

Item	Summary of Content	
Reference	Description / title of relevant documents where supporting information related to SD condition status of compliance is available for review. Hyperlink to web-portal where referenced documentation can be accessed.	
Methods	The methods employed to complete work required to meet compliance to the SD condition. Summary of any adaptive management measures employed that year in support of achieving compliance to the SD condition.	
Results	Summary of efforts or work that were completed in support of achieving SD condition compliance in 2021, and previous reporting years, where applicable.	
Trends	Summary of notable trends from previous years.	
Recommendations /Lessons Learned	Summary of any operational changes undertaken or recommended for the future to achieve compliance or to further enhance environmental performance. Assessment of effectiveness of monitoring program and whether any changes to the scope of monitoring are appropriate. Identification of any challenges related to implementing mitigation measures, undertaking monitoring, or obtaining data from other sources.	

#### 4.2 SUMMARY OF 2021 COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS

Baffinland's performance in fulfilling the SD conditions in 2021 is presented on Figure 4.1. A summary of each of the conditions and the Project status with respect to the conditions in 2021 is presented in detail following this summary.

Baffinland is In-Compliance the required terms and conditions for the Project. Of the fifty-nine (59) conditions in the SD, Baffinland was in compliance with the thirty-six (36) conditions that were applicable to the current development status. The remainder were not applicable, and there were no non-compliant status designations in 2021. Baffinland will continue to make operational changes and work with regulators and the communities to ensure the Project remains in compliance with Screening Decision 18EN026.



#### Figure 4.1: Baffinland's Overall Performance against Screening Decision Conditions in 2021



### **Screening Decision Condition No. 1**

Category	General
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of
	operations at all times.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

Baffinland keeps a record of the Project Terms and Conditions located in the Exploration Office at Mary River, as there are currently no facilities in the Project Area at Eqe Bay for posting the Project Terms & Conditions. This is effective as access to the Project Area is currently by helicopter only, which is organized and accessed through the Exploration department.

#### RESULTS

All team members are aware of the Terms and Conditions before embarking on the helicopter for access to the Eqe Bay Project Area. This ensures that all persons accessing the Project Area are aware of the Terms & Conditions of the SD.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will develop a site specific orientation for Baffinland staff, contractors and visitors that provides an overview of all Terms and Conditions. A suitable location at the future infrastructure development at the Project Area will be chosen for posting of the Terms and Conditions of the SD.



### **Screening Decision Condition No. 2**

Category	General
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project
	to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

Baffinland has informed the NIRB of all relevant permits obtained in relation to the Eqe Bay Project. Any new permits shall continue to be forwarded to the NIRB prior to commencement of the project or as they are obtained.

#### RESULTS

The NIRB and all stakeholders are aware of all the permits held by Baffinland that relate to the Project and what terms and conditions govern the operation of the Project.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will continue to comply with this condition as the project moves forward.



### **Screening Decision Condition No. 3**

Category	General
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 148801), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, April 27, 2018; Eqe Bay Exploration Program Project Proposal, April 27, 2018; Draft Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan, Draft Inspection and Monitoring Plan, Draft Spill Contingency Plan, July 4, 2018; and Access Road Culvert Design, July 7, 2018).
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

Baffinland continues to operate in accordance with all commitments made in correspondence made to the NPC, the NIRB, the QIA, CIRNAC and the Nunavut Water Board.

#### RESULTS

Baffinland conducts work on the Eqe Bay project following industry best practices to reduce environmental impact to lowest extent practicable while achieving positive and constructive relationships with community stakeholders.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed and advanced exploration begins at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will continue to operate in accordance with all commitments made and agreed upon by various stakeholder groups. Every effort will continue to be made to abide by best practices and to operate in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. Management and monitoring plans will continue to be updated throughout the life of the project to reflect changes in scope, stakeholder feedback and adaptive management.



Category	General
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts,
	Regulations, and Guidelines.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

Baffinland, through policies and procedures designed to insure adherence, operates in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines as they relate to the Eqe Bay Project.

#### RESULTS

Every member of the Project team adheres to all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines. During work planning, if activities are found to be in contravention of any of the Acts, Regulations or Guidelines, amendments are made to plans, policies and procedures to ensure compliance before any activities are started.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will continue to operate in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines. Baffinland will stay current to any changes to the aforementioned and enact changes to policies, procedures and plans as necessary to ensure compliance.



Category	Water Use
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not extract water from any fish-bearing waterbody unless the water
	intake hose is equipped with a screen of appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is
	no entrapment of fish. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal
	unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

No water was withdrawn from any water body in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 6**

Category	Water Use
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream,
	lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless otherwise authorized by the
	Nunavut Water Board.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

No water was withdrawn from any waterbody in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 7**

Category	Waste Disposal/Incineration
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal
	container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall
	be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001 Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan
	BAF-PH1-400-P16-0005 Eqe Bay Waste Management Plan
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

No camp infrastructure was operated at the Project in 2021. Baffinland field crews retain all food scraps, wrappers, bags, etc. in their personal day packs for disposal in approved facilities at the Mary River Camp in accordance with all regulations applicable to the disposal of waste at that site.

#### RESULTS

No waste was left in the field and no animal interactions with waste occurred.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will implement site-specific waste storage and disposal procedures to ensure no waste is accessible to wildlife.



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 8**

Category	Waste Disposal/Incineration
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes daily and remove the ash from
	incineration activities and non-combustible wastes from the project site to an
	approved facility for disposal.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

No camp infrastructure operation or incineration was completed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Waste Disposal/Incineration
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that the incineration of combustible camp wastes comply
	with the Canadian Wide Standards for Dioxins and Furans, and the Canadian Wide
	Standards for Mercury.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

No camp infrastructure operation or incineration was completed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Waste Disposal/Incineration
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that no waste oil/grease is incinerated on site.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

No camp infrastructure operation or incineration was completed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Fuel and Chemical Storage
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are
	inaccessible to wildlife.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001 Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

Baffinland maintained a temporary fuel cache at the Project from June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Figure 4.2). Fuel was stored in sealed, 205 L fuel drums. All drums, full or empty, were sealed at all times and stored in adequate secondary containment (self-supporting insta-berms). The approximate location was: UTM NAD83 18W 430790E, 7729380N.

