



Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve

Conservation plan



September 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plan of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve and its location are shown on the maps in Schedules A.1. and A.2.

The proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve is located in the North Shore backcountry, between 51°42' and 52°04' north latitude and 63°59' and 64°21' west longitude. It is situated on the Labrador border, approximately 200 km north of Havre-Saint-Pierre.

It lies within the unorganized territory of Lac-Jérôme, in Municipalité régionale de comté de la Minganie.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers an area of 481 km².

1.2. Ecological overview

The proposed biodiversity reserve is in the Lower North Shore Plateau natural province. It protects a geomorphological complex representative of the Brûlé lake plain natural region.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate: The territory is characterized by a cold, subpolar and subhumid continental climate with a short growing season. It belongs to the bioclimatic field of mossy spruce stands. The northern portion of Lac aux Sauterelles belongs to the bioclimatic field of spruce-lichen woodland.

Geology and geomorphology: The territory is wholly within the Grenville geologic province of the Canadian Shield. In the west, the bedrock is mafic rock, namely anorthosite. In the east, it is felsic rock, namely undeformed granite, and, at the southern limit, syenite and monzonite. In terms of its geomorphology, almost two thirds of the area of the protected area is characterized by ground moraine in association with a number of drumlins. The valley bottom, where Thévet lake is situated, is covered with sand and fluvio-glacial gravel. The altitude in the biodiversity reserve ranges from 530 m to 700 m.

Hydrography: The proposed biodiversity reserve includes a little more than fifteen glacial lakes which cover almost 10% of the reserve's area. These bodies of water are usually oblong in shape and found in narrow valley bottoms. The largest is Lac aux Sauterelles which covers an area of 17 km² and is approximately 20 km long. The lake is situated in the north of the protected area at an altitude of 564 m. Like Brigeart and Thévet lakes, it feeds the river known as Rivière aux Sauterelles, which is a Strahler 4 river. Approximately 40 km to the east, that river flows into the Romaine river, one of the largest

watercourses in the natural province, with the Natashquan and Petit Mécatina rivers. The drainage system, mainly a headwater watershed, is of north-west/south-east orientation.

Vegetation: The protected territory is a mosaic of old-growth softwood stands (45%), dry and wet heaths (30%) and peat bogs (15%). Black spruce (*Picea mariana*) predominates, usually mixed with balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). The area has been only slightly disturbed by forest fires.

1.3. Occupation and main land uses

The land occupations and uses in the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve are shown on the map in Schedule A.3.

The entire territory lies within the Saguenay beaver reserve. The Innu community of Ekuanitshit, residing 200 km east of Sept-Îles at the confluence of the Mingan and St. Lawrence rivers, has special rights in that reserve regarding the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

No land right has been granted within the perimeter of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

2. Protection status

The proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve protects a zone of exceptional interest, both from an ecological perspective and for its beauty.

Biodiversity reserve status would allow the pursuit of the following conservation objectives:

- ✓ the conservation of environments representative of the Brûlé lake plain natural region;
- ✓ the preservation of biodiversity in ecosystems;
- ✓ the acquisition of new knowledge concerning natural heritage.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve are governed by the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act* (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in biodiversity reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management activities within the meaning of section 3 of the *Forest Act* (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes;
- earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

- **Archaeological research** (especially the measures contained in the *Cultural Property Act* [R.S.Q., c. B-4]);
- **Development of wildlife resources** (especially the measures contained in the *Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife* [R.S.Q., c. C-61.1] and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);
- **Access** (especially the measures contained in the *Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State* [R.S.Q., c. T-8.1]);
- **Land rights** (especially the measures contained in the *Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State* [R.S.Q., c. T-8.1] and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

