

## **NELSON ISLAND CONSORTIUM BASE IGAP WORKPLAN**



### **CANINERMIUT/ QALUYAAT-LLU NUNAMTA MENUITENGNAQLERKAANUN NUNAM CALIARAT<sup>1</sup>**



**October 2006 – September 2008**

**Nelson Island Consortium:**

**Native Villages of Chefornak, Nightmute, Newtok,  
Tununak, Toksook Bay, Umkumiut, Kipnuk**



**April 13, 2006 version**

<sup>1</sup>Yupik is an intricate language. The closest translation is “Keeping the Coastal and Nelson Island Region Environment Clean”.

**SUMMARY:** Provides the base funding for the Nelson Island Consortium, comprised of Nightmute, Umkumiut, Toksook Bay, Tununak, Cheforak, Kipnuk, and Newtok, for the next two years. The objectives are in line with EPA strategic plan in reducing risks to human health, protecting watersheds, and drinking water sources from pollution, as well as reducing toxics in the air. Note also, in conformance with the new GAP Guidance, we will be meeting CFDA: 66.926 GOAL 5: COMPLIANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, 2008 National Reportable outputs/outcomes for IGAP: Increase by 50% the number of EPA agreements with tribes that reflect holistic program integration and traditional use of natural resources. Our Consortium represents 7 Tribes, and thus our holistic and traditional program will significantly assist EPA in meeting this target.

With the our original proposed budget cut to 61% of what was requested, rather than addressing all issues in the original workplan, the Consortium representatives voted on 3/10/06 to focus on building Tribal environmental program capacity in the two broad issues of greatest concern to the Consortium tribes/communities, which both reduce risk risks to human health, protect watersheds and drinking water and reduce toxic loads into multi-media:

1. Local climate change issues i.e. find out about and protecting our environment and health from climate change impacts
2. Subsistence Area cleanup of contaminants – i.e. reduction of toxics, protection of watersheds and our health

We also voted to continue to fund a representative in each village, rather than fund 2 to 3 representatives for more hours from some of the villages. This is in line with a policy decision made by our elders, in that the Consortium must try to share all funding equally, as that is the traditional way.

**Basic Program Management Capacity Building:** Additionally, the Consortium will continue to provide limited basic program assistance through mutual cooperation and leveraged knowledge base of all Consortium Tribes, as well as through assistance of retainer consultants, as hours are available through them, if immediate emergency assistance is required to retain each Tribes' environmental program, or traditional working relationships allow the assistance so that as many proposals as possible to protect our environment and health are submitted. Because our funds are so limited, the Consortium will apply for an EPA Circuit Rider Program should the opportunity become available again. We are not covered by any IGAP Circuit Rider Program for next year (or the year after at this point). However, we will seek technical assistance from any existing Circuit Rider Programs that are willing to include us. For example, we have used AI-TC Circuit Rider Program this last year. We will also seek and use any other resource assistance to build technical capacity for our Tribes. Our Tribes are in great need of basic training and reporting requirements and would benefit highly from regular on-site visits that could provide demonstration of grant management tools. One of our Tribes, Kipnuk, does not have IGAP funds for this next year. We will attempt through seeking funds, resources, and pro bono consulting assistance to ensure that requirements are fulfilled so that they are able to have an IGAP program next year.

**Past Consortium Accomplishments:** Our seven traditional Native Villages (Tribes) in the Nelson Island region are located in Western Alaska. Consortium villages share relevant logistical, cultural, and demographic characteristics. The Nelson Island Consortium is unique in that we carry out our program traditionally. We are the only consortium of villages where Yupik is the primary language spoken in each community, and we hold our meetings and decision-making in a traditional Yupik manner.

The Consortium has an active IGAP grant for the CANINERMIUT/ QALUYAAT-LLU NUNAMTA MENUITENGNAQLERKAANUN NUNAM CALIARAT (Nelson Island Consortium) with the deliverable of a waste management plan, and local plans, to protect our lands and peoples from

local-source wastes. We have been developing that plan traditionally in a way that makes most sense to us, and is therefore most likely to result in reduced contaminants, increased community awareness, and true tribal capacity building in the long-run. To date, we have trained people from each village in HAZWOPER, elders from each village have provided their wisdom into how the lands can be cleaned up for better subsistence, we have carried out elder interviews, developed a styrofoam ban resolution, posted signs in the subsistence area, educated community members, developed a fish net monitoring plan (to avoid pollution), learned about GIS, basic solid waste management planning, proposal writing through our meetings. The fish net monitoring plan was developed as a consensus-needed solid waste project that directly affected our traditional Yup'ik ways of living (i.e. the environment and environmental health). Its purpose is to ensure that fish nets are not left in the River, where they obstruct channels for fish and thus have a negative impact on the ecosystem, create the potential for disease to spread to free fish and thus have an indirect potential for negative impact on our environmental health, and despoil the landscape through their littering. We have monitors based in Nightmute and Newtok that check the 3 main subsistence camps for the high use times. All fish nets are tagged with a colored code system for each village. Fish nets that are not checked regularly and/or abandoned are pulled out and reused, and the fish that is still good to eat is given to families in need. The monitors also use the opportunity to educate hunters about taking all wastes back to the village. We developed MOA's with Bethel Recycling to pick up our batteries and deliver them to Napa Auto, and almost all of our Tribes have backhauled their first shipment. We have developed through lessons learned a workable communications plan between villages and to carry out Consortium goals.

