

Protected Areas in Québec



Increased protection...

For all natural provinces

- In 2002, the majority of protected areas were concentrated in southern Québec, in proximity to inhabited areas. Today, they are spread throughout all 13 of Québec's natural provinces

Threatened and endangered species

- Of the 59 species that have been designated as threatened or endangered, 57 are represented in at least one of the network's protected areas

Great waterways

- More than 20 of Québec's greatest wilderness rivers such as the George and the Dumoine, are now protected. This step is the result of commitments taken by the government as part of the Québec Water Policy

Boreal Forest

- The growth of protected areas is particularly remarkable in the Boreal Forest. Since 2002, the size of protected areas located in this forest zone rose from 23,804 to 97,303 km². Today, 9.2% of total Boreal Forest areas are subject to conservation

Hardwood forests

- The growth of protected areas is also noticeable in hardwood forests. Since 2002, the size of protected areas located in forests of this type rose from 3,501 to 6,728 km². A full 6.11% of total hardwood forestlands are now subject to conservation

Wetlands

- Québec wetlands are also better protected. Since 2002, the total size of protected areas located in wetlands has risen from 1,237 to 4,143 km². Today, 8.43% of Québec wetland areas by size are now subject to conservation

Private environments

- As part of a number of financial aid programs, 22 million dollars have been invested since 2002 in order to acquire 160 private properties and create 37 natural reserves in private environments

Everyone benefits

- The creation of protected areas facilitates the process of corporate environmental certification, which is required for continued access to international and national markets
- Protected areas are important witnesses to many natural processes and as such constitute territories of reference for scientific research
- High quality natural environments are obviously of benefit to outdoor enthusiasts and outfitters
- The creation of protected areas has led to investments of 47 million dollars in private environments, partnerships with conservation organizations and the creation of many new jobs in this field.

Protected Areas in Québec



A Lifelong Heritage

Québec reaches its target of 8.12% of protected areas on its territory

A well-established network of protected areas

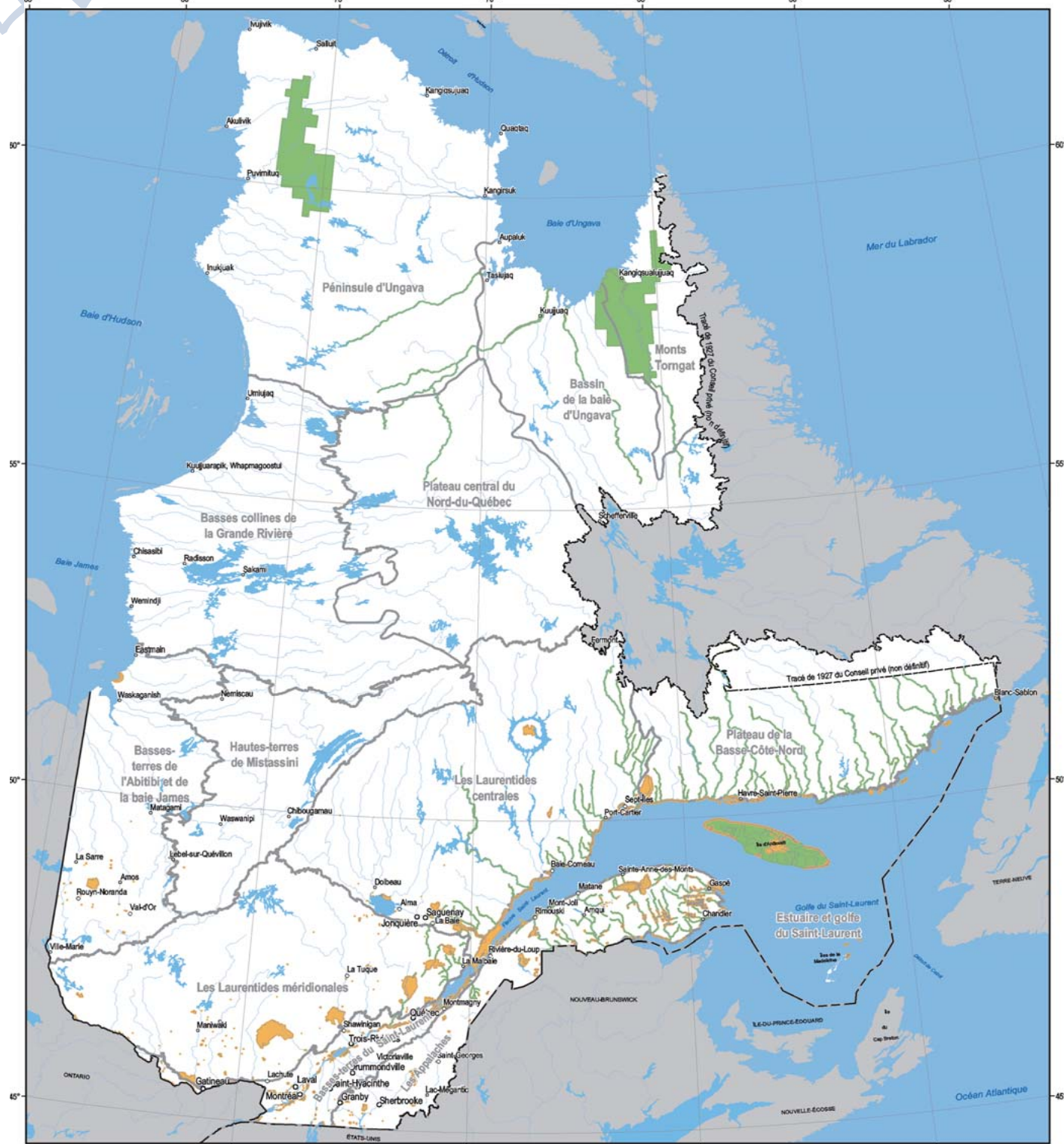
- Québec's protected areas today cover an area of 135,326 km², equal to 8.12% of its territory
- Since 2002, the network of protected areas has grown by almost 124,000 km², which is the equivalent of four times the size of Belgium, or the total size of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick taken together
- Since 2002, more than 1,700 km² in protected areas have been added to the network each month
- The Québec network now includes nearly 2,500 protected area sites that meet the protection criteria of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Thanks to its efforts, Québec is now ranked second among Canadian provinces in terms of the total size of its protected areas

