

Plain Language Summary for NWA Application (Ninginganiq)

Project title:

Drone Mapping in Ninginganiq to Support Community-Based Research and Decision-Making

Applicant:

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Number of personnel and/or visitors that will be covered under the permit:

5

Project objectives:

To create maps from drone images to provide to the Ninginganiq ACMC and Clyde River HTA and other community organizations in order to provide baseline documentation and maps that can be used for planning (e.g. research, monitoring, decision-making) related to the area.

Project location:

See map below. We plan to work with the ACMC and Clyde River HTA over the course of the project to identify key areas and features to map. For 2020 to start, we plan to be dropped off and picked up by helicopter at Nuvuktiapik and have a base there for the work. For exact location of future visits, we will consult the ACMC and HTA for their priorities for mapping locations.



In 2020 the team will be based at Nuvuktiapik and work from this location

Proposed dates and duration of visit:

August 20 – 25, 2020 (5 days)

August 20 – 25, 2021 (5 days)

August 20 – 25, 2022 (5 days)

Methods of transportation:

Helicopter – from Clyde River to drop-off/pick up at Nuvuktiapik (each way)

Local walking

Summary of activities and rationale:

- 4 or 5 people (depending on helicopter space) will be dropped off at Nuvuktiapik and establish a base there for the activities
- They will stay for approximately 5 days, then be picked up and go back to Clyde River
- While at the site they will fly drones (Inspire II and Mavic) to take photos and video images of the area. They will walk to nearby areas (hills, shoreline) where they will fly from. Flying will happen in maximum 20-minute intervals. Number of flights will depend on battery life and weather conditions.
- Based on guidance from the HTA and ACMC, the team will take photos and/or video of the shoreline, geology, placename sites, cabin area, historic markers, and other places.
- The photos/videos will be used to make maps to be provided back to the community. This work is by the community, for the community, and the community will decide what can be shared, how and with who.

Waste disposal:

- All garbage will be removed and taken back to the community
- Grey water and camp toilet will follow camp/cabin protocols at Nuvuktiapik (we will dump in the designated areas indicated and followed by local people)

Potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures:

- The only potential impact is noise of the drone but this is highly unlikely as we will avoid all birds and animals. We are also using small drones.
- We will prevent any disturbance by avoiding all birds and animals. We will scan the area first for any animals or birds and if they are present, we will not fly near them or wait until they are not in the area.

Measures to avoid dangerous wildlife encounters:

- We will store all food inside the cabin and follow safe storage measures.
- While walking, we will keep careful watch for any polar bears. Someone will be designated to watch for bears during all activities.

- Our team consists of experienced Inuit hunters and trained polar bear guards

Community consultation and involvement:

- This project is based on a request from the Clyde River HTA. Ittaq is a local research centre and this project is responding to a specific request from them to create maps for the HTA and the ACMC to use moving forward.
- The HTA had a meeting to discuss the idea and they contacted Ittaq about doing the work. Ittaq is providing the initial funding to get started. HTA also wrote a request/support letter to the CWS about this project (letter included).
- Ittaq is an Inuit organization based in Clyde River and Ittaq is conducting this project. Local community members are part of the mapping team. 3 of the people on the team are Inuit from Clyde River. One-person will be a visiting trainer/mentor, providing continued training for the Ittaq staff related to drones and drone mapping, a partner Ittaq is already working with.
- The creation of the maps will be done by Ittaq. Ittaq will work with the HTA and ACMC to discuss options for how the maps can look, how to view and share them. Maps will be delivered to the HTA and ACMC in formats that work best for them.

Future plans:

- We are requesting a 3-year permit. We plan to work with the HTA and ACMC each year to identify the priorities they have for mapping. Each year we will visit the locations they identify best we can and provide them the maps.
- We request August 1, 2020 to August 30 2023 as the project duration
- We will provide completed maps to the HTA and ACMC in Clyde River. We will work with them to identify the best options regarding if/how to share the maps more broadly.