

Summary description of the territory

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRITORY

The 89.6-km² proposed biodiversity reserve is located in the MRC de Témiscamingue, 55 km southeast of Témiscaming.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The territory comprises a group of steeply-sloped low hills and hummocks made up of thin till with infrequent rock outcrops. The bottom of the Rivière Maganasipi valley is filled with glaciofluvial sand and fluvialite alluvial deposits, accompanied by glaciolacustrine sand in the delta formed where the Rivière Maganasipi flows into the Ottawa River.

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Located in southern Québec, the territory encompasses rich, diversified forest ecosystems. The reserve lies in the sugar maple-yellow birch climatic domain and is suited to yellow birch-fir stands or yellow birch-sugar maple stands. The steep slopes offer a habitat for white pine stands, while red pine stands are found in the valley. Sugar maple forests and sugar maple-northern red oak stands are found on the peaks of the low hills. Despite the natural and human disturbance regime, white pine and red pine stands are still present, but few yellow birch stands occupy the territory. Maple forests are concentrated in the exceptional forest ecosystem. This also explains the prevalence of trembling aspen and black spruce. However, old-growth forests appear to account for 66% of forest cover in the reserve.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Prior to the colonization of the Témiscamingue region, the Aboriginal peoples extensively used the territory, linked to the Ottawa River, a major travel route. The mouth of the Rivière Maganasipi offered an ideal site for temporary or semi-permanent campsites. The reserve is now a hunting and fishing territory located in controlled harvesting zones.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROTECTED AREA

The reserve is contributing to the protection of the low hills of till, which are rare in the network, but also silt hummocks and valleys. It is also protecting sugar maple-northern red oak stands, balsam fir-cedar stands, and balsam fir-red spruce stands, a rarer type of potential vegetation that is underrepresented in the network. It is important to protect the territory because of the high proportion of old-growth forests found there.

PROPOSAL FOR A PERMANENT BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

The proposed place name for the granting of permanent status is the Réserve de biodiversité de la Rivière-Maganasipi.

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/maganasipi/PSC_Maganasipi.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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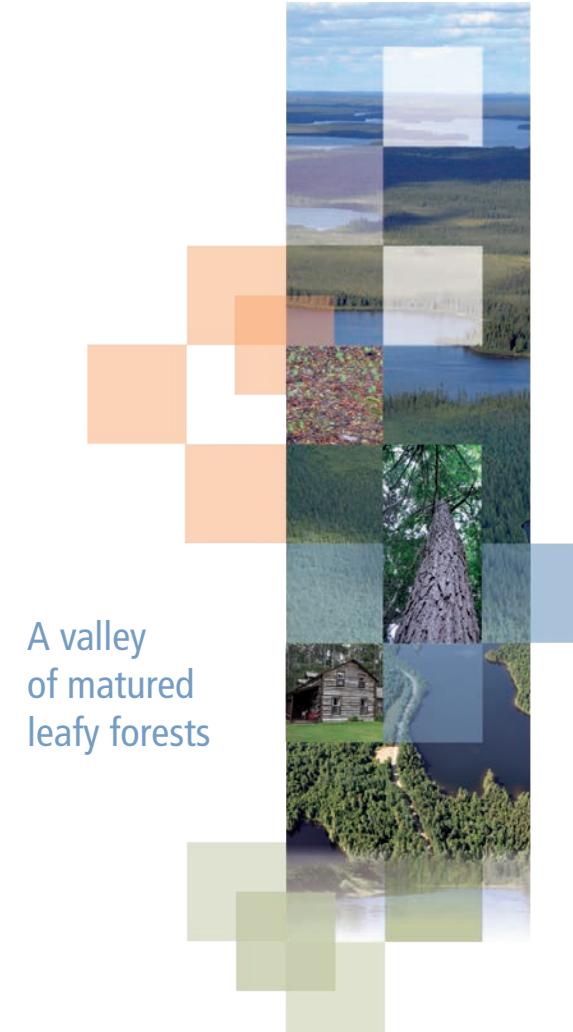
Protected areas
in Québec:



A Lifelong Heritage



La réserve de biodiversité projetée de la Vallée-de-la- Rivière-Maganasipi



A valley
of matured
leafy forests

Développement durable,
Environnement,
Faune et Parcs

Québec



Québec





La réserve de biodiversité projetée de la Vallée-de-la-Rivière-Maganasipi

Legend

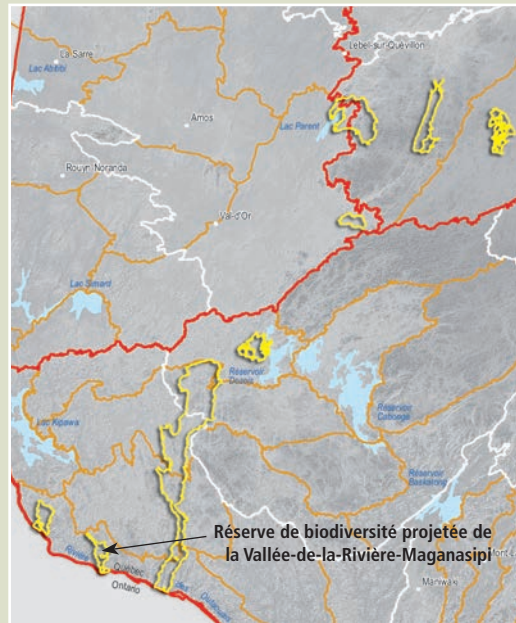
- Réserve de biodiversité projetée de la Vallée-de-la-Rivière-Maganasipi
- Pathway
- Controlled harvesting zone
- Other protected areas

Mining right

- Active

Occupation

- Shelter lease
- Vacation lease



Réserve de biodiversité projetée de la Vallée-de-la-Rivière-Maganasipi

Natural province Natural region Physiographic ensemble

