



236

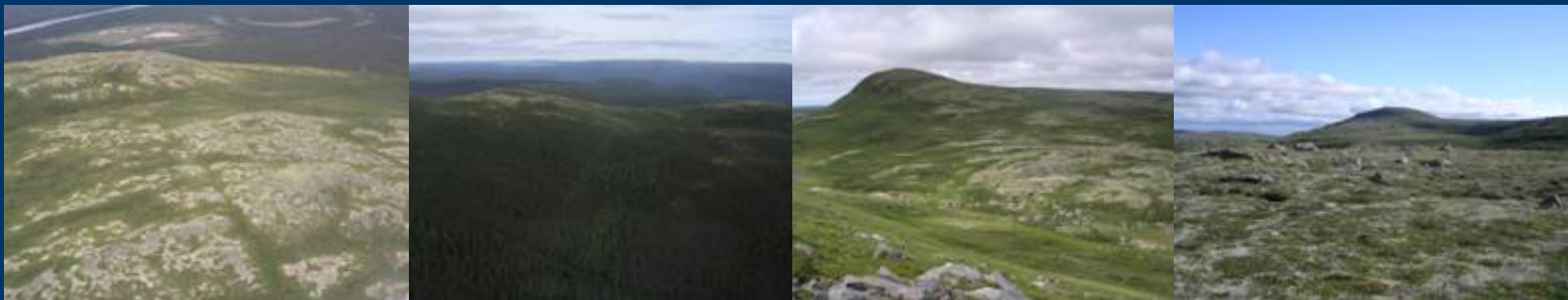
DA2ab

Quatre projets de biodiversité dans la province
naturelle du Plateau de la Basse-Côte-Nord
Basse-Côte-Nord 6212-01-206

Bradford Hills and Guernesé Lake Foothills Proposed Biodiversity Reserves

Public Hearings Blanc-Sablon

October, 18th
2006



- ✓ **Patrick Beauchesne**, Acting director, Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP)
- ✓ **Olivier Bérard**, Project leader, Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, MDDEP
- ✓ **Marilou Tremblay**, Analyst, Direction de l'analyse et de l'expertise régionales de la Côte-Nord, MDDEP

- ✓ **Present these proposed biodiversity reserves;**
- ✓ **Hear the concerns and views of the population regarding these projects;**
- ✓ **Discuss the different aspects of these projects;**
- ✓ **Improve our analysis and comprehension of these territories;**
- ✓ **Ensure that the local populations are supportive of these projects.**

- ✓ **This week, public hearings have also been held on two other proposed biodiversity reserves;**
- ✓ **Belmont and Magpie Lakes Massif and Sauterelles Lake Knolls.**



Context



1992 **Earth Summit** (Rio de Janeiro): protected areas are a key element to ensure the protection of the biodiversity;

1999 Quebec portrays a summary of protected areas;

2000 The government adopts strategic orientations to set up a network of protected areas:

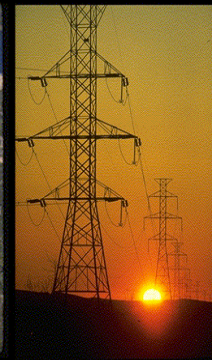
Qualitative target : set up a network of protected areas representative of Quebec's biodiversity;

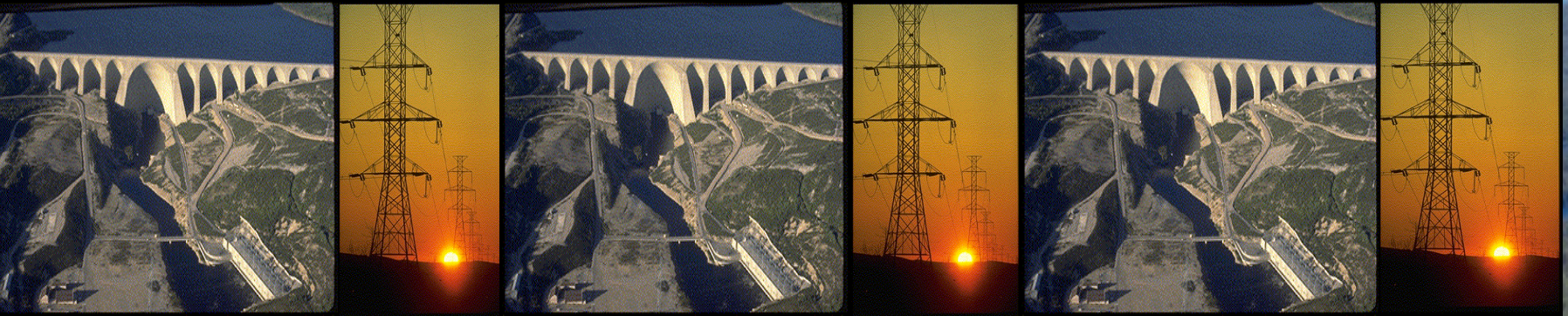
Social objective : take into account the socioeconomic conditions of the population and its communities;

