



# Scientific Research in Québec National Parks in Nunavik: Researcher's Guide

Mai 2021



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## 1 National Park Network in Québec

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The mission of the network of national parks in Québec is to provide permanent protection to representative areas of the different natural regions of the province and to exceptional natural heritage sites. National parks are accessible for the practice of outdoor and interpretation activities, and provide a unique opportunity to discover magnificent landscapes, marked by life and human history.

## 2 National Park Network in Nunavik

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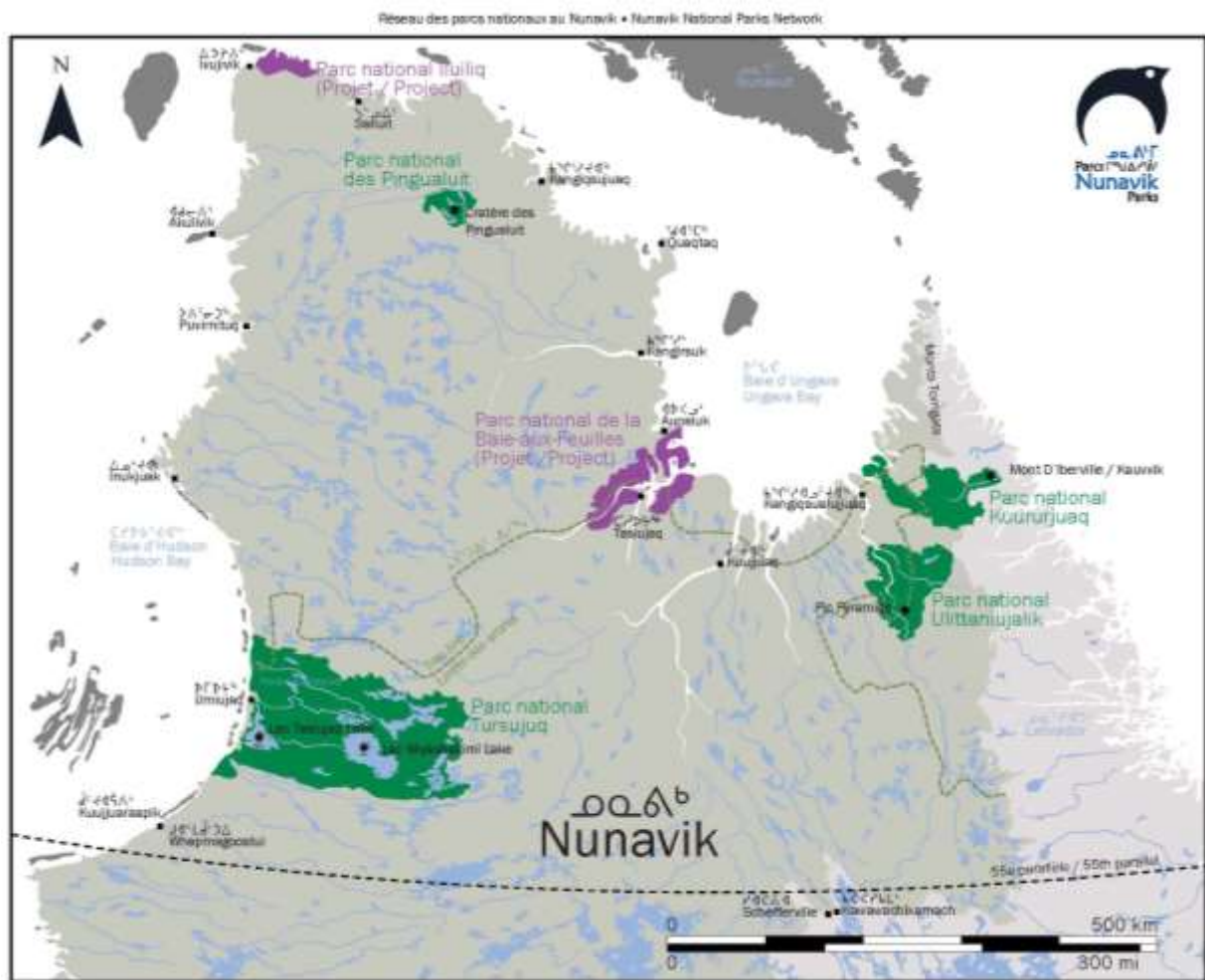
Nunavik is a vast region covering more than 500,000 km<sup>2</sup>. It nurtures an array of wildlife and plants that are well adapted to the harsh climate, as well as breathtaking landscapes that deserve a favoured place among Québec's protected natural heritage. It is for this purpose that the Québec government is committed to creating national parks. These protected areas allow visitors to learn about our rich heritage and discover its beauties. They also provide opportunities to interact with Inuit who continue to practise their traditional activities in these areas. National parks contribute to the economic and social development of Nunavik. Responsibility for their management has been delegated to the Kativik Regional Government (KRG).

In 2004, Parc national des Pingualuit was the first national park to be created in Nunavik. Parc national Kuururjuaq was created in 2009, Parc national Tursujuq in 2013 and Parc national Ulittaniujalik in 2016. Summary descriptions of priority and secondary research potentials have been prepared.





### 3 National Parks, Park Projects and Park Reserves in Nunavik



## 4 Research in National Parks

The *Parks Policy*<sup>1</sup> of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs (sustainable development, environment, wildlife and parks, MDDEFP) stipulates that each park must possess a planning document for research knowledge acquisition activities in line with the short-, medium- and long-term management problems and orientations of the park. Major heritage conservation and development challenges must be the basis of knowledge acquisition activity planning.

Knowledge acquisition also feeds park educational programs and the transfer to visitors of concepts related specifically to the territory, making for a richer discovery experience and contributing to heritage protection.

Moreover, considering the impacts generated by climate change, an increased number of research projects in the north is expected.

The *Parks Act* stipulates that the MDDEFP has authority over park territories and a mandate to protect park resources. It is therefore important to set parameters to ensure that research complies with the fundamental principle of conservation:

1. Conservation takes precedence over development;
2. Heritage integrity must be maintained;
3. Precautionary principle should be at the heart of all decisions.

Among those three principles, the first one is the most important.

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<sup>1</sup> *Parks Policy, conservation*, 2010, 117 p.



This document is intended to serve as a guide to researchers to help them plan their projects and present streamlined applications for obtaining the necessary authorizations.

## 5 Applications

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### 5.1 Authorization to Carry Out Research and Collect Specimens

Scientific research is managed so as to minimize negative impacts on natural and cultural heritages, visitor experiences and park activities. They are also evaluated based on the zoning of the park. Each zone is associated with a level of protection where certain activities can be restricted. Thus, research projects will be more easily accepted if they are conducted in a service, environment and protection zone. For a maximum protection zone, researchers must prove that his work can't be done in other areas. Description of the zoning and zoning plan for each park are presented in appendix 1. Finally, particular attention will be paid to research involving fragile sites as well as threatened or vulnerable species so as to minimize harmful impacts on individual plants and animals and their essential habitats.

Authorization to carry out research and collect specimens must be obtained from park management prior to any work. Applications may be submitted by anyone who possesses the proper academic qualifications and experience and has the backing of a recognized scientific or educational institution or federal, provincial, territorial or Native organization or agency.

Based on the nature and scope of the scientific research, other government-



issued permits may also be a necessary condition of a park authorization. For example, a permit issued by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles (natural resources, MRN) is required to capture animals for scientific, educational or management purposes. With respect to migratory birds, a permit issued by the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada is necessary and, with respect to saltwater fish, a permit issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada is necessary. Furthermore, any research that could cause an animal to suffer from stress, excessive discomfort, or severe pain or distress requires a certificate of compliance with the standards of the Canadian Council on Animal Care, issued by the MRN. The removal of archaeological artefacts is prohibited, unless removal of the artefact is absolutely necessary to ensure its preservation. Excavation work performed at archaeological sites in a park requires the prior authorization of the Ministère de la Culture and des Communications (culture and communications).

The above list of permits is not exhaustive; other permits may be required pursuant to other laws and regulations. While these additional permits are not required before applying for authorization to carry out research and collect specimens, they are a necessary condition of a valid authorization. Consequently, these additional permits may be requested once authorization to carry out research and collect specimens has been approved.

Applications for authorization to carry out research and collect specimens in a park must be forwarded to the KRG conservation and education officers using the form provided in Appendix I. Applications must be submitted by mail, email or fax prior to the commencement of the work, specifically no later than **March 1** for





summer projects and **August 1** for winter projects. Applications must include the following information:

- ❖ the names and contact information of the senior researcher and the other members of the research team;
- ❖ proof of the academic qualifications of the researchers: declaration of level of study, list of prior research, and two letters of reference with up-to-date contact information;
- ❖ the park selected and the reason for this choice;
- ❖ the title of the project; the field of research; the objectives of the project;
- ❖ zoning in which the studies will be conducted, if in a maximum protection zone a clear explanation must be done to justify why it can't be conducted anywhere else;
- ❖ potential benefits of the research on park management;
- ❖ a description of the project and its methodology;
- ❖ means of transportation to travel to and in the park, as well as the type of accommodations in the park (tents, mobile camps, etc.);
- ❖ the location in the park where research will be carried out and the reason for this choice;
- ❖ the nature and extent of environmental impacts (taking into account the possible disturbance of visitors, the neighbouring population and the practice of traditional Inuit harvesting activities);
- ❖ the measures proposed to mitigate impacts, including waste management;
- ❖ a list of material and specimens to be collected, storage methods,





proposed storage sites, and exportation plans;

- ❖ if applicable, the threatened or vulnerable species targeted, as well as the measures proposed to protect the survival or recovery of these species;
- ❖ the project timetable: start and finish dates, the schedule for visits to the park and community presentations, and report submission dates;
- ❖ the logistical support required (accommodations, data, equipment, labour, financial contribution, etc.).

