**Decision Support Tool – Screening Criteria**

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| **BASIC INFORMATION** | |
| **Name of Site** | Wehexlaxodıale (Land Exclusion Zone) “Cannot be touched” |
| **Designation** | Land Use Exclusion Zone |
| **Province/Territory** | Northwest Territories |
| **Year of Establishment / Securement** | 2013 |
| **Area (ha)** | 98,000 ha |
| **Management Authority** | Tłı̨chǫ Ndek'àowo · Tłı̨chǫ Government |
| **Explanation of Management Authority** *(optional)* | The Tłı̨chǫ Government is responsible for managing Tłı̨chǫ lands and resources, managing wildlife harvesting on Tłı̨chǫ lands and education in Tłı̨chǫ language and culture. The Tłı̨chǫ Government is the governing authority on Tłı̨chǫ lands. The Tłı̨chǫ Government has the power to pass and enforce its own laws, enter into contracts, hold resources, receive tax revenues and manage rights and benefits for the Tłı̨chǫ citizens. |
| **Governance Type *(CPCAD type*)** | Indigenous and Local Community |
| **Legal Basis / mechanism(s)** | Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan, which is a schedule under the Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan Law |
| **Explanation of legal basis / mechanism(s)** *(optional)* | Wehexlaxodıale is completely on Tłı̨chǫ lands |
| **Summary of Essential / Relevant natural, social and cultural values** | Wehexlaxodıale are two areas where the connection between Tłı̨chǫ culture and heritage and the land are very strong and in need of full protection. The first Gots’ǫkàtì (Mesa Lake) means the place where cloud berries are found. It is where people stored their meat known as the ‘freezer’ and is the place where peace was made between Edzo and Akaitcho, which ended years of fighting between their people. The second Hoòdoòdzo (Wolverine Hill or Slidding Hill) is part of the legend about Yamozhah and his dealings with the wolverine, is used for sliding to determine how long a person would live, and is where people could become medicine men. |

All criteria in Tables 1 and 2 of the Decision Support Tool are intended to help practitioners determine whether an area meets the Pan-Canadian standards and is therefore eligible to be reported as a Protected Area or an “Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure" (OECM) under the pan-Canadian standards. Criteria in Table 1 apply similarly to both Protected Areas and OECMs. Criteria in Table 2 help to both define and distinguish between Protected Areas and OECMs. All criteria in Table 2 must be met at the PA level for an area to be reported as protected, or at the OECM level or combination of OECM and PA levels for an area to be reported as an OECM. **This template is intended to be used in conjunction with the decision support tool and detailed interpretation guide**

| **TABLE 1: STANDARDS COMMON TO PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS** | | | | |
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| **CRITERIA:** | **INTENDED EFFECT OF THE CRITERION** | **SCREENING CHOICE** | **EVIDENCE-BASED RATIONALE  Rationale/evaluation of how area meets or does not meet the intended effect of the criterion** | **MEETS INTENDED EFFECT?** |
| **GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE** | Demarcates the area to facilitate the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | B. The geographical space is intended to be clearly defined but may not be easily or widely recognizable. | The intent is for the area to be clearly defined but may not yet be easily recognizable. The boundaries for Wehexlaxodıale do not have a legal description and are not yet in a territorial database of protected areas. However, the zone is publicly visible on a map in the land use plan, with shapefiles available at request, and all regulators defer to the Tłı̨chǫ Government for activities occurring on Tłı̨chǫ lands so no activities would occur without first a conformity check by the Tłı̨chǫ Government. | Yes |
| **EFFECTIVE MEANS – 1** | Activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity do not occur and compatible activities are effectively managed. | A. The mechanism(s) provide(s) the ability to prevent incompatible activities and manage all other activities within the area, such that the in-situ conservation of biodiversity can be achieved | The Tłı̨chǫ Government has the power to enact laws in relation to the use, management, administration and protection of Tłı̨chǫ lands and the renewable and non-renewable resources thereon. The Tłı̨chǫ Government also has the power to enact laws respecting land use plans for Tlicho lands. As a result, the Tłı̨chǫ Government, with the advice and guidance of the Elders of the Land Use Plan Working Group, and after community meetings and other consultations and engagements, completed a Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan for Tlicho lands which is adopted under the Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan Law. | Yes |
| **EFFECTIVE MEANS – 2** | A. The mechanism(s) compel(s) the authority(ies) to prohibit activities that are incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | The Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan states that in order to protect Wehexlaxodıale for all time:  a) Development proposals shall not be considered; and  b) Areas within this zone may be considered for further protection measures.  Only camps or cabins (expected to be temporary or seasonal use only), non-exploitive scientific research and a transportation corridor (including seasonal roads and/or an all-weather road and associated infrastructure) are allowed within this zone. | Yes |
| **LONG TERM** | The area is permanently protected or conserved and not easily reversed. | B. The mechanism(s) is/are expected to be in effect for the long term and not easily reversed. | The Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan is to be reviewed every five-years. Despite this, the plan explicitly states that the intent is to protect Wehexlaxodıale for all time, so it is expected that this particular zone within the land use plan is intended to be in effect indefinitely. | Yes |
| **TIMING** | Biodiversity is protected or conserved year-round. | A. The mechanism(s) is/are in effect year-round | The Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan is in effect year-round. | Yes |