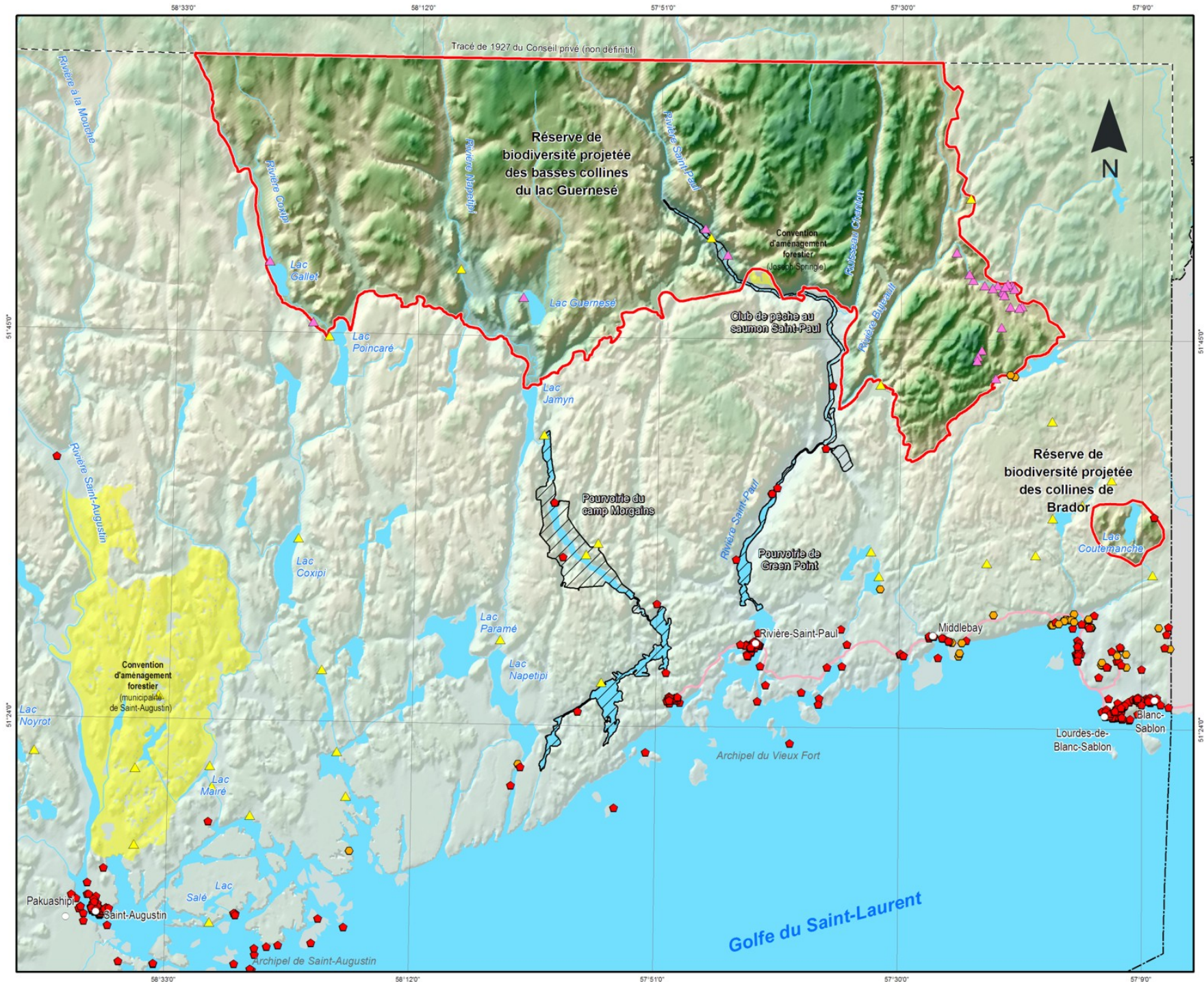
Quantitative target : protect 8% of the surface area of Quebec by 2005 (revaluated to 2008).