## 5.2 Application Review

Applications are first reviewed by the KRG conservation and education officers to ensure they comply with requirements. Subsequently, they are presented to the harmonization committee<sup>2</sup> for the park. The harmonization committee initially ensures that the project complies with all applicable laws, regulations and policies. Decisions to accept or reject applications for authorization to carry out research or collect specimens are then based on analysis of the various pros and cons of the project.

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<sup>2</sup> In Nunavik, park projects are automatically subject to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure set out under Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* and Chapter II of the *Environment Quality Act*. Moreover, certificates of authorization regarding the creation of national parks provide for the establishment of an advisory body to examine and approve scientific research projects. In concrete terms, this mandate lies with the harmonization committees established with the signing of the park management agreement. Harmonization committees vary from park to park and generally comprise representatives of the MDDEFP, the KRG, the Makivik Corporation, as well as concerned northern villages and landholding corporations. Whenever necessary, harmonization committees may call on outside expertise to assist with the review of complex projects.



## Pros

The research project will:

- Enhance knowledge about the park's heritage.
- Foster more effective management and heritage interpretation.
- Ensure participants' safety, minimize environmental risks, and include mitigation measures.
- Have an acceptable minimal impact<sup>3</sup> on the park's heritage. Environmental assessment may be necessary.
- Be led by researcher(s) who are recognized in the proposed field of research.
- Generate the publication of peer-approved articles.
- Foster the participation of Inuit or integrate Inuit traditional knowledge.
- Generate helpful knowledge for the practice of traditional Inuit harvesting activities in the park.

## Cons

The research project:

- Is likely to have significant negative impacts on the ecological integrity of the park.
- Is in a field of research related to activities that are inconsistent with the park's mission.
- May interfere with the quality of visitor experiences.
- May interfere with traditional Inuit harvesting activities.
- Requires excessive logistical support on the part of park staff.
- The application was sent after the deadline (March 1st and August 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Is not explained in sufficient detail or justified.
- The researchers refuse to share the results of their work with park staff and neighbouring communities.

Harmonization committees may take up to 30 days to examine applications and, if applicable, to request additional information or call on outside expertise before making a decision.

## 5.3 Harmonization Committee Decisions

The senior researcher will receive by mail, email or fax written notice that the application has been approved or refused. Research projects that are refused may be re-submitted for analysis if amended. Harmonization committees may assist researchers to develop solutions to problematic elements of a project.

<sup>3</sup> Acceptable minimal impact means that the project, activity or service will have no impact on the park's ecological integrity.



When the harmonization committee approves a project, the written notice of authorization to carry out research and collect specimens will also include certain conditions which must be signed by the park director and the senior researcher. While the work is being carried out in the park, the senior researcher and all the members of the research team must have on their person a copy of the authorization. Park wardens may ask that the authorization be presented at any time.

#### 5.4 Authorization Conditions

Authorization to carry out research and collect specimens includes certain general conditions aimed at ensuring compliance with park regulations and the protection of the park's heritage. Specifically, all authorized projects must comply with the following conditions:

1. Research work must comply with Section 24 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*.
2. Authorization to carry out research and collect specimens is valid only if the senior researcher has also obtained all other necessary related permits. Copies of these permits must be forwarded to the KRG conservation and education officers prior to the commencement of work.
3. The senior researcher and all the members of the research team must carry with them a copy of the authorization to carry out research and collect specimens.
4. The senior researcher is responsible for ensuring that all the members of the research team comply with these conditions.



5. Members of the research team must notify park staff of any activity observed that does not seem to comply with park regulations.
6. The senior researcher is responsible for ensuring that the project activities comply with the list of activities authorized in the park.
7. The senior researcher is responsible for ensuring that the project activities comply with the regulations and conservation policies applicable in the park. For example, the disturbance, capture, harming, hunting and killing of animal specimens is prohibited, unless otherwise authorized by the harmonization committee for the research project or for safety purposes. The harming, mutilation, destruction and collection of plant specimens is prohibited, unless otherwise authorized by the harmonization committee for the research project.
8. Disturbance of the physical environment, whether through the sampling or moving of material, is prohibited, unless otherwise authorized by the harmonization committee for the research project.
9. The senior researcher and all the members of the research team must ensure the preservation of the physico-chemical qualities of the park's lakes, wetlands, as well as streams and rivers.
10. The senior researcher is committed to the principle of precaution for all the decisions relating to the activities in the park. This condition applies for any action even if a link of cause and effect could not be established scientifically.
11. The senior researcher must make presentations to park management and the neighbouring communities prior to the commencement of research work and after its completion.





12. The material and specimens collected from the park remain park property.  
Through an agreement with the park, the senior researcher may be permitted to retain and store the material and specimens collected.
13. It is strongly recommended that an Inuit guide be hired to ensure the safety of the researchers.
14. The senior researcher is responsible for the safety of the research team and for any emergency evacuation costs.

In addition to these general conditions, other specific conditions may be added to an authorization to carry out research and collect specimens whenever deemed necessary by a harmonization committee. Generally speaking, such specific conditions apply to research in maximum preservation zones or fragile sectors.

## 5.5 Authorization Amendments

The senior researcher must notify park management of any changes to the project that may require an amendment to the authorization to carry out research and collect specimens. Major amendments may require a new authorization. With respect to minor changes made to the project while it is already underway, the senior researcher must notify park management who may provide the authorization.

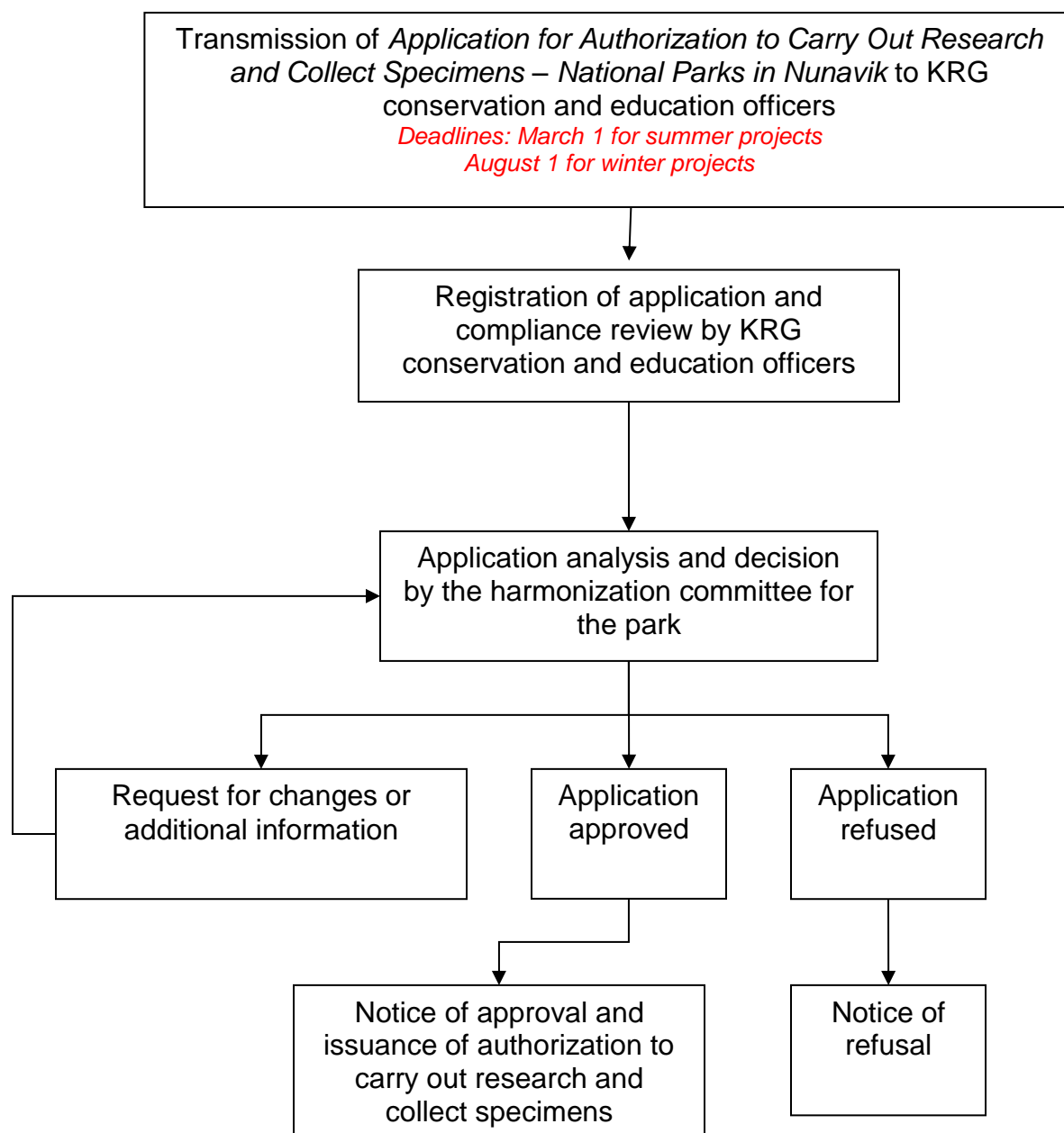


## 5.6 Summary

The authorization process presented herein is intended to be simple and permit activities that are normally prohibited in parks. The process is based on dialogue between senior researchers and park management and aims to minimize negative impacts on the natural and cultural heritage of parks, as well as visitor experiences and the practice of traditional Inuit harvesting activities. The flow chart appearing on the following page illustrates the process for obtaining authorization to carry out research and collect specimens.



