


Proposition of one aquatic reserve and seven biodiversity reserves in Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Courtesy translation

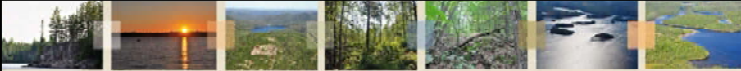


Public hearing (first part)

Val-d'Or, Ville-Marie and Gatineau


November 2012

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Plan of presentation

1. Protected areas creation context and definitions
2. Québec's and Abitibi-Témiscamingue network
3. Regional orientations
4. The creation process
5. Aquatic and biodiversity reserves : the concept
6. Reserves in consultation
7. Activity regime
8. Conclusion




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1. Context

- Previous government target aimed in 2009 (8 %);
- A Québec's network portray (2002-2009) was made and published in may 2010: assessing the quality of the network;
- The 20th of april 2011, new government orientations which target the protection of 12% of Québec for 2015 :
 - Pursue the representatvness target for the network (missed ecosystem, old-growth forests, mature forests, low fragmented forests, engangered species, etc.);
 - Consolidating the network by enhancing each protected area (ex.: design);
 - Enhanced the regional involvement.




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1. Context

- Why creating protected areas?
 - To protect rares and common ecosystems and species (wildlife, flora);
 - To keep natural areas for leisure activities and quality landscapes to offer new economic opportunities;
 - For environmental certification of forest companies = help to access international markets;
 - For a sustainable development of the territory, to save quality natural areas for future generations.




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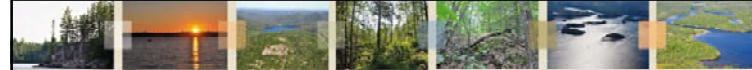
1. Context

Protected areas definition :

- ✓ A terrestrial or aquatic area geographically define;
- ✓ With legal and administrative frame;
- ✓ Aim to ensure protection :
 - ❖ Of biodiversity,
 - ❖ Of natural resources and associated cultural resources.



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1. Context

Recognized designations

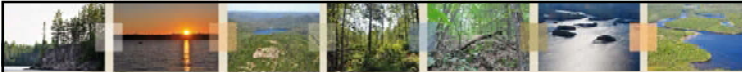
Public land (21)

- Commission de la capitale nationale park (Federal)
- National park and historical place of Canada (Federal)
- National park and national parks of Canada reserve (Federal)
- Migratory bird refuge (Federal)
- National wildlife reserve (Federal)
- Exceptionnel forest ecosystem (MRN)
- Wildlife habitat (MDDEFP)
- Wildlife refuge (MDDEFP)
- Québec's national park (MDDEFP)
- Québec's national park reserve (MDDEFP)
- Aquatic reserve and proposed aquatic reserve (MDDEFP)
- Biodiversity reserve and proposed biodiversity reserve (MDDEFP)
- Ecological reserve and proposed ecological reserve (MDDEFP)
- Protected area intended reserved territory (MDDEFP)
- Habitat for endangered species (MDDEFP)
- Humanized and proposed humanized landscape (MDDEFP)
- Protected marine area (Federal, MDDEFP)


Private land (2)

- Recognized natural reserve (MDDEFP)
- Natural area of voluntary conservation (NGO, association)