## RESULTS

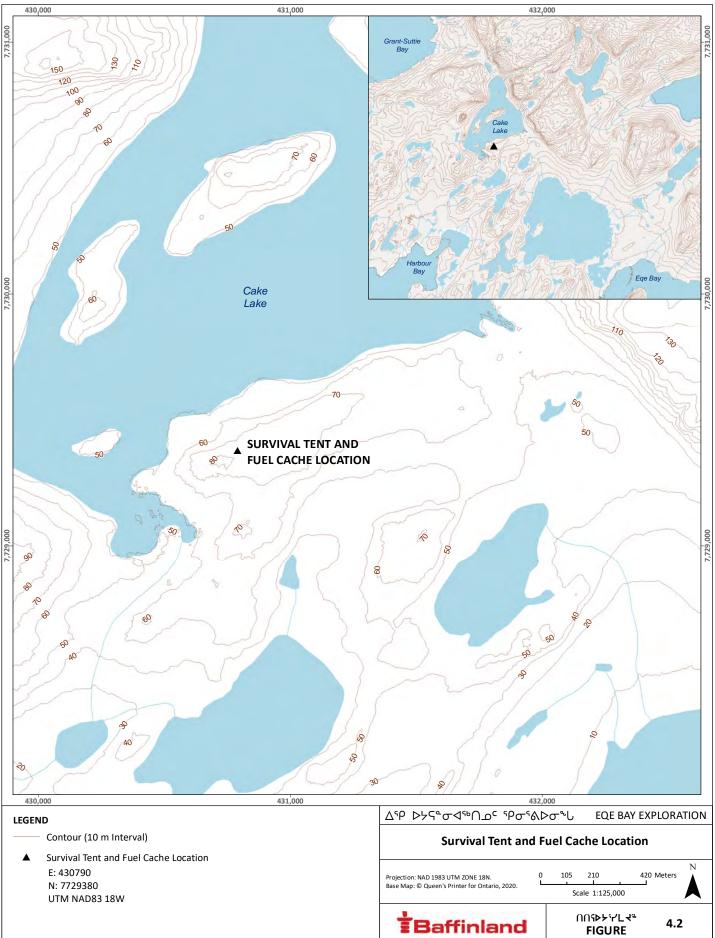
The fuel was inaccessible to wildlife.

# TRENDS

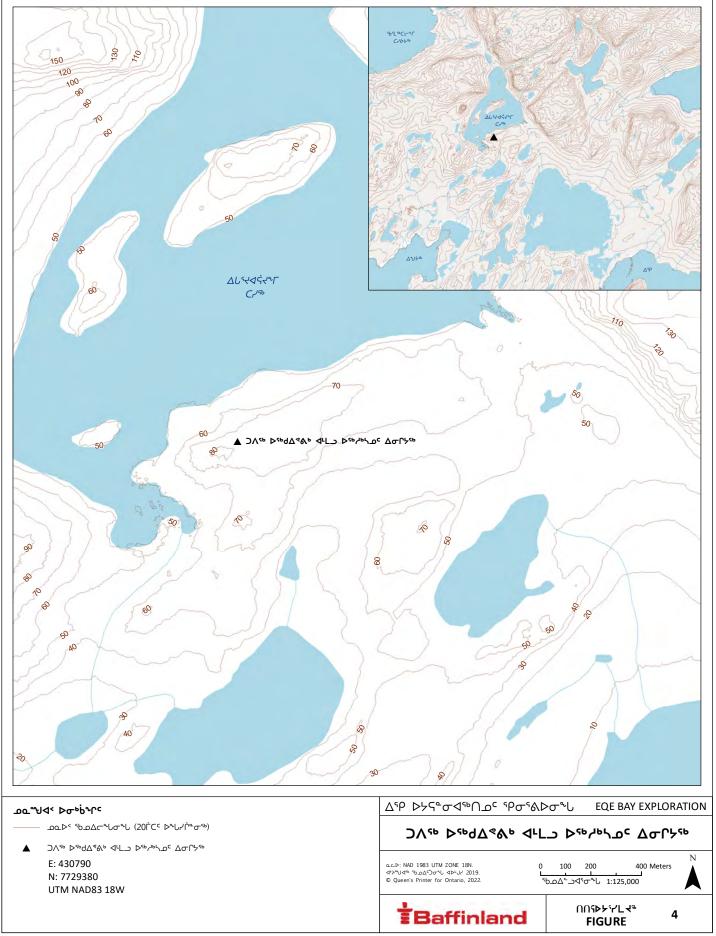
Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will implement site specific fuel and chemical storage procedures and continue to ensure they are inaccessible to wildlife.



SAVED: C:\Users\katie.mcguire\Documents\4 - Maps\Reporting\5\_Eqe Bay\NIRB 2021\BIM\_Fig 4.2 Survival and Fuel.mxd; 22-Feb-22





Category	Fuel and Chemical Storage
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-
	one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a
	manner as to prevent their release into the environment unless otherwise authorized
	by the Nunavut Water Board.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001 Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

Baffinland maintained a temporary fuel cache at the Project from June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Figure 4.2). The fuel cache was located in secondary containment (self-supported insta-berms) and greater than thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of the nearest water body.

#### RESULTS

Fuel was stored in a manner than prevented any release into the environment.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will ensure all fuel and chemical storage sites are a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.



Category	Fuel and Chemical Storage
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that re-fueling of all equipment occurs a minimum of
	thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body unless
	otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water Board.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001 Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

Baffinland maintained a temporary fuel cache at the Project from June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Figure 4.2). The fuel cache was located greater than thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of the nearest water body. Re-fueling of all equipment occurred at the fuel cache site. A drip tray was placed below the helicopter fuel port to ensure that any drips were caught should they occur. The portable generator required for the geophysics survey was refuelled while sitting in secondary containment.

#### RESULTS

All equipment was re-fueled at a minimum distance of thirty-one (31) metres way from the high water mark of any water body.

### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will ensure re-fueling of all equipment will occur a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.



Category	Fuel and Chemical Storage
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g., self- supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) when storing barreled fuel and chemicals at all locations.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001 Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan
	BAF-PH1-400-P16-0002 Eqe Bay Spill Contingency Plan
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

Baffinland maintained a temporary fuel cache at the Project from June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Figure 4.2). Baffinland utilized self-supported insta-berms as adequate secondary containment.

#### RESULTS

All fuel was safely stored within secondary containment for the duration of the temporary fuel cache.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will ensure all barreled fuel and chemicals will be stored within adequate secondary containment.



Category	Fuel and Chemical Storage
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available
	during any transfer of fuel or hazardous substances, at all fuel storage sites, at all refuelling stations, at vehicle maintenance areas and at drill sites.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001 Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan BAF-PH1-400-P16-0002 Eqe Bay Spill Contingency Plan
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

Baffinland maintained a temporary fuel cache at the Project from June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Figure 4.2). An appropriate spill response kit was readily available which included absorbent pads, a shovel and a container for contaminated soil.

### RESULTS

There were no spills recorded due to re-fueling. Had a spill occurred, the appropriate spill response equipment and trained personnel was readily available.

### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will ensure appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials are readily available during any transfer of fuel or hazardous substance, at all fuel storage sites, at all re-fuelling stations, at vehicle maintenance areas and at drill sites.