**Figure 1: Authorization to Carry Out Research and Collect Specimens in a National Park in Nunavik**



## 6 Research Results

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The senior researcher must forward to the park director a copy of all data and publications produced in connection with the data collected in the park. In addition, where the research involves new methods that could be applied to the management and operation of the park, the senior researcher will provide to park staff the training necessary for them to implement the new methods.

Intellectual property rights for the data collected are held by the responsible researchers; furthermore, such data will not be disseminated without their authorization.

Where research work extends over more than one year, the senior researcher must submit annual reports to park management, describing the work carried out that year, as well as any problems encountered and possible solutions.





# Appendix 1

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Zoning description

Maps of the parks' zoning



## The zoning in Québec National Parks in Nunavik

- ❖ The **maximum preservation zone** is assigned to the integral preservation of the natural environment. Access is prohibited unless it is for educational or scientific purposes and with the authorization of the park's director.
- ❖ The **preservation zone** is a portion of the park characterized by a fragile environment and with a low recovery capacity. Access is only authorized on assigned trails. In exceptional cases, a few rustic camping sites can be found on long hiking trails.
- ❖ The **natural environment zone** is the most important in area. It is assigned for the discovery and exploration of the environment. It allows many diverse educational and recreational activities. Moreover, berry picking is allowed as well as fishing in designated areas in the park and under specific conditions.
- ❖ The **services zone**, as its name suggests, is assigned to the establishment of points of service like airstrips, cabins, etc.



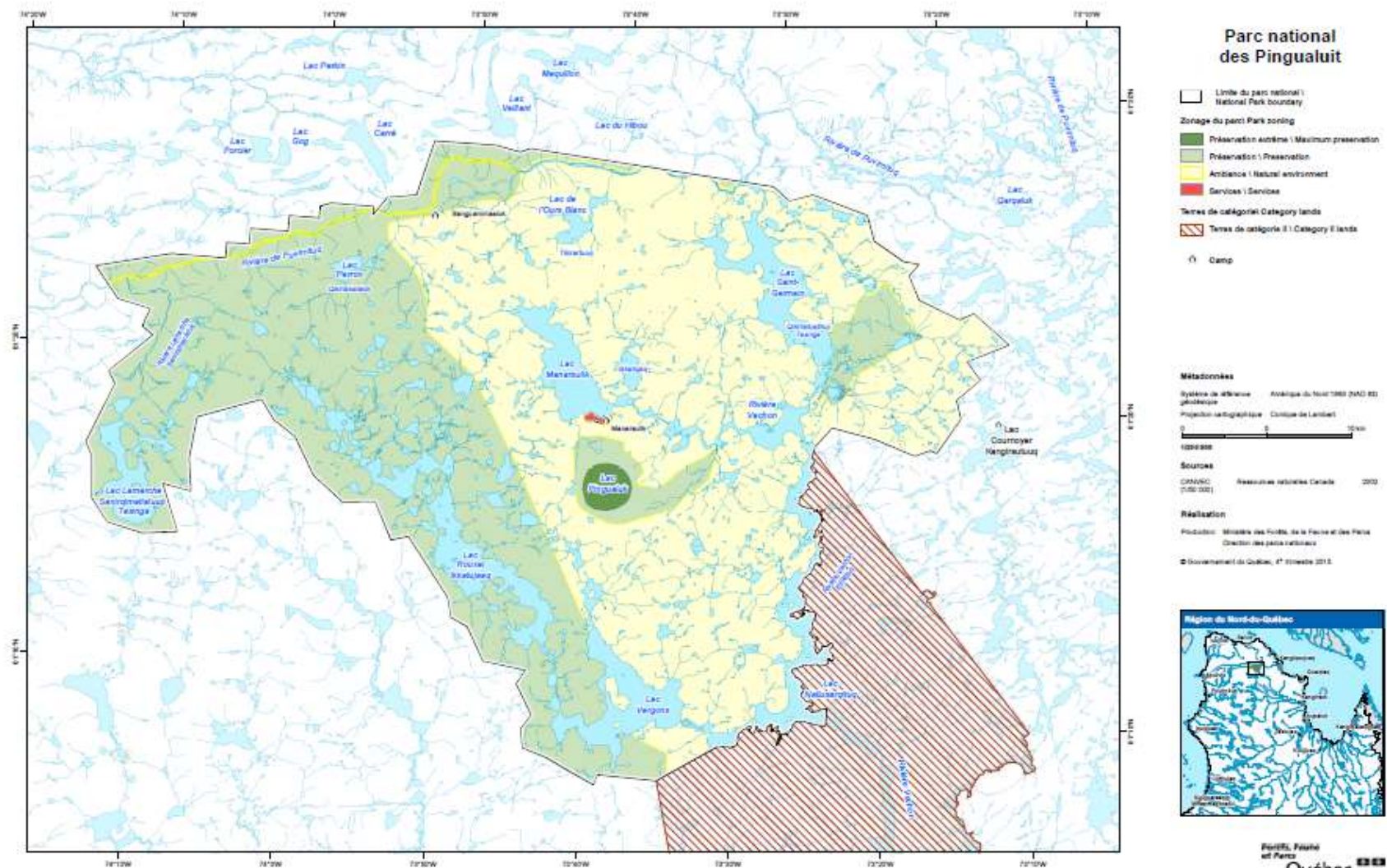
# Parc national des Pingualuit

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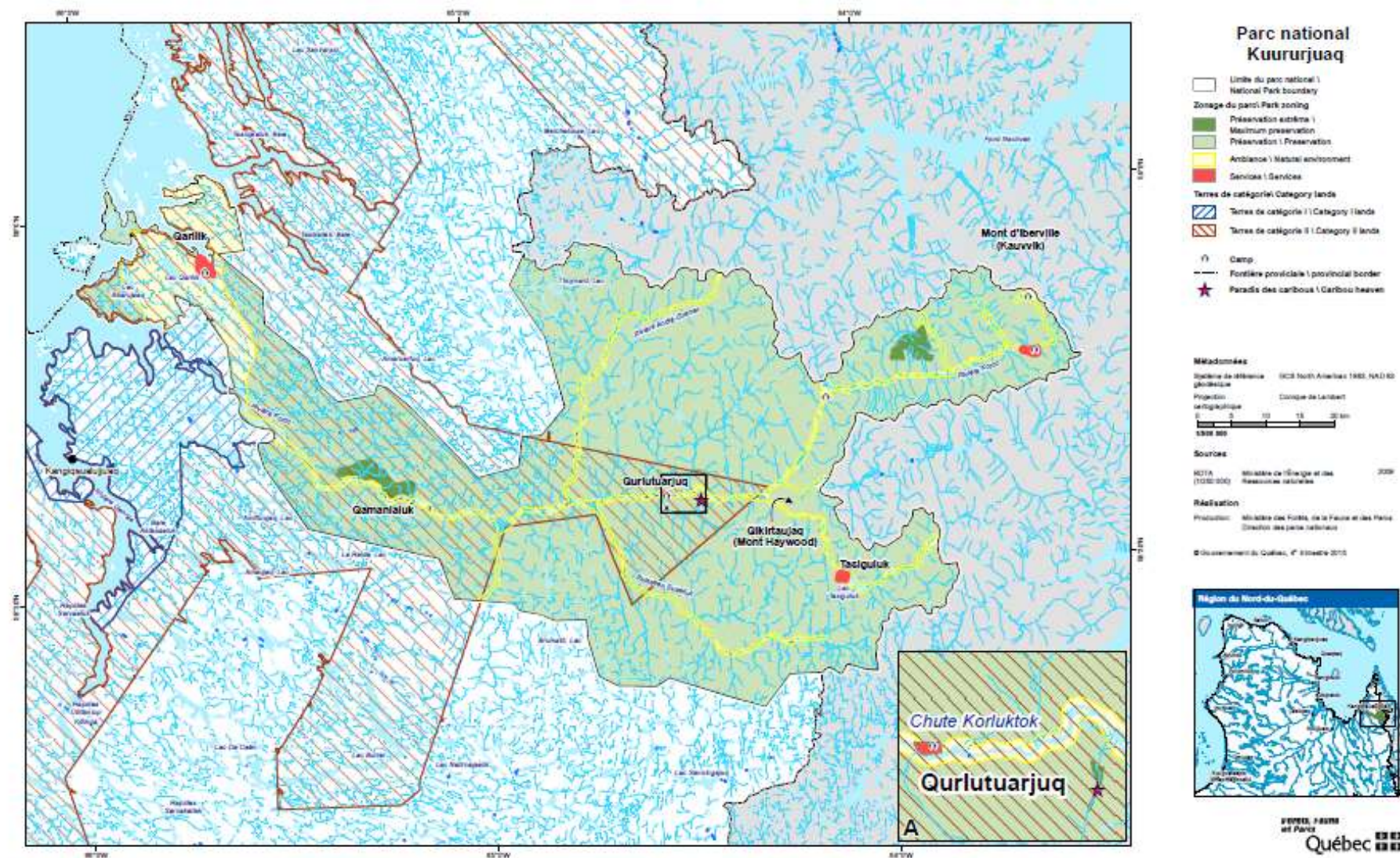
# Parc national Kuururjuaq