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2. Network state



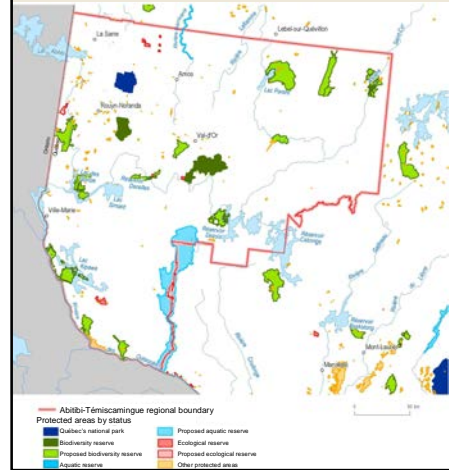
Québec's protected areas network

- 8,52 % of Québec protected
- Government target : 12 % for 2015

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2. Network state



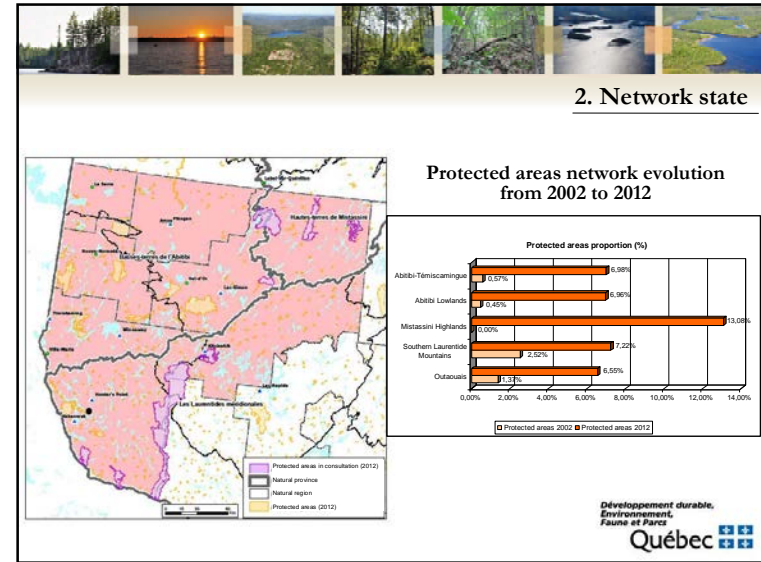
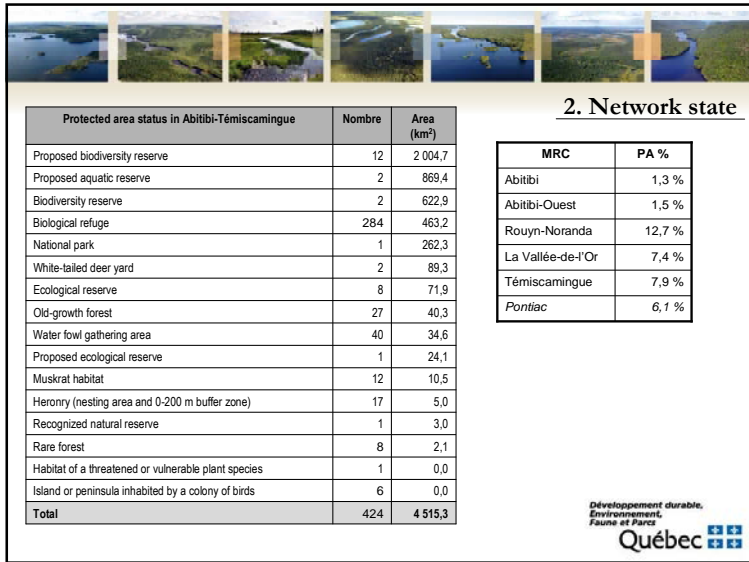
Abitibi-Témiscamingue protected areas network (2012)

- 424 protected areas
- 6,98 % of the region
- A majority of large protected areas has a temporary status

Outaouais (2012)

- 6,55 % of the region

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3. Regional orientations

Québec's strategic orientations

- Protect 12% of Québec
- Representativeness :
 - Physical and biological elements of ecosystems that aren't already protect
 - Protect more old-growth forests
 - Enhance protection of endangered species
- Network consolidation :
 - Enhance the design of existing protected areas
 - Apply, when possible, connectivity
 - Management of protected areas

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3. Regional orientations

Ecoregional gap analysis (protected areas portrait)

Based on ecological boundaries – natural regions of the Ecological reference framework