Category	Fuel and Chemical Storage
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall remove and treat hydrocarbon contaminated soils on site or
	transport them to an approved disposal site for treatment.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

There were no spills, and therefore no removal of hydrocarbon contaminated soil.

#### RESULTS

N/A

TRENDS

N/A

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will ensure appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials are readily available. Any hydrocarbon contaminated soils will be removed and treated either on site or transported to an approved disposal site for treatment.



Category	Fuel and Chemical Storage
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and
	hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures. All spills of
	fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the
	24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920- 8130.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Eqe Bay Spill Contingency Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0002)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/
	http://www.baffinland.com/document-portal-new/?cat=9&archive=1⟨=en

### METHODS

Baffinland ensures that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures, through the use of Baffinland's Eqe Bay Spill Contingency Plan.

#### RESULTS

All Baffinland Exploration personnel operating at the Eqe Bay Project are trained and capable in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will continue to properly train all personnel in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures. The best response to a spill is not to have one occur in the first place. As such, Baffinland will continue to adhere to safe fuel handling and refuelling procedures to ensure spills do not occur.



Category	Wildlife - General
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting
	this operation.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001 Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

# METHODS

Baffinland's scope of work for 2021 consisted of minimal impact to the land. None of the programs conducted required the disturbance of wildlife habitat as they were low-impact activities. Movement over the ground was done on foot. The only disturbance to the ground was the removal of frost boil material (1-2 kg of till) at each sample site.

#### RESULTS

There was no damage to wildlife habitat while conducting operations.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will make every practicable effort to minimize the disruption to wildlife habitat, consistent with the Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001).



Category	Wildlife - General
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing,
	hovering over pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups
	of animals.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

#### METHODS

Baffinland personnel and contractors are trained to not harass wildlife. In situations where wildlife is observed, the necessary distances and precautions to pause or stop work are adhered to, consistent with the Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001).

#### RESULTS

No wildlife was harassed.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will continue to adhere to the specific requirements related to wildlife disturbance and harassment.



Category	Wildlife - General
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been
	acquired.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

Baffinland personnel are restricted from hunting or fishing.

# RESULTS

Baffinland personnel did not hunt or fish.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will continue to ensure that all personnel are aware of and adhere to the no hunting or fishing policy.



Category	Wildlife - General
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures
	to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement
	these measures.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

#### METHODS

Baffinland personnel are trained during site orientation on methods the Company applies to protect wildlife across the project. Staff working on the Eqe Bay Project are given an additional reminder before beginning work on the Project. All employees are expected to adhere to Baffinland's Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan at all times. For monitoring purposes, all wildlife sightings are recorded in a log that is kept in the helicopter.

#### RESULTS

Through project personnel's daily field activities, all appropriate measures are taken to minimize the impact activities have on wildlife. At this stage of the Project, all activities are of minimal to very low impact and protection measures are deemed effective.

During the limited 2021 field program, a total of eighty-eight (88) animals were observed across 16 different days in the Project area. A summary of the sightings is presented in the following Table 4.3.

Table 4.3:	Wildlife Observations in 202	21
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Species	Number of Observations
Caribou	73
Seal	5
Arctic Hare	5
Bowhead Whale	1
Walrus	1
Polar Bear	3
Total	88

# TRENDS

The total number of observations increased from 2019 (76 wildlife observations) and 2020 (3 wildlife observations). It should be noted that the scale and timing of the activities in 2020 was significantly reduced due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in fewer person-hours in the field and fewer opportunities for observing wildlife.



#### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will continue to abide by all Acts, Regulations and Guidelines, as well as internal policies to ensure the protection of wildlife. Management plans and training procedures will be continually re-evaluated to ensure best practices regarding wildlife protection are implemented.



Category	Migratory Birds and Raptor Disturbance
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are
	encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further
	interaction and or disturbance (e.g., a 100 metres buffer around the nests). If active
	nests of any birds are discovered (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid
	these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

### METHODS

In keeping with Baffinland's environmental protection measures, Project personnel were able to avoid any interactions with wildlife, including migratory birds and raptors. By virtue of the nature of land surveying, Eqe Bay Project personnel are well positioned to spot bird nests during observation of ground conditions. During the course of field work in 2021, no bird nests were spotted. No gatherings of migratory birds were observed in the work area. No raptors were observed in the work area.

#### RESULTS

No disturbance of avian species, nesting or otherwise, was reported.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Project personnel will continue to be vigilant during field work to ensure avoidance of any interactions with various avian species and their nests. As infrastructure is developed, nest surveys will be conducted prior to ground disturbance to ensure that no nests are disturbed until eggs have hatched and hatchlings have left the nests.



Category	Migratory Birds and Raptor Disturbance
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly
	sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

# METHODS

Baffinland's Project personnel were vigilant with regards to observing migratory birds and raptors. Had these species been present, Baffinland would minimize activities as to not disturb migration, nesting and moulting.

# RESULTS

No gatherings of migratory birds or raptors were observed in the work area. Activities performed at the Project did not have a disturbance on migration, nesting, or moulting.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, monitoring of migratory birds and raptors will continue to be implemented and properly documented. Nest surveys will be conducted prior to ground disturbance to ensure that no nests are disturbed until eggs have hatched and hatchlings have left the nests.



Category	Migratory Birds and Raptor Disturbance
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks
	of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

# METHODS

Baffinland advised and enforced the Terms and Conditions to all helicopter pilots and exploration personnel working on the Project. Baffinland adhered to this condition, as helicopters used on the Project do not have the ability to fly on the seaward side of seabirds as they do not have the safety equipment required to do so.

#### RESULTS

There were no incidents on non-compliance for this condition.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As helicopter activity patterns develop at the Eqe Bay Project area, planning measures will be put in place to ensure that no flight routes pass within 3 km of common migrating waterfowl points or on the seaward side of any seabird colonies. At present time, there are no known such congregation areas or seabird colonies, however vigilance will continue in observing for and avoiding them.



Category	Migratory Birds and Raptor Disturbance
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas
	where bird presence is likely.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

# METHODS

Baffinland advised and enforced the Terms and Conditions to all helicopter pilots and exploration personnel working on the Project. Whenever possible, all flights adhered to these conditions, specifically the flight restrictions over the bird migratory zones. Hovering and circling was only done when necessary, and no recorded instances of disturbing birds was reported.

#### RESULTS

All team members are aware of the Terms and Conditions before embarking on the helicopter for access to the Eqe Bay Project Area. This ensures that all persons accessing the Project Area are aware of the Terms & Conditions of the SD.

### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will continue to enforce compliance with this SD condition and train all employees and helicopter pilots on the procedures to be followed.



Category	Aircraft Flight Restrictions	
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife and shall avoid flying	
	directly over animals.	
Status	In-Compliance	
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)	
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:	
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/	

# METHODS

Baffinland advises all pilots and exploration personnel working on the Project of the aircraft flight restrictions and the commitment not to disturb wildlife unless an emergency landing is required. As such, no pilots deliberately alter course to observe, harass or otherwise knowingly disturb wildlife.