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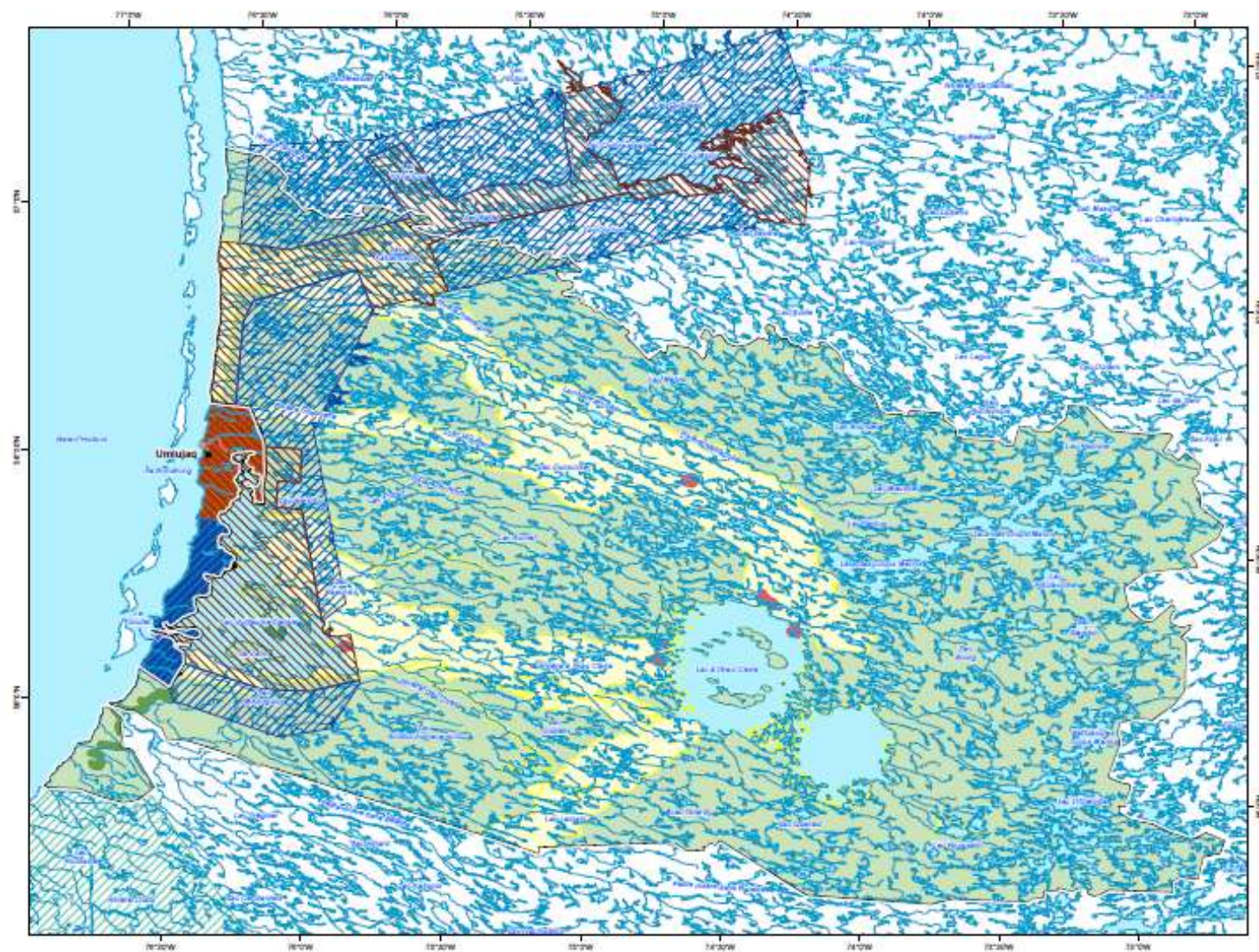
# Parc national Tursujuq

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## Parc national Tursujuq

- Limite du parc national / National Park boundary
- Zonage du parc / Park zoning
  - Préservation extrême / Maximum preservation
  - Préservation / Preservation
  - Ambiance / Natural environment
  - Services / Services
- Terres de catégorie I / Category I lands
  - Terres de catégorie I de Kuujuaq / Category I lands of Kuujuaq
  - Terres de catégorie I de Umanuq / Category I lands of Umanuq
  - Terres de catégorie II de Kuujuaq / Category II lands of Kuujuaq
  - Terres de catégorie II de Umanuq / Category II lands of Umanuq
  - Terres de catégorie II de Whapmaguahtu / Category II lands of Whapmaguahtu

**Métadonnées**  
 Système de référence géographique: NAD 83 North American 1983, NAD 83  
 Projection cartographique: Contour de Lambert  
 Échelle: 0 15 30 45 km  
 1:500 000

**Sources**  
 2008: Ministère des Ressources naturelles, 2008  
 (1:1 000 000) et de la Faune

**Réalisation**  
 Production: Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs  
 Direction des parcs nationaux

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Forêts, Faune et Parcs  
 Québec