The Consortium has been so successful that we have added two additional tribes since first formed, to include all of the Tribes now that use our lands for their primary grounds. We have many requests from other Yupik villages about how we formed that would like to follow our example. We are on schedule for meeting all of our objectives and have built capacity for a number of crucial skills needed to ultimately succeed in full and permanent protection of our communities' health and traditional subsistence lands. We will continue to build capacity in gaining knowledge and networking effectively to provide our communities the voice we need in resource development projects in our region that might impact our livelihoods and cultures. At this point, our communities need to increase their education so that we can make informed decisions and know how and when to voice our decisions effectively to protect our environment in a responsible manner.

We successfully held the first all-Yupik led session at the Alaska Forum on The Environment and received much positive attention in the media and from attending agencies, as they realized the value of a traditionally –led Consortium and the use and retention of our language in addressing environmental issues.

See

<http://www.ktuu.com/cms/anmviewer.asp?a=3560&z=1>

<http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/story/7431884p-7342767c.html>

<http://www.sikunews.com/art.html?artid=906&catid=3>

<http://indianz.com/News/2006/012442.asp>

We also have a dvd copy of the TV session coverage and our efforts.

We have taped and transcribed all of our meetings, that have provided invaluable capacity building to our Tribes through the elder knowledge that has been now documented for them to follow and refer to, as well as presentations and discussions on a number of topics, that they are able to show communities for education purposes or refer back to. Through our

Consortium, our retainer consultants assisted our Tribes with a number of grant applications, and our Tribes were successful at obtaining:

- ◆ BIA funding (2 Tribes) for addressing imminent honeybucket –environmental health
- ◆ EPA Hazardous Waste Program (1 Tribe) for carrying out a hazardous waste program demonstration project that will lead to training all of our Tribes.
- ◆ Denali Solid waste project (1 Tribe)
- ◆ Water Resource Technician position (1 Tribe)

We submitted for the Consortium:

- ◆ A BIA Water Resources Project
- ◆ CARE Grant 05
- ◆ Unmet needs projects

We also submitted Consortium-wide pending applications for

- ◆ CARE 06
- ◆ Brownfield Response Grant
- ◆ And a village honeybucket lagoon diking project through USFWS.

We have the full support of the city governments and other entities in each community. Being traditional, the Consortium is inclusive of all community members and entities, and our Tribes are the only financially and organizationally viable entities left in our communities to carry out the environmental work and capacity building that must be done to protect our communities' health and environment. Sharing the work and protecting the shared habitat and subsistence and training with each other, all while retaining traditional ways of elder leadership and continuing to speak only our native language as a matter of course builds capacity within each Tribe while strengthening traditional ties, increasing partnerships and opportunities for our Tribes through our local community (Tribe) -based inter-tribal entity.

**Chefornak Accomplishments:** The Native Village of Chefornak has been the administrator of the Consortium monies and will continue to do so for the next two years. Their accomplishments include:

- - Our staff traveled to trainings and conferences, giving us a bigger scope of what could be done to improve our environment, reduce wastes, recycling and different programs. A staff member went to Michigan on scholarship for the 7<sup>th</sup> National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, gaining information on solid waste. She briefed our staff on ways to reduce wastes and improve our environment which we briefed our community on. Our staff also traveled with a scholarship to Minneapolis for the National Recycling Coalition. Our department's knowledge on recycling increased, learning about more items that can be recycled. Our staff attended the AFE conference which increased our knowledge of IGAP and allowed us to network with other Villages and agency about environmental information, grants, etc.
  - The staff started the "Clean Up Green Up" program in which kids aging seven to seventeen participated in picking up trash from around the village. Also, trash bins have been posted near homes, and people are using them to throw trash into (which reduces the trash around the village.)
  - We started a battery backhaul program with Napa Auto Parts in Bethel. We send the acid batteries in totes and the totes are returned so that we could reuse them to send more acid batteries.

- The annual school presentation was started, informing the students of the line of work that the Cheforak Environmental IGAP does as well as hazardous materials and ways to reduce trash in our community with their help.
- **FY 06:**
  - Our staff attended ANTHC and AFE conferences where we continued to learn about environmental information, up and coming grants, and continued our networking with agency staff for grant and other information to enhance our program.
  - We are exploring funding possibilities for improving our honeybucket lagoon.
  - We are currently discussing and planning a different fee system for waste collection to get more households participating, which will vastly improve our dump conditions because the collector can control where waste is dumped. Community health risks will also be reduced with less people visiting the dump.
  - The programs of FY05 are carried on to FY06, the cleanup project, the school presentation, battery backhaul. The local elementary school has also started an aluminum can recycling program. We are really excited about this because it shows that our educational efforts have paid off!
  - We have researched the NAFWS water quality trainings, and we are looking to sign up for the Phase 1 training.
  - The banning of Styrofoam and plastic products will be in effect for our local elementary/high school this fall.

**Consortium Mission and how this base plan builds on past accomplishments:** Our mission is to continue on our journey of building capacity in our tribes in protecting our subsistence grounds and ways of life, that will in turn protect human health and the environment, meeting a number of EPA Strategic plan goals, objectives and sub-objectives. With a functional communications and administration plan and subsistence protection plan (that is what is usually called waste management plan) and the knowledge we have gained about contaminants, the next two years will be able to build on the lessons learned by each village, and take this knowledge to apply it to addressing more complex environmental issues of climate change and contaminant reduction in our subsistence areas.

We will also continue to build tribal capacity so that: 1) we do not lose the half-done work of the past two years in finding out how to leverage and work best in interfacing with western culture paperwork, funding requirements, and environmental regulations while maintaining our traditions, 2) seek out the type of collaborative partnerships where we lead in an informed and consensual manner on our own matters and the partners gain towards their own mission, 3) build a sustainable program with lessened Tribal dependence on consultants and outside funding in subsequent years.