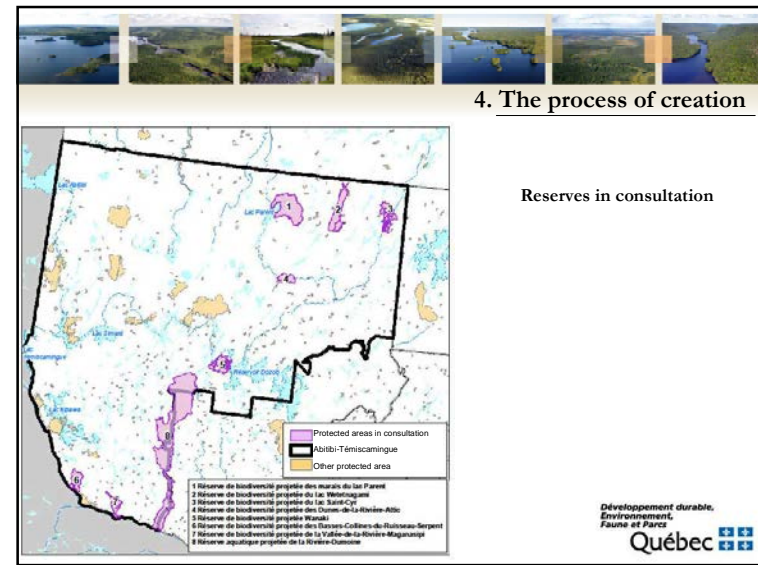
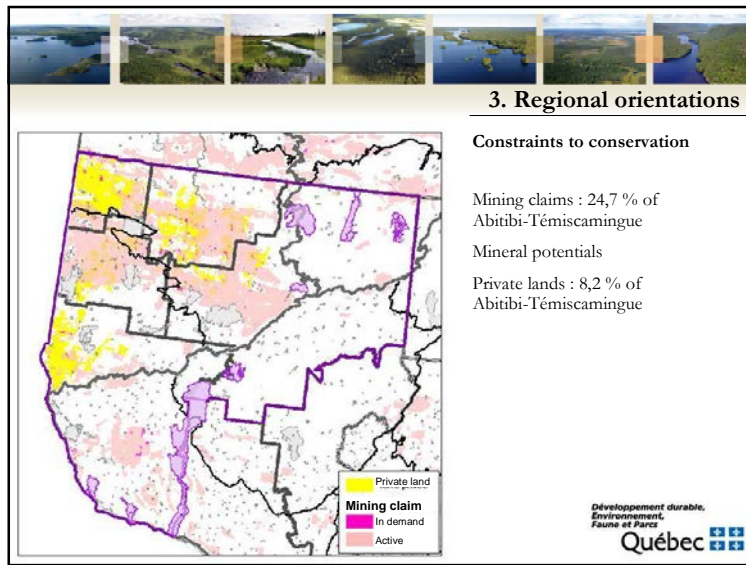
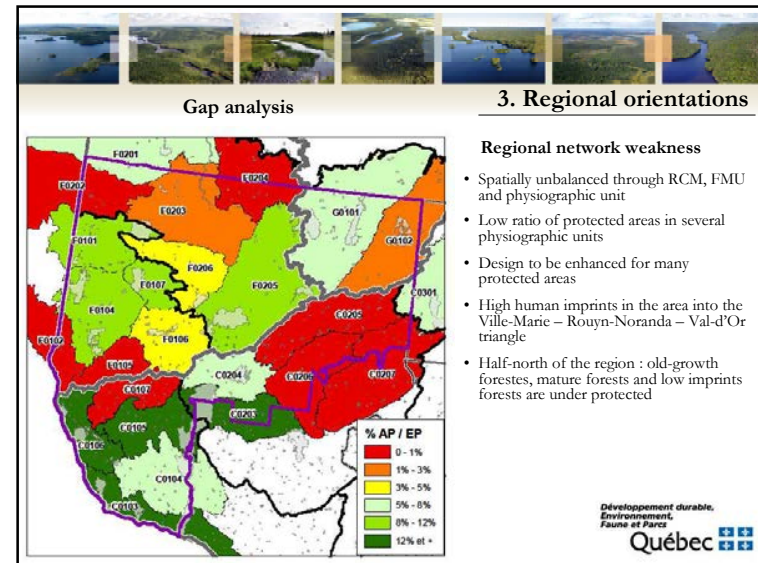
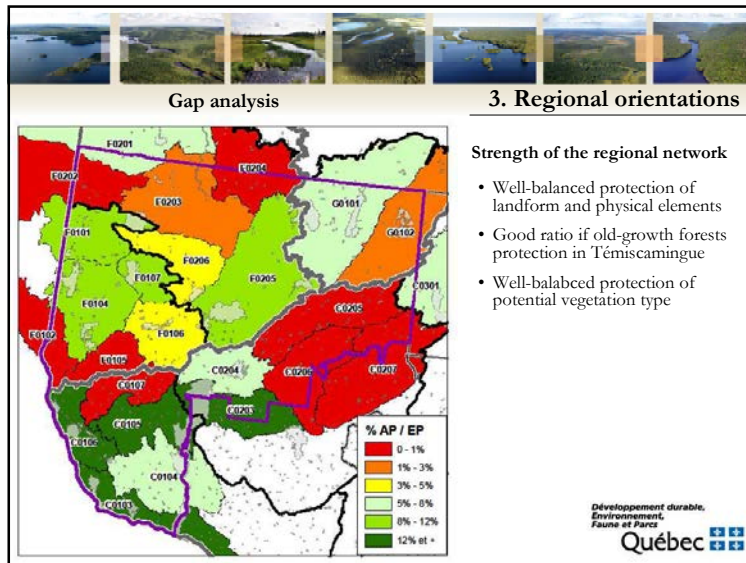
Variables:

- Landform
- Surface deposit
- Potential vegetation type
- Old-growth forests
- Wetlands
- Endangered species

Other variables (human imprint, dimension scale, vegetation in place, forest age, etc.)

Other territorial datas (private land, mining claim, forest management unit (FMU), etc.)

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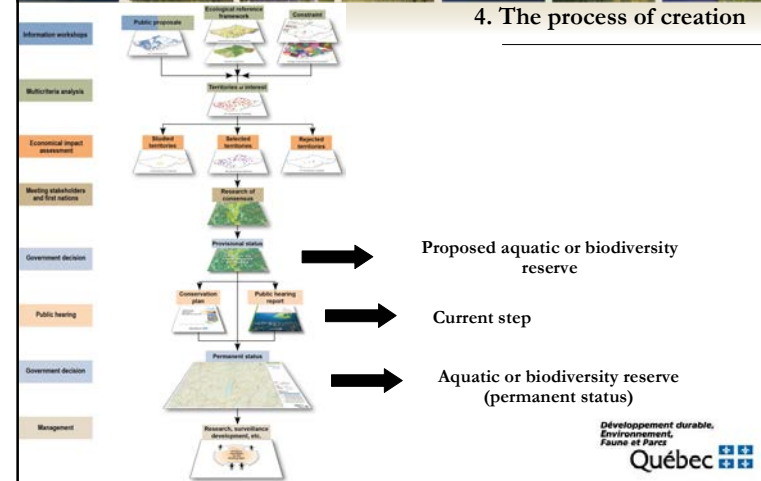


4. The process of creation

Proposed protected area	Creation date	Targeted status	Public consultation	Permanent status
Réserve de biodiversité projetée des marais du lac Parent	July 2004	Biodiversity reserve	Actual	Forthcoming
Réserve de biodiversité projetée de la forêt Piché-Lemoine	July 2004	Biodiversity reserve	Spring 2007	2013
Réserve de biodiversité projetée du lac des Quinze	July 2004	Biodiversity reserve	Spring 2007	2013
Réserve de biodiversité projetée du réservoir Decelles	July 2004	Biodiversity reserve	Spring 2007	2013
Réserve de biodiversité projetée du lac Opasatica	July 2004	Biodiversity reserve	Spring 2007	2013
Réserve aquatique projetée de la Haute-Harricana	July 2004	Aquatic reserve	Forthcoming	Forthcoming
Réserve de biodiversité projetée du lac Wetetsagami	September 2005	Biodiversity reserve	Actual	Forthcoming
Réserve de biodiversité projetée du lac Saint-Cyr	September 2005	Biodiversity reserve	Actual	Forthcoming
Réserve de biodiversité projetée d'Opémican	March 2007	National park	June 2012	Forthcoming
Réserve de biodiversité projetée des Dunes-de-la-Rivière-Attic	March 2007	Biodiversity reserve	Actual	Forthcoming
Réserve de biodiversité projetée de la Vallée-de-la-Rivière-Maganasipi	June 2008	Biodiversity reserve	Actual	Forthcoming
Réserve aquatique projetée de la Rivière-Duinoie	June 2008	Aquatic reserve	Actual	Forthcoming
Réserve de biodiversité projetée Wanaki	June 2008	Biodiversity reserve	Actual	Forthcoming
Réserve de biodiversité projetée des Basses-Collines-du-Ruisseau-Serpent	June 2008	Biodiversity reserve	Actual	Forthcoming



4. The process of creation



4. The process of creation

Discussions with stakeholders, actors and first nations

Information sessions (2002) –natural province F and G
 Information tour (2005) –natural province C
 Citizens' proposals (2002 to 2008)
 Meetings with MRN and concerned forests companies (2004 to 2008)
 Consultation by letter: CRÉ, RCM and first nations (2007) –natural province C

Since 2010 :
 New way with workshops in preparation of the public hearing :
 • Workshops at the Tables GIRT (june and november 2010, february, april and may 2011)
 • First nations meetings (june and november 2010 and february 2011)



5. Concept

What is an aquatic and a biodiversity reserve?