2002 The *Strategic Plan of Action for Protected Areas* and the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act* are adopted;

2003 The government assigns the status of proposed biodiversity reserve to the Guernesé Lake foothills and Brador hills.









Why protect these territories ?



Contribution to protect the biodiversity of the natural province

Brador Hills :

Hills with limestone outcrops specific to this region

Presence of limestone-specific vascular plants

Complex of five hills



Guernesé Lake FootHills :

Old spruce forest on a well drained moraine

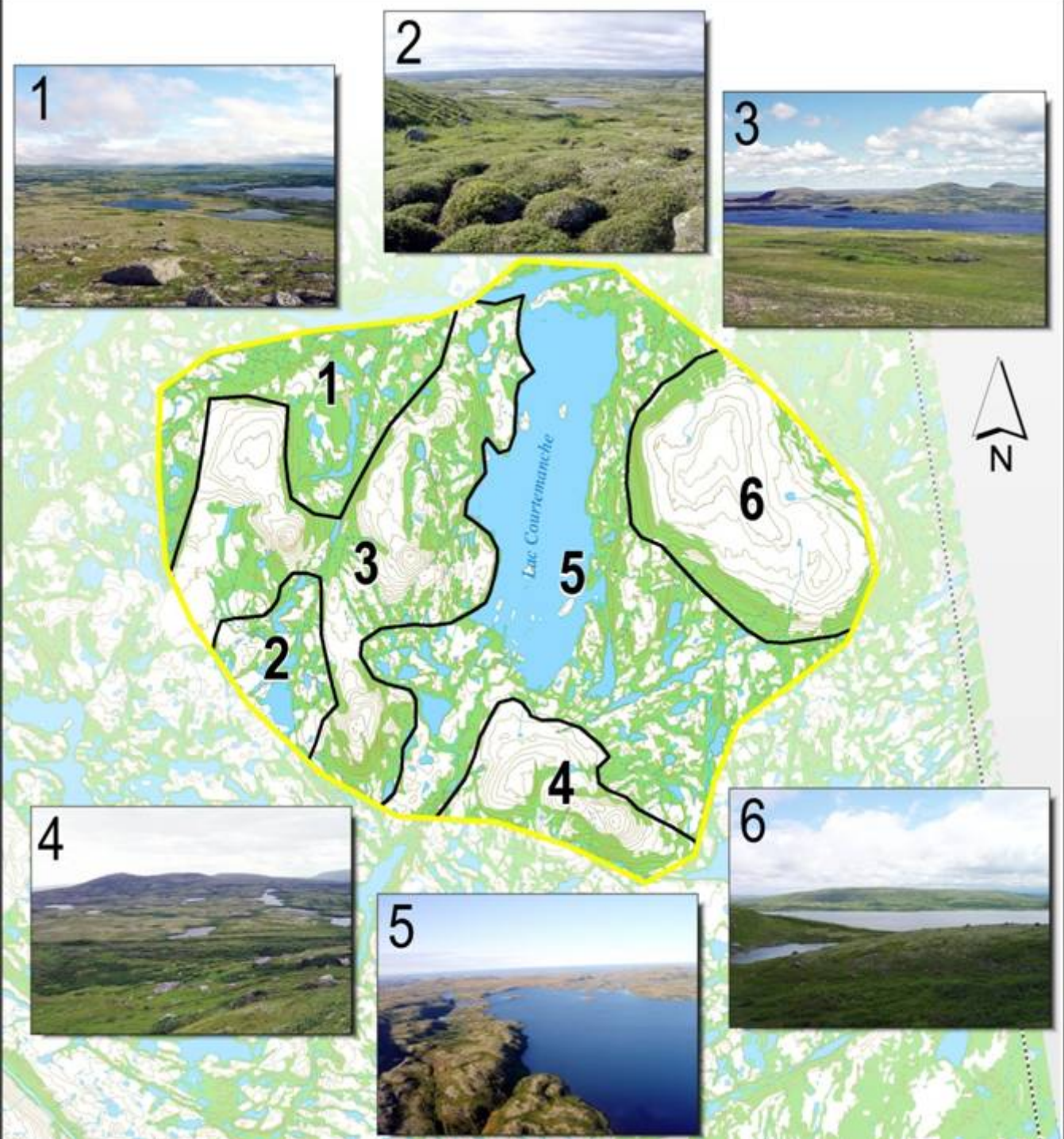
Dry heaths to the east

Foothills representative of the physical environment of the Basse-Côte-Nord (geology, soils and relief (topography)).