**Summary of funding justification:**

We need to fund the Consortium efforts such that each village has someone that has time and assistance to work building capacity in the issues that are of greatest importance. We need to continue funding community members attending our meetings, that will take turns at each villages. This is the traditional way that we have met and shared knowledge and it is the most equitable in sharing funding and in providing the traditional (“pro bono”) hosting by each community. It is vital that we continue to listen to and be led our elders, and to educate them about what western science is predicting so that they can incorporate this information and decide what steps to take that will best protect our lands and people. Our elders are our best resource and assurance that our culture and environment will persist -- strong and undamaged. They are the only ones who will really know how all of the new information, regulations, policies, climate change and pollution issues can affect our lifestyles and environment. And they will be able to integrate the information that we research and provide them about all of these topics with their vast knowledge, so that it makes sense in the context of the Nelson Island area and our lifestyles. Thus, they will be able to guide us to a successful way of dealing with the challenges. We need to hear from them and conduct a full,

concerted effort now in providing them the information that they need to make the decisions that must be made. It is critical to make a "road map" for our communities that will protect our resources from exploitation, pollution, climate change, jurisdictional challenges, etc. There are not many Yupik people when you think about the over 6 billion people in the world. But being a culture with a small population does not mean that we need to be an endangered culture. With efforts like this consortium, we will be able to survive and thrive on our ancestral lands forever. The United States, the country of which we are citizens, is stronger, purer, truer, and its environment more beautiful and clean, with our Yupik culture intact, and our comprehensive, vital, and unique environmental knowledge available, to learn from and apply to any number of far-flung problems outside Yupik borders.

**Budget**  
Budget for 2006 - 2007

<b>PERSONNEL</b>				
Lead coordinator for Villages. Minimum of 15 hours per week (three 4 hour days, one 3 hr day), 46 weeks.	17.0	per hr	644	\$10,948
Administrative clerk, 6 hr/week, 46 weeks.	15.5	per hr	262	\$4,061
Other Villages in Consortium- Consortium representatives. Each Tribe hires and administers their representative. Chefornak pays the representative through each member Tribe, so that each tribe can administer/supervise their NI staff. Terms require a single individual meeting Consortium rep job requirements, prefer past NI rep, and must reside in that village, 6 people - one from each non-lead village, hourly rate \$14/hr (11 hrs per week for 46 weeks)	7084.0	per village	6	\$42,504
<i>Subtotal</i>				\$57,513
<b>FRINGE</b> , inc. FICA, ESC, MEDICARE, and Workmen's Comp Ins.	0.2	percent	lump	\$10,352
<b>TRAVEL AND TRAINING</b>				
Alaska Forum on Environment (\$550 airfare, 6 d, 5 nights @ \$110 per day double lodging (2 people per room), \$60 per day for meals and inc.), for Village Project Reps or community member, assumes one scholarship is obtained. (obj 1) \$550+ \$110x5/2 + \$60*6 = \$1185	1185.0	per trip per person	6	\$7,110
Group on-site meetings (\$175/person includes airfare and \$25/d stipend with sign-in, for 5 people from each non-host Village (except umkumit and nightmute) for 2 meetings \$175 x5pp x 2 meeting x 5 villages, with 6 people combined from umkumiut and nightmute as they share a village) = \$175 x 5 pp x 2 meetings x 4 villages + \$175*6*1 village*2 = \$10,850. Stipend and/or airfare not provided for any tribal employees who are compensated via other means. (obj 1 &2)	175.0	average trip cost per person	62	\$10,850
Workshop/meeting speakers outside of government agencies (2 speaker/educators over two years), 1 night lodging plus incidentals in Bethel at \$120, \$550 RT airfare Nelson Island - ANCH) (obj 1 &2)	670.0	per speaker	1	\$670
Consultant travel \$500/meeting x2 meetings = \$1000 (quote)(obj2)	500.0	per meeting	2	\$1,000
<i>Subtotal</i>				\$19,630
<b>SUPPLIES</b>				
Paper, ink, misc.\$14/mo for each village	168.0	Per village	7	\$1,176
<b>OTHER</b>				
Retainer Consultant(s), \$35/hr (quote) (including indirect office and insurance and supplies), research, technical assistance, assistance in materials development, administrative support and grantwriting (on contracted retainer/pay-as-you-go basis, so they only get paid for what we ask them to do, and they are on-call for questions, and to write grants and build capacity in grantwriting, etc.), average of 6 hr per week for 47 weeks, plus meeting time for 2 persons (125 hrs), includes \$25/hr discount. (6 x 47 +125)x\$35= \$14,245.	35.0	per hour	407	\$14,245
Workshop speakers outside of government agencies (1 each year), speaker gratuity = \$125 per day for 2 days	250.0	per speaker	1	\$250
Conference fees, AFE	175.0	per person	6	\$1,050
Meeting supplies & light refreshments including handouts. Light refreshments will be served in accordance with OMB Circular A-87, refreshments will be served at a time when environmental materials are being disseminated and speakers are presenting. (1st meeting had 50 pp, so we are projecting \$20 per person, including all the handouts). Note these meetings are 2.5 days to 3 days long.	683.3	per meeting trip	3	\$2,050