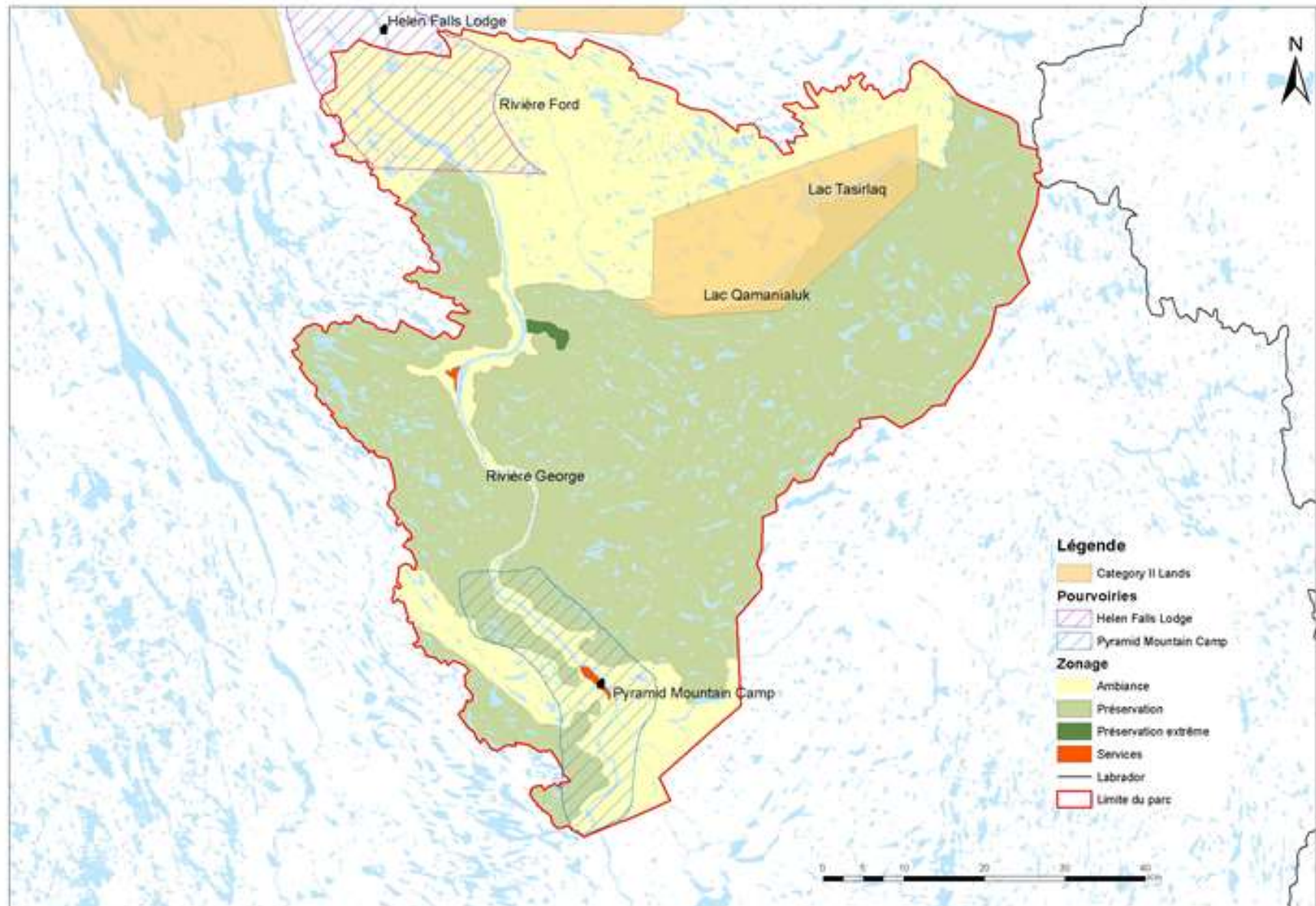


# Parc national Ulittaniujalik

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## Appendix 2

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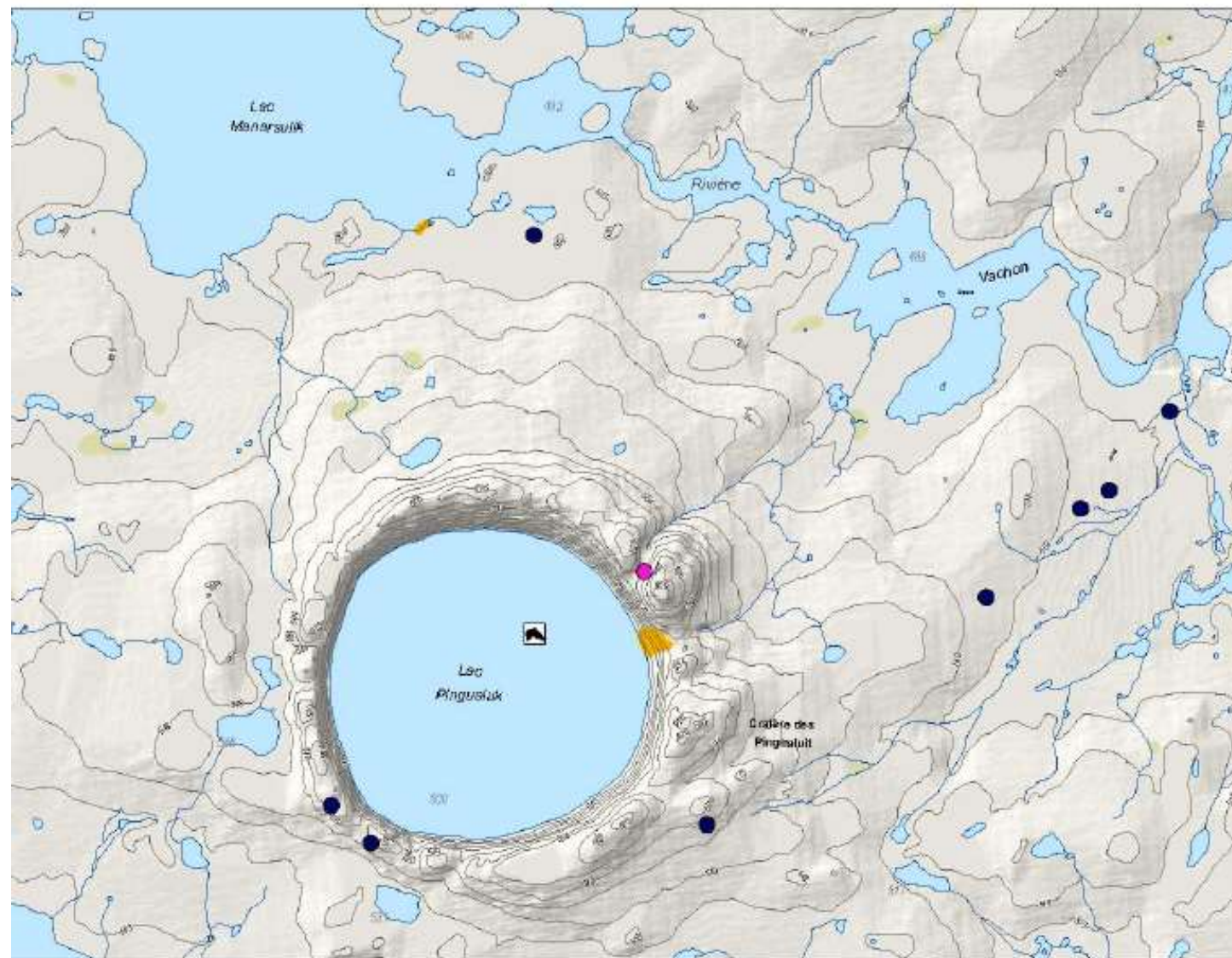
Maps of the archaeological sites in the parks



# Parc national des Pingualuit

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Carte 3  
**LE CRATÈRE ET SES ENVIRONS**  
Éléments sensibles des patrimoine naturels et culturel

- Site archéologique
- Chertéonite (impact météorique)
- Caribou (trajectoire)
- Bâges
- Limite**
- Actuelle
- Prétendue

Métadonnées

Système de coordonnées : UTM  
Projections : UTM  
Système de coordonnées : UTM  
Projections : UTM  
Système de coordonnées : UTM  
Projections : UTM

Échelle : 1:100 000  
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Sources

Source : **Organisation**  
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Source : **Organisation**

Références

Document de référence : **Document de référence**  
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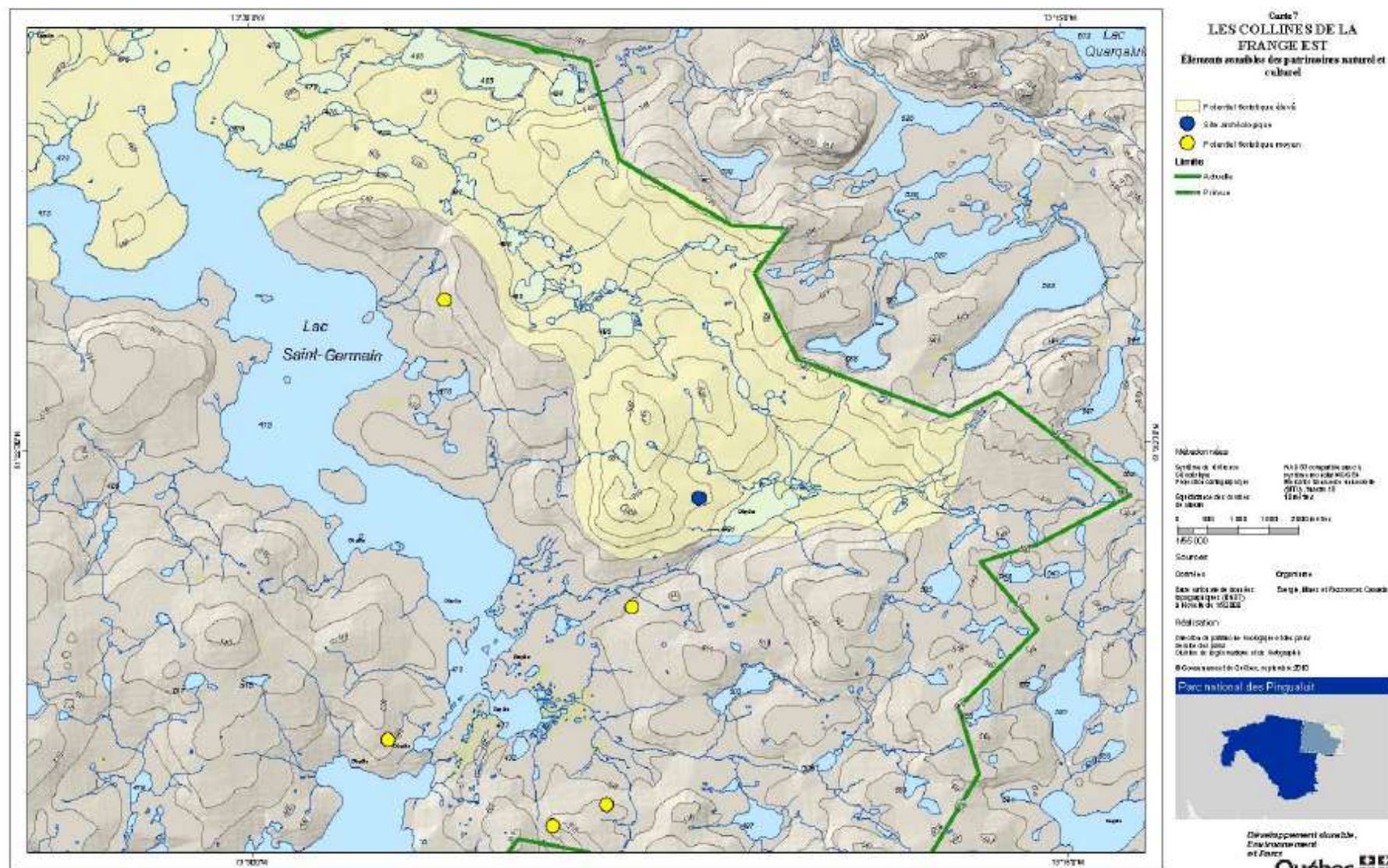
Parc national des Pingualuit