Important salmon rivers

Historical presence of caribou (Herd of Saint-Augustine)







Tracé de 1927 du Conseil privé (non défini)



Contribution to protect the biodiversity of the natural province

Belmont and Magpie Lakes Massif :

Large U-shaped glaciated valley

Several habitats suitable for vulnerable species (caribou, golden eagle,...)

Gray pine forest

Mountain and subalpine black spruce forests with white spruce



Sauterelles Lake Knolls :

Complex of well drained monticules

Witness of four phenomenon linked to the last glaciation

Black spruce forests with lichen and black spruce forests with moss





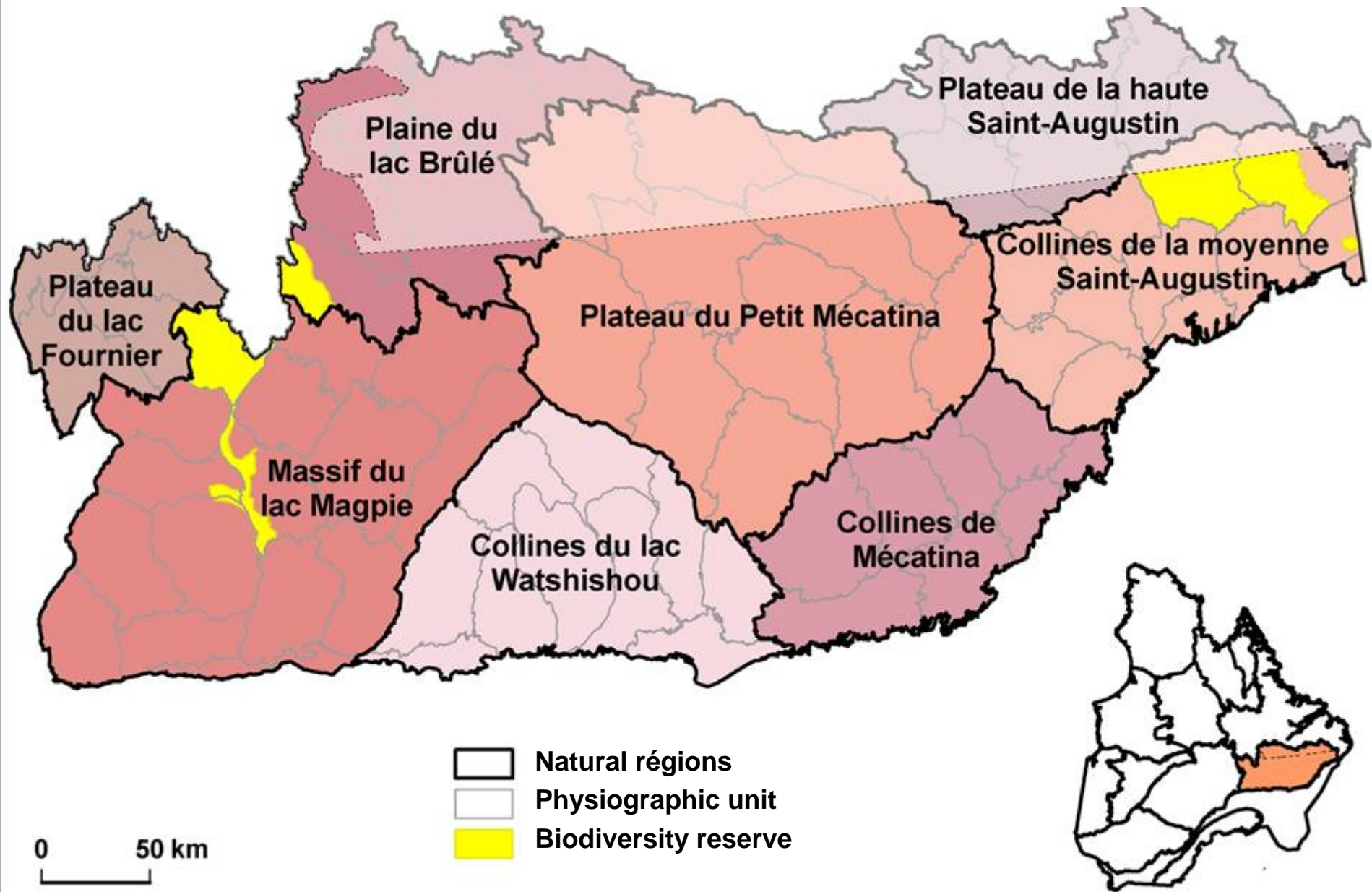
How have they been selected ?