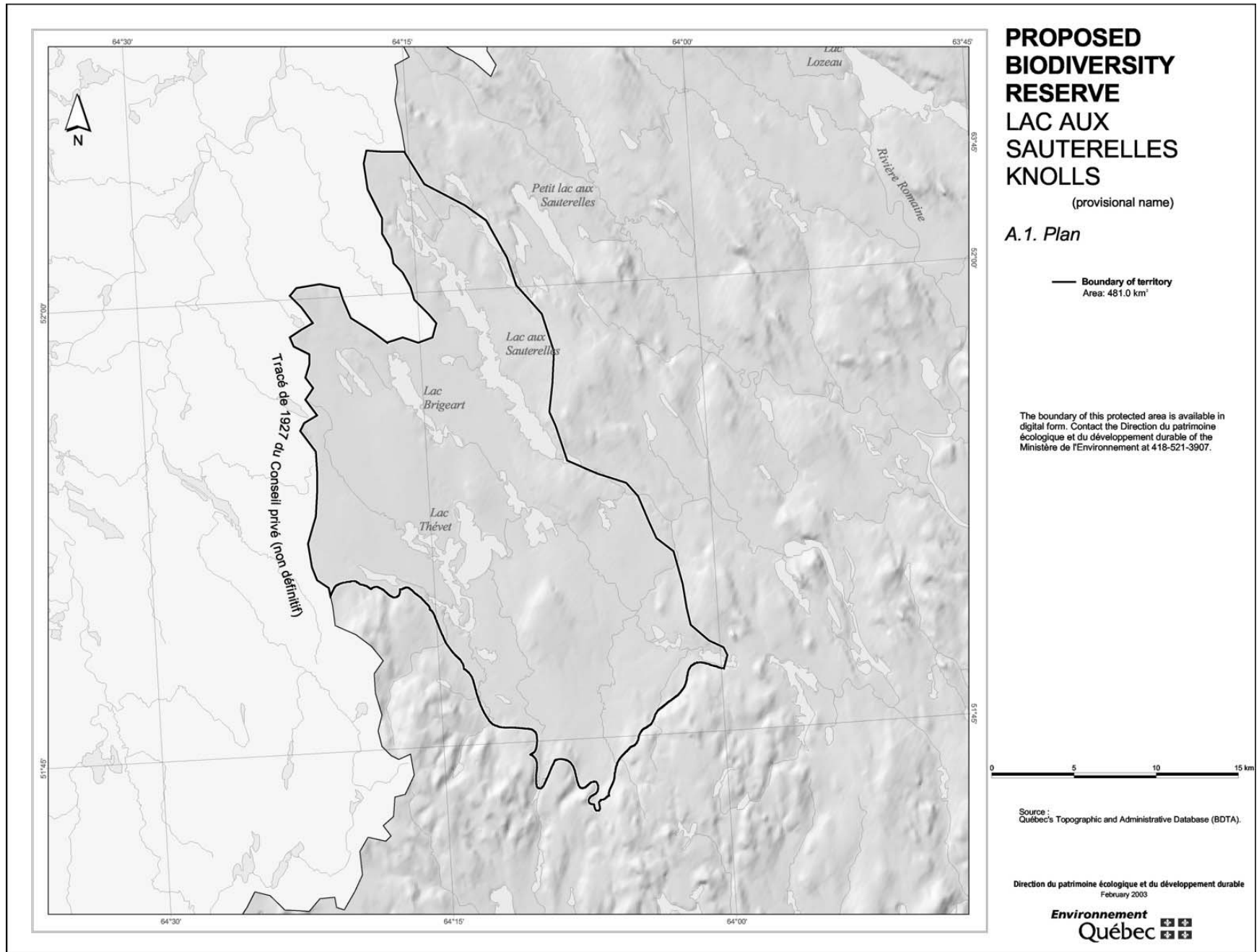
The Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec (FAPAQ) remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under its responsibility.

