

to the NGO community to facilitate more detailing of their pristine areas preservation values, goals, and candidate areas.

NATIVE LAND CLAIMS

In this era of Native Land Claims, the interaction of the pristine areas requirements and aboriginal rights demands attention. In the past, some people have assumed that both agendas coincide. This is not necessarily so. For while Native peoples do often agree with the need to protect individual sites, in other locations they may have different priorities.

The key point is to recognize that until the aboriginal rights issue is resolved, in many parts of Canada land use decisions related to pristine areas must be made on an interim basis (in the manner that has been done for South Moresby National Park Reserve), pending Claims settlement. Conversely, come the time when Land Claims are being negotiated for a particular region completion of the protected areas system should be incorporated within the negotiations process (as recently was done for the eastern Arctic as part of the Nunavut Claim).

The pristine areas program is concerned with retaining samples of the original Earth for the benefit and ecological sustainability of future generations... of all humanity. It also involves a recognition of the sanctity of Nature. These are themes that are often fundamental to Native culture. So cooperative action on completing the protected areas system should be quite possible. However, Native Canadians also may have different perspectives on how the land should be managed - often the continuance of local traditional aboriginal use is an issue - and by whom. As well, native concerns for local employment and economic needs must be considered when determining which areas to develop and which to preserve.

The crucial point is that **the Native community must be integrated into the pristine areas completion process from the beginning.** Depending on the part of Canada and the status of Native claims to the land in that locale, such involvement may range from advisory input to taking the lead on management and planning. It is also important that in many locations the Native people will eventually be the ones legally responsible for stewarding the management of pristine areas - either on their own or in concert with non-natives. Therefore, now is the time to develop the skills and management tools both within the Native community and between the partnering Native and non-native communities.

Therefore it is recommended that effort be intensified to more fully integrate the Native community into the protected areas systems completion program. Native management opportunities (especially on Native-governed lands), co-management strategies, training of individuals within the Native community