#### RESULTS

There were no recorded instances of breaches of this SD condition.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will continue to enforce compliance with this SD condition and train all employees and helicopter pilots on the procedures to be followed.



Category	Aircraft Flight Restrictions	
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a	
	minimum flight altitude of 610 metres above ground level except during landing, take-	
	off or if there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb	
	wildlife or migratory birds.	
Status	In-Compliance	
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)	
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:	
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/	

In keeping with protocols established for the Mary River Project, Baffinland implemented a requirement for all helicopter pilots to complete a daily pilot timesheet to track flight data, the reason for flight and rationale for lower flight altitudes, when required. Descriptions of the rationales recorded in the daily pilot timesheets are listed in Table 4.4. Pilots were also given the spatial boundaries of any identified concentrations of migratory birds, buffered by the required 1,500 m horizontal avoidance distance. Pilots were then asked to avoid flying in these areas.

Rationale	Description
Drop off/pick up	The distance between take-off and landing sites does not allow enough time to gain 650 magl; the topography between sites, particularly around the drill locations, has large elevation changes over a short distance that does not allow the helicopter to reach 650 magl, or it is not practical for the helicopter to climb to 650 magl (e.g., when descending from Nuluujaak Mountain).
Survey	Surveys can involve short duration flights between survey points that do not allow enough time to gain 650 magl; some surveys require low level flying as part of the survey methodology such as flying a low-level grid pattern for a geotechnical survey, keeping a sensor at a constant elevation relative to the ground.
Slinging	Helicopters slinging heavy loads fly low for safety purposes; if necessary, the load can be quickly lowered to the ground in a controlled manner or dropped and maintain visual reference of the landing location.
Short distance	The short distance between take-off and landing sites does not allow enough time to gain 650 magl.
Sampling	Sampling can involve short duration flights between sampling points that does not allow enough time to gain 650 magl.
Staking	Very low-level flying is required while staking out a grid as stakes are deployed from the helicopter during transit and crew members are in and out of the helicopter at grid corners.
Weather	Poor visibility associated with low cloud restricts pilots to flying below the cloud line, which is under 650 magl; high winds and/or flat light conditions (reduces a pilot's depth-of-field causing poor ground reference) can make it difficult to maintain a consistent 650 magl flight height.
Mobilization/ Demobilization	Ferrying of the aircraft to and from the Project where operational constraints (e.g., fuel capacity and flight range) are a factor.

Table 4.4: Descriptions of Pilot Rationales Given for Low-Level Flights

# Baffinland

Performance on Terms and Conditions

Rationale	Description
Wildlife Safety Sweeps	Low-level flying required to visually scan the work site for potential predators.
Other	The nature of the flight requires low-level flying or short distances/durations (e.g., tours, maintenance flights, evacuations, and search and rescue).

# METHODS

Canadian Helicopters provided flight tracklog data (GPS points along the flight path). Baffinland provided a compliance database using daily pilot timesheets (with flight details) from May to September 2021, when the helicopters were active and on-site, for analysis. This analysis included all travel related to Baffinland, including Eqe Bay Exploration. The methods used to calculate flight altitudes above ground level are described in detail in the TEAMR.

Data were split into two categories: 1) those data within the Snow Goose area during the 2021 moulting season (July and August) related to the 1,100 magl elevation requirement and 2) those data outside the Snow Goose area during the 2021 moulting season and in all areas in all other months related to 650 magl elevation requirement. The data sets were then analyzed separately to assess specific flight height allowances using the different areas and elevation values. Using the pilot rationale, any flight data with justifications for flying at lower elevations than required was considered compliant with rationale. When no justification was provided, entries defaulted to non-compliant. For this reason, the proportion of compliant flights was considered conservative. Based on this analysis, flight data were organized into the following six categories:

- 1. Those data within the Snow Goose area in July and August, where the 1,100 magl elevation requirement was achieved (compliant);
- 2. Those data within the Snow Goose area in July and August where the 1,100 magl elevation requirement was not achieved, but low-level flying was justified by pilots (compliant with rationale);
- 3. Those data within the Snow Goose area in July and August where the 1,100 magl elevation requirement was not achieved and no justification for low-level flying was given (non-compliant);
- 4. Those data outside the Snow Goose area during moulting season and in all areas in all other months where the 650 magl elevation requirement was achieved (compliant);
- 5. Those data outside the Snow Goose area during moulting season and in all areas in all other months where the 650 magl elevation requirement was not achieved, but lower elevation flying was justified by pilots (compliant with rationale); and
- 6. Those data within and outside the Snow Goose area during moulting season and in all areas in all other months where the 650 magl elevation requirement was not achieved and no justification for low level flying was given (non-compliant).

Additional details concerning helicopter pilot rationale and flight time were requested during 2020 TEWG meetings. The 2021 analysis was based on helicopter flight time, not the number of points as was previously done to address these requests. Compliant and compliant with rationale categories were reported separately, and flight time was reported for each pilot rationale in the compliance database.

# RESULTS

There were no identified "observed concentrations of migratory birds", nor areas specifically prescribed to avoid for migratory birds excluding the snow goose area in 2021.

# Baffinland

2021 was the fourth year that flight height data were cross-referenced with compliance data from daily pilot timesheets. A summary of the flight compliance data is provided in Table 4.5. For analytical purposes, flight height data points were designated "compliant" when elevation requirements were achieved, or where pilot's discretionary rationale for deviating from flight heights was provided. Data points were designated "non-compliant" if they did not meet elevation requirements and no explanation was given. This additional analysis resulted in an increase in helicopter flight height compliance when compared to previous years, as it provided explanations for transits flown lower than the elevation requirements. Some examples given in 2021 to explain low-level flights included:

- Weather
- Slinging
- Short Flights

Total Flight Hours	Compliant (hours)	Compliant (%)	Compliant with rationale (hours)	Compliant with rationale (%)	Total Compliance (hours)	Total Compliance %	Non- Compliant (hours)	Non- Compliance (%)
211.3	137.3	31.2 %	31.2	14.7 %	168.5	79.7 %	42.8	20.3 %

 Table 4.5:
 Summary of Flight Compliance in 2021

This additional analysis showed that when considering rationale provided by pilots for low-level flying, most low-level flight hours were compliant. When looking at flight hours over areas with a 650 magl threshold, 66.4% were  $\geq$  650 magl, and 14.6% were < 650 magl with reasons given by pilots for a total of 81% compliance. (Figure 4.3). The high percentage of low-level compliant and non-compliant flights in 2021 is similar to what was observed in 2020 and 2019 and will likely continue in future years as the majority of helicopter work conducted at Eqe Bay either requires low-level flying for safety/operational reasons (e.g. slinging, surveys, polar bear safety checks), or involves multiple short distance flights whereby helicopters are unable to reach the required elevations between take-off and landing sites (e.g. slinging equipment, sampling, drop offs/pickups). In 2021, the most common reasons stated by pilots for flying below the elevation requirements were: slinging, weather and short flights. Most compliant transits that met the elevation requirements in 2021 tended to be long distance flights, where pilots were airborne long enough to reach and maintain the required elevations. The most common reason for non-compliance was pilots observing their altitude in masl as opposed to magl and assuming compliance or forgetting to record rationale on the flight ticket.