| **TABLE 2: STANDARDS THAT FURTHER DEFINE AND DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS** | | | | |
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| **CRITERIA:** | **INTENDED EFFECT OF THE CRITERION** | **SCREENING CHOICE** | **EVIDENCE-BASED RATIONALE:**  **Rationale/evaluation of how area meets or does not meet the intended effect of the criterion** | **OUTCOME** |
| **SCOPE OF OBJECTIVES** | Objectives have sufficient scope to result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | A. The objectives are for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity as a whole, or for indigenous values accomplished through the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | The ‘starting point’ for zoning in the Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan is land protection because land protection is directly related to the protection of Tłı̨chǫ culture and way of life. The Dene Worldview does not separate land from what is living on it and as a result land protection implies conservation of nature. The overriding goal for Wehexlaxodıale is to protect sites from future development that are fundamentally linked to Tłı̨chǫ history and heritage. This conserves biodiversity as a whole. | Yes - PA |
| **PRIMACY OF OBJECTIVES** | Objectives are such that they result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | B. Based on evident intent (e.g., management intent, stated or implied conservation objectives, allowable and prohibited activities), conservation objectives are primary and overriding, or are given priority when there is conflict among objectives. | The overriding primary objective for Wehexlaxodıale is to protect sites that are fundamentally linked to Tłı̨chǫ history and heritage. To that end, no development proposals are considered and only limited activities are allowed. The Dene Worldview does not separate land from what is living on it so protection of Tłı̨chǫ history and heritage is equivalent to the conservation of biodiversity. | Yes - PA |
| **GOVERNING AUTHORITIES** | The in-situ conservation of biodiversity is not jeopardized by relevant governing authorities. | A. All relevant governing authorities acknowledge and abide by the conservation objectives of the area. | The Tłı̨chǫ Government is the only governing authority as it has full title to Tłı̨chǫ lands, including the mines and minerals that may be found to exist within, upon or under such lands. The Tłı̨chǫ Government abides by the conservation objectives of the area. | Yes - PA |
| **BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OUTCOMES** | Biodiversity is conserved in-situ. | B. The area is being managed with the intent of, and is likely achieving, the conservation objectives. | There is limited direct evidence of conservation outcome in Wehexlaxodıale. The Tłı̨chǫ Government runs a monitoring program called Boots on the Ground, so these areas are monitored for caribou with this program. Regardless, no development proposals are considered and only limited activities are allowed, so the use of these areas is minimal. As a result, it can be inferred that conservation objectives are being achieved. | Yes - PA |

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| **SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT** | |
| **OUTCOME / EVALUATION** | **Screening Outcome:** Protected Area (meets all criteria)  Is this an Interim Target 1 area: no  **Is this a candidate Target 1 area: no**  **Currently reported to CPCAD/CARTS?** Yes, as Protected Area  **Total Area (ha) to be reported to CPCAD/CARTS:** 98,000 ha |
| Identify deficiencies that could be overcome in order to report as PA or OECM | *What, if any, actions could be undertaken to meet the Pan-Canadian criteria and standards for reporting?*  N/A |
| Lead evaluator / assessor | Ambe Chenemu, Department of Culture and Lands Protection, Tłı̨chǫ Ndek'àowo · Tłı̨chǫ Government  Claudia Haas, Conservation Biologist, Government of the Northwest Territories  *Names and organizations of lead evaluator and contributors, date of contribution, relationship to site* |
| Communications / Engagement | Phoebe Rabesca, Department of Culture and Lands Protection, Tłı̨chǫ Ndek'àowo · Tłı̨chǫ Government  *Names of governing authorities and others consulted, including names and positions of contact people and dates* |
| Approvals | Ambe Chenemu, Department of Culture and Lands Protection, Tłı̨chǫ Ndek'àowo · Tłı̨chǫ Government  *Names of governing authorities (including landowners, right holders and the responsible jurisdiction) that have approved the content and results of this screening as being accurate and complete to the best of their knowledge and agree to reporting of data.* |

Tags: Northwest Territories, NWT, Indigenous, Local Community, Protected Area, PA, IUCN Ib, Wilderness Area, Tłı̨chǫ Government, Tlicho Government, Tłı̨chǫ Ndek'àowo, Subarctic, Taiga, Boreal forest, Lake, Uplands, Valley, Land use exclusion zone, 2019.