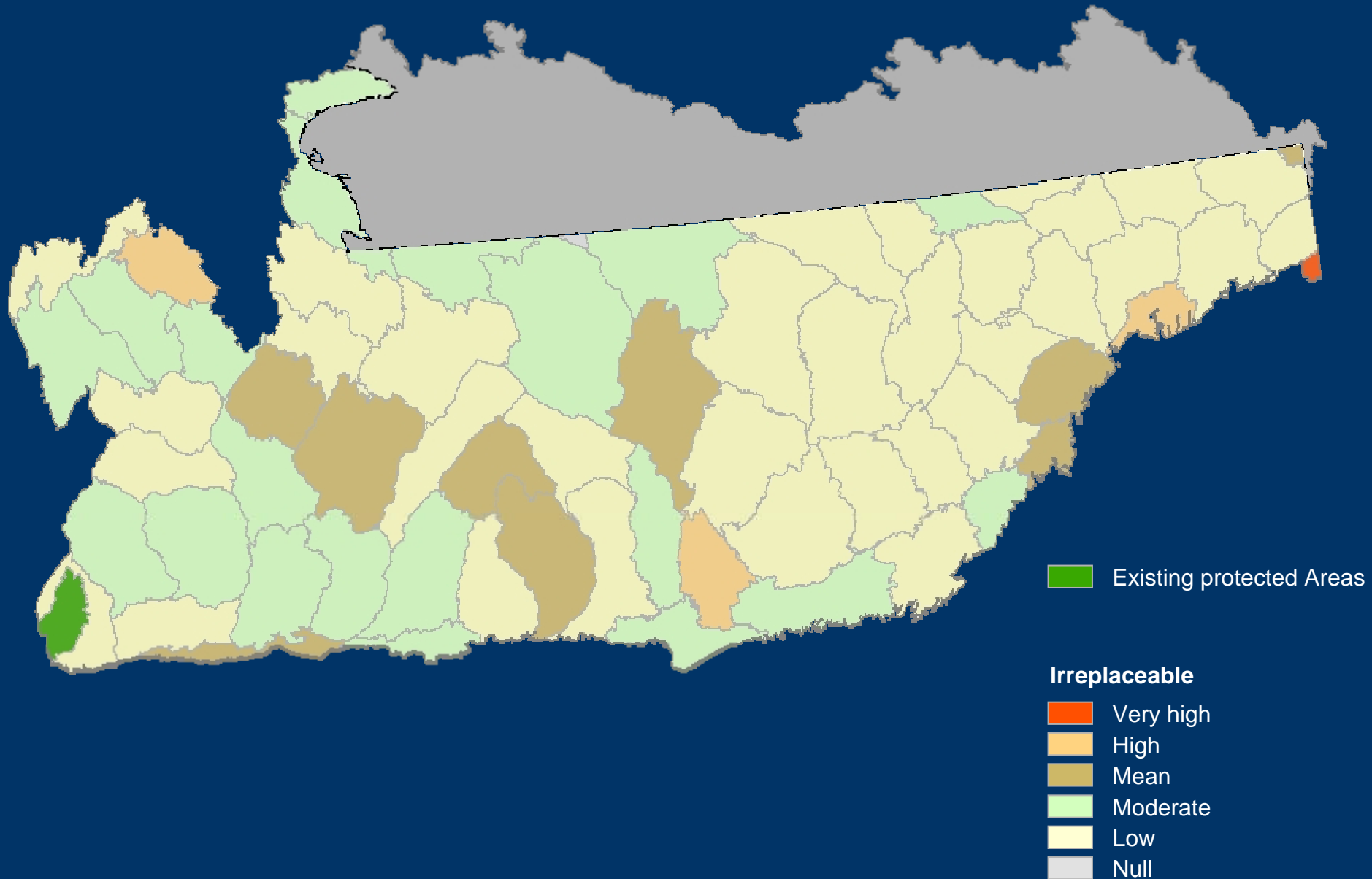


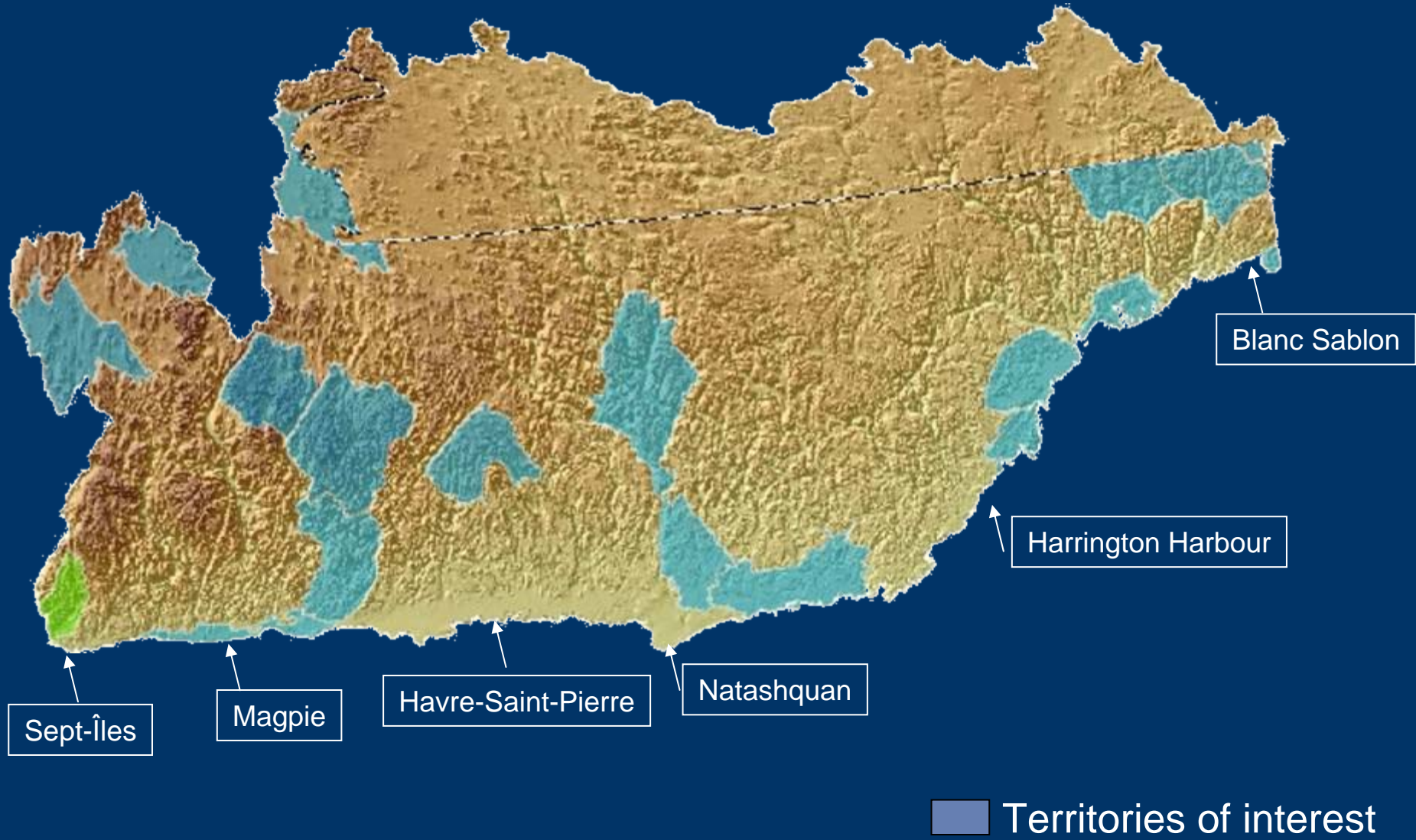
- A tool: The ecological reference framework
- Representativeness criterion :
 - Environment patterns
 - Geology and geomorphology
 - Hydrography and lakes
 - Forest cover (species, age)
 - Climatic conditions