A protected area which ensures biodiversity protection:
 by prohibiting industrial-level of natural resources activities
 but allowing recreation activities

Emphasis

Biodiversity reserve : Terrestrial component
 Aquatic reserve : Aquatic component

5. Concept

IUCN protected areas categories

Higher conservation

IUCN category*	Objective	Status in Québec
Ia	science and protection of nature	Ecological reserve
Ib	wild resources protection	-
II	ecosystems protection and recreation	Québec's national park
III	preserve specific natural elements	Aquatic and biodiversity reserve
IV	Conservation by management	White-tailed deer yard
V	landscape protection (terrestrial and marine)	Humanized landscape
VI	sustainable use of natural ecosystems	Water fowl gathering area

*IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature (UNESCO)

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5. Concept

General activities regime

Activity	Differences between status		
	Ecological reserve (IUCN Ia) (MDDEFP)	National park (IUCN II) (SÉPAQ)	Biodiversity and Aquatic reserve (IUCN III) (MDDEFP)
Research and Education	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Recreational activities	Prohibited	Permitted	Permitted
Fishing	Prohibited	Permitted*	Permitted
Hunting	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted
Trapping	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted
ATV, snowmobile	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted
Existing vacation lease	Prohibited	Prohibited	Maintained
New vacation lease	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Mining	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Hydroelectric	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Forestry	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited

* Controlled by SÉPAQ

6. Reserves in consultation

Objectives of the 7 biodiversity reserve and the aquatic reserve

Protect representative samples of each type of physical-based elements of ecosystems according to the ecological reference framework

Ecological cartography based on landforms and surface deposits:

- 1) Natural province
- 2) Natural region
- 3) Physiographic unit
- 4) etc.