Significant progress towards a high quality protected area network that is representative of Québec's biodiversity

- Québec took a historic step by creating the basis for a network that would be representative of ecological conditions that exist on its territory. Protected areas are now in place in every one of our natural provinces and represent the realisation of a goal set by Québec in 2002
- The new protected areas afford ecosystems rigorous protection from all industrial activity. The selected areas can now become model zones for the natural evolution of ecosystems, something that is required to achieve the sustainable development of our land
- The creation of this vast network of protected areas is also the result of consultation and participation with
 - Elected officials from Regional County Municipalities and municipalities
 - Aboriginal communities
 - Holders of rights on public lands
 - Regional and national players such as NGOs, associations and interest groups

Protected

May 2002, 0.95*%

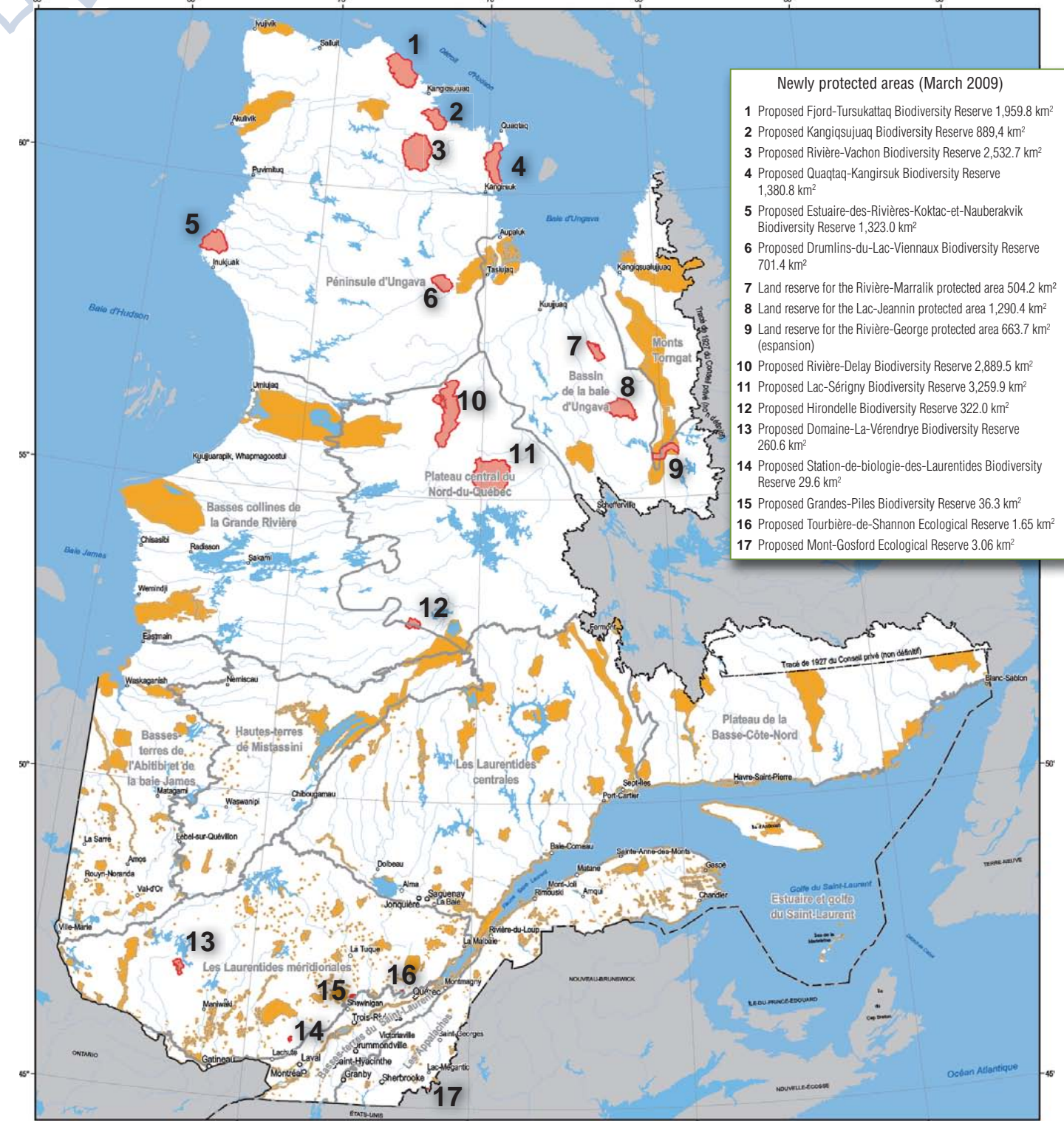


Protected Areas Eliminated territory Natural Province 0 200 km

*The 2002 percentage has been adjusted to take account of the 2007 withdrawal of territories that did not meet IUCN criteria.

Areas