# TRENDS

Helicopter flight height compliance was lower in 2021 (79.7%) than in 2020 (100.0%) and 2019 (90%), largely due to increased flight hours on the Eqe Bay Project in 2021 relative to previous years and a decrease flight height compliance documentation. Confusion regarding flight height compliance altitude (masl vs. magl) is attributed to a large compliment of new-to-site pilots in 2021 and very challenging weather conditions.

Similar to 2020, significant efforts were made to have longer, higher altitude flights, which was made possible by changes in operational parameters. Positioning a small fuel cache for the summer season in Eqe Bay for refuelling made trips to the Steensby Camp less necessary, allowing for longer, more direct transits. This allows for the

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helicopter to efficiently reach a higher cruising altitude and remain there, as opposed to shorter duration flights where this is not possible.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will continue to work with their helicopter provider to improve flight height compliance by continuing to communicate elevation requirements and improving documentation of rationale for not meeting the requirements. Particular attention will be paid to ensuring the understanding between magl, not masl, is adhered to. This does take some adjustment for pilots as they are used to flying at fixed altitudes above sea level and the helicopters do not have ground-level reporting altimeters. Unless flying a geophysical survey, helicopter flights generally do not drape topography, especially at higher cruising altitudes such as 650 magl. Baffinland will continue to use a fuel cache at Eqe Bay to limit the need for shorter, lower-level flights through the Steensby area. In future years, once a camp is established at Eqe Bay, helicopter hours are predicted to drop further, thus further limiting negative effects of helicopter use.



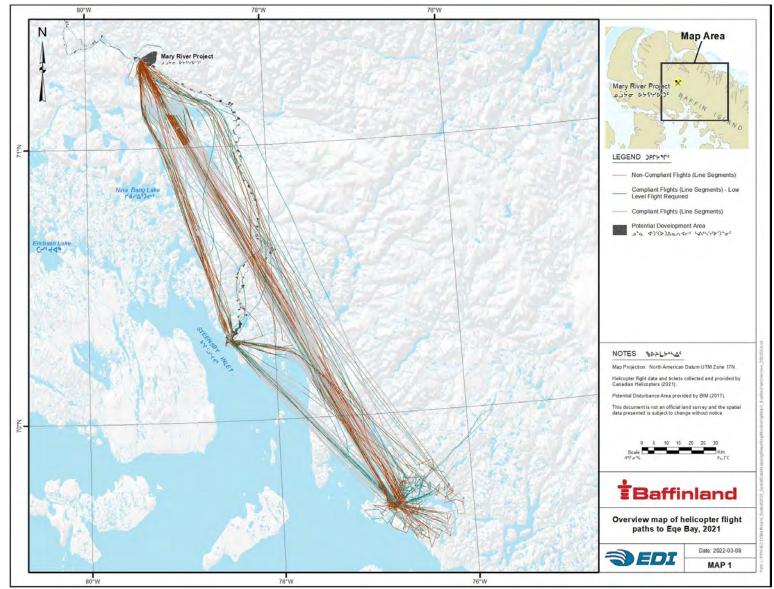


Figure 4.3: Overview Map of Helicopter Flight Paths Associated with the Eqe Bay Project from May to September, 2021



Category	Aircraft Flight Restrictions	
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres	
	and a horizontal distance of 1,500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of	
	migratory birds. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by	
	choosing alternate flight corridors.	
Status	In-Compliance	
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)	
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:	
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/	

# METHODS

Baffinland advises all pilots and exploration personnel working on the Project of the aircraft flight restrictions and avian distance requirements. When ever colonies or groups of birds are observed from a distance that allows for diversion, the diversion is made. Flight corridors currently used do not appear to pass over any critical or sensitive wildlife areas.

#### RESULTS

Aircrafts were able to maintain the required vertical and horizontal distance from groups of migratory birds as well as choose strategic flight corridors to avoid wildlife sensitive areas.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Aircraft flight restrictions and avian distance requirements will continue to be enforced.



Category	Aircraft Flight Restrictions	
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency,	
	touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.	
Status	In-Compliance	
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)	
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:	
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/	

# METHODS

Baffinland advises all pilots and exploration personnel working on the Project of the aircraft flight restrictions, including touching down in the presence of wildlife. A survey of the landing area is completed by the pilot and passengers prior to landing, both for the safety of the field crews and to ensure compliance with this condition.

#### RESULTS

In 2021, no instances occurred where the helicopter landed in areas with wildlife present.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

The method used has worked quite well for avoiding wildlife, especially when paired with a wildlife survey before dropping crews off. These wildlife surveys are done for a field crew safety perspective, looking for polar bears, however occasionally other wildlife is spotted and avoided when a landing area is selected.



Category	Aircraft Flight Restrictions	
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce the	
	application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.	
Status	In-Compliance	
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001).	
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:	
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/	

# METHODS

All pilots were advised of relevant flight restrictions. Monitoring of all flight paths are conducted to ensure compliance.

# RESULTS

Pilots followed relevant flight restrictions or were able to provide a justified reason why they were unable to (i.e. Weather restrictions). All flight paths were monitored through a GPS tracking system, refer to Screening Decision Condition No. 27 and Figure 4.3 for further discussion on helicopter flights.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland continues to follow relevant flight restrictions by enforce their application over and around the project area. All conditions related to flight restrictions is communicated regularly with helicopter pilots and will continue to be.



Category	Caribou Disturbance	
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of	
	caribou, until the caribou have passed or left the area.	
Status	In-Compliance	
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)	
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:	
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/	

# METHODS

Baffinland did not perform any activities that would interfere with the migration or calving of caribou.

#### RESULTS

There was no interference by Baffinland with the migration or calving of caribou.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will develop and implement policies and procedures to prevent any interference with migration or calving of caribou. Activities likely to interfere with caribou migration or calving will cease until such time as the caribou have passed or left the area.



Category	Caribou Disturbance		
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration and shall		
	cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as airborne geophysics surveys,		
	drilling or movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have		
	passed.		
Status	In-Compliance		
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)		
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:		
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/		

# METHODS

Baffinland did not perform any activities that would block or cause diversion to caribou migration. A total of seventythree (73) caribou were observed by field staff in 2021, all in the Eqe Bay area and the route between Mary River, Steensby and Eqe Bay.