Développement durable  
Environnement  
et PARS

Québec











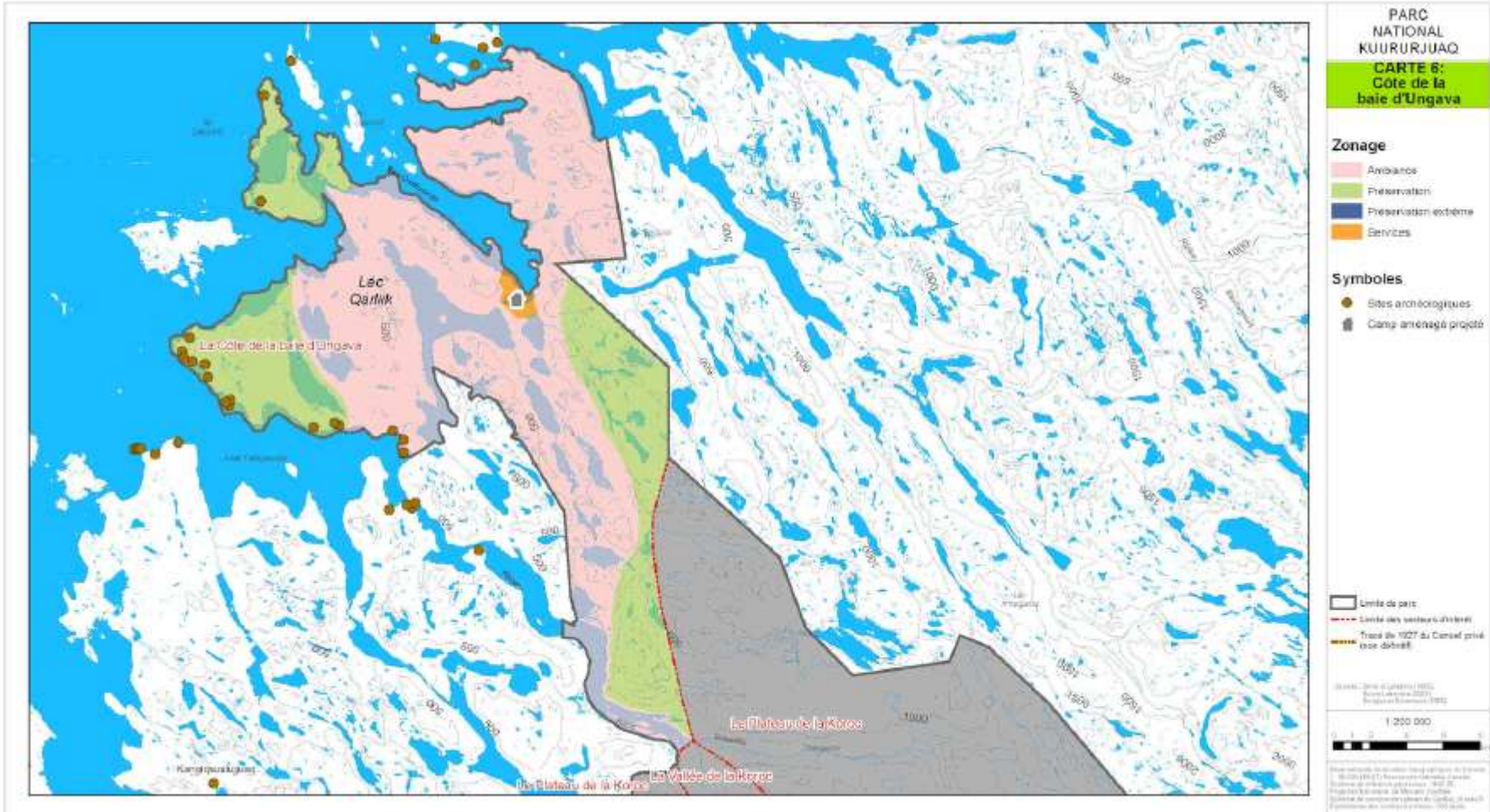


# Parc national des Kuururjuaq

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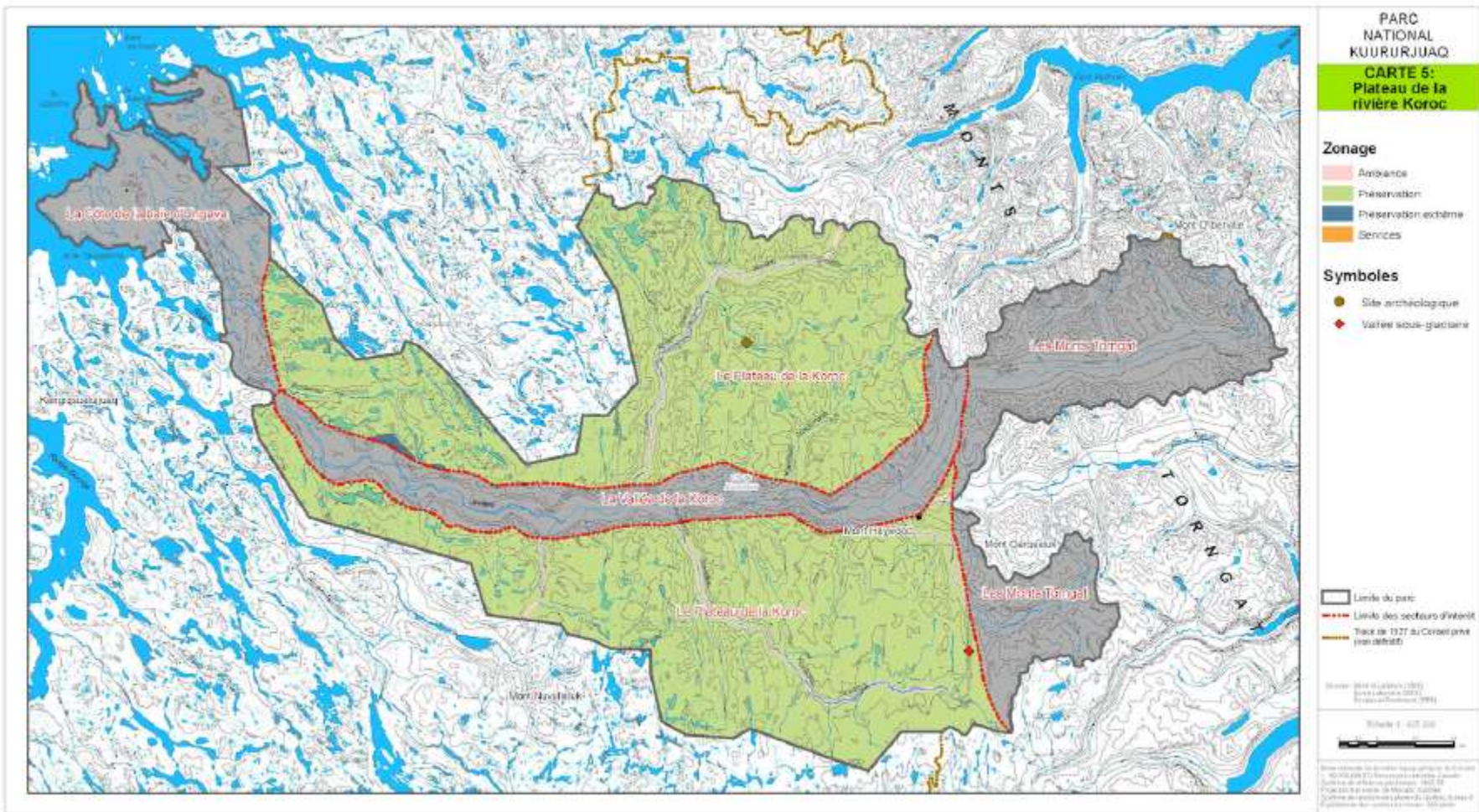




