

Gouvernement du Québec

O.C. 1269-2003, 3 December 2003

Natural Heritage Conservation Act
(R.S.Q., c. C-61.01)

**Plans of the proposed biodiversity reserves
— Approval**

Approval of the plans of the ten proposed biodiversity reserves mentioned in the Schedule to the Natural Heritage Conservation Act

WHEREAS, under section 90 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01), the land of each of the ten proposed protected areas listed in the Schedule to the Act is deemed to be set aside as a proposed biodiversity reserve for a period of four years beginning on 19 June 2003, namely:

- the proposed René-Levasseur island biodiversity reserve;
- the proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve;
- the proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve;
- the proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve;
- the proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve;
- the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve;
- the proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve;
- the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve;
- the proposed Guernesé lake foothills biodiversity reserve;
- the proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve;

WHEREAS, under section 91 of the Act, subject to any extension authorized by the Government, the Minister must cause a conservation plan for the areas to be published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* within six months from the date on which the land is set aside;

WHEREAS, under sections 27 and 31 of the Act, the plan of a proposed biodiversity reserve and its conservation plan, as well as any amendment to or replacement of the plans, must be submitted by the Minister of the Environment to the Government for approval;

WHEREAS the Government has considered the possibility that major hydroelectric projects may require it to modify the boundaries of certain of the proposed biodiversity reserves;

WHEREAS the Minister of the Environment has prepared the conservation plans for the ten proposed biodiversity reserves, and it is expedient to approve them, the plans being attached to this Order in Council;

WHEREAS the Minister of the Environment has more precisely defined the territory of the ten proposed biodiversity reserves and has more substantially amended the plan of the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve, removing certain areas to accommodate the needs of the residents of the municipalities concerned, and it is expedient to approve the amendments as well as the plans prepared by the Minister, which are attached to this Order in Council;

IT IS ORDERED, therefore, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Environment:

THAT the plans of the ten proposed biodiversity reserves listed in the Schedule to the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01), as well as the conservation plans for the proposed biodiversity reserves, attached to this Order in Council, be approved;

THAT the plans take effect on the date of publication of this Order in Council in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

ANDRÉ DICAIRE,
Clerk of the Conseil exécutif

**PROPOSED RENÉ-LEVASSEUR ISLAND
BIODIVERSITY RESERVE**

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed René-Levasseur island biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1. and A.2.

René-Levasseur island is located on the North Shore, between 51°20' and 51°35' north latitude and 68°21' and 68°35' west longitude. It is situated approximately 200 km north of Baie-Comeau.

It lies within the unorganized territories of Rivière-aux-Outardes and Rivière-Mouchalagane, which are part of the regional county municipalities of Manicouagan and Caniapiscau, respectively.

The proposed biodiversity reserve, situated east of the Louis-Babel ecological reserve, covers the entire territory of the peninsula on the east side of Memory bay. It covers an area of 189 km².

René-Levasseur island is accessible by boat from one of the launching ramps located on the north and east shores of the Manicouagan reservoir, or by seaplane.

1.2. Ecological overview

The area is in the Central Laurentian natural province. It protects natural environments characteristic of the natural region of the Manicouagan reservoir basin.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The territory is characterized by a cold, subpolar and subhumid continental climate with a middle growing season. It belongs to the bioclimatic field of mossy spruce stands.

Geology and geomorphology: René-Levasseur island is in the Grenville geologic province, which is made up of Precambrian rocks that were deformed during the Labrador and Grenvillian orogenies more than one billion years ago. The bedrock is largely impactite, that is, rocks that recrystallized following a meteoroid impact. On the edge of the Manicouagan reservoir, the bedrock is also metamorphic rock, in particular gneiss and paragneiss. Geomorphologically speaking, the proposed biodiversity reserve consists of low hills covered with a thin layer of well-drained till. The altitude ranges from 360 m to 630 m.

Hydrography: René-Levasseur island belongs to the Manicouagan river watershed. The drainage system is constituted mainly of headwater streams. It also has seven lakes the largest of which is Beau-Pierre lake having an area of approximately 2.9 km². René-Levasseur island was formed in 1968 on the priming of the Daniel-Johnson dam reservoir. Prior to that, the astrobleme was occupied by two halfmoon-shaped lakes, namely Mouchalagane lake to the west and Manicouagan lake to the east.

Vegetation: The proposed René-Levasseur island biodiversity reserve is almost entirely covered by forest. The tree cover is mainly (57%) pure black spruce stands (*Picea mariana*). One fifth of the territory is covered with mixed stands that include white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and softwood species, in particular black spruce, white spruce (*Picea glauca*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). Jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) dominates in certain sectors bordering Memory bay. Hardwood stands of white birch and trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) cover 8% of the territory. By reason of its geographic isolation, the island is a large reserve of old-growth softwood forests, with 80% of the stands being over 120 years old.

1.2.2. Outstanding elements

René-Levasseur island was formed 210 million years ago (toward the end of the Triassic period), when a meteor approximately 5 km in diameter travelling at an approximate speed of 17 km per second crashed into the Earth. The genesis in and of itself makes the island an exceptional geological monument. The Manicouagan astrobleme ranks among the four largest meteorite craters on the planet.

Further to that, a number of stands that have not been damaged by disastrous natural disturbances (fire, windfalls, insect infestations) have the structure of a low-elevation old-growth forest of exceptional value from an ecological perspective. Their exact location has yet to be determined.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed René-Levasseur island biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

The territory lies within the Bersimis beaver reserve in which the Native communities have special rights with regard to the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

Eleven land rights have been granted in the proposed biodiversity reserve:

- nine leases for vacation resort purposes;
- two accommodation units in an outfitting operation without exclusive rights (Les Expéditions Manic 5).

Except for hunting and fishing, no outdoor recreational activities are presently being carried on within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

2. Protection status

The proposed René-Levasseur biodiversity reserve protects a zone of exceptional interest, both from a geologic and ecological perspective, as well as for its beauty.

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives:

- the conservation of an exceptional geologic monument;
- the protection of low-elevation old-growth forests;
- the protection of landscapes visible from the Groulx mountains;
- the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed René-Levasseur island biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in biodiversity reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management activities within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);

— the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;

— any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes;

— earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed René-Levasseur island biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

— Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

— Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed René-Levasseur island biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

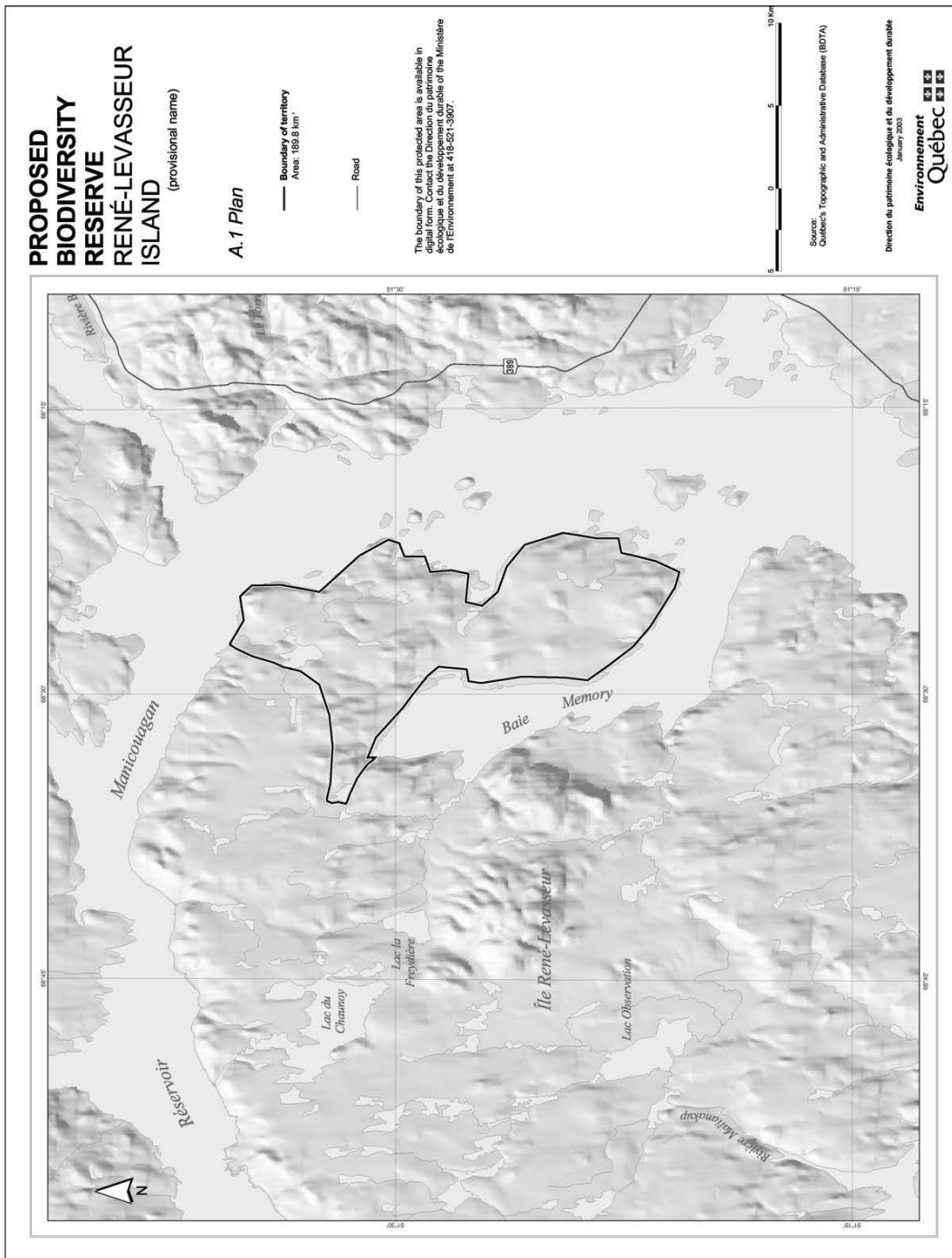
The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

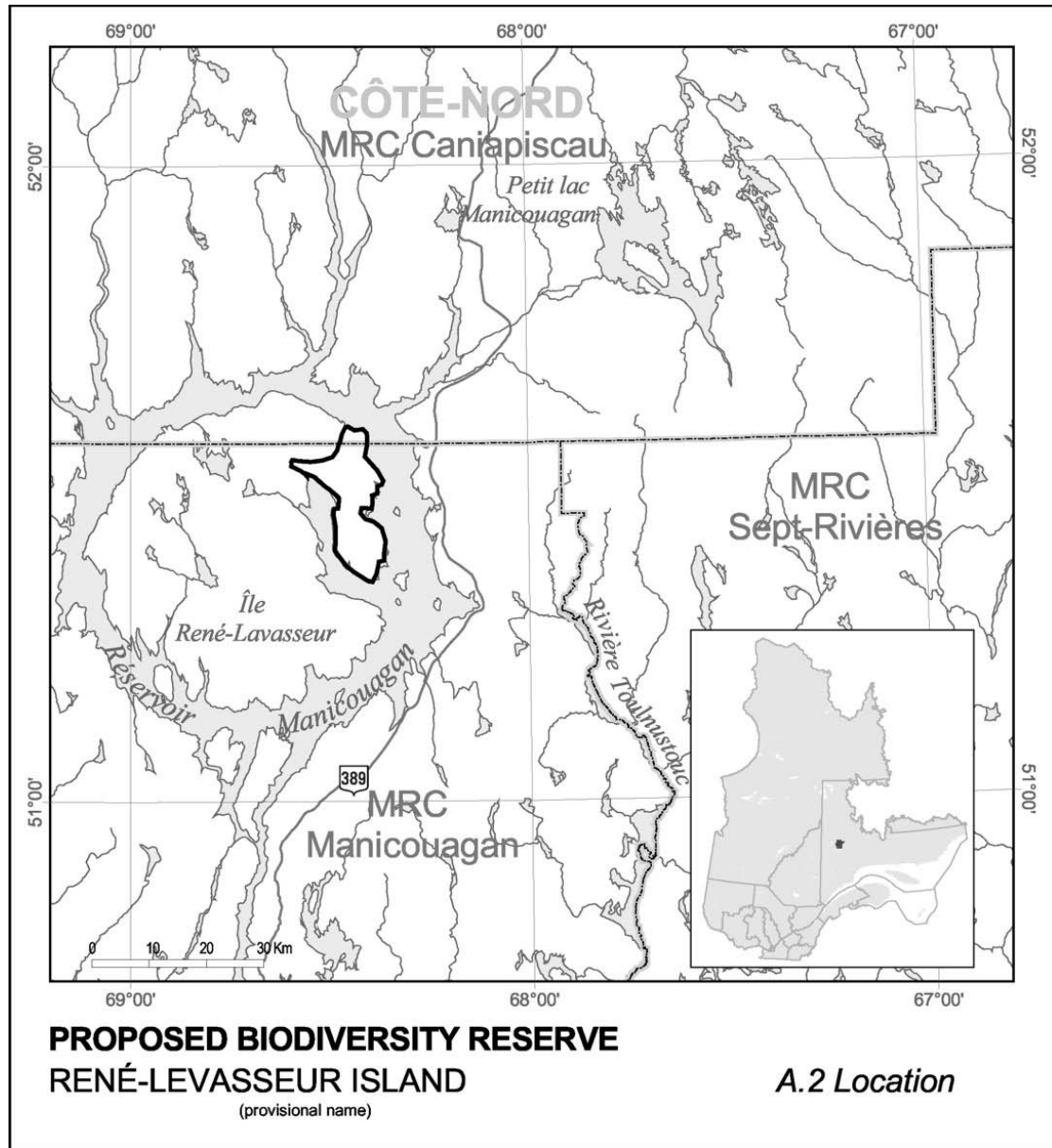
4. Permanent protection status

The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "biodiversity reserve" status under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

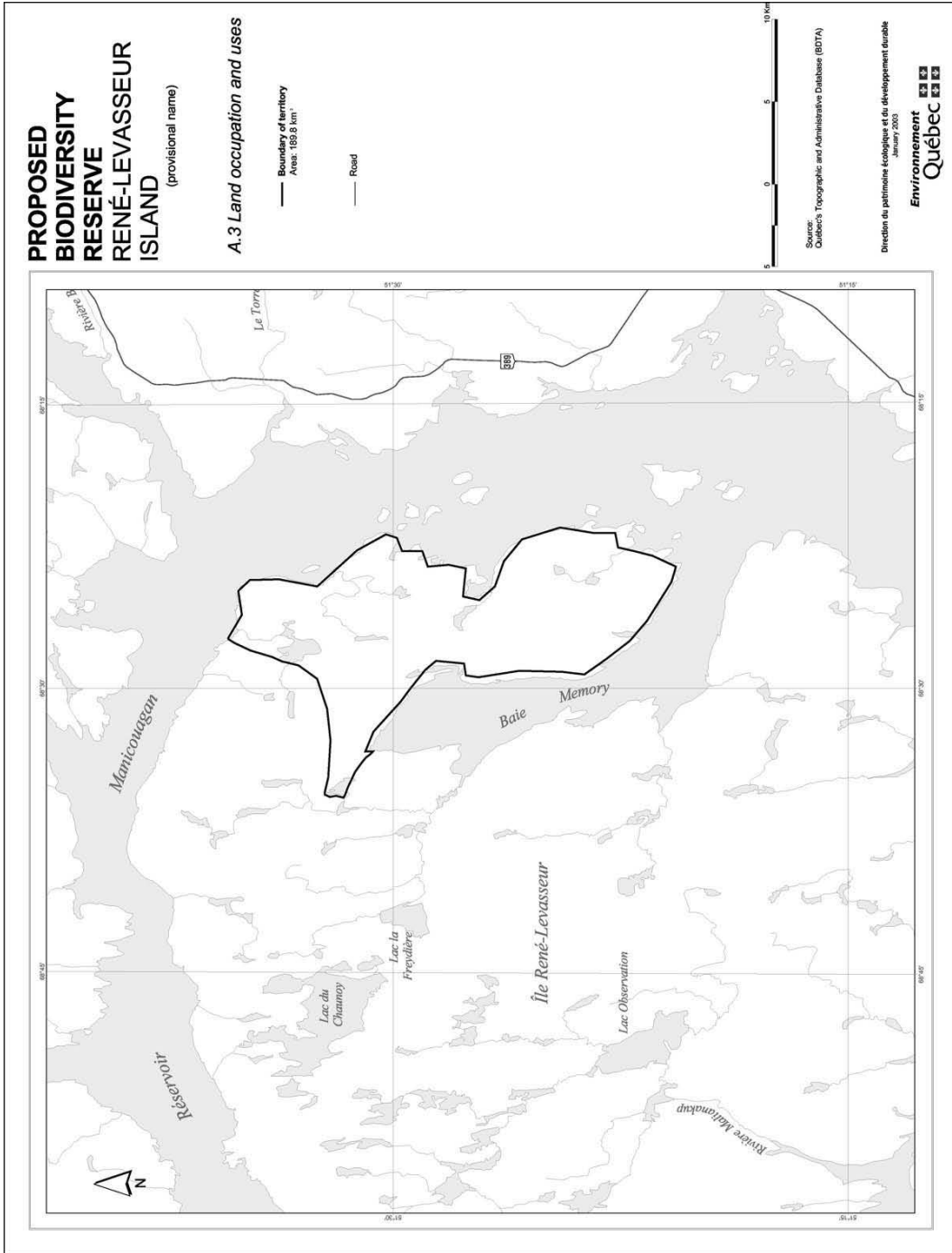
Schedules

A.1. Plan of the proposed René-Levasseur island biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed René-Lavasœur island biodiversity reserve (provisional name)

A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed René-Levasseur island biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED MONTS GROULX BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1 and A.2.