### RESULTS

Caribou migration was not blocked or diverted by any Baffinland activities.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration and will cease activities likely to interfere with migration. As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, Baffinland will develop and implement policies and procedures that ensure blocking or diversion of migrating caribou does not occur.



Category	Caribou Disturbance
Term or Condition	During the period of May 15 to July 15, the Proponent shall suspend all project operations, including low-level over flights, drilling, blasting/trenching, and use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles outside the immediate vicinity of the camp. Should the results of localized monitoring satisfy the Land Use Inspector that project operations may resume without disturbing pregnant caribou cows or cows with young
	calves, the suspension may be lifted for the period specified.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at: https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

# METHODS

In 2021 Baffinland did not carry out any drilling, blasting/trenching, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle use in the Project area. Low-level flights are used during the "polar bear sweep" at the beginning of each field day to ensure no polar bears or other wildlife are in the working area. This initial helicopter sweep is imperative to the safety of the crew and local wildlife to minimize unnecessary disturbance. If a polar bear is observed in the planned work area, a secondary site, at least 30 km away is diverted to for fieldwork. Should caribou be seen during a polar bear sweep, every effort is made to immediately leave the area so as to not further disturb the caribou. As per Condition No. 29, no landings occur anywhere near caribou.

#### RESULTS

In 2021, Baffinland did not carry out any drilling, blasting/trenching, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle use in the Project area. Low-level flights are used during the period of May 15 to July 15, but only as a safety measure to sweep the working area for any wildlife before commencing work and to drop off or pick up project personnel. Landing and shut-down areas are chosen well-away from any observed caribou and other wildlife as to minimize any disturbance. All caribou that were observed by field staff in 2021 were seen to be grazing, lying down, or moving undisturbed across the tundra. Refer to Screening Decision Condition No. 27 for further discussion on flight height compliance.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Surveying the work area via helicopter has proven to be a vital part of the field crew's activities to ensure the safety of the crew and wildlife in the area. Baffinland continues to follow relevant flight restrictions by enforce their application over and around the project area. All conditions related to flight restrictions is communicated regularly with helicopter pilots and will continue to be.



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 34**

Category	Caribou Disturbance
Term or Condition	Should pregnant caribou cows, cows with young calves, or groups of 50 or more
	caribou be observed within one (1) kilometre of project operations at any time, the
	Proponent shall suspend all operations in the vicinity, including low-level over flights,
	drilling, blasting/trenching, and use of snow mobiles and all-terrain vehicles outside
	the immediate vicinity of the camp, until caribou are no longer in the immediate area.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

# METHODS

Baffinland did not operate a camp, nor conduct drilling activities, blasting/trenching, nor operate snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles at the Project site in 2021. A survey of the helicopter landing area is completed by the pilot and passengers prior to landing, both for the safety of the field crews and to ensure compliance with this condition.

#### RESULTS

Baffinland did not disturb caribou through the operation of a camp, drilling activities, blasting/trenching, nor operation of snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles at the Project site in 2021. All caribou that were observed by field staff in 2021 were seen to be grazing, lying down, or moving undisturbed across the tundra.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland field personnel will continue to be observant of all caribou and ensure that no field activities knowingly occur within 1 km of any caribou. As project infrastructure is developed, such as the camp, or drilling activity commences, strict adherence to this condition will apply to ensure the limiting of disturbance to caribou of any kind.



Category	Ground Disturbance
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is
	in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or
	gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

#### METHODS

No equipment or vehicles were mobilized in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

No equipment or vehicles caused rutting or gouging.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Ground Disturbance
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall implement suitable dust, erosion and sediment suppression
	measures on all areas before, during and after conducting activities in order to prevent
	sediments or fugitive dust from entering any waterbody or surrounding environment.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001).
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/

#### METHODS

No activities were performed in 2021 that would result in dust, erosion or sedimentation in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will implement the SD Condition and appropriate management plan mitigation measures when it becomes applicable.



Category	Ground Disturbance
Term or Condition	All construction and road vehicles must be fitted with standard and well-maintained
	noise suppression devices and engine idling is to be minimized.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

## METHODS

No equipment or vehicles were mobilized in 2021 for the Project.

# RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Establishment of New Quarries
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall clearly stake and flag pit and quarry boundaries, so they remain
	visible to other land users.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

No quarries were developed in 2021 for the Project.

# RESULTS

Not applicable.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 39**

Category	Establishment of New Quarries
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall locate quarry/pit facilities so as to avoid all recreational sites and
	public use areas, and to protect unique geographical features and natural aesthetics.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

## METHODS

No quarries were developed in 2021 for the Project.

# RESULTS

Not applicable.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Establishment of New Quarries
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure there is no obstruction of natural drainage, flooding or
	channel diversion from quarry/pit access, stockpiles, or other structures or facilities.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

No quarries were developed in 2021 for the Project.

# RESULTS

Not applicable.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Establishment of New Quarries
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that silt fences/curtains are installed down gradient of any
	quarry activities.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

No quarries were developed in 2021 for the Project.

# RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 42**

Category	Establishment of New Quarries
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall maintain an undisturbed buffer zone of at least 100 metres
	between quarry site and any high-water mark of any water body. Alternately: The
	Proponent shall maintain an undisturbed buffer zone between the periphery of quarry
	sites and the high-water mark of any water body that is of an adequate distance to
	ensure erosion control.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

No quarries were developed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 43**

Category	Establishment of New Quarries
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall locate screening and crushing equipment on stable ground, at a
	location with ready access to stockpiles.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

No quarries were developed in 2021 for the Project.

# RESULTS

Not applicable.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Establishment of New Quarries
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall use water or other non-toxic and biodegradable additives for dust
	suppression as necessary to maintain ambient air quality without causing water to pool
	or runoff.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

No quarries were developed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 45**

Category	Drilling on Land
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not conduct any land based drilling or mechanized clearing within
	thirty-one (31) metres of the normal high-water mark of a water body unless otherwise
	authorized by the Nunavut Water Board.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

No drilling was completed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Drilling on Land
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not allow any drilling wastes to spread to the surrounding lands
	or water bodies.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

## METHODS

No drilling was completed in 2021 for the Project.

# RESULTS

Not applicable.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 47**

Category	Drilling on Land
Term or Condition	If an artesian flow is encountered, the Proponent shall ensure the drill hole is
	immediately plugged and permanently sealed.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

No drilling was completed in 2021 for the Project.