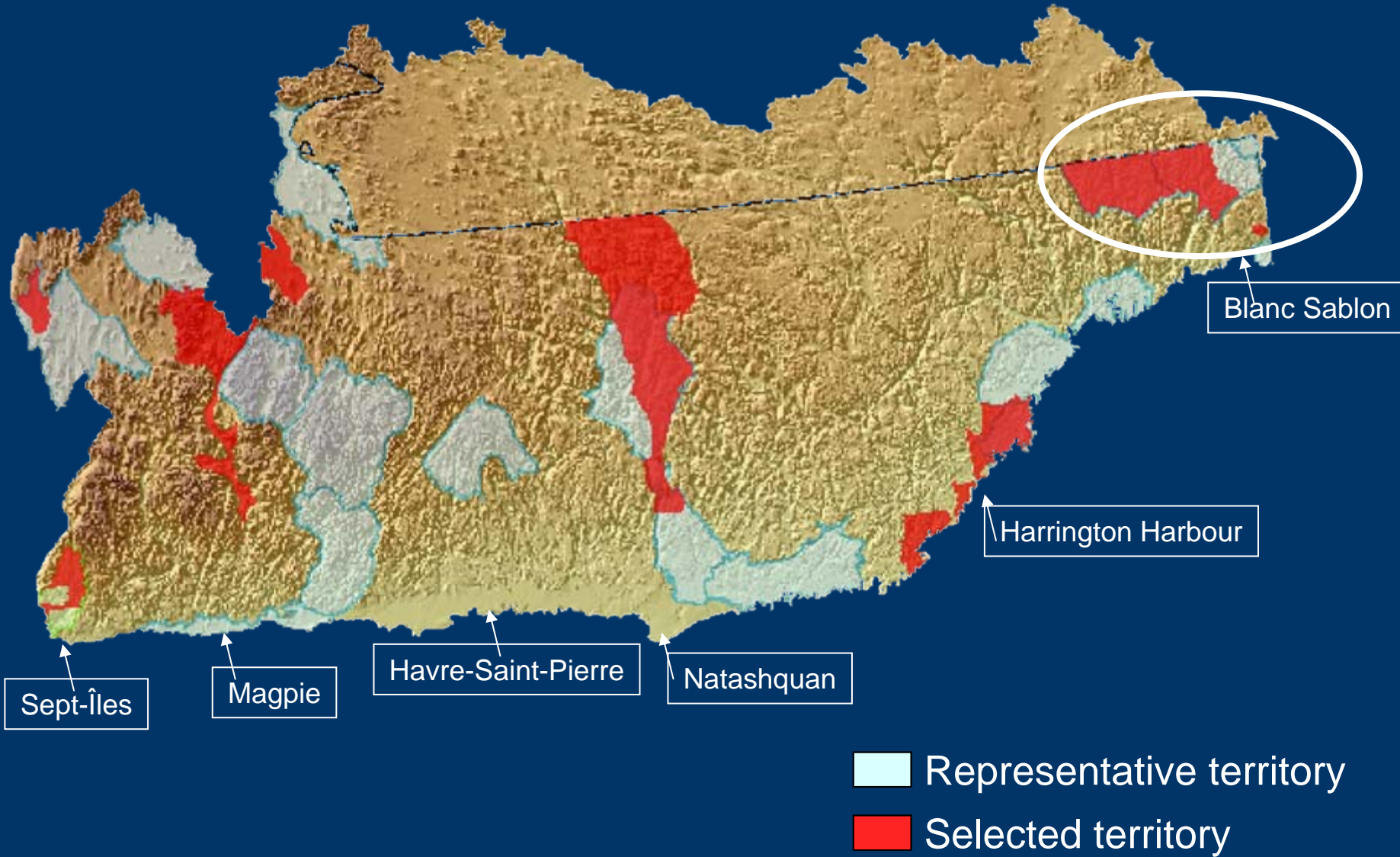
Natural province of the « Plateau de la Basse-Côte-Nord »







Aire candidate V-2	Positions					
	Forêt	Mines	Hydro	Territoire	Faune	MDDEP
AC-E01	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok
AC-E2	ok	Exploration 2003+rouvrir entente	ok	ok	ok	Réserve projetée
AC-E3	ok	ok	ok	ok	Agrandir ultér. au nord; terr. caribou	ok
AC-E4	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok
	ok	voir claims	Projet réservoir	ok	ok	ok
	ok	ok	Projet réservoir	ok	ok	ok
	ok	Agrégats et tourbe	Problématique	Atténuation Ville Havre St-Pierre	ok	ok



What's a Biodiversity Reserve ?