The Monts Groulx massif is located on the North Shore, between 51°21' and 51°43' north latitude and 67°37' and 68°17' west longitude. It is situated approximately 325 km north of Baie-Comeau.

The proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve lies within the unorganized territories of Rivière-Mouchalagane, Rivière-aux-Outardes and Lac-Walker, which are part of the regional county municipalities of Caniapiscau, Manicouagan and Sept-Rivières.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers an area of 1,157 km². The western portion of the reserve is accessible by Route 389, which links Baie-Comeau to Fermont.

1.2. Ecological overview

Climate: The area is characterized by a cold, subpolar and subhumid continental climate, with a short growing season. It belongs to the bioclimatic field of mossy spruce stands.

Geology and geomorphology: The Monts Groulx massif is in the Grenville geologic province, which is formed of Precambrian rocks deformed over one billion years ago during the Labradorian and Grenvillian orogenies. The bedrock is mainly gabbro-norite, a mafic rock rich in magnesium and iron. The rocky basement in the northern part of the proposed biodiversity reserve consists of anorthosite, a mafic igneous rock, while in the eastern part, it is formed of metamorphic rocks, in this instance gneiss and paragneiss. Over time, the zone of igneous rock protected a part of the metamorphic rocks from erosion, which contributed to the formation of the Monts Groulx massif. Certain layered sequences of metamorphic rock contain paragneisses and quartzites, as may be observed to the south-west of Mora lake and in the area around Boissinot lake.

The Monts Groulx massif is a tabular mass with a long plateau surrounded by steep flanks in the uppermost part. Several slightly convex peaks are over 1,000 m in altitude. The altitude varies from approximately 360 m at the edge of the Manicouagan reservoir to 1,104 m at the summit of Mont Veyrier. The Monts Groulx massif is the third largest of its kind in Québec in terms of area and the sixth highest. From a geomorphologic perspective, the peaks of the highland have rocky outcrops. The flanks are covered with a deposit of till that is up to several metres thick in the concave parts of the longer slopes. The valley bottoms are covered with recent alluvial deposits, fluvial deposits, and frequently peat-covered sandy, fluvio-glacial deposits.

Hydrography: The proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve is in the Manicouagan river watershed, which feeds three large rivers, the Toulnostouc, the Hart Jaune and the Manicouagan. The drainage system is formed mainly of headwater streams, associated with twenty or so small lakes that occupy shallow depressions.

Vegetation: The vegetation of the Groulx mountains changes with altitudinal cline. Three plant formations succeed each other from the base to the top of the slopes, starting at the base with closed forest, followed by heathland, and finally tundra. From the base of the slopes to an altitude of approximately 700 m, the forest is mainly black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), with some white spruce (*Picea glauca*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Above 700 m, the deciduous trees disappear, the cover opens up and white spruce becomes more frequent. Above 800 m, cover density and tree size decrease, and the heath, also found in sheltered valleys on the plateau, begins. The number of trees decreases with increasing altitude. A few resistant, isolated specimens of krummholz forms of spruce and fir can be found in some slightly protected topographic positions. Generally, the tree line is situated at approximately 900 m. Above this altitude, the landscape is an alpine heath where the vegetation is dominated by arctic-alpine plants.

1.2.2. Outstanding elements

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune et des Parcs has identified two exceptional forest ecosystems (EFE) within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve. They are old-growth montane white spruce stands which have been undisturbed by human activity or have not recently experienced any natural disturbances. This type of forest ecosystem is rare in Québec.

Four threatened or vulnerable species of flora, or likely to be threatened or vulnerable have been identified in the territory. They include a fern (*Athyrium alpestre* subsp. *americanum*), two species from the composite family (*Agoseris aurantiaca* and *Gnaphalium norvegicum*) and one species from the rose family (*Alchemilla glomerulans*).

The Mont Groulx massif is also believed to shelter one threatened animal species, the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), and seven species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable, namely the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the rock vole (*Microtus chrotorrhinus*), the pygmy shrew (*Microsorex hoyi*), the least weasel (*Mustela nivalis*) and the Canadian lynx (*Lynx canadensis*). A site inventory is advisable to confirm the presence of the species and update the list.

Among the birds inventoried, three species have a particular heritage significance: the willow ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*), the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and the rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*).

Lastly, the Groulx mountains are of cultural interest because of their use by the Innu communities for hunting, trapping and fishing.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

Route 389, which crosses the western part of the biodiversity reserve, is excluded from the reserve.

The territory lies within the Bersimis and Saguenay beaver reserves in which the Innu have special rights with regard to the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

Nine land rights have been granted within the perimeter of the proposed biodiversity reserve :

- 5 for vacation resort purposes ;
- 1 for an outfitting operation without exclusive rights (Hébergement Manook des Monts Groulx) ;
- 1 for a rough shelter in the forest ;
- 1 for Camp Matsheshu ;
- 1 for hiking trails.

The interior of the proposed biodiversity reserve is accessible by three trails located at :

- kilometre 335 of Route 389, at the site referred to as Camp Nomade ;
- kilometre 365, at the site referred to as Camp Matsheshu ;
- kilometre 350 (a cross-country ski trail).

There are several hiking trails on the territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A number of activities, including hiking, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, telemarking and dogsled tours are carried on in these mountains. There are approximately 500 visitors to the area each year, for the most part during the winter season. Some hunting and trapping is carried on in the southern part of the territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

2. Protection status

The proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve protects an area of exceptional interest, both from an ecological perspective and for its beauty.

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives :

- the protection of an exceptional montane landscape ;
- the preservation of biodiversity ;
- the protection of remarkable old-growth forests and threatened or vulnerable species, or species likely to be threatened or vulnerable ;
- the preservation of a highly valuable location for research activities and educational nature activities ;
- the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in a proposed biodiversity reserve by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes; and earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

- Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));
- Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

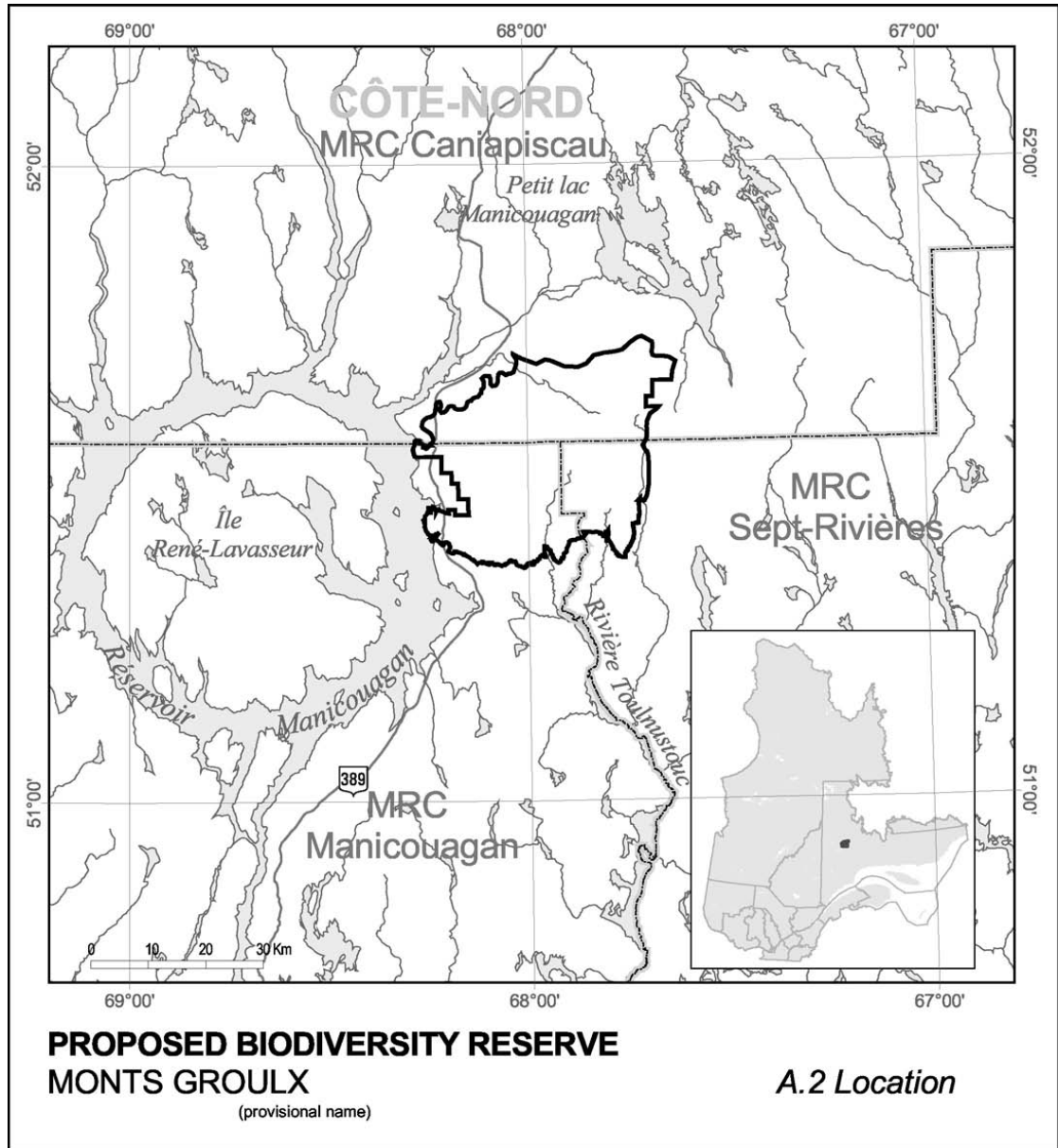
4. Permanent protection status

The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "biodiversity reserve" status under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

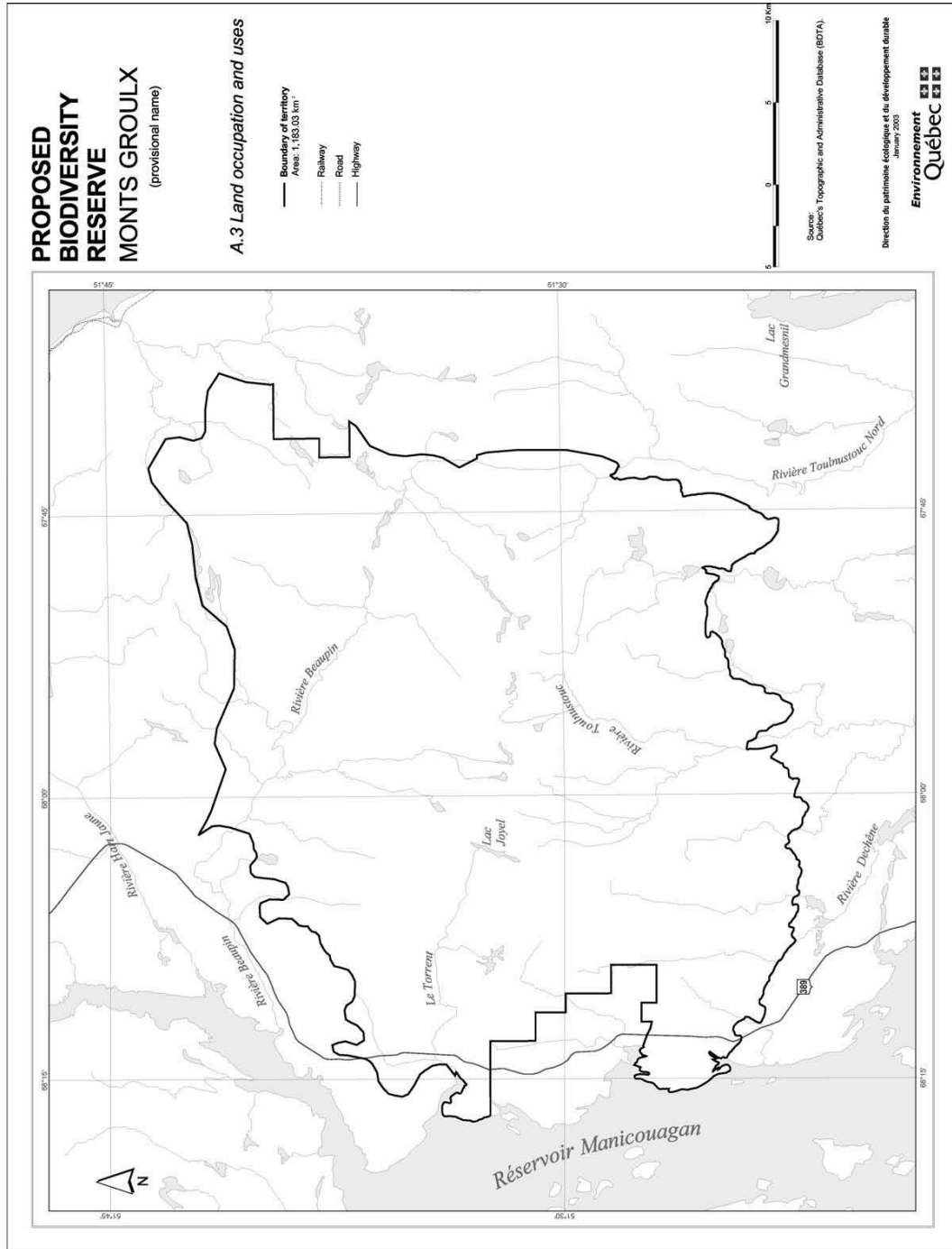
Schedules

A.1. Plan of the proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve (provisional name)

A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Monts Groulx biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED GENSART LAKE BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1. and A.2.

The proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve is located on the North Shore, between 52°33' and 52°56' north latitude and 67°36' and 67°58' west longitude. It is situated near the Labrador border, approximately 40 km west of Fermont.

It lies within the unorganized territory of Rivière-Mouchalagane, in Municipalité régionale de comté de Caniapiscau.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers an area of 474 km².

1.2. Ecological overview

The protected area is in the Central Laurentians natural province. It protects natural environments representative of the natural region of the Manicouagan reservoir basin.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The territory is characterized by a cold subpolar, subhumid continental climate, with a short growing season. It belongs to the bioclimatic field of spruce-lichen woodland.

Geology and geomorphology: The territory is wholly within the Grenville geologic province of the Canadian Shield. In the north, the bedrock consists of felsic rock, namely tonalite. In the southern part of the proposed biodiversity reserve, the substratum is formed of partially melted rocks, namely migmatites. In terms of its geomorphology, the territory is relatively flat and covered with glacial deposits (thin or drumlinized till), fluvio-glacial sand and gravel or organic deposits. In the northeast, it is characterized by low hills, knolls and hillocks of well-drained morainic materials. The average altitude is 650 m.

Hydrography: The biodiversity reserve has more than thirty lakes which cover 20% of its total area. The largest is Gensart lake, which is 31 km² in area. The drainage system also consists of headwater streams, most of which are oriented in a north-west/south-east direction.

Vegetation: Almost half of the area of the protected area is covered by a resinous forest of black spruce (*Picea mariana*). The slopes and rocky outcrops of the summits are heathland. This plant formation, almost devoid of trees, consists of stunted shrubs, grasses, mosses and lichens; it covers a little more than one-third of the territory. Jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) is found on the land burned by forest fires, which represents 10% of the territory. Small peat bogs (5%) are also found within the protected area.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

The entire territory lies within the Saguenay beaver reserve in which the Innu community of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, residing near Sept-Îles, has special rights with regard to the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

Four land rights have been granted within the perimeter of the protected area, on the shores of Gensart and Peliptacau lakes and on the land bordering the northernmost lake, west of Bouteille lake. They are as follows:

- 3 leases for a rough shelter;
- 1 lease for personal vacation purposes (cottage).

2. Protection status

The proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve protects a zone of exceptional interest, both from an ecological perspective and for its beauty.