March 2009, 8.12%



- Newly protected areas (March 2009)**
- 1 Proposed Fjord-Tursukattaq Biodiversity Reserve 1,959.8 km²
 - 2 Proposed Kangiqsujuaq Biodiversity Reserve 889.4 km²
 - 3 Proposed Rivière-Vachon Biodiversity Reserve 2,532.7 km²
 - 4 Proposed Quaqtac-Kangirsuk Biodiversity Reserve 1,380.8 km²
 - 5 Proposed Estuaire-des-Rivières-Koktac-et-Nauberakvik Biodiversity Reserve 1,323.0 km²
 - 6 Proposed Drumlins-du-Lac-Viennaux Biodiversity Reserve 701.4 km²
 - 7 Land reserve for the Rivière-Marralik protected area 504.2 km²
 - 8 Land reserve for the Lac-Jeannin protected area 1,290.4 km²
 - 9 Land reserve for the Rivière-George protected area 663.7 km² (expansion)
 - 10 Proposed Rivière-Delay Biodiversity Reserve 2,889.5 km²
 - 11 Proposed Lac-Sérigny Biodiversity Reserve 3,259.9 km²
 - 12 Proposed Hironnelle Biodiversity Reserve 322.0 km²
 - 13 Proposed Domaine-La-Vérendrye Biodiversity Reserve 260.6 km²
 - 14 Proposed Station-de-biologie-des-Laurentides Biodiversity Reserve 29.6 km²
 - 15 Proposed Grandes-Piles Biodiversity Reserve 36.3 km²
 - 16 Proposed Tourbière-de-Shannon Ecological Reserve 1.65 km²
 - 17 Proposed Mont-Gosford Ecological Reserve 3.06 km²

Area protected prior to 2009 Newly protected areas (March 2009) Natural Province 0 200 km