

# Using resilience to offset cumulative impacts

IAIA 2017 - Montreal

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# The challenge:

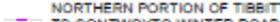
- how to proceed when there's already stress beyond reason?

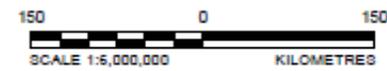
# Our lesson from a recent case study

- Focus on understanding the drivers of stress; this will help open up pathways for responsible development



**LEGEND**

-  JAY PROJECT
-  EXISTING MINE OR PROJECT
-  TERRITORIAL CAPITAL
-  NORTHERN PORTION OF TIBBITT TO CONTWOYTO WINTER ROAD
-  TERRITORIAL/PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY



## Jay Project – expansion of Ekati mine

- Expansion of area affected by diamond mining and increased duration of effects by 10 years

# Review Board decision

- (placeholder background pdf of Reasons for Decision document)
- Several valued components already significantly adversely affected:
  - Habitat and health of boreal caribou
  - Health and well-being of affected communities
  - Well-being and traditional way of life of affected indigenous groups



[reviewboard.ca](http://reviewboard.ca)  
*working together to make wise decisions*

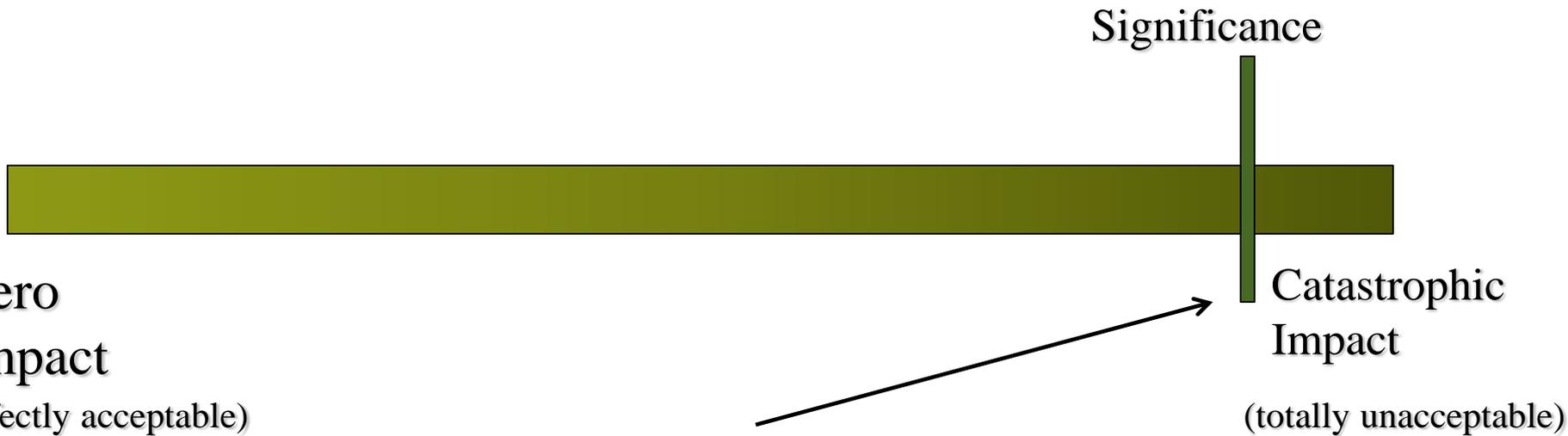


# Caribou hair collected on the shores of the Narrows



- (Placeholder for community picture for brief spiel on community well-being – consider Lutsel K'e)