Nelson Island Consortium Base IGAP

Fax, phone, post, internet (based on additional office expenses for other Tribal projects) excluding Project quarterly report and FSR costs. Note internet should be \$2 per hour average cost with coming satellite hookup, so assuming 2 hours internet research and email per week for each village, plus 3.25 hours of phone using calling card at 3 cents per minute (1.5 hour conference calls each week), and 15 minutes fax at 10 cents per minute for 46 weeks.	520.3	per village	7	3642.0
Fax, phone, post for Project quarterly report and FSR costs (lead village only)	23.0	per quarter	4	\$92
<i>Subtotal</i>				\$21,329
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$110,000</b>

**Year 06 - 07**

Item	Obj 1	Obj 2	Total
<b>Personnel</b>	\$28,757	\$28,757	\$57,513
<b>Fringe</b>	\$5,176	\$5,176	\$10,352
<b>Supplies</b>	\$588	\$588	\$1,176
<b>Travel</b>	\$9,815	\$9,815	\$19,630
<b>Other</b>	\$10,664	\$10,664	\$21,329
<b>Total</b>	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$110,000

Budget for 2007 - 2008

<b>PERSONNEL</b>				
Lead coordinator for Villages. Minimum of 15 hours per week (three 4 hour days, one 3 hr day), 46 weeks.	17.0	per hr	644	\$10,948
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Meeting supplies & light refreshments including handouts. Light refreshments will be served in accordance with OMB Circular A-87, refreshments will be served at a time when environmental materials are being disseminated and speakers are presenting. (1st meeting had 50 pp, so we are projecting \$20 per person, including all the handouts). Note these meetings are 2.5 days to 3 days long.	683.3	per meeting trip	3	\$2,050
Fax, phone, post, internet (based on additional office expenses for other Tribal projects) excluding Project quarterly report and FSR costs. Note internet should be \$2 per hour average cost with coming satellite hookup, so assuming 2 hours internet research and email per week for each village, plus 3.25 hours of phone using calling card at 3 cents per minute (1.5 hour conference calls each week), and 15 minutes fax at 10 cents per minute for 46 weeks.	520.3	per village	7	3642.0
Fax, phone, post for Project quarterly report and FSR costs (lead village only)	23.0	per quarter	4	\$92
<i>Subtotal</i>				\$21,329
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$110,000</b>

**Year 07 - 08**

Item	Obj 1	Obj 2	Total
<b>Personnel</b>	\$28,757	\$28,757	\$57,513

*Nelson Island Consortium Base IGAP*

<b>Fringe</b>	\$5,176	\$5,176	\$10,352
<b>Supplies</b>	\$588	\$588	\$1,176
<b>Travel</b>	\$9,815	\$9,815	\$19,630
<b>Other</b>	\$10,664	\$10,664	\$21,329
<b>Total</b>	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$110,000

## Additional Information

**Meetings:** The meetings are the basis for the planning process. They will last 3 full days and each Village will take care of hosting the event in a traditional way. The host community will welcome the guests and house and feed them. Each meeting will be a step in the educating/learning/planning process, and at each meeting there will be a review of the Project overall by the Project Coordinator (i.e. the lead Village Representative) in terms of where we are at and what specific activities need to happen for the Project to remain on track. Elders will direct what needs to happen. We will then form an action plan to carry that out. Each meeting will be partly devoted to Climate Change issues and partly to subsistence area contaminant issues/plans. So the capacity building for our Tribes to address both these issues will continue through the 2 years of this workplan.

### **For all Elements of the Workplan:**

#### Joint Evaluation of Performance

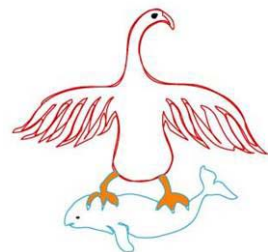
The grantee agrees to submit quarterly performance reports, including conference travel description. This report will state accomplishments toward completion of work plan commitments, a discussion of the work performed for all work plan components, and a discussion of any existing or potential problem areas that could affect project completion. If the EPA Project Officer, after reviewing a report, finds that the recipient has not made sufficient progress under the work plan, EPA and the recipient will negotiate a resolution that addresses the issues. A final report will also be submitted, as well as annual Financial Status Reports to Grant Specialist and annual MBE/WBE to MBE/WBE Coordinator. We will communicate regularly with the EPA Project Officer.

#### EPA Roles and Responsibilities

EPA will have no substantial involvement in the accomplishment of the work plan commitments. EPA will monitor progress and provide technical assistance as needed to ensure project completion.

**Statement on Deliverables:** A copy of all deliverables will be sent to EPA, including Yup'ik documents.

**Consultant:** Federal procurement procedures will be followed in hiring and managing consultants for technical assistance reps and all other work subcontracted outside the Native Village of Cheforak. We require technical consultants who have high expertise specifically in Village environmental science/impact/risk issues, working on a regular, often daily basis with and for Villages, working on multi-disciplinary and multi-Tribal projects, working with Tribes for the purpose of developing community-based technical documents. As in the previous 2-year capacity building period for our Consortium, the consultant for this project will work on a retainer basis contracted through the Native Village of Cheforak. They will be paid for the work that we ask them to do each month, and they will track their hours and balance left compared to the maximum contracted threshold. We may retain different consultants for different issues if that is decided by us to be helpful, and will use legally-reviewed contracts.



**Procurement Process:** Procurement for a retainer consultant(s) will be carried according to Village of Cheforak policies which are in accordance with federal guidelines. Note our need is for a consultant who will assist in capacity building with mutual full involvement and oversight by the Consortium, not a contractor carrying out specific project(s) autonomously. - A consultant is an individual with specialized skills who, although not on the recipient's payroll as an employee, provides personal services to the recipient under an agreement which essentially establishes an employer-employee relationship

between the recipient and the individual providing the services. Consultants are typically individuals who are experts with excellent qualifications. An employer-employee relationship may be found to exist when:

- Recipient selects the individual based on expertise in a particular field
- directs the individual's work
- exercises day-to-day control of the individual's activities.