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives:

- the conservation of environments representative of the natural region of the Manicouagan reservoir basin;
- the preservation of biodiversity in ecosystems;
- the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in biodiversity reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management activities within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes;
- earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

— Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

— Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

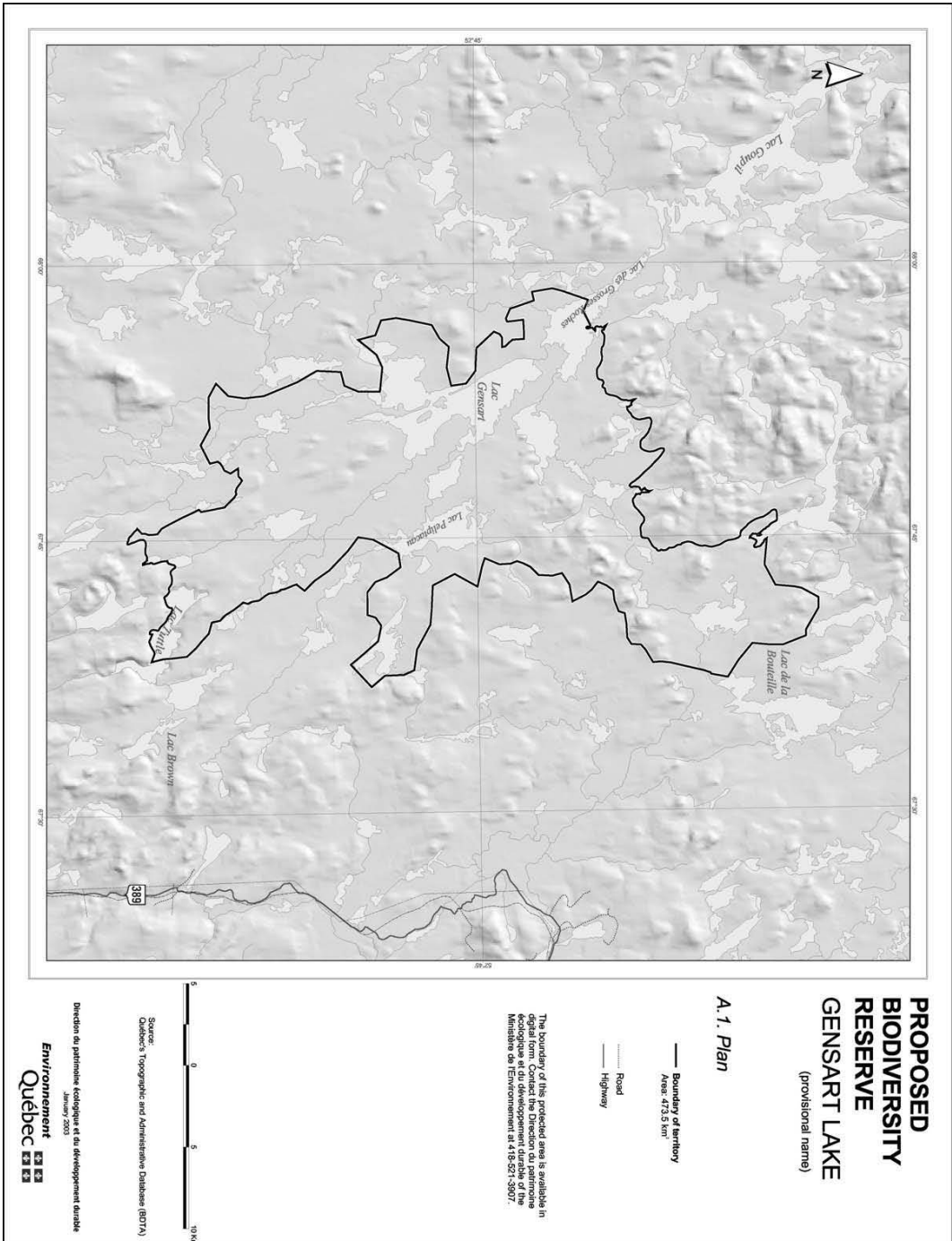
The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

4. Permanent protection status

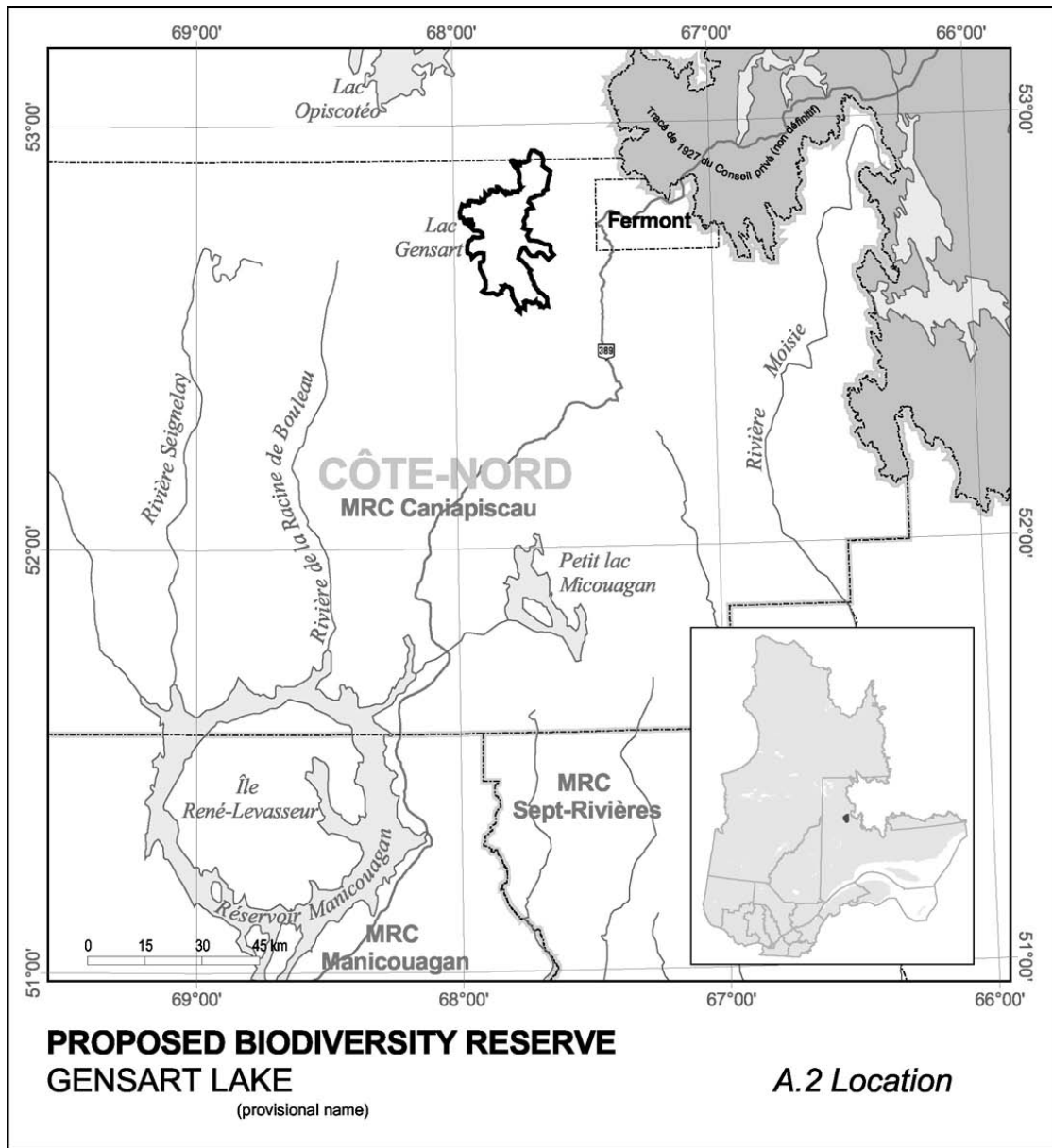
The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "biodiversity reserve" status under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

Schedules

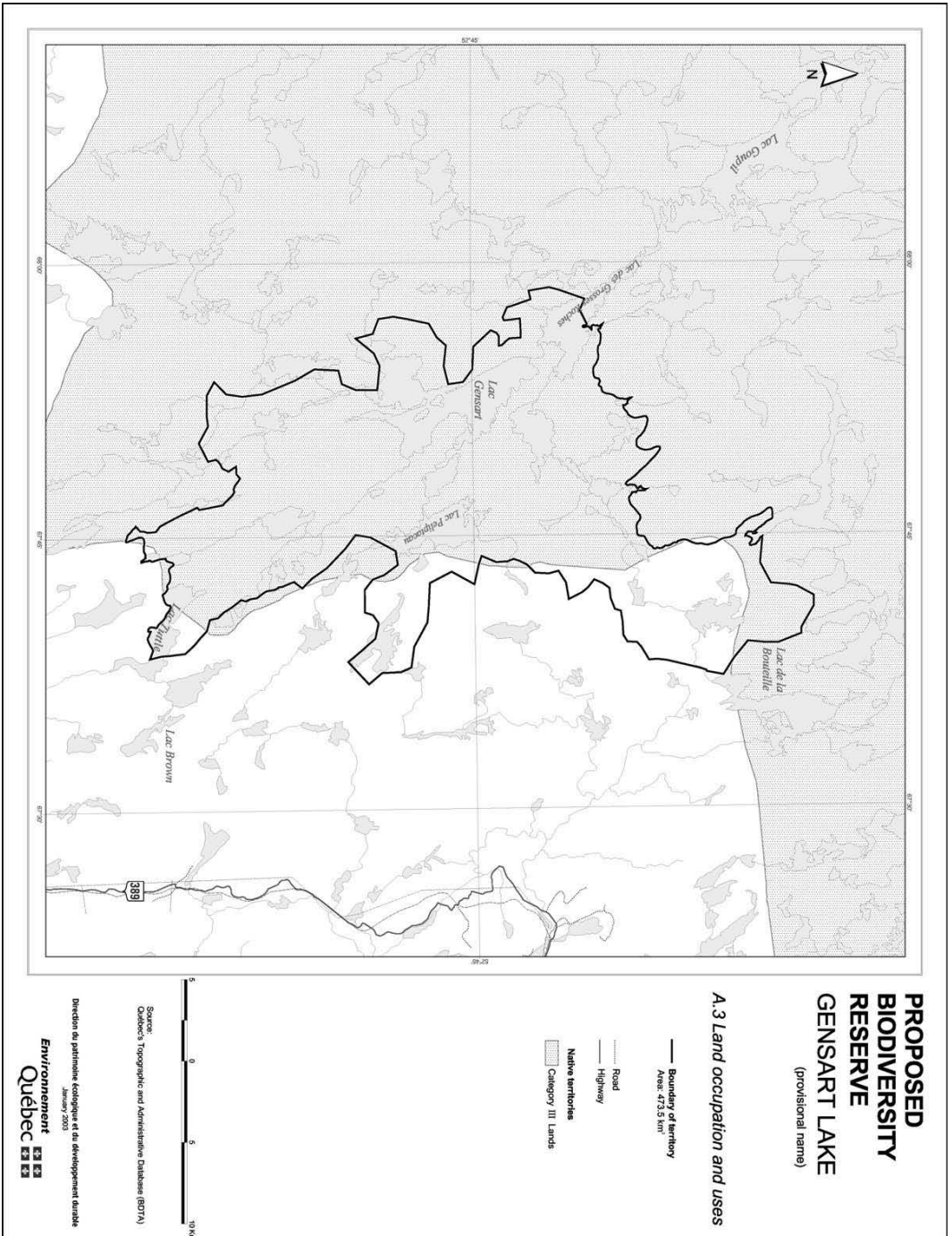
A.1. Plan of the proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Gensart lake biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED BRIGHT SAND LAKE BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1. and A.2.

The proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve is located on the North Shore, between 51°38' and 51°58' north latitude and 65°53' and 66°07' west longitude. It is situated approximately 130 km southeast of Fermont, about 20 km from the Labrador border.

It lies within the unorganized territory of Rivière-Nipissis, in Municipalité régionale de comté de Sept-Rivières.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers an area of 278 km².

1.2. Ecological overview

The protected area is in the Lower North Shore Plateau natural province. It protects natural environments characteristic of the natural region of the Fournier lake plateau.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The territory is characterized by a cold, subpolar and subhumid continental climate with a short growing season. It belongs to the bioclimatic field of mossy spruce stands.

Geology and geomorphology: The territory is wholly within the Grenville geologic province. The bedrock is composed mainly of metamorphic rocks, namely gneiss and paragneiss. In the north of the protected area, the basement rocks also include mafic rocks, in particular diorite, gabbro or metagabbro. From a geomorphologic point of view, the territory appears as a group of drumlins. The Taitaipenistouc river valley bottom is partially covered with well-drained sandy-gravelly deposits of fluvio-glacial origin. The average altitude is 650 m.

Hydrography: The territory is part of the Caopacho river watershed, which feeds the Moisie river watershed. With the exception of the Taitaipenistouc river, which is a Strahler 4 river, the drainage system consists mainly of headwater streams. The biodiversity reserve also has approximately twenty small lakes which cover 6% of the protected territory.

Vegetation: Half of the territory is covered by dry heaths. This almost treeless plant formation is composed of shrub species, flowering plants, grasses and lichens.

The dry heath is usually established on the steeper slopes and on the rock outcrops of the peaks in the biodiversity reserve. Old-growth softwood stands occupy the higher ground in almost one fifth of the area. The dominant species is black spruce (*Picea mariana*). The areas disturbed by forest fires, which represent 4% of the territory, are occupied by Jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*). Finally, peat bogs occupy the Taitaipenistouc river valley bottom and a certain number of depressions in 20% of the territory.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

The entire territory lies within the Saguenay beaver reserve in which the Uashat mak Mani-Utenam Innu community, residing near Sept-Îles, has special rights with regard to the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

Only one land right has been granted within the biodiversity reserve. It is a lease granted for personal vacation purposes relating to a cottage built on the shores of the northernmost lake in the territory.

Two power transmission lines measuring 10.5 km in total cross the territory in the north.

2. Protection status

The proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve protects a zone of exceptional interest, both from an ecological perspective and for its beauty.

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives:

— the conservation of representative environments of the natural region of the Fournier lake plateau;

- the preservation of biodiversity in ecosystems;
- the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in biodiversity reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are :

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management activities within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes;
- earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

- Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));
- Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);
- Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));
- Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

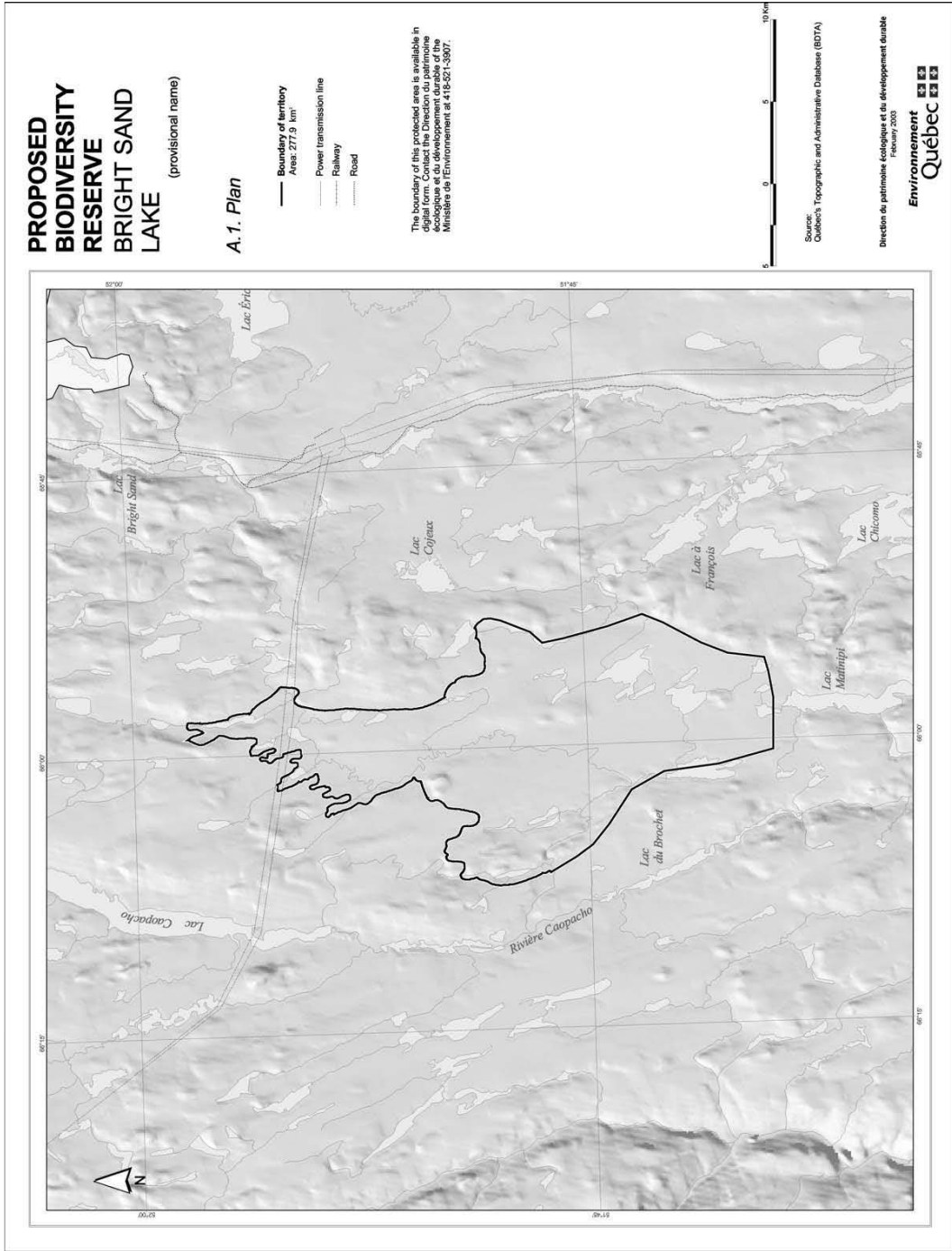
The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