# The Significance Spectrum



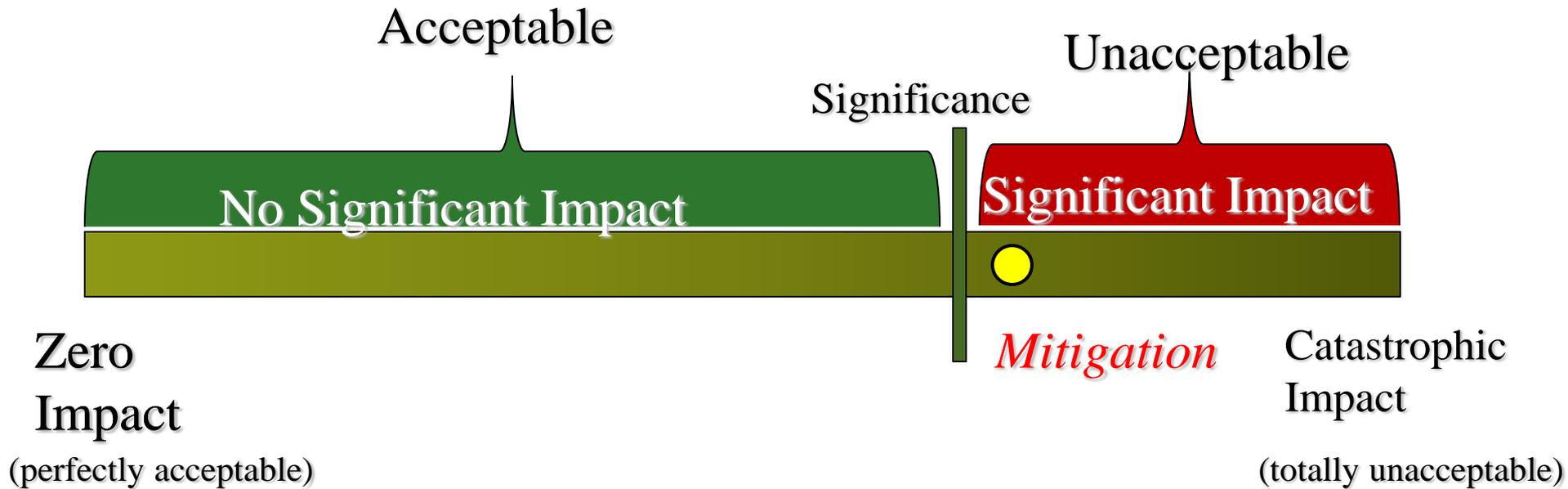
Where this line goes

- is based on values
- changes for each impact

# Significance determination

- Cumulative impacts have led to a baseline condition that cannot tolerate additional stress

# Cumulative impacts are significant



Challenge:  
Can the Project go ahead without  
worsening the cumulative impacts?

# ...challenge assessment

- What mitigations are in place?
- Are they effective?
- What has already happened?
- In the nearly 20 years of diamond mining, how has this developed and what is the link?

# Findings

- Much uncertainty around **link** and **magnitude** of impacts
- Past efforts questionable
- Feedback mechanisms to improve situation not there

# Resolution: build resilience!

- Cumulative impacts dealt with by using the following resilience strategies:
  - addressing uncertainty
  - Strengthening (offsetting) external system components
  - Promoting adaptive management

# 1. Addressing uncertainty

- Incorporating Traditional Knowledge into project design
- Developing a TK management framework for consistency and confidence of TK use in decision-making
- Early identification of cultural impacts to inform management actions and mitigations

## 2. Strengthening system components by offsetting

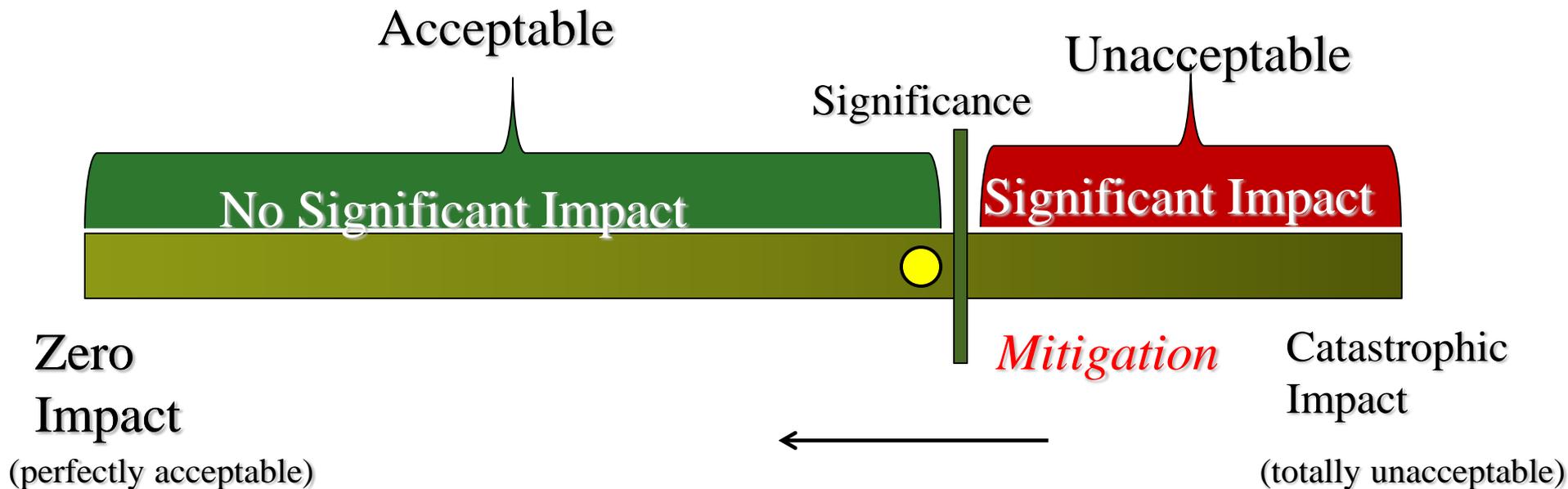
- Enhance mitigation measures off-site
- Creation of a culture camp to actively bring land users back to area and maintain connection with and knowledge of the land
- Reduce vulnerabilities in communities by promoting opportunities for women

# 3. Improving on adaptive management

- Impose timelines on Government to develop caribou management plans
- Impose requirement on Government to investigate linkages between diamond mining and well-being and engage with communities and public on initiatives and problem-solving
- Establish objectives for monitoring and adaptive management
- Annual reporting by Government and Proponent on implementation of mitigation measures

# End result

Taking a resilience perspective enabled a reduction in overall significance & an acceptable Project



# Conclusion

- Opportunities exist to manage significant baseline cumulative impacts
- Promoting an understanding the drivers of stress creates pathways to build resiliency into the stressed system and buffer against undesirable change

# Mahsi cho!