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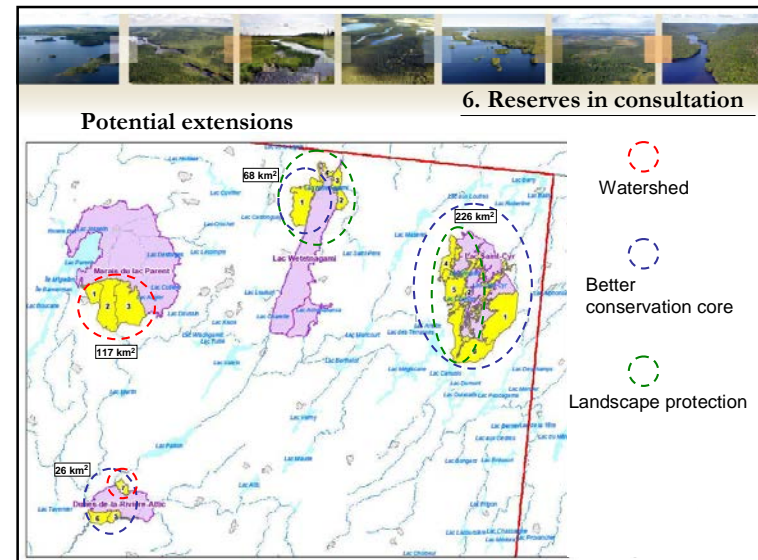
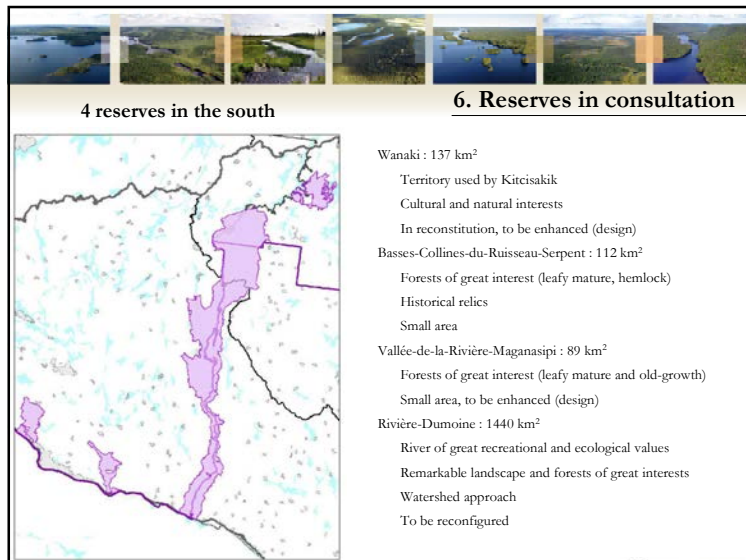
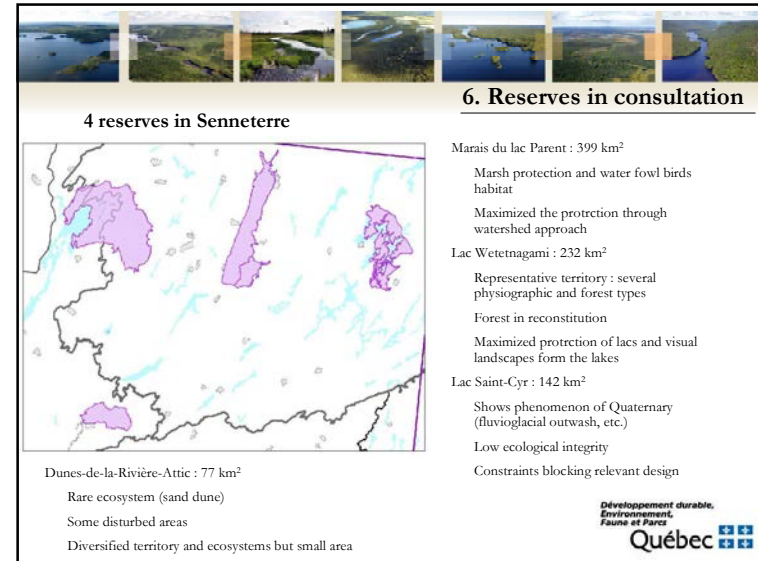
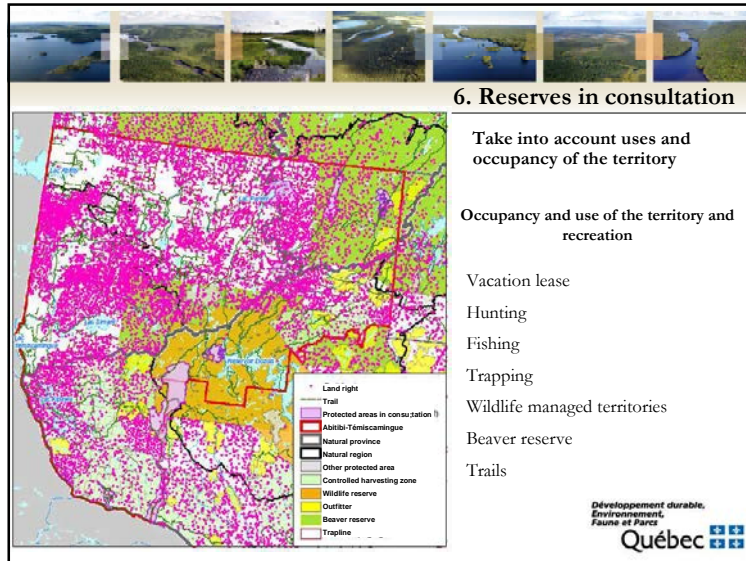
6. Reserves in consultation