4. Permanent protection status

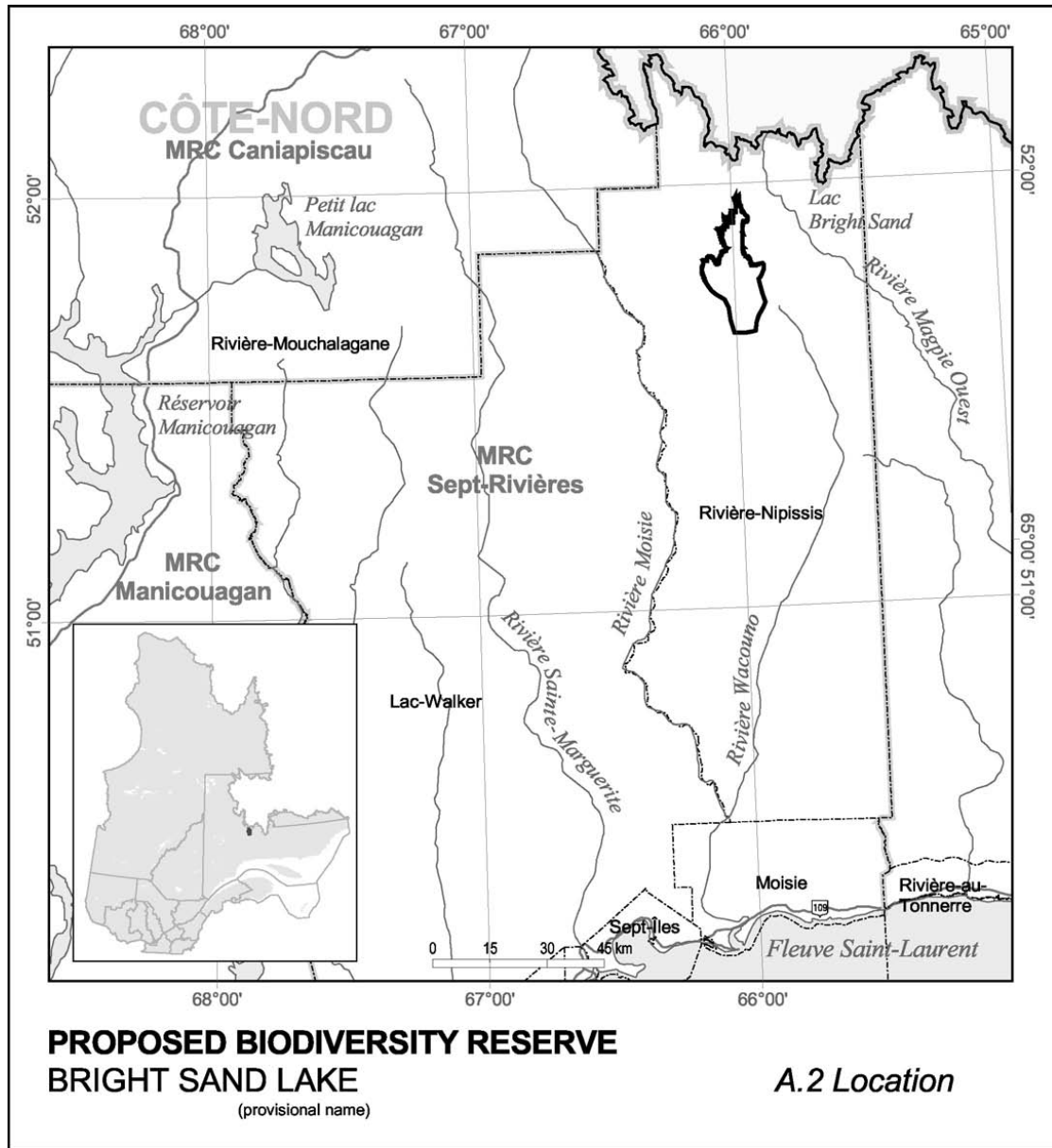
The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "biodiversity reserve" status under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

Schedules

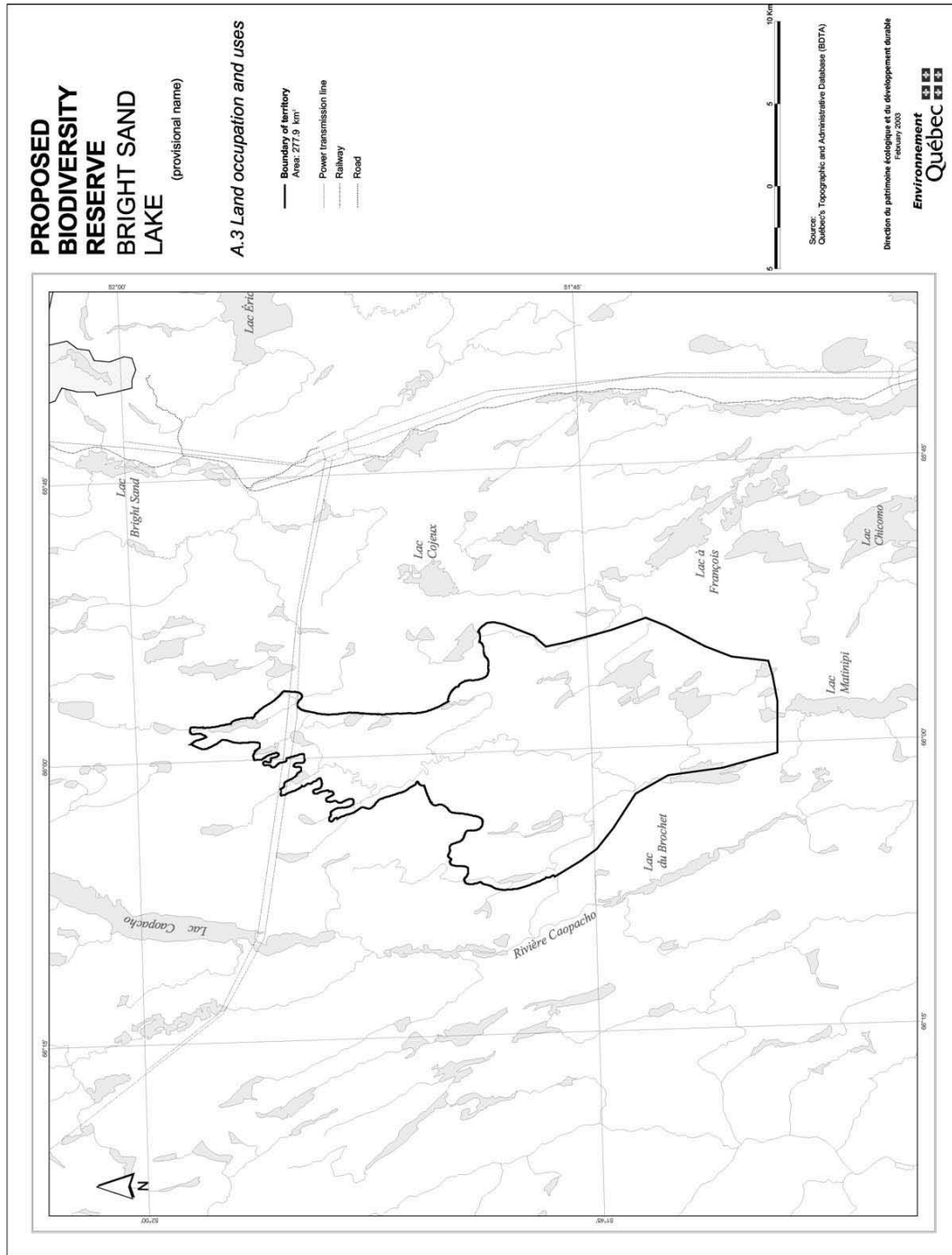
A.1. Plan of the proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Bright Sand lake biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED BELMONT AND MAGPIE LAKES MASSIF BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1. and A.2.

The proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve is located in the North Shore backcountry, between 50°40' and 51°49' north latitude and 64°24' and 65°06' west longitude. It is situated approximately 50 km north/north-west of the Saint-Jean river. The proposed reserve is over 130 km long and the northern limit is the Labrador border.

It lies within the unorganized territory of Lac-Jérôme, in Municipalité régionale de comté de la Minganie.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers an area of 1,575 km².

1.2. Ecological overview

The area is in the Lower North Shore Plateau natural province. It protects natural environments characteristic of the Magpie lake massif natural region.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The territory is characterized by a cold, subpolar and subhumid continental climate, with a short growing season. It belongs to the bioclimatic field of mossy spruce stands.

Geology and geomorphology: The territory is wholly within the Grenville geologic province of the Canadian Shield. The bedrock is mainly mafic rock, in this instance anorthosite and gabbro or, less commonly, diorite and gabbro. In the central part of the biodiversity reserve, the rocky basement is also formed of metamorphic rock, namely gneiss, and intrusive rock, namely syenite and monzonite. In terms of its geomorphology, the dominant landscape is that of low hills and knolls covered with well-drained moraine deposits. The bottom of the Magpie river valley is covered with glaciofluvial sand and gravel sediments and the steepest slopes are covered with colluvial deposits. The altitude varies from 145 m to 980 m.

Hydrography: The drainage system is formed mainly of headwater basins. It has some fifty lakes of glacial origin which cover 10% of the area of the territory. The largest lake is Magpie lake, which is a widening of the river of the same name. Other than that body of water, which is 75 km long and covers a total area of 110 km², the lakes in the biodiversity reserve are generally small, with very indented shorelines, all being of north-south orientation.

Vegetation: In the northern portion of the biodiversity reserve, the peaks are covered by old-growth softwood forests dominated by black spruce (*Picea mariana*), white spruce (*Picea glauca*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). The steepest slopes are generally covered by dry heathland, a plant formation almost devoid of trees that consists of grasses, mosses and lichens. The valley bottoms are dotted with stands of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) or mixed hardwood tree species. The valley of the Magpie Ouest river contains Jack pine forests that are the easternmost such forests in Québec, making them of particular interest. Peat bogs may also be found in low-lying areas. Certain sectors have been disturbed by forest fires, particularly north of Nouel lake.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

The entire territory lies within the Saguenay beaver reserve in which the Innu communities have special rights regarding the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

Eight land rights have been granted within the perimeter of the protected area, 2 leases for personal vacation purposes, 4 leases for rough shelters and 2 leases for commercial purposes (outfitting operation without exclusive rights on Magpie lake SENC).

2. Protection status

The proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve protects an area of exceptional interest from an ecological perspective and for its beauty.

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives:

- the preservation of representative environments of the Magpie lake massif natural region;
- the preservation of biodiversity in ecosystems;

— the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in a proposed biodiversity reserve by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes; and
- earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern the permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

— Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

— Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

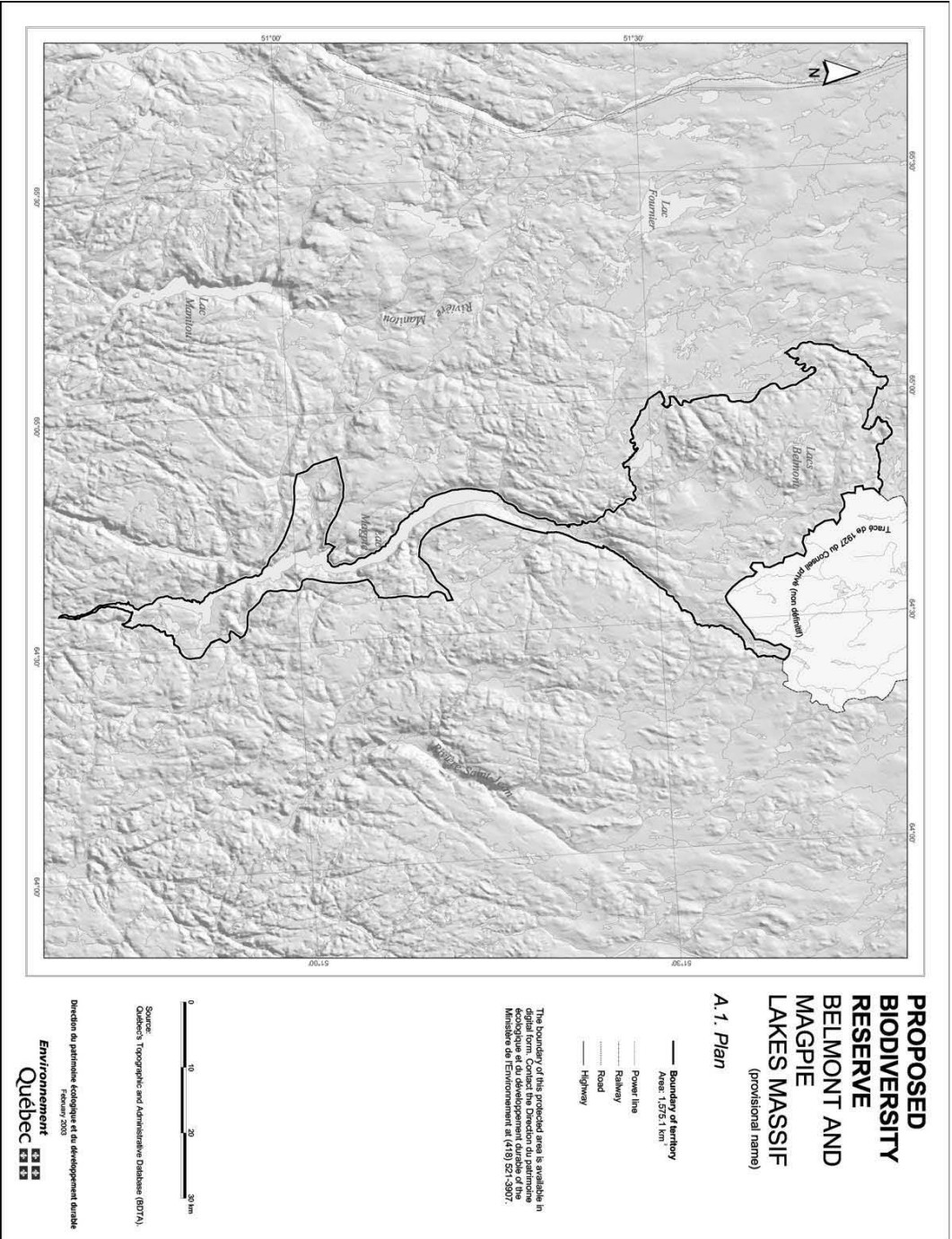
The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

4. Permanent protection status

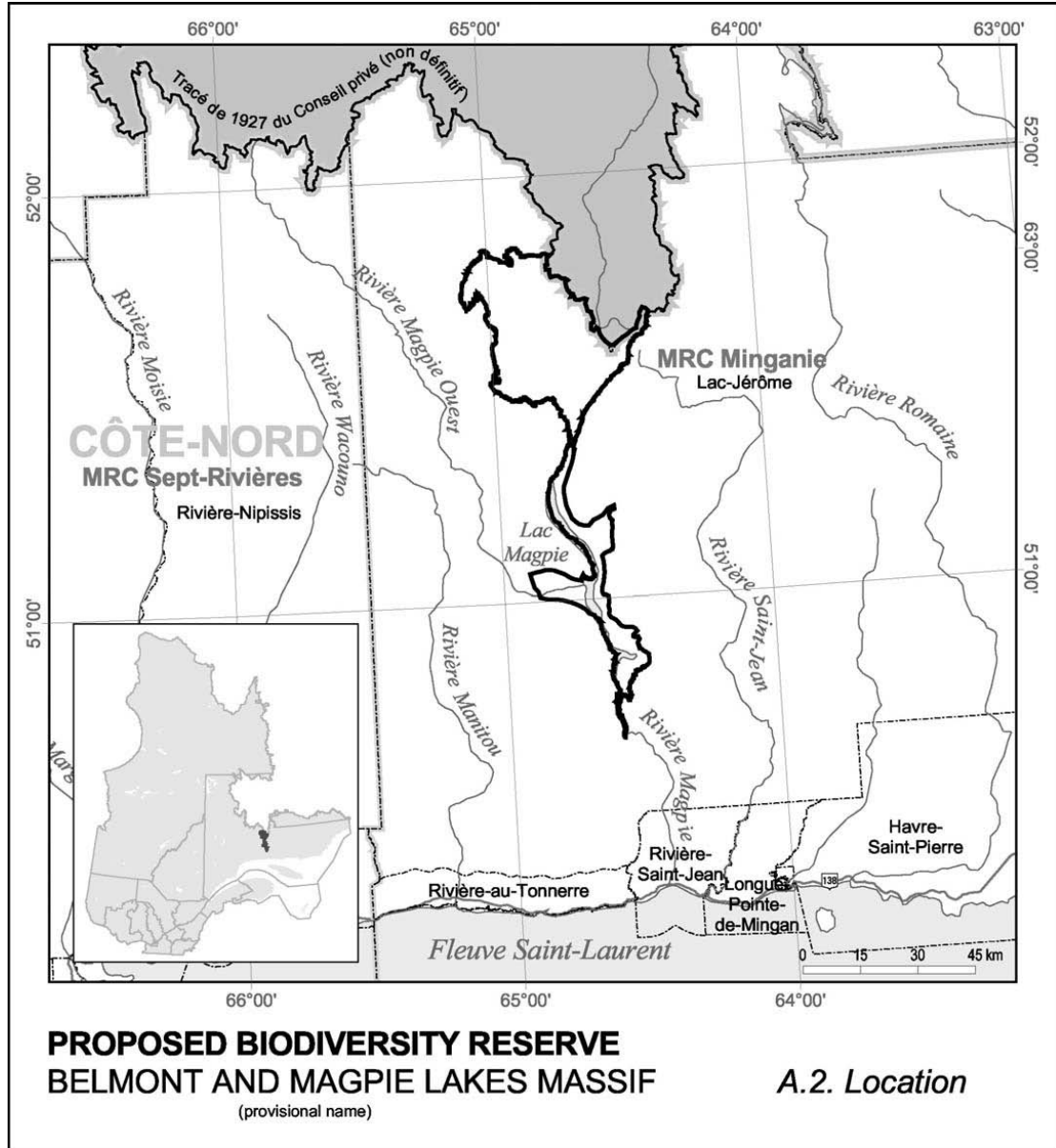
The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "biodiversity reserve" status under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

Schedules

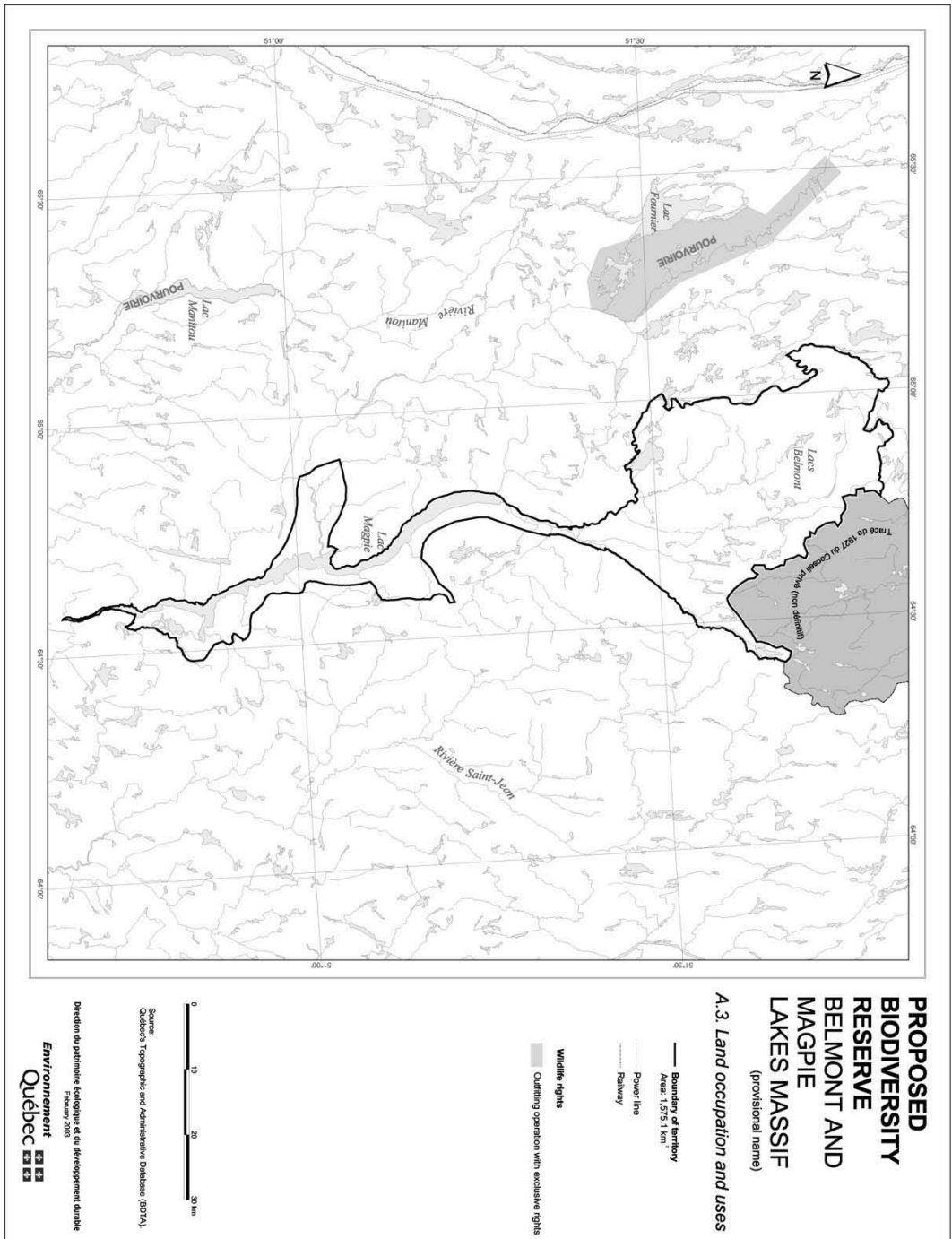
A.1. Plan of the proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve
(provisional name)



A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Belmont and Magpie lakes massif biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED LAC AUX SAUTERELLES KNOLLS BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1. and A.2.

The proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve is located in the North Shore backcountry, between 51°42' and 52°04' north latitude and 63°59' and 64°21' west longitude. It is situated on the Labrador border, approximately 200 km north of Havre-Saint-Pierre.

It lies within the unorganized territory of Lac-Jérôme, in Municipalité régionale de comté de la Minganie.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers an area of 481 km².

1.2. Ecological overview

The proposed biodiversity reserve is in the Lower North Shore Plateau natural province. It protects a geomorphological complex representative of the Brûlé lake plain natural region.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The territory is characterized by a cold, subpolar and subhumid continental climate with a short growing season. It belongs to the bioclimatic field of mossy spruce stands. The northern portion of Lac aux Sauterelles belongs to the bioclimatic field of spruce-lichen woodland.

Geology and geomorphology: The territory is wholly within the Grenville geologic province of the Canadian Shield. In the west, the bedrock is mafic rock, namely anorthosite. In the east, it is felsic rock, namely undeformed granite, and, at the southern limit, syenite and monzonite. In terms of its geomorphology, almost two thirds of the area of the protected area is characterized by ground moraine in association with a number of drumlins. The valley bottom, where Thévet lake is situated, is covered with sand and fluvio-glacial gravel. The altitude in the biodiversity reserve ranges from 530 m to 700 m.

Hydrography: The proposed biodiversity reserve includes a little more than fifteen glacial lakes which cover almost 10% of the reserve's area. These bodies of water are usually oblong in shape and found in narrow valley bottoms. The largest is Lac aux Sauterelles which covers an area of 17 km² and is approximately 20 km long. The lake is situated in the north of the protected area at an altitude of 564 m. Like Brigeart and Thévet lakes, it feeds the river known as Rivière aux Sauterelles, which is a Strahler 4 river. Approximately 40 km to the east, that river flows into the Romaine river, one of the largest watercourses in the natural province, with the Natashquan and Petit Mécatina rivers. The drainage system, mainly a headwater watershed, is of north-west/south-east orientation.

Vegetation: The protected territory is a mosaic of old-growth softwood stands (45%), dry and wet heaths (30%) and peat bogs (15%). Black spruce (*Picea mariana*) predominates, usually mixed with balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). The area has been only slightly disturbed by forest fires.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

The entire territory lies within the Saguenay beaver reserve. The Innu community of Ekuanitshit, residing 200 km east of Sept-Îles at the confluence of the Mingan and St. Lawrence rivers, has special rights in that reserve regarding the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

No land right has been granted within the perimeter of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

2. Protection status

The proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve protects a zone of exceptional interest, both from an ecological perspective and for its beauty.

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives:

- the conservation of environments representative of the Brûlé lake plain natural region;
- the preservation of biodiversity in ecosystems;
- the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in biodiversity reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management activities within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes;
- earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

— Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

— Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

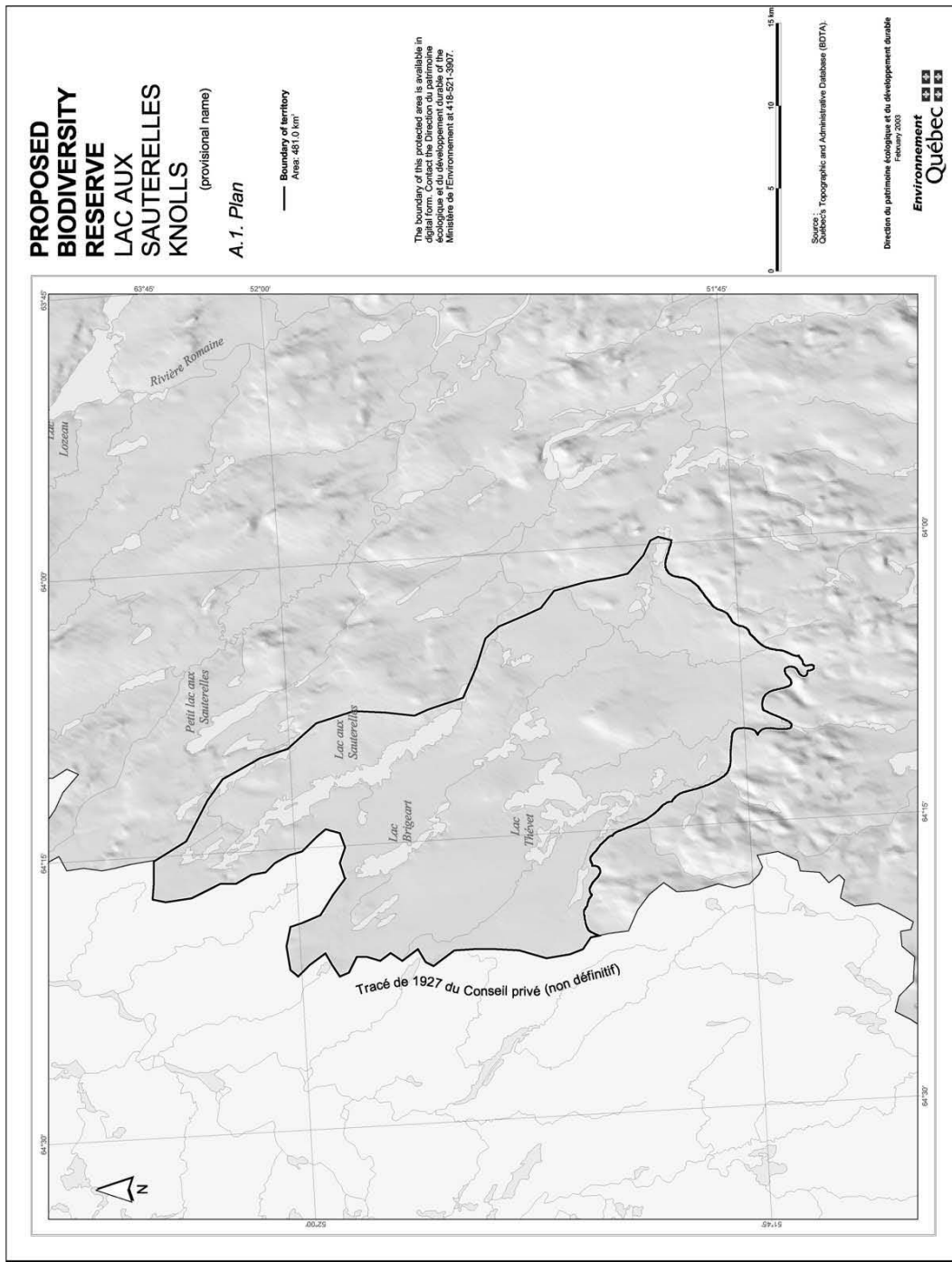
The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

4. Permanent protection status

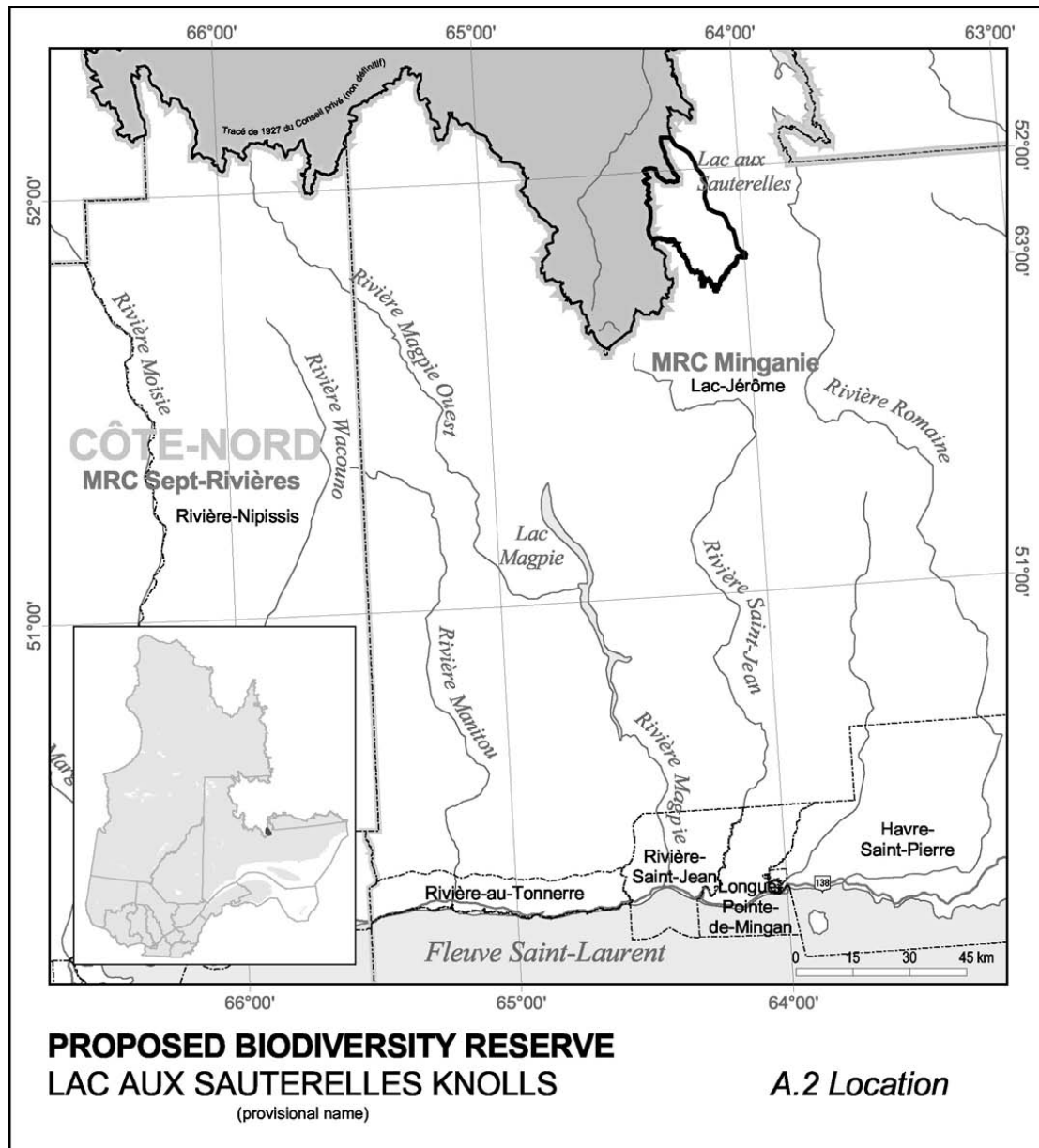
The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "biodiversity reserve" status under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

Schedules

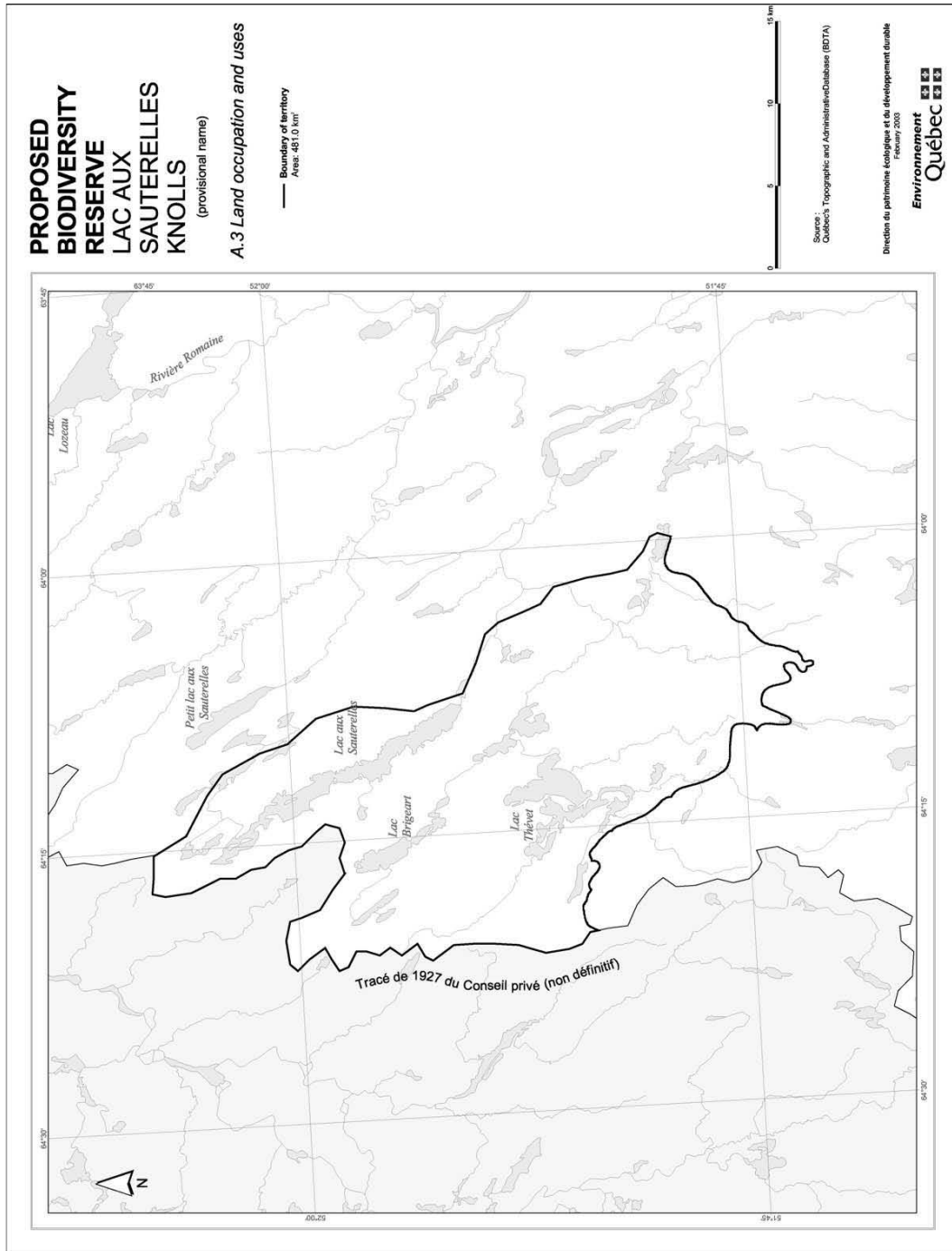
A.1. Plan of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



**A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve
(provisional name)**



A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED NATASHQUAN RIVER VALLEY BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1. and A.2.

The proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve is located in the Côte-Nord administrative region, between 50°38' and 52°00' north latitude and 61°11' and 62°09' west longitude.

The major part of the reserve lies within the unorganized territory of Petit Mécatina, while the western fringe lies within the unorganized territory of Lac-Jérôme. The protected area forms part of Municipalité régionale de comté de la Minganie.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers a total area of 4,089 km². It takes in the main bed of the Natashquan river, from kilometre 273 to kilometre 83 from its mouth, and the Natashquan Est river, from kilometre 105 to the confluence, as well as a sizable portion of their respective drainage basins.

1.2. Ecological overview

The area is in the Lower North Shore Plateau natural province. It protects a river characteristic of the Petit-Mécatina Plateau natural region.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve is characterized by different continental climates. The upstream part is characterized by a cold, subpolar and subhumid climate with a short growing season, whereas the downstream part is characterized by a subpolar, humid climate with a short growing season. The protected area belongs to the bioclimatic field of mossy spruce stands.