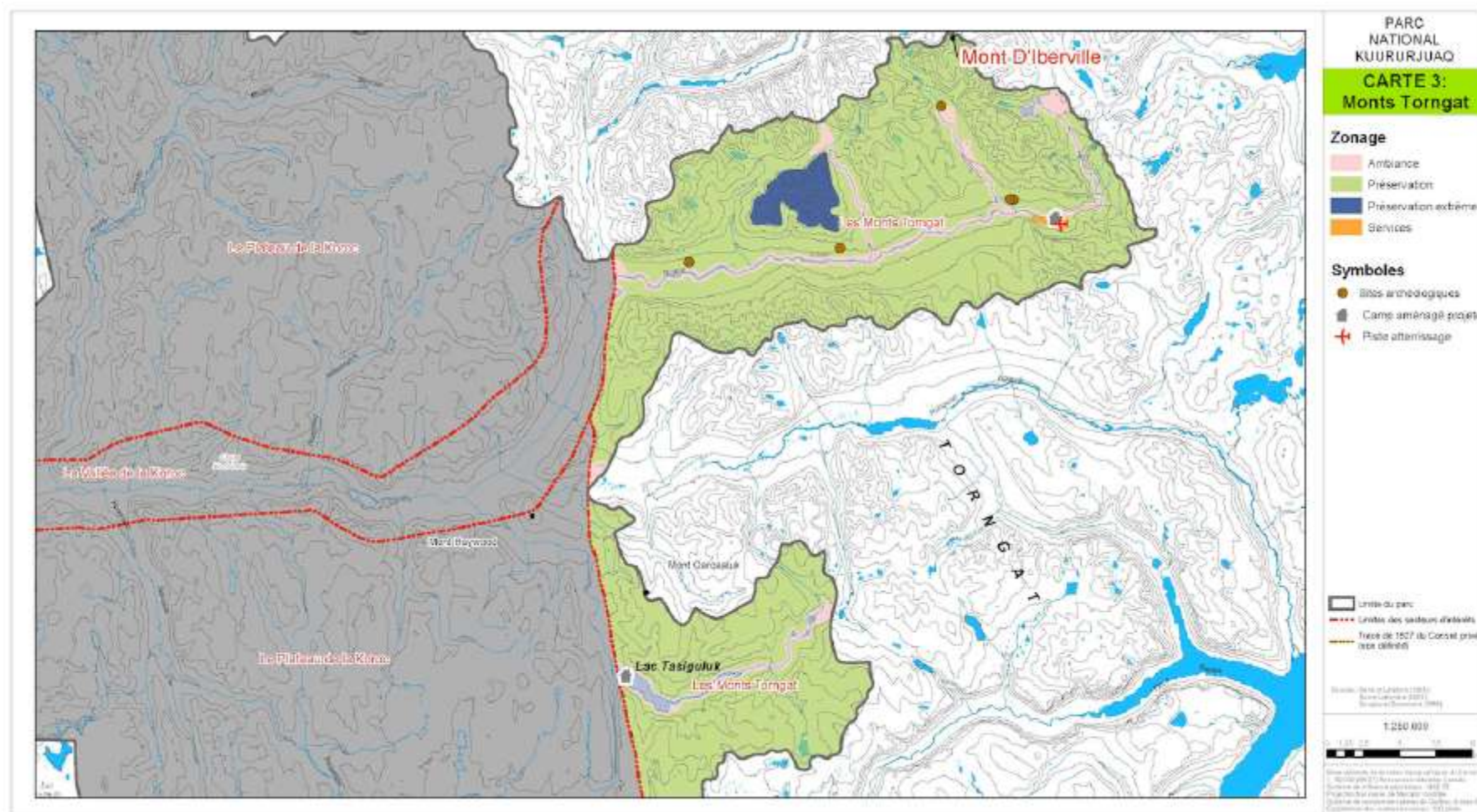










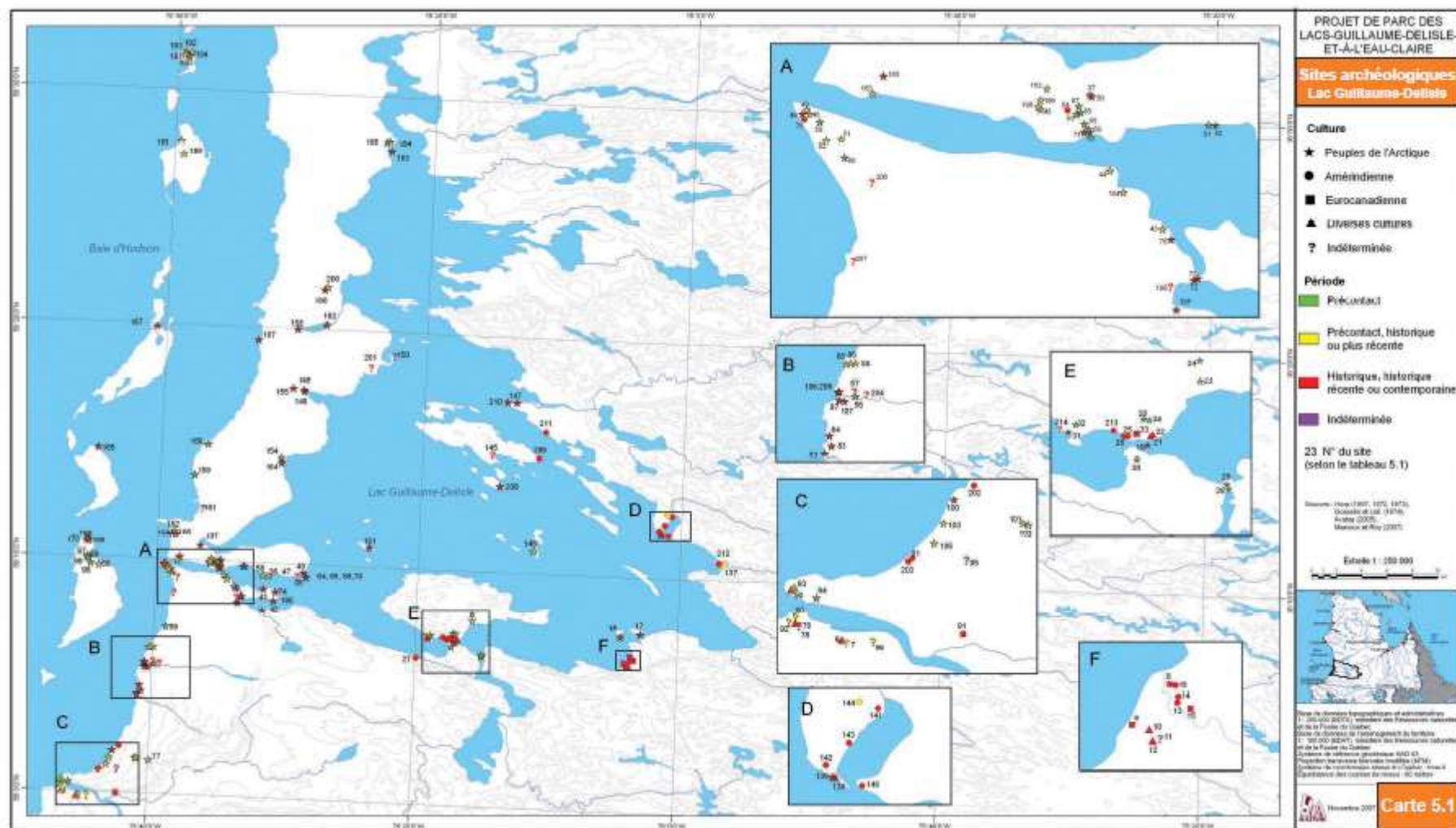


# Parc national Tursujuq

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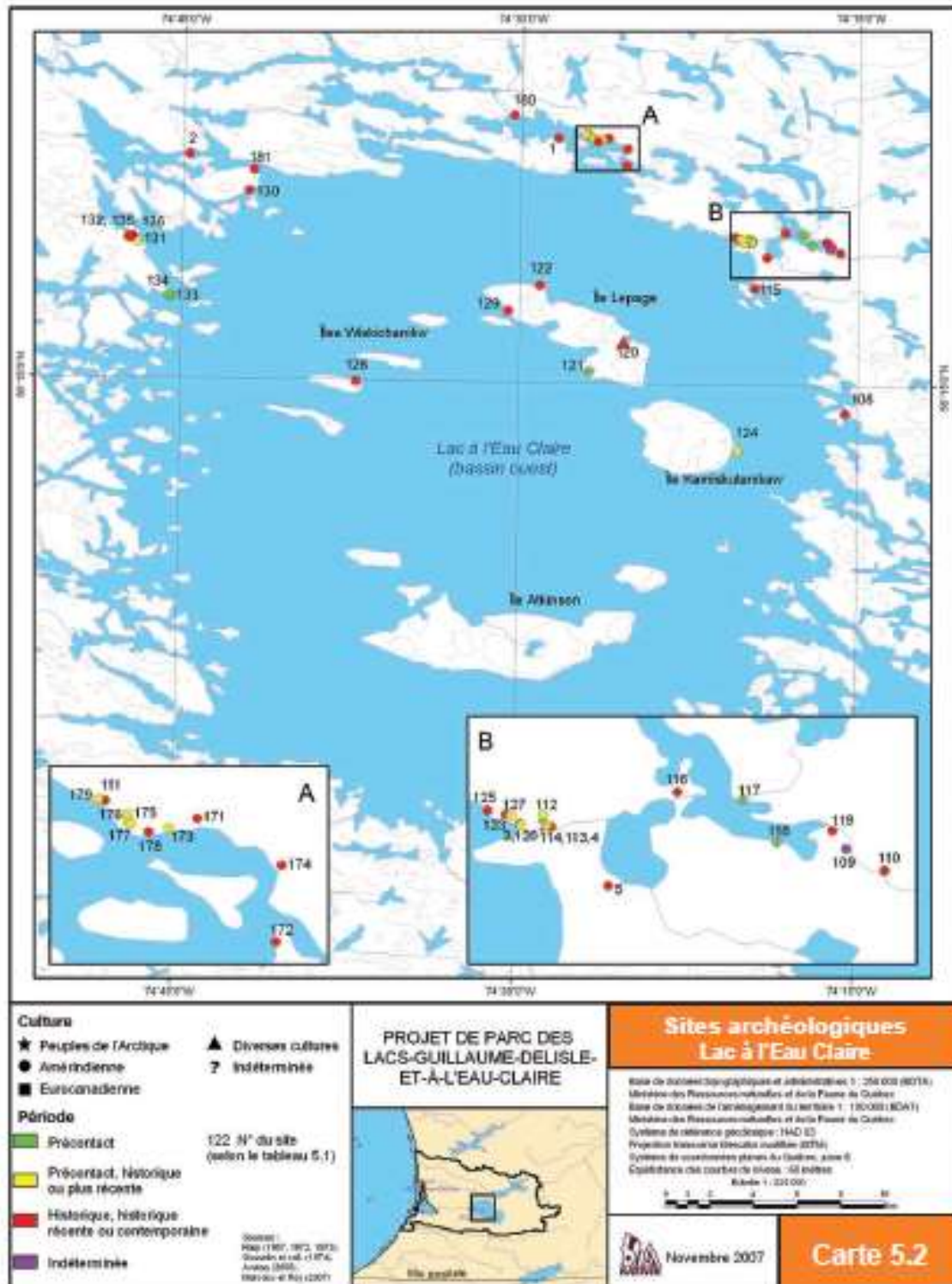