The Consortium will review the Consultant roster to determine whether they wish to retain the present retainer consultants or select another consultant for the Consortium Base project for 06-08. We have a Retainer Consultant Roster for the Nelson Island Consortium which is open to any qualified consultants wishing to join. The TC reviews each consultant's request to be placed on the roster and their SOQ and approves their placement on the list. The total consultant monies for each year in this budget are \$14,245. The maximum threshold money allowed in the contract without prior approval of the TC will be \$2,000 per month, not to exceed \$14,245 for the year. Based on previous years' consultant hours, we expect to require some 400 hours of consultant assistance in retainer duties. For procurement between \$5,000 to \$50,000, there is no minimum Public Notice requirement, but reasonable and adequate procedures to notify potential qualified retainer consultants for the Consortium project will be taken, commensurate with the circumstances of the procurement considering price and mission requirements. The TC, subject to approval from at least 4 of the 6 other NIC Tribes, will select the most qualified consultant based on:

Low qualified quote or most advantageous proposal as applicable, including consideration of cost, MBE/WBE, small business, State of Alaska preference, past performance in working with similar projects with Chefnak or other Nelson Island Area village, evaluated ability to work effectively with the Tribe if applicable, flexibility of quoted terms, whether project is effectively a continuation of a past project and if this experience is considered to be of substantial benefit to present project, approved status on Retainer Consultant Roster.

See qualifications above.

We will review selection of retainer consultants every two years at a minimum, and more frequently should 4 of 7 Tribes request review.

Artificial fragmentation of project procurement to avoid higher level of competition is not allowed (i.e. fragmenting procurements to below \$5,000 unless such procurements stand on their own as separate projects – e.g. if the Consortium decides to spend consultant monies for assistance with a specific grant, and wishes to use another consultant.

Note, for procurements of \$5,000 to \$50,000, postings in appropriate electronic media may satisfy the competitive solicitation requirement for all procurements as reasonable and ensuring a full roster for qualified consultants for general NIC retainer consultant, as reasonable.

We will keep invoices, contract and amendments, consultant roster and roster requests on file.

**Contracts:** All contracts used in this project, including for consultant, will have undergone legal review. We will make use of free legal assistance through AVCP or other entity if they are not available.

**Quality Assurance:** No sampling or sampling analysis will be performed under this workplan. Any planning that includes sampling or monitoring will include a plan (i.e. line item) for developing a Quality assurance plan.

**Project Administration and Village Representatives:** Each Village will have a Village Project representative that will be carrying out the workplan objectives for their Village. They will be

paid according to our current arrangement. That is that the representative keeps track of their activities and hours, and turns them into Chefnak and their individual Tribal administrator. Each NI Rep is paid from the Consortium monthly for their representative's work upon submittal of their time sheet and description of activities. Travel or other funds can be invoiced more often. The budget is reviewed by the Chefnak Environmental Department Consortium bookkeeper on a regular basis to ensure that each Village will have a funded position, and that they are working on Consortium projects throughout the 24 months. During high-subsistence time, less work is done (a total of 6 weeks will be taken off for each of the next two years), and during low subsistence time, more work will be done. Additionally, there is a Project Coordinator position in Chefnak. The Coordinator position coordinates the Project Workplan with assistance from the consultant. They will also serve as liaison between other Villages and the consultant, so that the time spent by the consultant in relaying messages and update requests is minimized. This communication systems was worked on heavily in the past two years and has improved greatly. Weekly teleconference meetings with all tribes attending, with revolving agenda and facilitation and teleconference setup duties, are held to ensure that the Consortium activities are being carried out and also that issues that arise are addressed. The Chefnak Environmental Department Consortium bookkeeper will maintain financial records, process payroll, and assist in Project administrative requirements. Village Project personnel are responsible to see that the duties are being carried out in each Village, that their tribal administrators and councils are kept informed of their activities, and that any activities requiring Tribal consent or decision-making in between Consortium meetings, will be approved by their Tribes, and that the funds are spent in accordance with the workplan. Note that Consortium representatives must get pre-approval of use of Consortium funds for any activities that are not explicitly assigned by the Consortium, or they risk not being paid for those hours. Because the grant is administered by Chefnak and Chefnak is held responsible by EPA for proper grant management, Chefnak has been given the decision-making power to approve or disprove activities that are reasonably questioned in terms of whether they fit the workplan. Note that we will be applying for a number of grants at the village and consortium level to address the Project issues in a way that the Consortium decides. When and if these additional projects are funded, the Nelson Island reps (or other Village qualified Consortium member) will be funded to carry out or assist in the activities of those grants. These grants may be administered by villages other than Chefnak (depending on which village decides to submit).

**Measures of Success for both Objectives and the Consortium mission of general capacity building:** For both objectives, success will be marked by a number of quantitative and qualitative items:

- ✚ Attendance at each meeting of at least 35 persons, and at least 4 from each village.
- ✚ Completion of each deliverable
- ✚ Completion of meeting agendas
- ✚ Self-reported capacity building for representatives in developing agendas, facilitating teleconferences
- ✚ At least 2 presentations to wider audience – either YK Delta or state-wide or national conferences
- ✚ Positive feedback from elders
- ✚ Positive feedback from communities
- ✚ Community participation – increased numbers aware of, participating in Consortium meetings and education activities.