Geology and geomorphology: The territory is wholly within the Grenville geologic province of the Canadian Shield. The bedrock is mainly metamorphic and felsic rock, namely gneiss, migmatite and granite. In the downstream part, the substratum is also formed by clastic acid rock (quartzite) and schists, with a few non-abundant intrusions of mafic rock (diorite and gabbro) in the

central part of the natural province. In terms of its geomorphology, the dominant landscape is that of a rolling, hilly plateau dissected by the valleys of the Natashquan and Natashquan Est rivers. Most of the hills are covered with a thin layer of well-drained glacial till. With the exception of the drumlins, the few knolls in the north have the same moraine deposit. In the southern part, the steepest slopes are covered by colluvial deposits. The plains are covered with sandy-gravelly sediments of fluvio-glacial origin. The altitude ranges from 140 m to 620 m.

Hydrography: The Natashquan is a Strahler 6 river. It is, with the Romaine and Petit Mécatina rivers, one of the largest watercourses in the Lower North Shore Plateau natural province. Its source is north of the 52nd parallel in a lake situated at an altitude of about 630 m. It winds its way to the south for 378 km and flows into the St. Lawrence River 7 km northwest of Natashquan point. It meanders through narrow valleys for most of its course and is interlaced by several waterfalls. The Natashquan river, whose river basin measures 16,110 km², is fed by some 30 permanent tributaries, the most important being, from upstream to downstream, the Lejamtel, Mercereau, Mahkunipiu, Mistanipisipou, Nastashquan Est, Pehatnaniskau, Le Doré, Natashquan Ouest and Akaku rivers.

Vegetation: Two thirds (65%) of the terrestrial part of the proposed biodiversity reserve are covered by softwood forest. That area contains a majority (66%) of stands older than 90 years, dominated by black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). One fifth of the territory is occupied by dry heaths, which are mostly established on the marginal till of the slopes or on the rock outcrops of the lower hills. The valley bottoms are dotted with small peat bogs and hardwood stands of paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The flora of the Natashquan river is typical of the boreal forest; Arctic species represent less than 5% of the inventoried vascular and non-vascular flora. A few forest stands have been disturbed by fire (particularly between the Natashquan river and Kapanien Umiskumin lake, as well as to the north of Chambeaux lake) or by insect infestations (such as the spruce bud moth). On the other hand, there has been no logging in the territory.

1.2.2. Outstanding elements

In the summer, the waters of the Natashquan river are populated by Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). Hundreds of individuals make their way upstream to spawn in the many pools along its course. The Natashquan river is, with the Moisie river, one of the most renowned salmon rivers on the North Shore.

The landscapes through which the Natashquan river flows are of great beauty and of unanimously recognized heritage interest.

The territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve is also of considerable cultural interest. The watershed of the Natashquan or *Nutahquaniu Hipu* (an Innu term meaning “the river where the bear was caught”) has long been occupied by the Innu community. In the winter, the Innu hunt and trap in the backcountry, while in the summer, they settle at the mouth of the rivers to fish salmon or trap Atlantic wolffish. Fur traders began profiting from that annual migration as early as 1710 when they built a trading post in Natashquan to establish commercial relations with the Native populations.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

Five land rights have been granted within the perimeter of the protected area, 4 leases for personal vacation purposes (cottages) and 1 lease in the public interest for the conservation and protection of the forests.

The entire territory lies within the Saguenay beaver reserve, where the Natashquan Innu community, residing at the mouth of the river 336 kilometres east of Sept-Îles, has special rights regarding the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

A fishing management agreement for the Natashquan river was concluded between the Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) and the Conseil des montagnais de Natashquan on May 21, 1999 with a view to facilitating the development and management of wildlife.

Three sectors are covered by a special agreement relating to the development of wildlife. They are:

— in the north of the protected area, along the Natashquan, in the sector of Des Marets lake (109 km²);

— in the east of the protected area, near Du Nort and Chambeaux lakes in the north and near Le Doré lake in the south (180.7 km²);

— along the lower course of the Natashquan river, south of Pehatnaniskau stream (38.2 km²).

2. Protection status

The proposed biodiversity reserve protects the major bed of the Natashquan river and part of the slopes of its river valley. The landscape in the territory is of exceptional value, as well as of great interest from an ecological perspective.

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives:

— the preservation of a characteristic river of the Lower North Shore;

— the protection of favourable habitat for Atlantic salmon;

— the preservation of biodiversity in aquatic or riparian habitats and in old-growth forests;

— the development of some remarkable landscape elements;

— the ongoing sustainable management of fur-bearing animals;

— the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural and cultural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in a proposed biodiversity reserve by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

— mining, and gas or petroleum development;

— mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate strip-ping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;

— forest management within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);

— the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;

— any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes; and

— earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

— Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

— Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

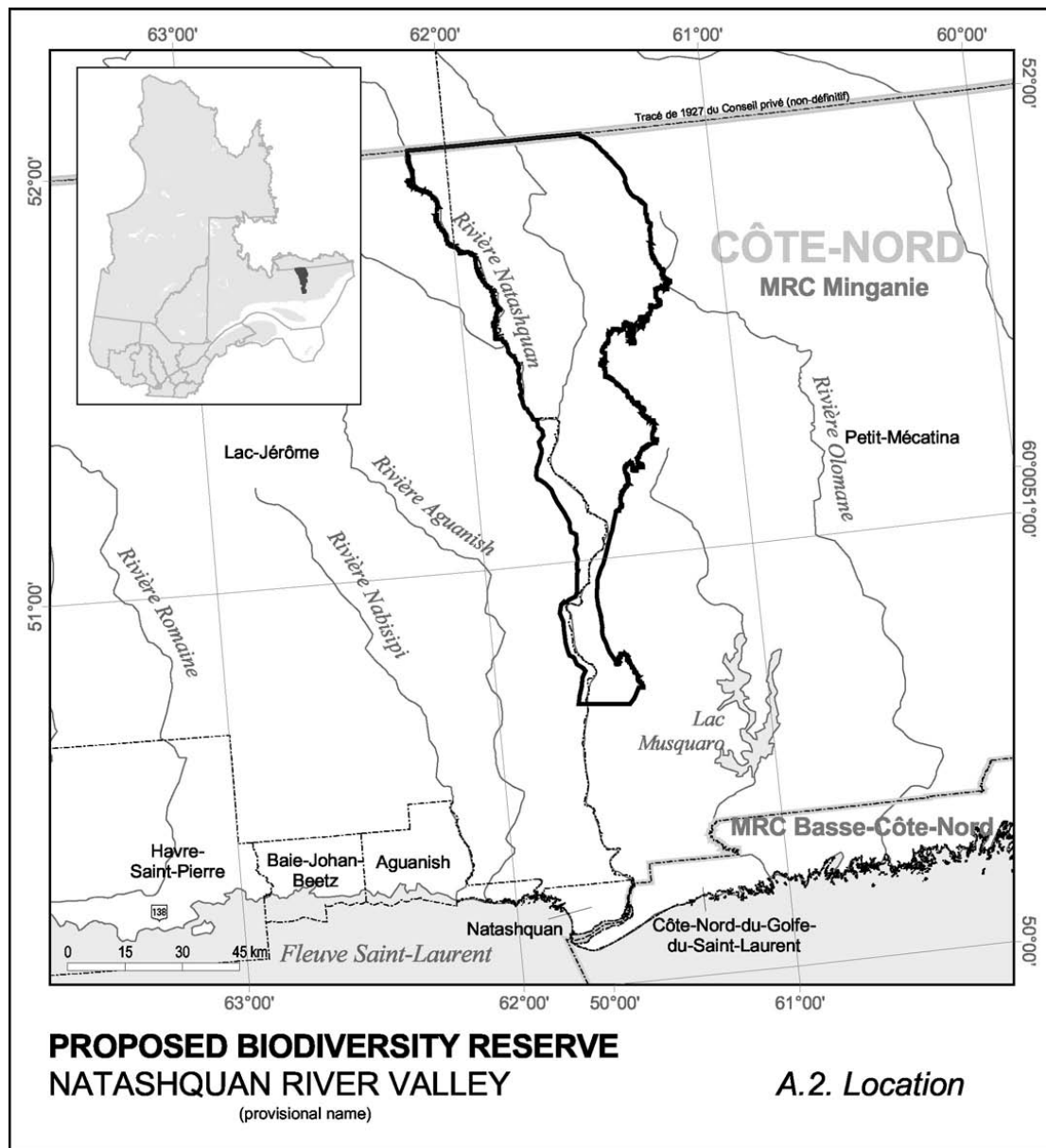
The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

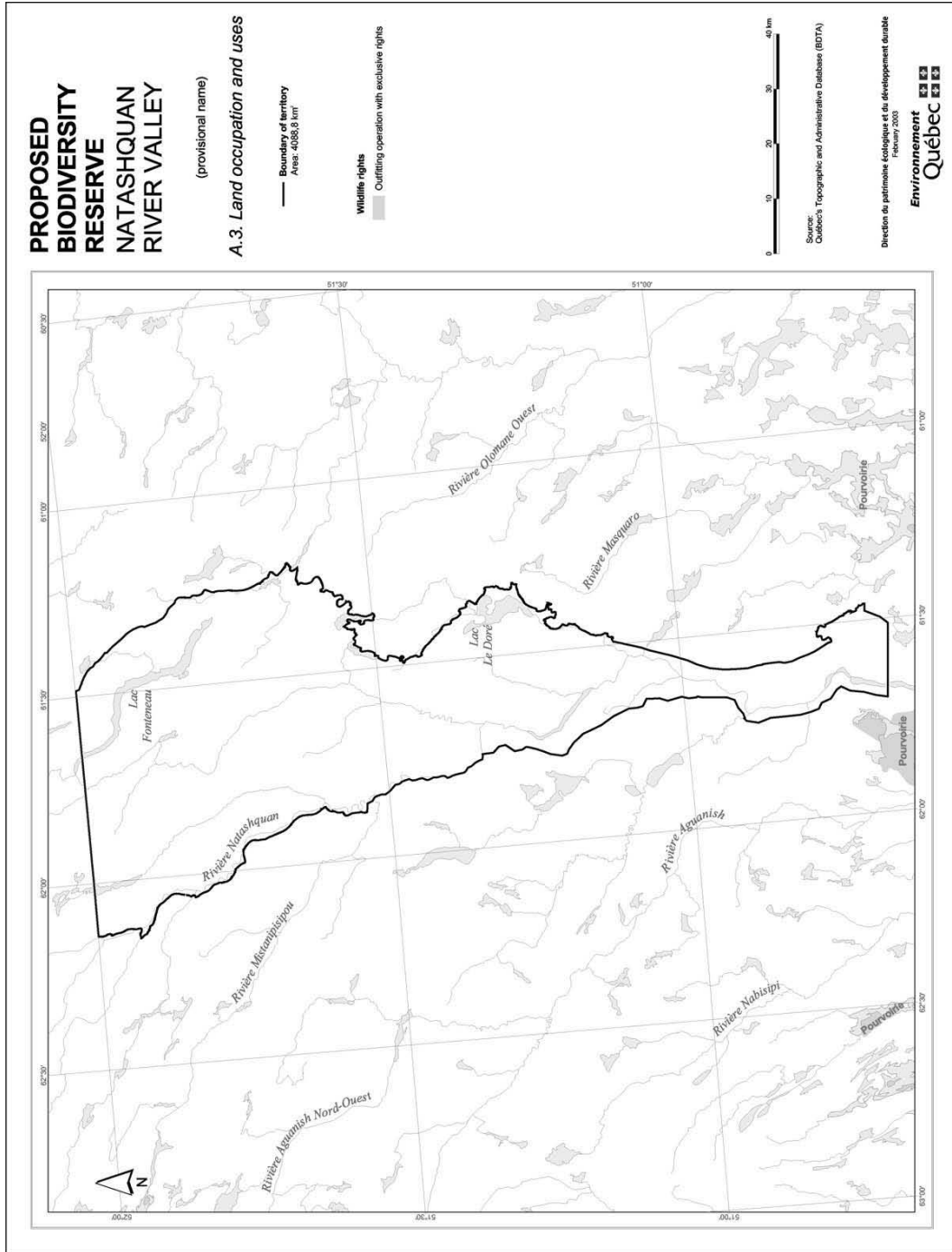
4. Permanent protection status

The permanent protection status envisaged is "park" status under the Parks Act (R.S.Q., c. P-9).

A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Natashquan river valley biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED HARRINGTON HARBOUR SHORE BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1. and A.2.

The proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve is located in the Côte-Nord administrative region, between 50°15' and 51°00' north latitude and 58°57' and 60°01' west longitude.

The major part of the protected area lies within the territory of Municipalité de Côte-Nord-du-Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent, the sector being part of Municipalité de Gros-Mécatina, in Municipalité régionale de comté de la Basse-Côte-Nord.

The proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve covers a total area of 1,286 km². It is made up of three distinct sub-sectors forming a continuum along the shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence between Monger lake to the north-east and Volant lake to the south-west.

1.2. Ecological overview

The area is in the Lower North Shore Plateau natural province. It protects a rocky shore characteristic of the Mécatina hills natural region.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The littoral of Harrington Harbour is subject to hemi-arctic conditions, characterized by a marine nordic boreal climate. According to the Litynski classification, the climate is subpolar and humid, with a middle growing season. The protected area belongs to the bioclimatic field of forest tundra.

Geology and geomorphology: The territory is wholly within the Grenville geologic province of the Canadian Shield. The bedrock is metamorphic rock, mainly gneiss and paragneiss, although the more significant landforms are linked to the presence of syenite and monzonite,

intermediate rocks that are not very common in the natural province. In terms of geomorphology, the dominant landscape is that of knolls that are bare or covered with organic deposits. The plains are covered with clay loam marine sediments. The altitude varies from 5 m to 250 m.

Hydrography: The drainage system is well developed. The reserve has some 120 lakes totalling 133.5 km² which cover approximately 10.4% of the total of the protected area. Several watercourses flow through the territory before emptying into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, including the Petit Mécatina river, a Strahler 6 river, and the Nétagamou and Gros Mécatina rivers, both Strahler 3 rivers.

Vegetation: Over half (55%) of the protected rocky shore is covered by dry heathland with krummholz, a plant formation constituted of stunted trees, grasses, mosses and lichens. Some one-quarter (25%) of the area is occupied by a softwood forest. The forest stands, most of which are over 90 years old, are dominated by black spruce (*Picea mariana*) or balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). The central area of the protected area is covered by large peat bogs over almost 10% of its total area.

1.2.2. Outstanding elements

The Étamamiou, Porc-Épic and Gros Mécatina rivers, which run through the territory from west to east, are populated by Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and have salmon river status.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

Several fishing communities are found in villages located in the periphery of the proposed biodiversity reserve, including the villages of Chevery, Tête-à-la-Baleine and La Tabatière.

Two land rights have been granted within the perimeter of the protected area, one for personal vacation purposes, the other for cross-country ski trails.

Two outfitting operations having exclusive rights are established within the proposed biodiversity reserve: Pourvoirie Mécatina inc. on the lower portion of the Gros Mécatina river and Pourvoirie Étamamiou inc. on the river of the same name.

The territory lies within the Saguenay beaver reserve in which the Native communities have special rights regarding the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

The proposed biodiversity reserve is wholly within fur-bearing animal management units (FAMU) 65 and 66.

