

Appropriate Indicators for Social Impact Assessment

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Indicators Are....

- Gauges to show, judge, measure or indicate social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions.
- Gauge causes not just symptoms.
- Central to SEIA.

Indicators - Not New or Simple

- Social indicators part of many processes not just SEIA
- Always challenging to identify meaningful and useful indicators

Indicator Work in the NWT

- Northern Oil and Gas Action Program (NOGAP)
- GNWT Communities and Diamonds Reports
- Diavik Community Advisory Board (DCAB)

Past Experiences & SEIA

- Focus on what is important
- Recognize diversity
- Be democratic
- Indicators are beginning not the end
- Get numbers and descriptions
- Be holistic

SEIA's Two Important First Steps

- Scoping and issues identification determines all potential impacts
- Baseline information characterizes the situation at the time a project is proposed.

Indicators and Scoping

- Scoping issues might relate to:
 - ✓ participation
 - ✓ well-being
 - ✓ jobs and money
 - ✓ cultural heritage and knowledge
 - ✓ human relationships
 - ✓ people and the natural environment

Indicators and Baseline

- Describe social, economic and cultural conditions in quantitative and qualitative ways including for those issues and concerns raised in scoping.
- Validity and reliability are always questions.

Appropriate Indicators

- No one set of indicators
- Know what is important to people affected
- Be realistic and practical
- Be democratic and holistic

Lessons to Apply to SEIA

- Lots of reference materials but things change
- Meaningfulness of indicators to people affected
- Usefulness of indicators to people affected

In Conclusion

- Learn from past experience.
- Indicators key part of SEIA.
- Finding appropriate indicators is challenging.