- A Proposed Biodiversity Reserve is a protected area
- What is a protected area ?
 - ✓ *An area of land or water dedicated to the protection of biological diversity and associated natural and cultural resources;*
 - ✓ *An area legally designated;*
 - ✓ *An area managed through legal or other effective means.*
- What is a Biodiversity Reserve ?
 - ✓ *An area dedicated to promote and maintain the representative biodiversity of different natural regions of Quebec*

What does a 'Proposed' status mean ?

- Land put aside to eventually create a permanent Biodiversity Reserve;
- Major industrial activities are prohibited;
- Existing recreational activities, leases and rights maintained;
- No new activity that may significantly harms the biodiversity;
- No new lease;
- Permanent status will be adopted following Public Hearings.

June 2003

4 years

June 2007



Proposed
Biodiversity Reserve
(Temporary Status)

Information Sessions
Public Hearings

Biodiversity Reserve
(Permanent Status)





Land Use



- ✓ ATV's and snowmobiles
- ✓ Camps or cabins (unregistered)
- ✓ Berry and plant gathering
- ✓ Wood harvesting (building and heating purposes)
- ✓ Fishing
- ✓ Trapping
- ✓ Hunting
- ✓ Outfitting
- ✓ Native traditional activities
- ✓ These activities are practiced on a regular basis
- ✓ Accessibility is better during winter



Conservation Issues



- **Ecological Issues**

- **Maintain the biodiversity of the protected ecosystems**

- Provide an adequate framework for the carrying on of activities to ensure the:
 - carrying capacity of ecosystems are respected;
 - activities are compatibility with the protection objectives.
- Implement an evaluation procedure for projects;
- Ensure protection of sensitive species' habitats (woodland caribou, Atlantic salmon, limestone-specific plant species).

- **Increase our understanding of the territories and promote general public awareness**

- Encourage the implementation of a knowledge acquisition program and an activities and biodiversity follow-up program;
- Focus on educational and awareness raising efforts within and outside the two biodiversity reserves.

- ***Socioeconomic issues***

- **Involve local representatives**

- Management of the two territories should be supported by key users;
- Take into account the lifestyle and activities of the inhabitants of the Basse-Côte-Nord while respecting the conservation objectives of the biodiversity reserves.

- **Promote sustainable development**

- Encourage the sustainable development of the biodiversity reserves while taking into account the fragility of certain environments and the carrying capacity of ecosystems.

Management Terms and Conditions



The Ministry proposes to implement seven principles for the management of the two biodiversity reserves :

- **Ecosystemic management;**
- **Regionalized management;**
- **Participatory management;**
- **Coherent management;**
- **Responsible management;**
- **Flexible management;**
- **Minimal management.**

- **Two steps :**
 - **Implementation of a network of protected areas before 2008**
 - Land put aside (proposed status)
 - Industrial activities no longer permitted
 - Get permanent statutes of protection
 - Ensure protection of resources and natural habitats through an appropriate framing of certain activities
 - **Define specific management rules for each territory**
 - Working process (ministerial working group in place)
 - Involve local representatives if necessary (specific themes)

Activity regime



- **prohibited activities**

- examples : forest management, hydraulic resources development and mining development

- **activities requiring an authorization**

- examples : new constructions (trails)

- **permitted activities**

- maintain all rights acquired prior to the implementation of the proposed reserve
- examples : wild berry gathering, hunting, fishing, trapping, native activities

These two projects will allow :

- ✓ **Preserve the region's natural areas quality**
- ✓ **Protect its biodiversity and particular species, habitats and ecosystems**
- ✓ **Involve local users in the management of these two biodiversity reserves**
- ✓ **Harmonize protection/development/uses**



Merci
Thank you