2. Protection status

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives:

- the conservation of a rocky shore characteristic of the Lower North Shore;

- the protection of essential habitat for Atlantic salmon;

- the preservation of biodiversity in hemi-arctic ecosystems;

- the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural and cultural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in a proposed biodiversity reserve by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;

- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;

- forest management within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);

- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;

- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes; and

- earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

- Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

- Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);

- Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

- Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in all legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

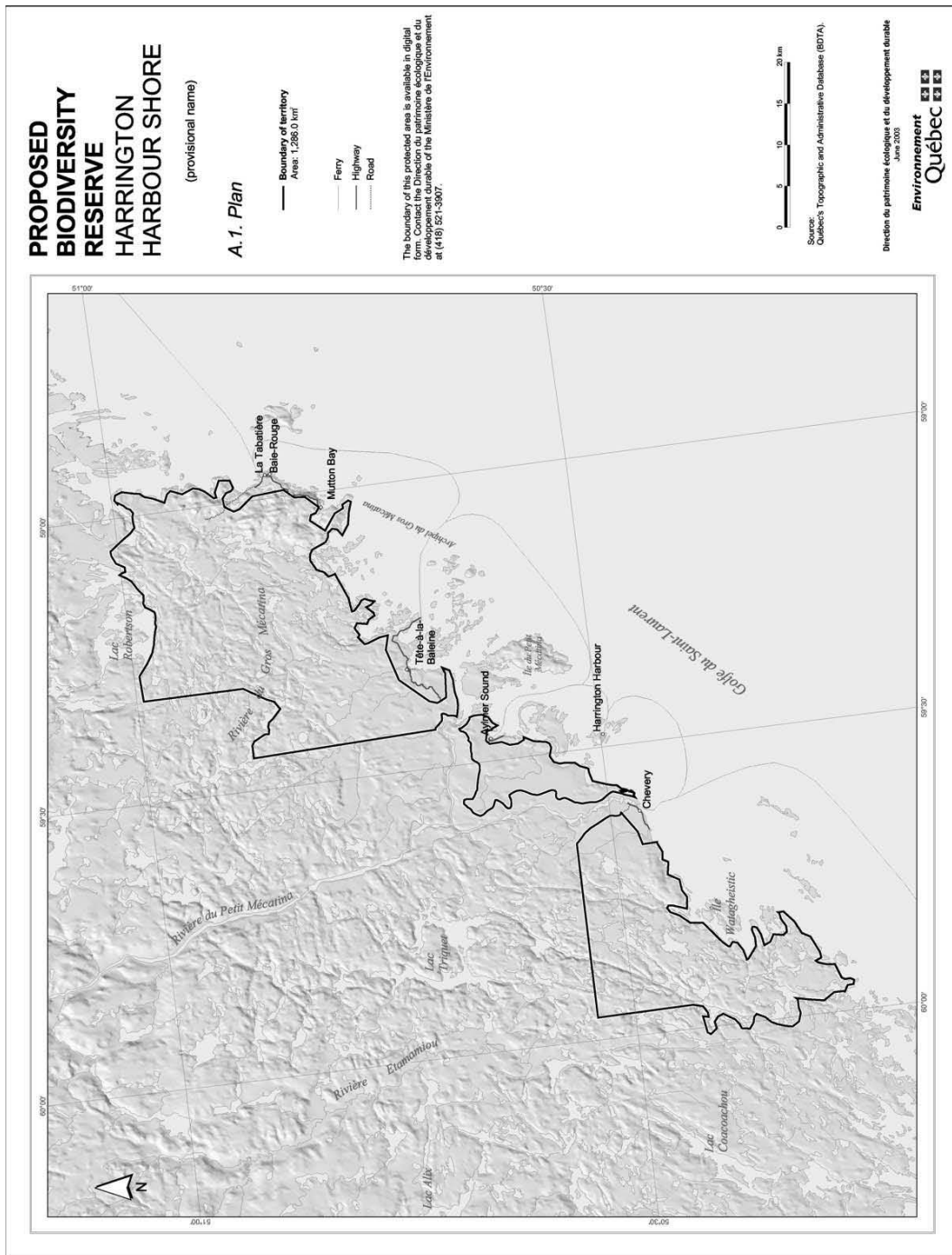
The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

4. Permanent protection status

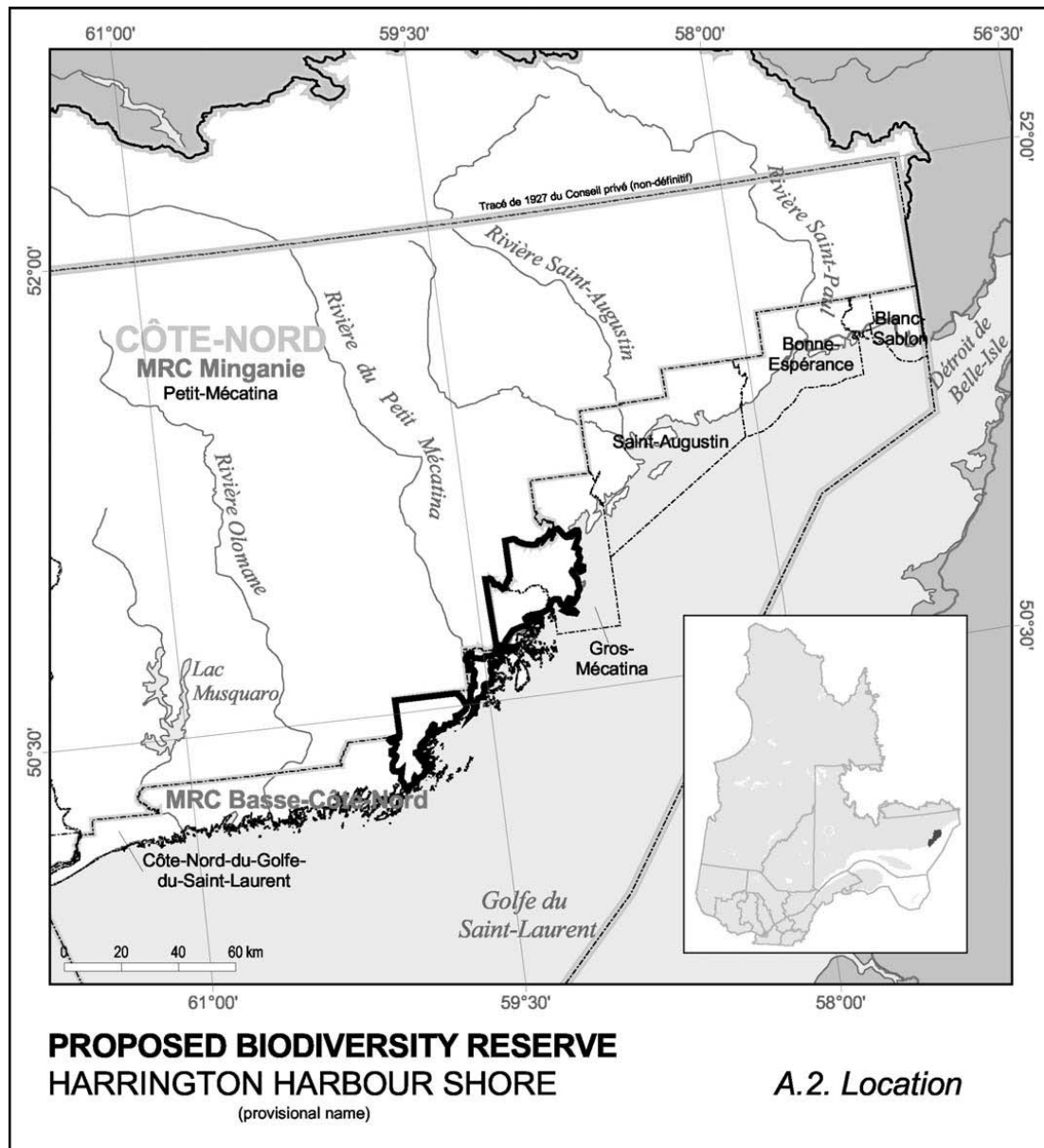
The permanent protection status envisaged is "park" status under the Parks Act (R.S.Q., c. P-9).

Schedules

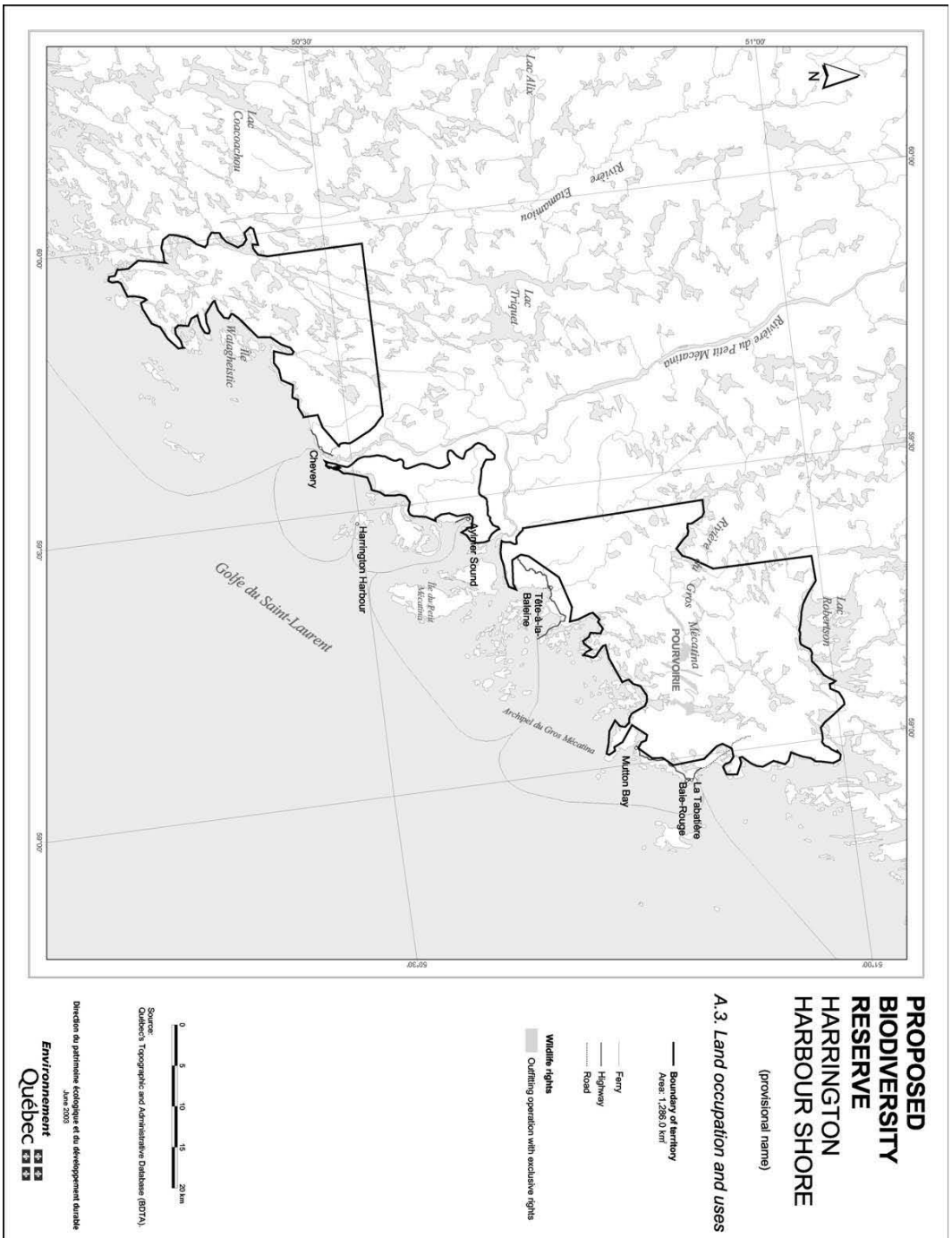
A.1. Plan of the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Harrington Harbour shore biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED GUERNESÉ LAKE FOOTHILLS BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Guernesé lake foothills biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1. and A.2.

The proposed biodiversity reserve is located in the Côte-Nord administrative region, between 51°38' and 52°00' north latitude and 57°15' and 58°32' west longitude. It is situated approximately 30 km north of the coastal village of Rivière-Saint-Paul, near the Labrador border.

It lies within the unorganized territory of Petit-Mécatina, in Municipalité régionale de comté de la Minganie.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers a total area of 2,022 km². It corresponds to the physiographic units of the Guernesé lake foothills and Bujeault river, except in the east, where the boundary runs along the eastern slope of the Nord-Est river valley, including Capannan and Mont Rye lakes. In the north, the boundary is the delineation established by the 1927 Privy Council decision (not final).

1.2. Ecological overview

The protected area is in the Lower North Shore Plateau natural province. It protects a landscape and habitats characteristic of the natural region of the middle Saint-Augustin hills.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The Guernesé lake foothills are characterized by a subpolar, humid continental climate, with a short growing season. They belong to the bioclimatic field of mossy spruce stands.

Geology and geomorphology: The entire reserve is in the Grenville geologic province of the Canadian Shield. The basement rocks are mainly felsic rock, particularly granite and pegmatite. They are also formed of metamorphic rock, in this instance gneiss, paragneiss and granulite.

In terms of its geomorphology, the dominant landscape is that of a highly dissected plateau the surface of which is formed by hills separated by encased valleys. The substratum of the foothills, with outcroppings in some areas, is covered by a thin layer of well-drained till. The few knolls at their periphery are covered by well-drained moraine or till deposits. Colluvial deposits are found at the foot of the steepest slopes while the valley bottoms are covered with glaciofluvial sand and gravel. The altitude varies from 25 m to 550 m.

Hydrography: The drainage system is well-developed and comprised mainly of small watercourses, the largest being the Saint-Paul river, a Strahler 5 river. The collector watercourses are subparallel, relatively straight and in a general north-south orientation. The protected area also has 44 lakes which cover 40 km² or 2% of the total area. The lakes are small and mostly concentrated in the southern part of the area. The largest are Gallet and Guernesé lakes, which cover an area of 5.5 km² and 4.2 km² respectively.

Vegetation: To the west of the Beaver-House and Uahatu streams, the territory is essentially covered by a softwood forest. To the east, the slopes and peaks of the foothills are mainly occupied by dry heathland, a plant formation almost devoid of trees that develops in poor, shallow and well-drained soils. These plant formations make up 64% and 28% of the vegetation respectively. Most of the forest communities are over 90 years old, the dominating species being black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). The poorly-drained valley bottoms are occupied by peat bogs which cover 6% of the area of the protected area.

1.2.2. Outstanding elements

The waters of the Saint-Paul river provide spawning and rearing habitat for Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). The river has salmon river status.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Guernesé lake foothills biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

The territory lies within the Saguenay beaver reserve in which the Native communities have special rights regarding the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

The territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve lies wholly within fur-bearing animal management unit (FAMU) 66.

An outfitting operation with exclusive rights is established on the lower portion of the Saint-Paul river, approximately 2.5 km south of its confluence with Kuekuatsheu stream. Club de pêche au saumon Saint-Paul inc. is the leaseholder.

No land rights have been granted within the perimeter of the protected area.

2. Protection status

The proposed biodiversity reserve offers a mosaic of habitats (softwood forests, dry heathland, peat bogs, lakes and rivers, etc.) of exceptional value, both from an ecological perspective and for their beauty.

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives :

- the conservation of a representative landscape of the natural region of the middle Saint-Augustin hills ;

- the protection of favourable habitat for Atlantic salmon ;

- the protection of biodiversity in the various ecosystems ;

- the ongoing sustainable management of fur-bearing animals ;

- the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural and cultural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed Guernesé lake foothills biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in a proposed biodiversity reserve by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are :

- mining, and gas or petroleum development ;

- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate strip-ping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation ;

- forest management within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1) ;

- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis ;

- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes ; and

- earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Guernesé lake foothills biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with :

- Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4)) ;

- Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation) ;

- Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1)) ;

- Land rights (especially measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Guernesé lake foothills biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

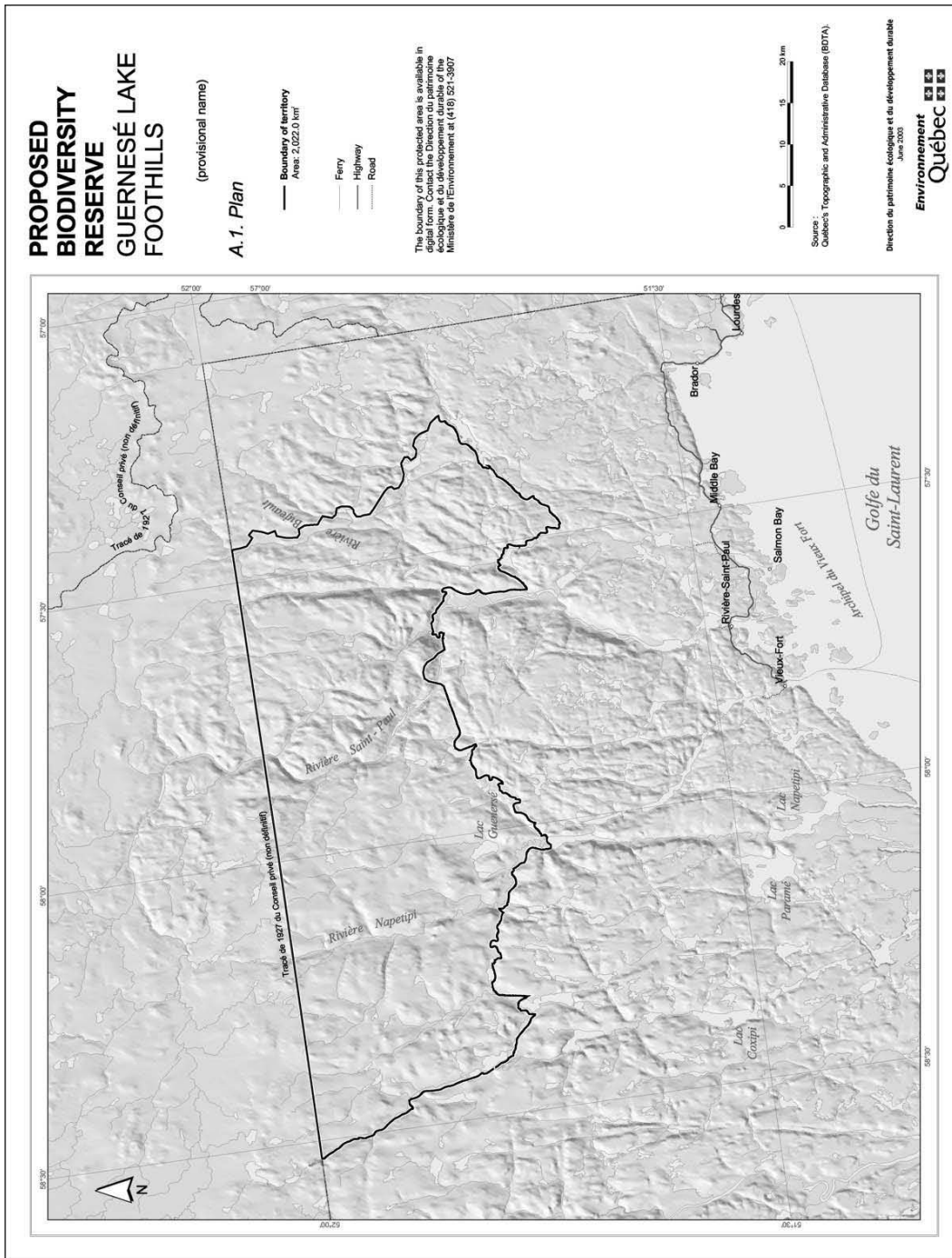
The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

