

Goal 2

Sustain the ecological integrity of Thaidene Nënë

Together, the water, soil, rocks, plants, animals, migrations, wildfires, freezing, thawing, and all other parts and processes in the ecosystems of Thaidene Nënë have created a landscape that, for countless generations, has supported nuwé ch’anie. If Thaidene Nënë remains healthy, it will continue to offer this prosperity. However, Thaidene Nënë cannot speak for itself. We have a responsibility to pay attention to what is happening on the land and to take action to protect it.

Wildfires, extreme weather, and other climate-induced impacts have not been experienced before at this magnitude. Climate change creates a significant unknown with factors that are less predictable and more severe. Changing snow and ice patterns, shifting wildlife populations and habitats, increase in invasive species, increased intensity of wildfires, and a changing landscape due to permafrost thaw are just a few examples of observed differences. These rapid changes and industrial development adjacent to Thaidene Nënë are placing increased pressure on wildlife and their habitats.

Along with the uncertainty of the future, the current baseline condition of Thaidene Nënë is not fully understood. Monitoring the state of Thaidene Nënë’s ecological integrity is important to help respond to changes in the landscape.

Increased use of Thaidene Nënë by visitors may also have the potential to negatively impact species and their habitat. Waste left on the land from historical use must also be addressed to ensure healthy lands.

Objectives	Targets/Indicators
2.1 All habitats and species are sustained.	<p>2.1.1 Climate change trends, projections, and likely impacts on the biodiversity of Thaidene Nënë are identified and tracked over time, including identifying species presence and distribution. Observations of change are informed by Indigenous knowledge.</p> <p>2.1.2 Key habitat within Thaidene Nënë is mapped to support good decision-making.</p> <p>2.1.3 The Łutsël K’é Dene Caribou Stewardship Plan (Yúnethé Xá ʔetthën Hádi) is followed by the nation’s members. Other Indigenous governments use comparable tools as appropriate to support the conservation of caribou.</p> <p>2.1.4 Fire management planning considers climate change impacts, the protection of the community of Łutsël K’é, critical habitat, species at risk, and other key species such as caribou.</p>

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Thaidene Nënë badı xá (Working with Thaidene Nënë)
 Thaidene Nënë Relationship Plan,
 the management plan for Thaidene Nënë

Goal 2 (continued)

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Objectives	Targets/Indicators
2.1 All habitats and species are sustained.	<p>2.1.5 An integrated research and monitoring program is developed collaboratively. It identifies knowledge gaps and includes research priorities.</p> <p>2.1.6 Climate adaptation strategies are guided by immediate impacts and results from research and monitoring programs.</p> <p>2.1.7 A water resource protection strategy is developed. It includes visitor/community education and invasive species measures.</p> <p>2.1.8 A visitor use management policy upholds ecological integrity goals.</p> <p>2.1.9 Harvester education supports the ongoing conservation of key habitats and species in Thaidene Nënë.</p> <p>2.1.10 Increased understanding of the carbon balance in Thaidene Nënë and high biodiversity areas is built, including how these areas might be impacted by climate change.</p>
2.2 Guardians are observing the land and supporting conservation objectives.	<p>2.2.1 An Indigenous guardian program expansion strategy is developed.</p>
2.3 Historic waste left on the land is addressed, and garbage is cleaned-up.	<p>2.3.1 An assessment of waste sites is conducted to identify locations, and a clean-up plan is developed, which includes setting standards and prioritizing sites.</p> <p>2.3.2 A “pack it in, pack it out” policy is followed by all users of Thaidene Nënë.</p>



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