# RESULTS

Not applicable.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Drilling on Land
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that all drill areas are constructed to facilitate minimizing
	the environmental footprint of the project area. Drill areas should be kept orderly with garbage removed daily to an approved disposal site.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

No drilling was completed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 49**

Category	Drilling on Land
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that all sump/depression capacities are sufficient to accommodate the volume of waste water and any fines that are produced. The sumps
Status	shall only be used for inert drilling fluids, and not any other materials or substances. Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

No drilling was completed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 50**

Category	Drilling on Land
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall not locate any sump within thirty-one (31) metres of the normal
	highwater mark of any water body unless otherwise authorized by the Nunavut Water
	Board. Sumps and areas designated for waste disposal shall be sufficiently bermed or
	otherwise contained to ensure that substances to do not enter a waterway.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

No drilling was completed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



# **Screening Decision Condition No. 51**

Category	Drilling on Land
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure all drill holes are backfilled or capped prior to the end of
	each field season. All sumps must be backfilled and restored to original or stable profile
	prior to the end of each field season.
Status	Not Applicable
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

# METHODS

No drilling was completed in 2021 for the Project.

#### RESULTS

Not applicable.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**



Category	Temporary Camps
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable
	land.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
	Eqe Bay Closure and Reclamation Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0003)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-
	portal/http://www.baffinland.com/document-portal-
	new/?cat=9&archive=1⟨=en

#### METHODS

Accommodation camps were not constructed in 2021. However, a temporary survival shack was set up in 2019 (UTM NAD83 18W 430790E, 7729380N), on a flat paleo-beach surface in the Project area (Figure 4.2). This survival shack remained on the project area for 2021 field activities. This was deemed the most durable land for set up as the beach cobbles are very durable and there is very little vegetation growing in the area. The cobbles have an approximate average size of 20 cm x 10 cm x 4 cm. The tent was placed on an area with no moss or grass growing (Figure 4.4):



Figure 4.4: Survival Tent Placed on Cobbled Paleo-Beach Surface

# RESULTS

The temporary survival shack was set up on durable land in the form of a flat, cobbled paleo beach surface. No scarring of the land is visible.



# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

All future camp infrastructure, as much as practicable, will be developed on durable land to minimize scarring to the landscape.



Category	Temporary Camps
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
	Eqe Bay Closure and Reclamation Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0003)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-
	portal/http://www.baffinland.com/document-portal-
	new/?cat=9&archive=1⟨=en

# METHODS

Accommodation camps were not constructed in 2021. However, a temporary survival shack remained in the project area for 2021 after it was mobilized in 2019 for emergency purposes only, and under approval from QIA was left at the Project location at the end of the field season. No waste was left behind.

# RESULTS

The land use area was kept clean and tidy at all times. As mentioned in Condition 7, all waste was removed from the Project area daily and returned to Mary River for proper disposal.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Project, Baffinland will ensure the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times by frequently monitoring all camp facilities including temporary structures. Construction of temporary camps are to be firmly secured with additional materials used as needed. This will decrease the likelihood of loose material and ensure the land use area is protected.



Category	Restoration of Disturbed Areas
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
	Eqe Bay Closure and Reclamation Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0003)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-
	portal/http://www.baffinland.com/document-portal-
	new/?cat=9&archive=1⟨=en

#### METHODS

Prior to the end of each field season, all garbage, fuel and equipment are removed from the Project area. As per Condition 7, throughout the field season all garbage is taken back to Mary River with the field crews. The fuel storage cache was removed by helicopter at the end of the field season. This includes fuel drums and any materials such as berms used to store the fuel in accordance with the Fuel and Chemical Storage conditions. Temporary equipment such as geological/geophysical tools are removed from the project area once the tool is no longer in use or at the end of the field season.

#### RESULTS

Progressive reclamation in 2021 included the removal of all garbage accumulated in the field back to Mary River for disposal, and removal of all fuel and equipment after the field season was complete via helicopter. A survival tent was left in place for use in the 2022 field season with permission from the QIA. The Project is not in the closure/abandonment stage and is still undergoing active exploration.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will honor the commitments made with respect to closure, reclamation and abandonment as outlined in the Eqe Bay Closure and Reclamation Plan.



Category	Restoration of Disturbed Areas
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-
	disturbed state as practical as possible upon completion of field work.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
	Eqe Bay Closure and Reclamation Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0003)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-
	portal/http://www.baffinland.com/document-portal-
	new/?cat=9&archive=1⟨=en

### METHODS

Baffinland will execute the Closure and Reclamation plan, including opportunities for progressive reclamation throughout the life of the project. This will include reducing the footprint of disturbance wherever possible, and grading, re-contouring and scarifying disturbed areas on closure to promote stability, drainage and revegetation.

#### RESULTS

All field activities in 2021 were low impact. No construction activities, camp operation, drilling or quarry development was executed in 2021, resulting in no disturbance of the ground surface.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will ensure that minimal initial disturbance occurs during the development of the proposed exploration camp and drill areas. A photographic record will be captured for before, during and after of each site to be disturbed to ensure compliance with this Condition.



Category	Restoration of Disturbed Areas
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall complete all clean-up and restoration of the lands used prior to
	the end of each field season and/or upon abandonment of site.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0001)
	Eqe Bay Closure and Reclamation Plan (BAF-PH1-400-P16-0003)
Ref. Document Link	Management Plans available at:
	https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-
	portal/http://www.baffinland.com/document-portal-
	new/?cat=9&archive=1⟨=en

#### METHODS

Baffinland will execute the Closure and Reclamation plan, including opportunities for progressive reclamation throughout the life of the project. This will include reducing the footprint of disturbance wherever possible, and grading, re-contouring and scarifying disturbed areas on closure to promote stability, drainage and revegetation.

As per Condition No. 7, throughout the field season all garbage is taken back to Mary River with the field crews. The fuel storage cache was removed by helicopter at the end of the field season. This includes fuel drums and any materials such as berms used to store the fuel in accordance with the Fuel and Chemical Storage conditions. Temporary equipment such as geological/geophysical tools are removed from the project area once the tool is no longer in use or at the end of the field season.

#### RESULTS

All field activities in 2021 were low impact. No construction activities, camp operation, drilling or quarry development was executed in 2021, resulting in no disturbance of the ground surface.

Field crews cleaned up all garbage, fuel storage caches, equipment and other foreign material prior to the end of each field season.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland will continue to ensure that progressive clean-up of fieldwork areas is completed. Baffinland will ensure that minimal initial disturbance occurs during the development of the proposed exploration camp and drill areas. A photographic record will be captured for before, during and after of each site to be disturbed to ensure compliance with this Condition.



Category	Other	
Term or Condition	The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.	
Status	In-Compliance	
Reference	N/A	
Ref. Document Link	N/A	

#### METHODS

Baffinland meets with various community groups on a regular basis to discuss aspects of the Project and ongoing issues, concerns or recommendations community representatives may have. Baffinland has engaged in a number of community tours in the past to provide information and garner feedback from the Hamlet Councils and Hunters and Trappers Associations in Sanirajak and Igloolik. First hand community engagement and communication is achieved through these community tours as well as written letters sent out regarding information updates. These interactions are provided as a platform to solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit (IQ) and information that can inform project activities.