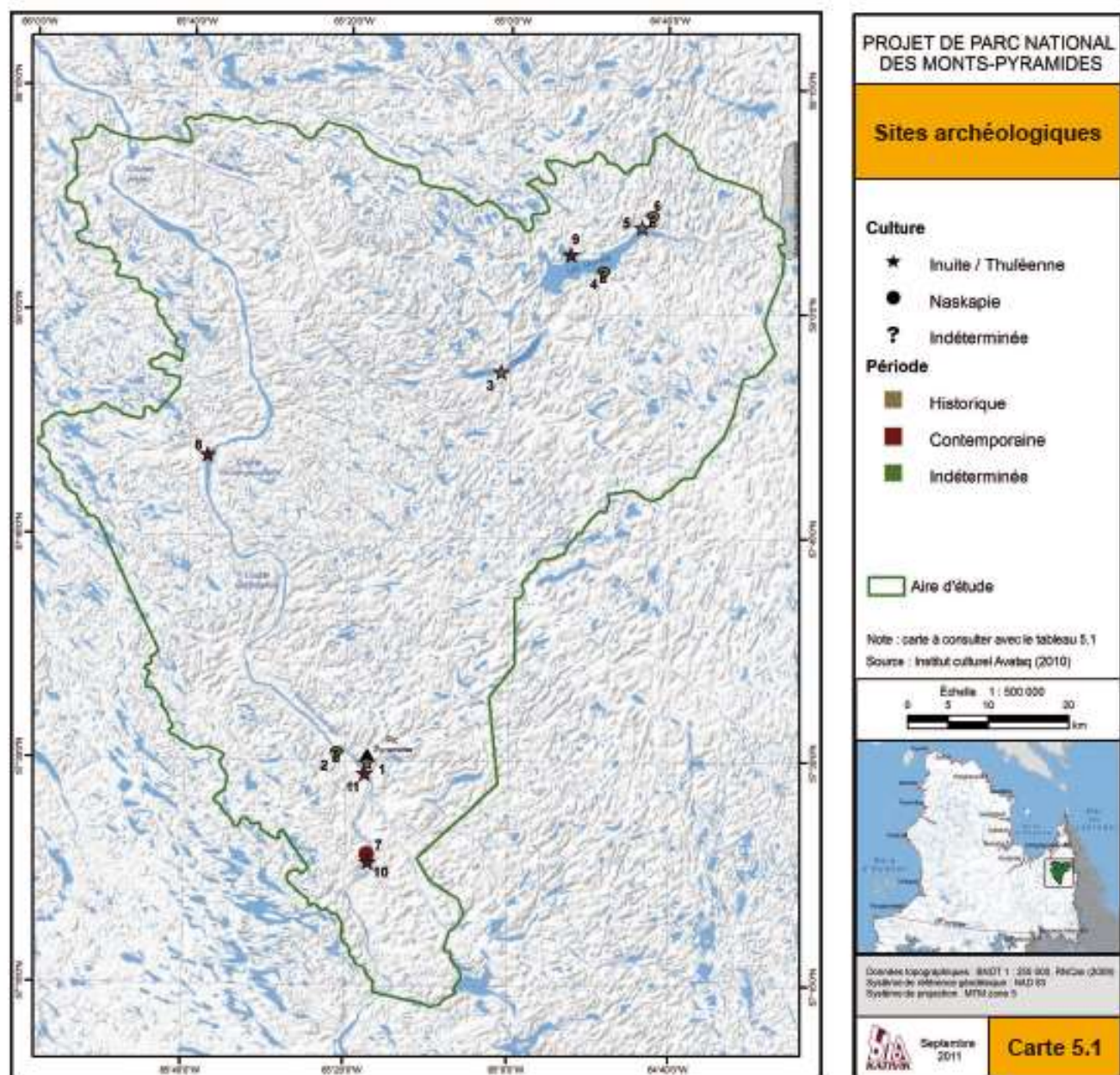
# Parc national Ulittaniujalik

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## Appendix 3

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Research

Application





# APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND COLLECT SPECIMEN IN NUNAVIK NATIONAL PARKS

**Reserved for the KRG**

Date of receipt:

File number:

## 1. Research Team

Name of senior researcher and contact details (postal address, phone number, email):

Academic qualifications of senior researcher, title and affiliation (university, college, government, research institute, etc.):

Field of research of senior researcher:

Research projects carried out in the last five years in relation to this research application (attach a list of publications):

Other members of the research team:

Name:

Address:

Title:

Telephone:

Affiliation (university, college, government, research institute, etc.):

Fax:

E-mail:



# APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND COLLECT SPECIMEN IN NUNAVIK NATIONAL PARKS

## 1. Research Team (continued)

Other members of the research team:	
Name:  Title:  Affiliation (university, college, government, research institute, etc.):	Address:   Telephone: Fax: E-mail:
Name:  Title:  Affiliation (university, college, government, research institute, etc.):	Address:   Telephone: Fax: E-mail:
Name:  Title:  Affiliation (university, college, government, research institute, etc.):	Address:   Telephone: Fax: E-mail:
Name:  Title:  Affiliation (university, college, government, research institute, etc.):	Address:   Telephone: Fax: E-mail:
Name:  Title:  Affiliation (university, college, government, research institute, etc.):	Address:   Telephone: Fax: E-mail:

## APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND COLLECT SPECIMEN IN NUNAVIK NATIONAL PARKS

### 2. *Project Description*

Park selected and reason for this choice:

Project title:

Project objectives:

Potential benefits of the research on the park:

Project description:

Location of the work and the reason for this choice. In the case of an aerial survey, provide the flight plan.  
Verify the zoning where this area is located and the presence of archaeological site(s) nearby.

## APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND COLLECT SPECIMEN IN NUNAVIK NATIONAL PARKS

### 2. *Project Description (continued)*

Means of accessing the park and travelling within the park:

Type of accommodations (park's camps, tents, mobile camp, etc.):

Methodology, instruments and identification of activities likely to have an impact on environment, cultural heritage, visitor in-park experience and/or the practice of traditional Inuit harvesting activity, even if it is a negligible one (for example, sampling living or non-living material, drilling, captures, etc.):



## **2. Project Description (continued)**

List of material and specimens to be collected, with quantities (if applicable):

If yes, list the species and specify the measures proposed to protect the survival or recovery of these species.



# APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND COLLECT SPECIMEN IN NUNAVIK NATIONAL PARKS

## 3. Research Timetable

Commencement date:	Termination date:
Number and date(s) of visit(s) in the park:	
Annual report submission date (for research lasting longer than a year):	
Results and final report submission date:	

## 4. Required Logistical Support

Data (documentation, maps, etc.): ___Yes ___No If yes, specify:
Equipment and labour: ___Yes ___No If yes, specify:
Transportation and access: ___Yes ___No If yes, specify:



## APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND COLLECT SPECIMEN IN NUNAVIK NATIONAL PARKS

Financial contribution: ___Yes ___No If yes, specify:  	Accommodation: ___Yes ___No If yes, specify:  
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Signature of senior researcher:

Date:

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Submit to: Kativik Regional Government / Nunavik Parks  
Conservation and education specialists  
P.O. Box 9  
Kuuujuaq, Quebec, J0M 1C0  
Telephone: (819) 964-2961  
Fax: (819) 964-0694  
Email : conservation.education@krg.ca