4. Permanent protection status

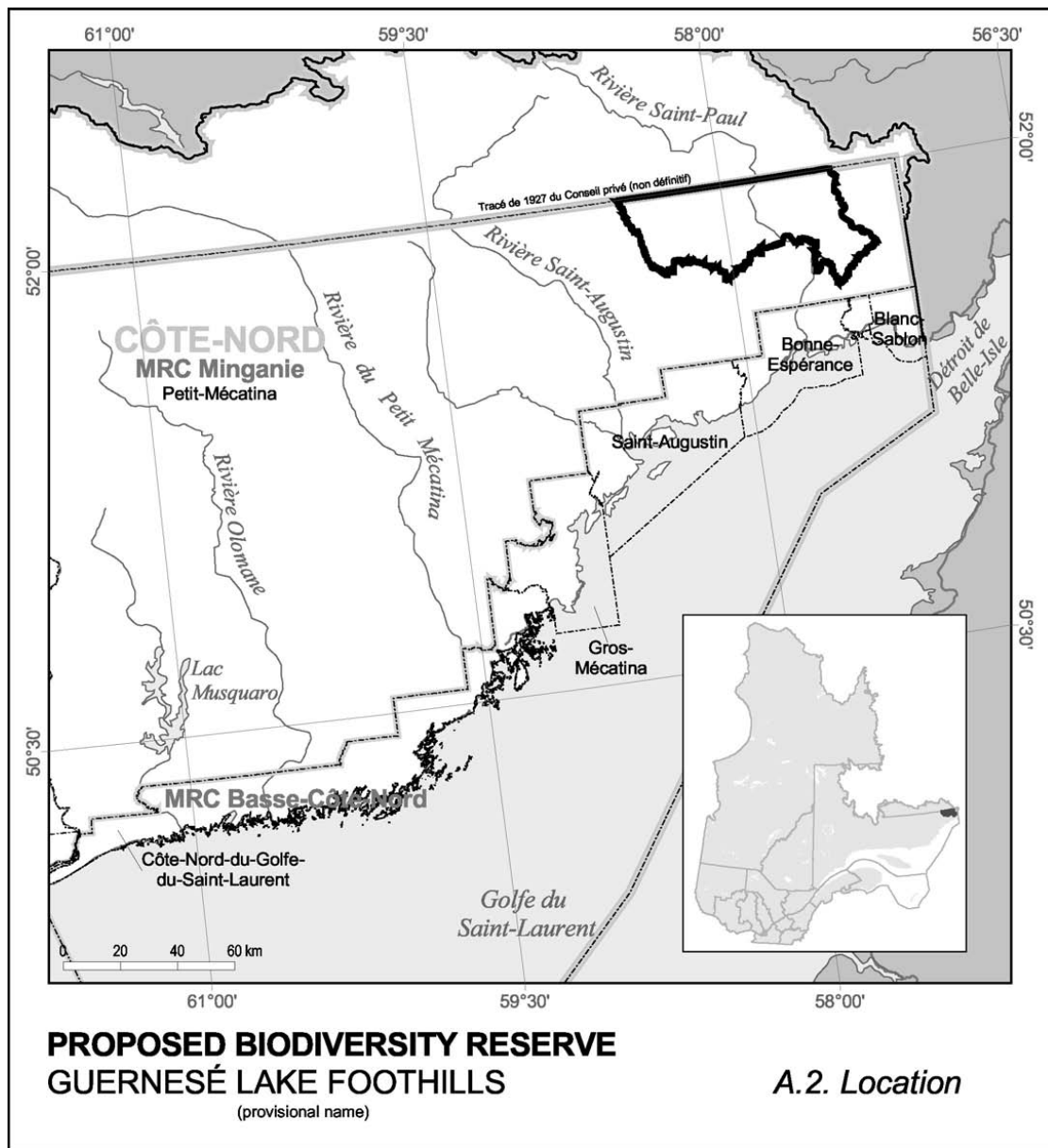
The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "biodiversity reserve" status under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

Schedules

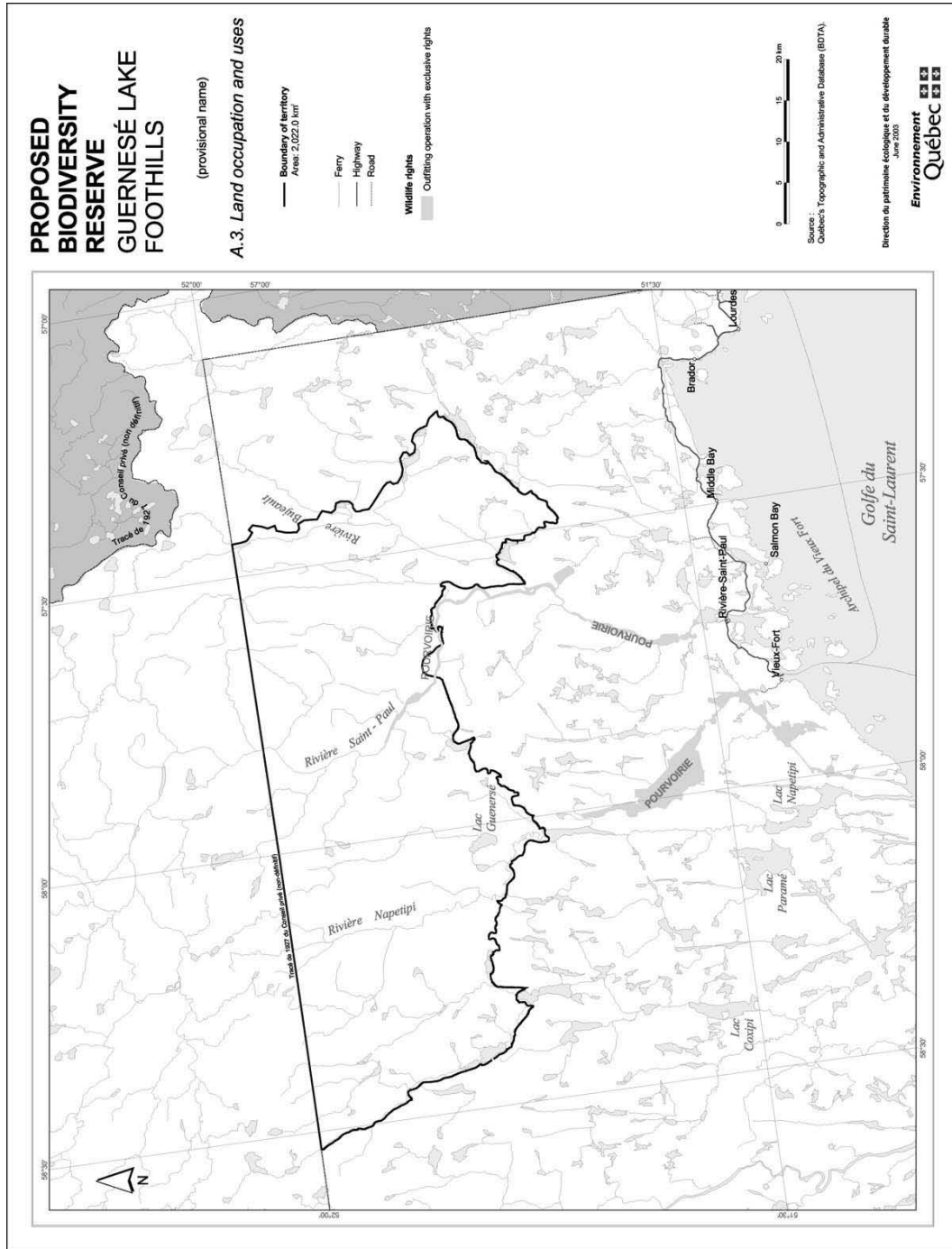
A.1. Plan of the proposed Guernesé lake foothills biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Guernesé lake foothills biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Guernesé lake foothills biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED BRADOR HILLS BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CONSERVATION PLAN

September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1 and A.2.

The proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve is located in the Côte-Nord administrative region, between 51°32' and 51°36' north latitude and 57°07' and 57°13' west longitude. It is situated approximately 15 km north of Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon.

The northern quarter of the reserve lies within the unorganized territory of Petit-Mécatina and is part of Municipalité régionale de comté de la Minganie. The remainder of the territory is in Municipalité de Blanc-Sablon and is part of Municipalité régionale de comté de la Basse-Côte-Nord.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers a total area of 32.3 km².

1.2. Ecological overview

The protected area is in the natural province of the Lower North Shore Plateau. It protects exceptional landscapes and habitats in the middle Saint-Augustin hills natural region.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The Brador hills watershed is characterized by a subpolar, humid continental climate with a short growing season. It belongs to the bioclimatic field of mossy spruce stands.

Geology and geomorphology: The reserve is wholly within the Grenville geologic province of the Canadian Shield. The landscape consists of low tabular hills of carbonate rock (limestone and dolomite) emerging from the Precambrian basement. Embedded in a felsic matrix (granite), this geological formation is rare in the Lower North Shore natural province. In the south, the substratum is also formed of metamorphic rock, namely gneiss and paragneiss. The altitude in the protected area varies between 170 m and 370 m.

Hydrography: Courtemanche lake has an area of approximately 3.8 km² and occupies the depression at the centre of the protected area. This headwater lake feeds the Brador Est river, which is a Strahler 2 river.

Vegetation: The territory of the protected area is covered by dry heath, a plant formation almost devoid of trees that consists of stunted shrubs, grasses, mosses and lichens. The flora is formed of vascular plants adapted to dry and marginal soils, including a milk vetch (*Oxytropis campestris*) and a dwarf Arctic form of rhododendron, the Lapland rose-bay (*Rhododendron lapponicum*). These plants are generally associated with *Rhytidium rugosum*, a moss species.

1.2.2. Outstanding elements

The waters of the Brador Est river provide spawning and rearing habitat for Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). The river has salmon river status.

The calcareous Brador hills, by reason of their geologic specificity, support a unique flora that could include rare or threatened plants, or plant species likely to be rare or threatened.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

The territory lies within the Saguenay beaver reserve in which the Native communities have special rights regarding the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

The entire territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve lies within fur-bearing animal management unit (FAMU) 66.

No land rights have been granted within the perimeter of the protected area.

2. Protection status

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives:

- the conservation of an exceptional geologic landscape in the middle Saint-Augustin hills natural region;

- the preservation of biodiversity in calcareous dry heaths;

- the protection and restoration of Atlantic salmon habitat;

— the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in biodiversity reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management activities within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes; earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

— Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

— Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

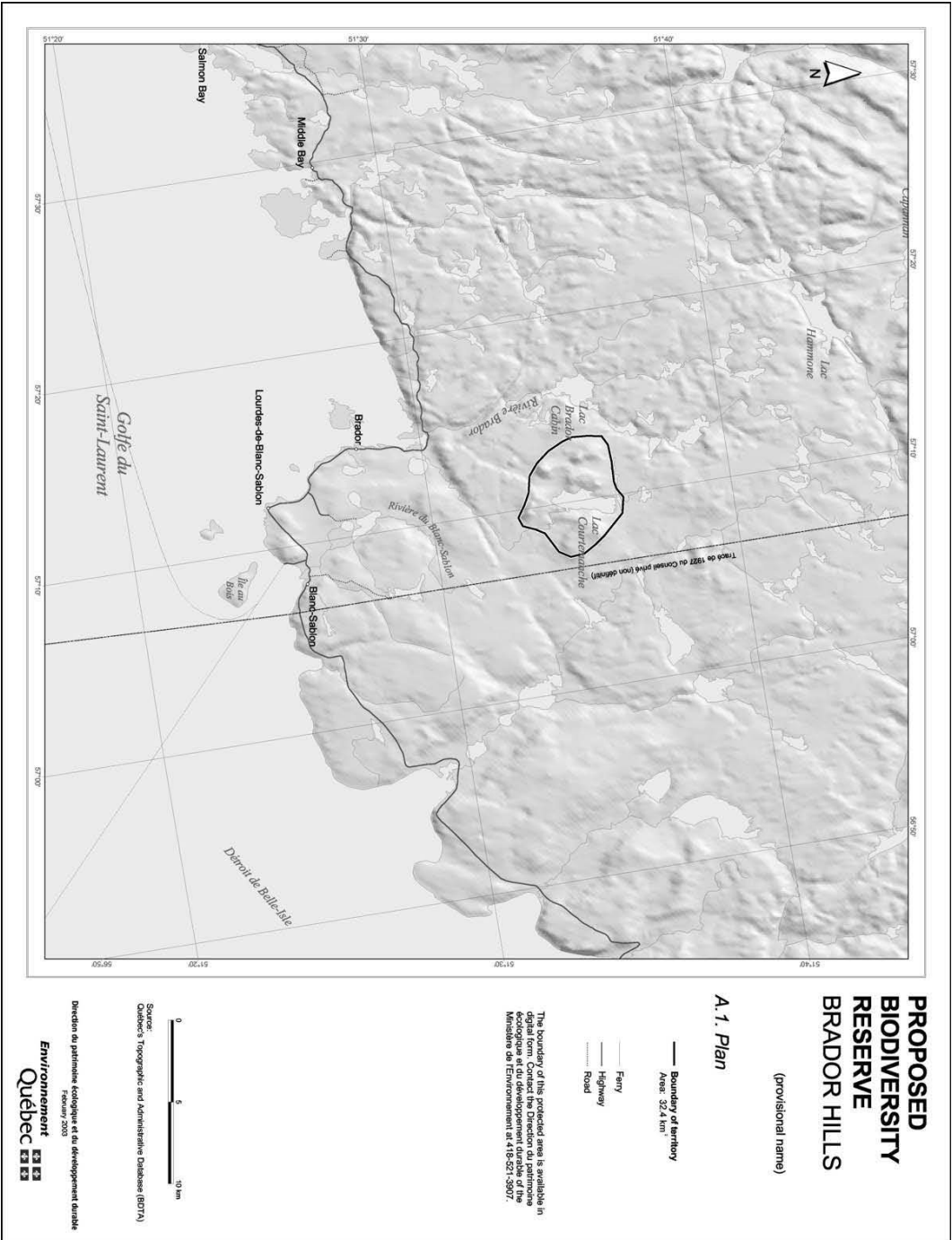
The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

4. Permanent protection status

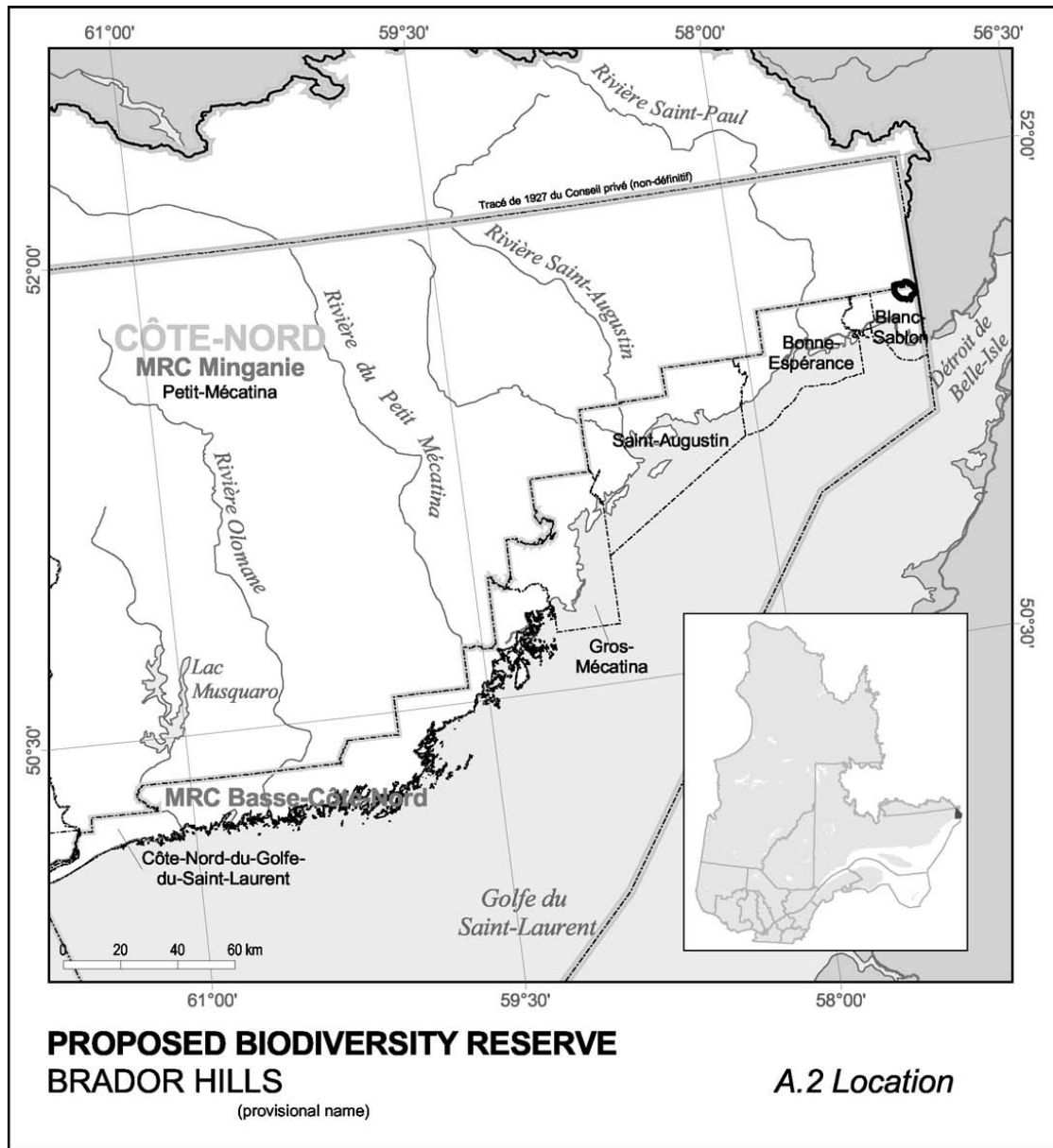
The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "ecological reserve" status under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

Schedules

A.1. Plan of the proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Brador hills biodiversity reserve (provisional name)