- ✚ At least four submitted grant proposals that serve to address the target issues.
- ✚ At least four new partnering entities that serve to accomplish the target issues.
- ✚ For the climate change objective – was the Consortium able to take at least one action or make a presentation that decreased local climate change impacts (as proxy measured by reduction in particulate matter, better/environmentally friendly planned building or road project design) and/or regional or national behavior or decision-making (as proxy measured by non-local media attention, letters or actions from policy makers or agencies)
- ✚ For the reduction of contaminants in subsistence area objective – how much and what type of contaminants were reduced? The target for the heavy metals of highest concern Consortium-wide would be at least 5,000 lb of lead, 40 grams (not mg) of mercury (mostly from removed switches, sensors, etc.).



## 2006 – 2007 Workplan

### **Objective 1: Build Tribal capacity to identify and address Local Climate Change Issues**

This objective includes finding out how the subsistence area is and will be affected (e.g. erosion, temperature/climate (and fire), different species, permafrost, what can be done about negative impacts, looking for study funding, inviting elders from the south to teach sustainable and environmentally-friendly hunting, preparation of new subsistence foods (i.e. 'invasive species), looking at beaver management, building capacity to write informed plans to minimize local climate change negative impacts for our future generations.

**Details:** For climate change our Consortium wants to find out exactly what is the range of predictions for the Nelson Island area? We need specific local information and not general predictions about Western Alaska. We want to find out what is known and what isn't, what is the minimum amount of time before certain thresholds are reached with permafrost, temperatures for fish, etc. What are the ecological changes that have already occurred south of us that we can use as a forecast of what will happen here? There are some experts around the State and in the Lower 48 that we need to come and talk to our elders so that our elders can ask the right questions to them, and we can all set this issue in the right context of our lives. We can give the experts our knowledge that might help them with their science in better predicting what will happen here. We want to learn about what resources are available to us to address our local climate change, and what we can do now to make sure that we have access to those resources. We wish to invite elders from southern areas to get their knowledge about how to prepare and hunt for subsistence resources that may be coming into the Nelson Island area. We want to know how or if our communities might be impacted by climate change in a way that might impact our health (e.g. mold, dust, flooding, and what actions we can take now. We want to find out if we are doing anything to our local microclimate that is hastening changes. For example, "dirty snow" is now thought to make permafrost melting faster. Is the small amount of air pollution we make significant here? What about the combined pollution we make among all of our villages? Are there environmentally friendly alternatives that we can pursue? What about the "Arctic Sink"? Are our lands and waters and foods receiving more contaminants now due to global warming? Will this change affect our health of the health of our subsistence resources? Will the change in climate, through its change in hydrology and soil chemistry release more (?) or less(?) heavy metals and other substances that could potentially affect our environment's health? Given the knowledge that we provide to our elders, they will be able to decide which issues we should work on the most – which issues will affect us the most.



**Task 0** (1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> month) Carry out retainer consultant procurement steps as described above. Ensure legally reviewed contract for the project is signed and in-place.

**Task 1** (1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> month): develop an outline summary of these climate change issues, and the different topics and potential actions that exist, relying on our consultant to assist us in making sure we cover everything – that they can point us to different available resources, such as UAF programs (AMAP, ACRC, Cold Climate Research Center, etc.), NOAA programs, National Center Atmospheric Research, USGS, NRCS (a partner with us already). We will be researching via the internet and calling parties to inquire about any information that is specific to our local area or specific programs/grants they have that we can participate in to get local-specific predictions. When we learn about issues that we can take action on easily or a straightforward action that we should educate the community on, we will do that as we continue to research.

**Task 2:** (Arrange for and conduct a meeting sometime in the 5<sup>th</sup> month) - Present outline to elders. The elders will then give us direction about the types of details they would like to see to make

decisions they need to make. They will tell us the types of education materials they think the communities will need.

**Task 3:** (performed during the 5 months following Task 2 meeting) Our Village Coordinators (along with any volunteers from the Consortium, and IGAP staff when available) will work as a team to research further these issues, compile materials for our communities, and take any actions that we are able to with the resources and time we have. We will continue networking with the agencies and other entities that we have met if they show promise of assisting us in a way that our proprietary concerns and traditional values are not compromised. The consortium will identify good speakers to come and educate us. We will try to get Yup'ik speakers whenever possible. With our limited budget, we will try to get agency speakers or university speakers that can fund their own travel. We will be able to pay for at least one speaker. We will use the technical assistance and networking of the consultant. The lead Village Coordinator with help from the consultant will be responsible for making sure that that each Village has a job that is suited for them.



**Task 4** Arrange for and conduct 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (11 and 12<sup>th</sup> month). We will invite speakers (starting as soon as we are able to identify good ones) and get them to answer our questions, and share their knowledge with our communities and elders. We will have demonstrations of ways to work with new subsistence foods that we may be starting to see, or of products that can help to reduce the local impact of global warming (e.g. reduction of dust, air particulates that melt snow quicker)

**Task 5** (3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> month)The Representatives with the consultant will start seeking funds and assistance based on what we have learned and what the Elders have identified as top priorities..

### **(YEAR 2007 – 2008) Climate Change Objective 1 continues**



**Task 6 (13<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> month)**Continue followup research based on prior year's meeting and develop materials and draft policy ideas and local action plan options

**Task 7:** (17<sup>th</sup> month) Arrange for and conduct next meeting. We will then present during this meeting our draft plan and policies. Then the Elders will lead the Consortium in deciding the best actions and policies to develop into a final local action plan and activities.

**Task 8:** (17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> month) The plan will be fully drafted with additional research and ideas incorporated.

**Task 9:** (23<sup>rd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> month) The Coordinators with the consultant will seek funds and assistance that fit the decided plan.