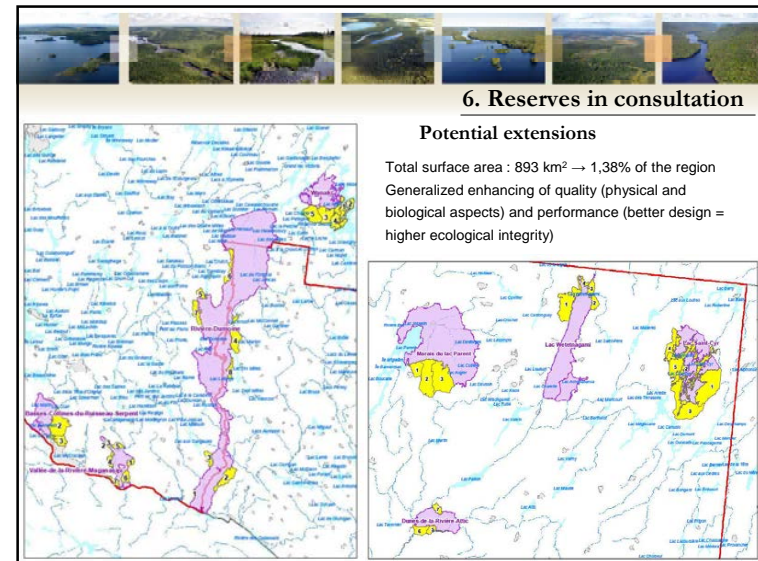
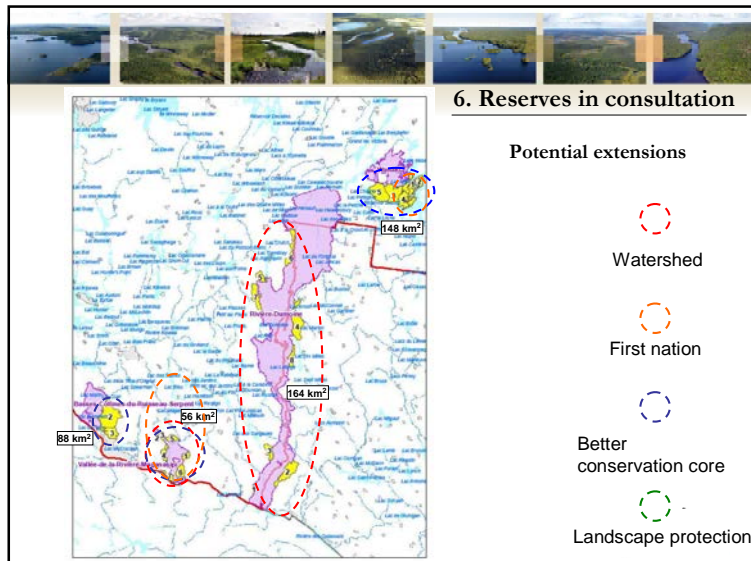
Objectives of the 7 biodiversity reserve and the aquatic reserve

Protect representative samples of the diversity of biological elements:

- Vegetation (forests, wetlands, moors, etc.)
- Type of forests (black spruce, balsam fir, pine, etc.)
- Actual and potential vegetation
- Various forest stand and old-growth forests

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7. Management

General activities regime of aquatic and biodiversity reserves

Prohibited activities:

- Forestry;
- All mining, gaz and petroleum activities;
- Hydroelectric activities and all form of commercial or industrial energy production.

Permitted activities:

- Existing vacation lease and maintenance of infrastructures;
- Recreative activities;
- Free access (ATV, snowmobile, walking, biking, etc.);
- Hunting, fishing and trapping;
- First nations traditional activities.

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7. Management

General activities regime of aquatic and biodiversity reserves

Activities subject to a permission:

- Personal aim wood timber (ex. firewood);
- Commercial activities (but those planned);
- Erection of any infrastructures (building, road, trail, etc.);
- Fish seeding (through an agreement)
- ...

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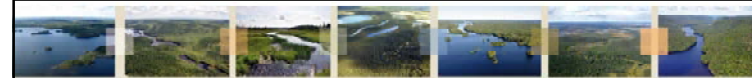


7. Management

Three management principles:

- Ecosystem-based management:
 - Maintaining ecological integrity of ecosystems while allowing compatible activities
- Regional scale and participatory management:
 - MDDEFP aims the participation of regional and local concerned actors, stakeholders and first nations and is responsive to management partnership and to set management committees
- Minimal management :
 - Signaling
 - Supervision and control
 - Action plan writing
 - Management partnership
 - Monitoring

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8. Conclusion

The 8 protected areas:

- ✓ Protect territories which are representative of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue biodiversity
- ✓ Protects ecosystems which are representatives, rares or of great interest
- ✓ Help maintain old-growth forests within the large managed forest
- ✓ Meet some social proposals
- ✓ Contain development potentials for recreation activities
- ✓ Have an actual design that doesn't fit with the ecological and natural boundaries of ecosystems and then can be improved

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8. Conclusion

A protected areas network that is representative =

- A major part of a biodiversity conservation strategy and for a sustainable development;
- An important component for a sustainable forest management strategy;
 - Part of forest certification of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) on an economic point of view (maintaining or increasing competitiveness);
- Protects a sample of all the ecosystems and act as a long-term witness of the evolution of those ecosystems, with less human impacts
- Helps maximizing all the positive effects of the ecological services of the ecosystems and biodiversity

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