4. Permanent protection status

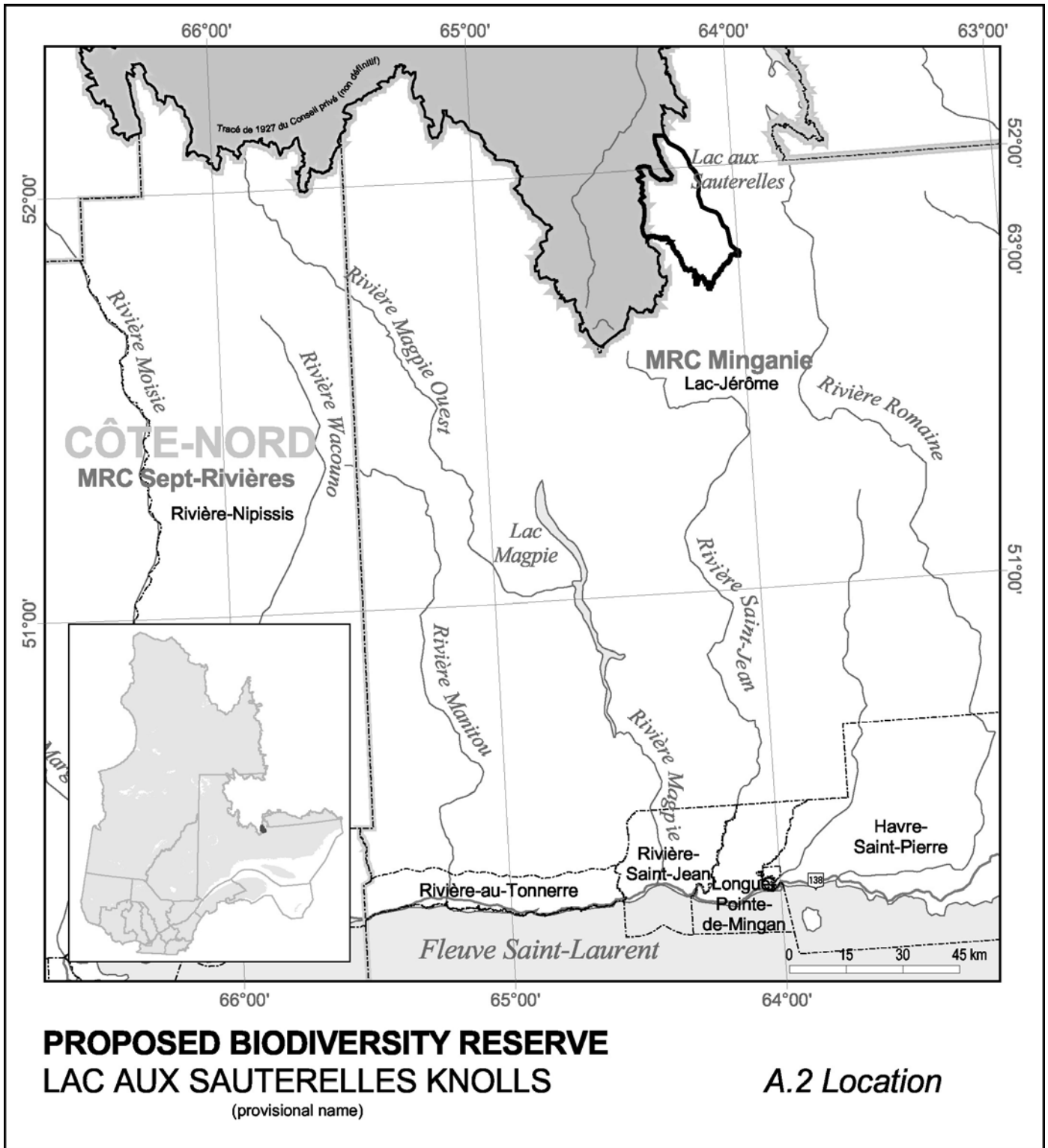
The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "biodiversity reserve" status under the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*.

Schedules

A.1. Plan of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve
 (provisional name)



A.3. Map showing land occupation and uses in the proposed Lac aux Sauterelles knolls biodiversity reserve (provisional name)