**Outcome:** We will have begun to build the capacity of our tribes to carry out climate change programs by building knowledge of issues and functional relationships with entities that can assist us, and have a set plan of action on climate change for our communities that will protect and adapt the Nelson Island environment as best as possible. We will have educated tribes (and their communities) that will be prepared for what may happen and are ready to do their part to protect our lifestyle in the face of these changes. Because we live off our lands, protecting our lifestyle necessarily means to protect our environment and health and work towards reducing contaminants and other stressors to our environment.

**Deliverables (Results/Outputs): Year 1 Objective 1 Deliverables:** Summary of climate change issues that affect our lifestyle and villages specifically (i.e. our local impacts of climate change versus the generic "global" information that is researched by most scientists and does not address us), inclusive of elders' priorities and guidance. At least one grant to further identify or assist in

addressing climate change issues. One presentation at local or state or national conference. Educational material(s)

**Year 2 Objective 1 Deliverables:** Plan for addressing climate change, grant proposal to seek funds for at least one plan item, policy statement on local impacts from climate change, community education materials. Educational material(s)

**FTE, Objective 1 YEAR 1: 50%**

**FTE, Objective 1 YEAR 2: 50%**

**Objective 1 Cost, Year 1: \$55,000**

**Objective 1 Cost, Year 2: \$55,000**

**Objective 2: Continue to build capacity for and leverage resources to reduce contaminants in our subsistence areas.**

This objective builds off directly from our previous two year grant. Our Tribes have learned a great deal about contaminants, and our elders and communities have consistently identified protecting our subsistence area as the number one priority.

What are the ecological/contamination thresholds that we should be concerned about that will affect our subsistence resources? Where is the contamination in our subsistence area – or where is it likely to be? What are the levels? Do our local practices, such as lead shot use, camp littering, using engines, chainsaws for ice, have a big or small impact on subsistence area contamination, compared with any potential contamination from regional development or global contamination? We want to pursue finding out how to address the ordnances from World War II that Japan dropped from balloons over the Western Alaska Coast. We don't know if this is still producing a contamination impact and should be cleaned up or not. It is not a DOD NALEMPS site, because it was not DOD that made the bombs.

For mining (and any other potential resource development issues that may be identified) we want to find out exactly what are the range of possible contaminant impacts to the Nelson Island area subsistence from the Donlin Mine development? We want to know direct and indirect impacts. We are not directly connected to Donlin Creek, but our fish and bird subsistence resources could be impacted via hydrological route of contamination or air pollution and its settlement. Again, here we are looking for specific local information about contaminant impacts to our subsistence area. We want to find out what is known and what isn't, what is the range of minimum and maximum impacts? Are there technical safeguards that the mining development use that will lessen the risk of our local impact contamination?

The final “reducing contaminants/protecting subsistence area” issue that we need to build capacity in our tribes is to carry out programs that continue to address our solid and hazardous waste situations, particularly as they relate to potential contamination of subsistence resources. We still do not have funding for backhauling out wastes, except those we can arrange for free, and except for batteries free-of-charge items will take a lot of planning. We want to prioritize backhauling out, or otherwise reducing the wastes, that are most likely to result in toxic contamination of our subsistence areas.

This includes ensuring that each community has a working and regular and high participation in backhauling out lead-acid batteries, removing mercury switches, developing MOA's with the schools to backhaul out computers, reducing and carrying out education on materials that can be toxic to migratory birds in very small amounts if burned in the household or at the dump (e.g. polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). We would like to look into any grants that can help reduce toxics in



our subsistence area, including maybe a program like the Kenaitze Tribe had where they were able to pay people to switch to more efficient boat motors. And to see if we can get a steel shot incentive program funded. These types of programs we will be able to work with NRCS and USFWS, the former has already agreed to partner with us, and the latter, we have just started to work with, and know they will be interested in contaminant programs with us due the large area our tribes cover in the YK Delta Refuge.

As this has been a continued request from elders and our Consortium communities, we will continue to plan for, seek funding for, and with advice from other entities, plan as possible a large-scale backhaul from our dumps and communities. However, as our communities are difficult to reach by barge and we have no home port up any of our rivers, we are in a very different situation from Yukon and even Kuskovaq River Tribes, and the barge companies so far want a lot of money. Backhauling will require a lot of cooperation with barge companies and good will. But we will work on developing this. Burial of the scrap metal and machinery is not a very viable option for our communities. We lack heavy equipment, cover, and excavation can cause permanent and ever-enlarging permafrost melt and tundra destruction. To carry out such a plan would be expensive and we would rather backhaul if we were able to find that much funding. We will continue to address this issue, but for now, our large wastes are best left above ground, even if we have to backhaul them out one container at a time and it takes us several years to start.

**BACKHAUL contingency plan:** As mentioned above, we will therefore concentrate on getting the toxics out of the scrap, etc, in the case that it will take several years to network and fund the backhaul out of our metals and junked vehicles, etc. Such actions include those state above (i.e. mercury switch removal, draining fluids, electronic goods storage and backhaul, separation of high heavy metal goods from burnbox stream, plastics recycling, reuse, reduction program (trash plastics otherwise go to burnboxes)

Again, we will invite experts in to our meetings that will be able to provide a good deal of information that can be detailed to our local environment – such as how the soils and water acidity affect whether metals from junked vehicles and appliances would actually reach our subsistence areas. We can work with the USGS NRCS, USFWS. There is not a lot of detailed data in our area unfortunately, in terms of local source contamination – i.e. does the contamination that has been detected come from us or a global or regional source?? We want to concentrate on what our most effective local actions can be, not on reducing local contaminants that may have an insignificant effect on our environment's contamination overall (i.e. including global sources). Programs are increasing to evaluate some contaminants in some fish and wildlife, these are mostly from the Kuskokwim and Yukon and even these are very limited. Water quality parameters are not available for our specific area. We will look into whether UAF can analyze our soils free of charge to get an estimate of the pH, organic content, and sand/clay ratio. These parameters are useful in knowing whether heavy metals and other contaminants are held in the soil or drain through to our waters. Given the knowledge that we provide to our elders, they will be able to decide which issues we should work on the most – which issues will affect us the most.

