



Déljné Got'jné Government and Déljné ʔehdzo Got'jné



Information Request (IR):

3.6 SRRB to Déljné

6. Déljné has submitted the 2021 Version of Belare Wile Gots'é ʔekwé – Caribou for All Time – A Déljné Got'jné Plan of Action for review at the Déljné 2021 PLS. The 2021 Version includes an informative new table summarizing some of the implementation work that has been done. Please provide additional information about how Déljné will monitor plan implementation, assuring that the plan is meeting its vision and goals. As noted in the Hjdó Gogha Sénégots'ízá (Community Conservation Plan Guide) Guide shared with the Parties on September 14, 2021, the SRRB is looking for certain information, such as:

- How will monitoring occur? Who will conduct monitoring?
- How will actions be recognized as successful or not?
- How will actions be measured? What are the indicators?
- What will happen if actions are not successful?
- How well did people do in complying with the plan?

Monitoring will be done by harvesters. As we said in the 2021 version of our plan, at our annual meeting of harvesters each year we check in with harvesters to hear where and what they are harvesting. We also plan to set up a space with maps where harvesters can come gather together themselves throughout the year to talk about where and what they are harvesting. This is how it used to be done. Harvesters would get together and talk about where they were harvesting and share their knowledge. We want to continue that. It allows harvesters to learn from each other and it is also a way for us to learn about where and what is being harvesting. Harvesters can mark on maps where they have been and we can use that information to measure the success of our plan. Unfortunately, because of covid-19 related restrictions we have not been able to gather to collect this information in the last two years. But since 2015, we have learned so much about what has been happening with harvesting from talking to harvesters.

We are also planning to hire someone to help interview harvesters to gather information on where harvesting is happening and what is being harvested. Attached as appendix A is a job description for the position.

Our actions will be successful if we see that people are happy and that people are out on the land and harvesting. That is how we will know our plan is successful.

Right now, people are more than ever out harvesting. We are not harvesting ʔekwé, but we are harvesting other species. We have had very successful whitefish harvesting trips this year. We want to see these trips and harvesting happening. When we see this, it is a sign that our plan is successful. There have also been harvests of woodland caribou and moose. Ptarmigan are back this year. The more people that are out on the land harvesting other species, the more successful our plan is.

The harvest itself is only one indicator of success though. We also need to see that people are learning from each other. The more we see this, the more successful our plan will be. We want to see that experienced harvesters are teaching less experienced harvesters how to harvest in a way that follows our ɬeɬa. For example, on a whitefish harvesting trip, we saw Elders travelling with and teaching young harvesters. This shows that our plan is successful.

The very act of getting out on the land is an indicator of success for our plan. The more people out on the land, the more successful the plan is. We are seeing more people going out onto the land and using cabins that have not been used for a long time. We are seeing people helping each other get out onto the land too, that is an indicator of success.

Another indicator of success is when we witness people thanking the harvesters in the community. ʔeteghá ts'eredı (sharing, giving) is one of the ɬeɬa we must all follow. If we see people thanking the harvesters, it shows us that we are following the ɬeɬa and our plan is successful.

Another indicator of success is that people are not talking about ʔekwé anymore. They are not sharing that they are upset or frustrated because ʔekwé are not around anymore. They have been able to harvest other species instead. At our recent DGG AGM, we did not hear any questions or complaints about ʔekwé, that is a sign that our plan is being successful.

We will also measure success based on the feedback we get about our harvester support programs. Right now, we are not hearing any complaints about there not being enough supports for harvestings (for example, gas money, equipment, etc.). This is a sign that the supports are sufficient for the harvesters needs.

We want to see náts'əjú (reconciliation and healing) to know that our plan is successful. When we are out on the land, it triggers healing. It allows us to reconcile with wildlife. When we are out on the land trapping and harvesting, we are healing, we are happy. When people are happy and healthy, that is how we will know that our plan has been successful.

Overtime, we will continue to develop more indicators to measure success.

Our Working Group meets regularly (covid-19 restrictions have limited our work) and one of the things we do is talk about how the plan is working or not working and changes that may need to be made to make it better. So if our indicators show us that our actions are not successful, then the Working Group will make changes to the plan to respond.

Compliance with the plan is important. We need to make sure we are all following the ɬəɬa in our plan. We have not been harvesting ʔekwé. This is a positive thing. Our traditional conservation approach is to harvest what is available. Since ʔekwé are not available, we are harvesting other species. Our approach to compliance is to help people comply by helping people understand what the law is about. We teach people to hunt what is available and not go looking for what is not around. We help people comply by supporting them to harvest available wildlife. Since 2015, we have seen that people are complying with this plan.

We will carry on this plan until the ʔekwé come back.