In-person engagement in Sanirajak and Igloolik has been impacted by COVID-19 and the curtailing of field program activities. Radio shows were used in both communities to allow for direct feedback from residents of the communities regarding planned Project activities in 2021. As in 2020, Baffinland provided written communications to both Hamlet Councils, HTOs and the QIA as well as the GN, Nunavut Public Health and the local airports and nursing stations to advise of the timing, location and status of various field activities occurring in the Eqe Bay area to minimize any potential exposure risk of Nunavummiut to Mine staff and possible COVID-19 transmission.

The CLARC meeting and Community Meeting in Igloolik on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 provided excellent forums for the collection of local knowledge, specifically in regards to traditional land use activities and Inuit place names.

# RESULTS

As a result of previous community engagement initiatives, important IQ has been shared about historic travel paths and hunting grounds for the communities of Sanirajak, Igloolik and Clyde River. It has been noted that hunters and travellers from Igloolik and Clyde River pass through the area when travelling between the two communities. In the summer months, caribou hunters from Igloolik and/or Sanirajak may come to the areas of Eqe Bay or Grant-Suttie Bay to hunt. In the winter, Nunavummiut travel by snowmobile between Igloolik and Clyde River. It was also noted that in the past, residents of Clyde River travelled to an area NE of the Project area to hunt wolves, possibly near the Barnes Icecap.

As a result of Baffinland's commitment to the health and safety of all people affected by Project activities, timely communications were shared with all potential land users to ensure all public health measures were followed. Through positive communication with the Hamlets and HTAs, it was determined that no land users were going to be present where Baffinland staff and contractors were working. No instances of COVID-19 transmission or any community contact were noted in the 2021 field program.



#### TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Community outreach in various forms have been planned for Sanirajak and Igloolik, to occur prior to any infrastructure development in the Eqe Bay area, and specifically to notify the Hamlet Councils and Hunters and Trappers Associations of the planned activities and solicit community feedback. Ongoing communication between the Company and the communities will be essential to fostering goodwill and social license to operate the Eqe Bay Project. It is anticipated that with potential future success of the Project, broader community engagement will be possible to further engage Inuit on IQ and incorporate learnings into future Project development. Should no infrastructure development occur in 2022, at minimum letters will be sent to the two affected communities explaining this and elaborate, to the extent practicable, on reasons why and proposed future development timelines.



Category	Other	
Term or Condition	The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife	
	harvesting or traditional land use activities.	
Status	In-Compliance	
Reference	N/A	
Ref. Document Link	N/A	

#### METHODS

Baffinland staff and contractors working on the Project monitor for signs of Inuit land use, whether that be hunting or other land uses. These are recorded on a land use log maintained in the helicopter to document any such activities, as no infrastructure currently exists on Site. Baffinland practices are to avoid Inuit land users so as not to interfere with hunting and land use activities.

#### RESULTS

During 2021, one hunting camp/group of hunters were spotted on the land from the helicopter while transiting to the Project area. No interaction, interference or conflict from Project activities were observed or reported as the helicopter immediately left the area upon spotting the land users.

#### TRENDS

Not applicable

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

Baffinland has not encountered any Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities in the immediate Project area, however observations of Inuit land use in areas adjacent to the Project area in prior years does confirm land use in the area of the Project. Baffinland field personnel and contractors will continue to employ best efforts to avoid disturbing or interfering with any traditional land use.



Category	Other
Term or Condition	The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local
	services where possible.
Status	In-Compliance
Reference	N/A
Ref. Document Link	N/A

#### METHODS

With a limited scope of work completed in 2021, and COVID-19 mitigation measures restricting the interaction of Nunavut residents and southern workers, Baffinland endeavoured to employ Inuit who reside outside of Nunavut on the project. Upon lifting of restrictions on Nunavummiut travelling to the Mary River Project, every effort was made to hire Inuit from Igloolik and Sanirajak to work on the Project.

#### RESULTS

Two employment positions were filled by non-Nunavut resident Inuit hires in 2021. One was a Geologist and the other was a Field Assistant position. After the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, one Igloolikmiut was hired as a Field Assistant. Field Assistants were offered geologic training both at the mine site and in the field by Baffinland staff geologists. The Geologist had the opportunity to apply their knowledge learned at university to hands-on fieldwork and further develop their skill set. The Field Assistants were also given the opportunity to expand their skill sets during the till sampling program and associated work at the mine site when required (often weather days where fieldwork was not possible). One of the Field Assistants completed the Nunavut Prospector's Program, offered for the first time in 2021 by BIM staff geologists through an agreement with the Government of Nunavut's Ministry of Economic Development and Transportation.

# TRENDS

Not applicable.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS / LESSONS LEARNED**

As infrastructure is developed at the Eqe Bay Project, and the scope of work becomes more in line with the approved Screening Decision, Baffinland will continue to hire local people and access local services where possible.



# **5 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES**

Table 5.1 provides an extensive list of all the Management Plans for the Eqe Bay Project.

There were no updates to Eqe Bay Project specific management plans in 2021.

 Table 5.1:
 Current List of Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans

Document Number	Plan Name	Current Revision Date
BAF-PH1-400-P16-001	Eqe Bay Environmental Protection Plan	Feb-19
BAF-PH1-400-P16-002	Eqe Bay Spill Contingency Plan	Jul-20
BAF-PH1-400-P16-003	Eqe Bay Closure and Reclamation Plan	Feb-19
BAF-PH1-400-P16-004	Eqe Bay Inspection and Monitoring Plan	Feb-19
BAF-PH1-400-P16-005	Eqe Bay Waste Management Plan	Feb-19

A copy of Baffinland's Environmental Management Plans are available on the document web portal: https://www.baffinland.com/media-centre/document-portal/.

References



# **6 REFERENCES**

Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), 2018. Nunavut Impact Review Board – Screening Decision Report Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation - NIRB File No. 18-EN-026. August 17, 2018.



APPENDIX A EQE BAY PHOTO LOG



PHOTO 1 – Surficial Geologists training BIM staff on the first day out in the field



PHOTO 2 – BIM Geologist collecting a till sample



PHOTO 3 – Archaeologist collecting data in a fenced off archaeological site



PHOTO 4 – Archaeology site (tent ring) in the Eqe Bay Area



PHOTO 5 – Surficial Geologists using a talon drill to collect till and sediment



PHOTO 6 – Structural Geologist taking measurements with a Brunton



PHOTO 7 – Geophysical crew running an IP survey



PHOTO 8 – BIM staff Geologists administer the Nunavut Prospectors Program (NPP)



PHOTO 9 – Eqe Bay survival tent



PHOTO 10 – Eqe Bay Beach