**Tasks:**

Note the meetings mentioned here are the same that were discussed in Objective 1. We will be working on the climate change and contaminant reduction objectives throughout the two years, and the meetings will be arranged such that they will cover both topics.

**Task 1** (1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> month): develop an outline summary of these subsistence area contaminant issues, and the different topics and potential actions that exist, relying on our consultant to assist us in making sure we cover everything, and to help us in finding the best resources/entities for information about these issues.

**Task 2:** (Arrange for and conduct a meeting sometime in the 5<sup>th</sup> month) – Present outline to elders. We will have some preliminary speakers about contaminant sources in the subsistence areas and demonstrations, like a steel shot clinic such as they have held in some Northwest Arctic tundra Villages that were sponsored by the USFWS (showing whether there is a difference in feel or outcome from lead shot). Education for community on ways to reduce household hazardous sources (e.g. cleaning supplies, paint, petroleum products) and what wastes particularly can affect the subsistence areas. The elders will then give us direction about the types of details they would like to see to make decisions they need to make. They will tell us the types of education materials they think the communities will need.

**Task 3:** (5<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> month) Our Village Coordinators (along with any volunteers from the Consortium, and IGAP staff when available) will work as a team to research these issues, compile materials for our communities, and take any actions that we are able to with the resources and time we have. We will identify good speakers to come and educate us. We will try to get Yup'ik speakers whenever possible. With our limited budget, we will try to get agency speakers or university speakers that can fund their own travel. We will be able to pay for at least one speaker. We will use the technical assistance and networking of the consultant. The lead Village Coordinator with help from the consultant will be responsible for making sure that that each Village has a job that is suited for them.

**Task 4** Arrange for and conduct 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (11 and 12<sup>th</sup> month). We will invite speakers (starting as soon as we are able to identify good ones) and get them to answer our questions, and share their knowledge with our communities and elders. We would very much like to have a fish and bird pathologist/biologist to talk about what sources of contaminants can affect our subsistence resources, and what studies need to be done, find speakers from organizations or universities about how we can partner, and backhaul experts – working with the local carriers and Bethel recycling.

**Task 5** The Representatives with the consultant will start seeking funds and assistance based on what we have learned and what the Elders have identified as top priorities.

## (YEAR 2007 – 2008) Contaminant Removal Objective 2 continues



a backhaul project.

**Task 6 (13<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> month)** Continue followup research based on prior year's meeting and develop materials and draft policy ideas and action plan options. If we don't get funding for a backhaul demonstration project some other way, it will include starting to detail out the steps needed for



**Task 7: (17<sup>th</sup> month)** Arrange for and conduct next meeting. We will then present during this meeting our draft plan and policies. Then the Elders will lead the Consortium in deciding the best actions and policies to develop into a final contaminant removal outline action plan and activities.

**Task 8: (17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> month)** The action plan for removing contaminants from our subsistence area and keeping them out will be fully drafted with additional research and ideas incorporated. Again, the backhaul plan will be detailed as much as possible with possible carriers, costs, end-destinations, but also we will be focusing on removing contaminants from the subsistence area as the highest goal, so that that plan may not include backhaul of all wastes, just the highest-contaminant parts of the wastes (e.g. mercury switches, sensors) or high-contaminant wastes (e.g. batteries, electronic goods). We will likely need a separate grant to properly plan and another one to carry out a full backhaul as feasible.

**Task 9: (12- 24th month)** The Coordinators with the consultant will seek funds and assistance that fit the decided outline and immediately start seeking funds for a detailed backhaul plan and/or backhaul funding and assistance.

**Task 10 (22<sup>nd</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> month)** We will work on writing grants and continuing to carry out actions based on our consensual action plan to remove contaminants from our subsistence area and reduce any more coming in.

**Objective 2 Outcome:** This Objective will build further program capacity in our Tribes in addressing contaminant issues, a more advanced knowledge of how contaminant transport and uptake work, and which types of contaminants are most hazardous to subsistence resources. It will ultimately result in contaminant reduction in our subsistence area in quantitative measure, including 5,000 lb of lead, 40 grams of mercury as a target minimum. It will lead in the future to increasingly reduced contaminant local contributions. It will build capacity at the tribal level to take actions on contaminant issues that may impact our lands, but whose source is outside our lands. It will increase people's confidence in subsistence and thus increase the health of our people

**Objective 2 Deliverables (Results/Outputs):**

**Year 1 Deliverables:** Summary of contaminant issues that impact our subsistence area. At least one grant to further identify or assist in addressing contaminant issues. One presentation at local or state or national conference.

**Year 2 Deliverables:** Action plan for addressing contaminant issues, grant proposal to seek funds for at least one plan item, community education materials.

**Measures (see section at beginning of Objectives)**

**FTE, Objective 2 YEAR 1: 50%**

**FTE, Objective 2 YEAR 2: 50%**

**Objective 2 Cost, Year 1: \$55,000**

**Objective 2 Cost, Year 2: \$55,000**

