

Summary description of the territory

BOUNDARIES AND LOCATION

The 77.1-km² proposed biodiversity reserve is located 35 km east of the Senneterre urban core.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The territory has been targeted, first and foremost, for the complex of aeolian dunes formed by very fine wind-borne sand from the extensive surrounding glaciofluvial formations. The reserve is part of the Abitibi clay plain and features numerous ecosystems centred on clay and silt of glaciolacustrine origin. Vast ombrotrophic peatlands occupy large portions of the territory. The Rivière Attic follows a winding, meandering path through the reserve to its mouth in the Rivière Mégiscane.

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Located in the balsam fir-white birch bioclimatic domain, the reserve displays characteristics conducive to the establishment of balsam fir-black spruce stands or fir-white birch stands and black spruce-lichen stands, black spruce-sphagnum moss stands, black spruce-moss stands, or black spruce-heath stands. However, the forest fire regime has forced the presence of black spruce stands but also numerous jack pine stands. The forests are mainly middle-aged (40 to 80 years old) and include several isolated old forest stands hemmed in by peat bogs. The dune sector, formerly populated by jack pine, was subject to logging shortly prior to the creation of the protected area. Aside from the wildlife species that are typical of the northern Abitibi region, the great grey owl has already been observed there.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The Algonquin communities of Lac Simon and Kitcisakik have in the past frequented the territory, which is now sparsely populated and is mainly used for hunting and trapping. The Rivière Attic is a canoeing and kayaking route.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROTECTED AREA

The reserve protects an array of ecosystems, in particular the fixed aeolian dunes and ombrotrophic peatlands. From a biological perspective, the black spruce stands in the reserve are representative of northern Abitibi forest ecosystems, while the jack pine stands reflect the forest fire regime and predominantly sandy environments.

PROPOSAL FOR A PERMANENT BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

The proposed place name for the granting of permanent status is the Réserve de biodiversité des Dunes-de-l'Attic.

Major permitted and prohibited activities¹

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*, the main activities prohibited in a territory with the status of a biodiversity reserve are:

- Forest development within the meaning of section 3 of the *Forest Act* (R.S.Q., c. F 4.1);
- Mining, gas or oil exploration and development;
- Exploitation of hydropower and any commercial or industrial energy production
- Any other activity prohibited by the conservation plan or by a regulatory.

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES^{1 2}

- Trapping camps, basic shelters and cabins and their incidental structures allowed by the lease;
- Harvesting wood to build an outdoor campfire;
- The maintenance or rebuilding of infrastructures;
- Trapping, hunting and fishing;
- Free access to the territory;
- The harvesting of small fruits or plant species for domestic use;
- Stays lasting 90 days or less (camping);
- Any recreative, touristic or ecotouristic activities;
- Domestic animals.

ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO AUTHORIZATION^{1 2 3}

- The erection, installation or construction of new buildings;
- The construction of new infrastructure and new recreational or educational trails;
- Soil development work;
- Wood harvesting for domestic purposes.

For more information:

http://www.mddefp.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires_protegees/consultation/abitibi-temis/index.htm

<http://www.mddefp.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/reserves-bio/dunes-attic/psc-attic.pdf>

¹ Pursuant to the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*, any other form of permit or authorization pursuant to another statute or regulation is compulsory.

² The conservation plan can prohibited any activity if it impacts the biodiversity.

³ Authorization criterias apply.



Photo: M.-A. Bouchard MDDEFP



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Protected areas
in Québec:

A Lifelong Heritage



La réserve de biodiversité projetée des Dunes- de-la-Rivière-Attic

A rare
ecosystem
created by the
wind





La réserve de biodiversité projetée des Dunes-de-la-Rivière-Attic

Legend

Réserve de biodiversité projetée des Dunes-de-la-Rivière-Attic

Road

Railroad

Protected area

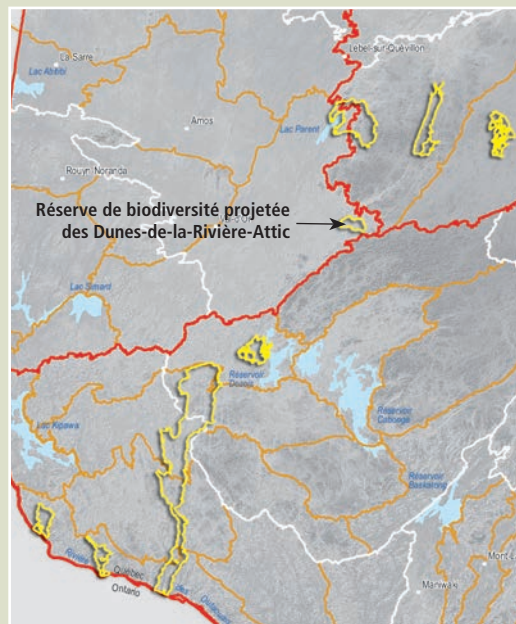
Mining right

Active

Occupation

Shelter lease

Vacation lease



Natural province Natural region Physiographic ensemble

