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National Park Reserve of Canada

Mingan Archipelago

State of the Park Report

2011



Canada

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September 2011

Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada

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Est sector

Photo: Parks Canada / Eric Le Bel

Interpretation activity

Photo: Parks Canada / Eric Le Bel

Photo: Parks Canada / Stéphanie Cloutier

Fen

Activity promoting Innus culture

Photo: Parks Canada / Nathalie Gagnon

Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada
State of the Park Report

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Note to reader

The terms "Innu Aitun" and "Nitassinan," which appear in this document, are from the Agreement-in-Principle of General Nature (APGN) concerning the land claims and self-government of the First Nations of Mashteuiatsh, Essipit and Nutashkuan. These claims are currently under negotiation with the goal of reaching final agreement (treaty) in accordance with sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4 and 18.1.5. of the APGN, which stipulates the following:

"3.1.1 This agreement is an Agreement-in-principle of general nature in which the Parties agree upon the structure, the general direction and the principles that shall guide the drafting of the Treaty."

"3.1.2 It is agreed that the Treaty shall not be limited to the provisions of this agreement but shall remain substantially in conformity with this agreement."

"3.1.3 This agreement does not create legal obligations binding the Parties, nor does it infringe on the obligations or existing rights of the Parties and shall not be construed so as to abrogate, derogate or recognize any aboriginal, treaty or any other right."

"3.1.4 This Agreement-in-principle was negotiated and concluded without prejudice to the rights of the Parties and nothing in this agreement can be construed as changing the legal situation of either Party or modifying the legal relationship between Canada, Quebec and the First Nations prior to the conclusion of the Treaty and the coming into force of the implementation legislation."

"18.1.5 Once ratified, the Parties agree to continue negotiations with a view to the conclusion of a Treaty on the basis of this agreement."

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1. Summary




The State of Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada report (MANPRC) provides a summary of the park’s current status with regard to the anticipated results concerning the conservation of heritage resources, external relations and visitor experience. The report provides an indication of the state of the protected area vis-à-vis the strategic result anticipated by Parks Canada. It also details what has been done to maintain or improve the state of the park reserve and presents the principal results of the management measures that have been applied.

This report is an integral part of Parks Canada’s planning cycle. The Park Reserve management

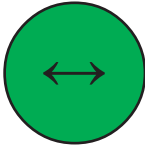
must produce one every five years. It provides essential information and identifies the key issues for inclusion in the management plan. This means that the production of a state of an area report necessarily coincides with the beginning of a management planning cycle.

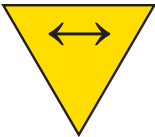

The report will serve as a tool for decision-makers. It helps present the results achieved to the CEO of Parks Canada and the Canadian population. It also provides a means to open external dialogues when a new management plan is being drawn up or an existing one is being changed. The following tables summarize the report content.

Rating Legend

CONDITION STATUS				TREND			
				↑	↔	↓	
Good	Acceptable	Poor	Not rated	Improving	Stable	Deteriorating	Not rated

State of the Park Summary Tables

INDICATOR	CONDITION AND TREND	RATIONALE
Conservation of Heritage Resources – Ecological Integrity		
Forest		<p>The percentage of firs in fir stands is increasing in line with the predicted progress of these stands.</p> <p>The number of common eider pairs nesting in the forest is on the rise. There are an estimated 6,999 pairs.</p>
Coastal ecosystems	Not rated	<p>In the coastal areas, six species of rare plants are being monitored. The status of five of the six species has been deemed satisfactory. The status of the Mingan thistle, however, is still considered critical.</p> <p>Tern populations have been increasing since the creation of the park reserve. In 2009, the coastal area of the Mingan Archipelago housed 4,424 tern nests.</p>

Barrens	Not rated	<p>In the barrens, nine species of rare plants are being monitored. The status of seven of the nine species has been deemed satisfactory.</p> <p>In 2008, 1,884 common eider nests were counted in the barrens. This slight increase suggests that the status of the population is satisfactory.</p> <p>The current count of herring gulls is significantly lower than the average numbers that have been observed since the creation of the park reserve.</p>
Wetlands	Not rated	<p>The plant communities in the peat bogs are being monitored. It is too soon to assess the progress of this measure.</p>
Precambrian archipelago	Not rated	<p>The ecological monitoring measures for this sector are to be defined jointly with the concerned communities.</p>
Conservation of Heritage Resources – Cultural Resources		
State of resources		<p>The buildings at the lighthouse station on Île aux Perroquets are in very poor condition. Those at the Petite île au Marteau lighthouse station have undergone major repairs that have measurably improved the condition of the buildings.</p> <p>In general, the state of the archaeological sites has been deemed acceptable. The condition of the Basque oven site is very poor and a subject of great concern.</p>
Management methods applied		<p>There is an inventory of buildings and structures, archaeological sites in the West sector, and objects.</p> <p>In accordance with the management policy, the historic nature of the resources is taken into consideration in all measures that might affect them.</p> <p>Objects in the collection are preserved under controlled conditions and their preservation is ensured over the long term with a monitoring program.</p>

INDICATOR	TARGETS	RESULTS
External Relations – Public Education Through Outreach Efforts		
Appreciation and understanding	<p>The targeted audiences have yet to be defined, except for the clientele from the website, schools and local communities.</p>	<p>The main outreach tool is the website. The school program is well established and local communities have been reached.</p> <p>Steps have been taken to reach the target public in urban areas through publications in specialty magazines and television features.</p>

External Relations – Engaging Stakeholders and Partners		
Support of targeted audiences	The stakeholders and partners involved in the area are the target audience.	Some partners working in the scientific, tourism and recreation, municipal and economic fields are involved in setting up projects in the park reserve.
Visitor Experience		
Marketing and promotion	Maintain the number of visitors to the national park reserve.	The number of tourism visitors went from approximately 20,000 in 2005 to around 16,000 in 2009, confirming a downward trend which has been observed since 2003. In contrast, visits from residents increased from 9,702 in 1997 to 18,810 in 2009.
Personal connection	<p>Parks Canada’s objective is that the level of visitor satisfaction will be 85%.</p> <p>The park reserve has set goal of achieving a rate of over 75% for support of its mandate.</p>	<p>Ninety-six percent (96%) of tourists declare themselves satisfied overall with their visit and 92% report being satisfied with their experience in the park reserve.</p> <p>Tourists support the mandate at a rate of 99%. When asked how important it is to be able to enjoy an area where resources are protected, tourists gave a score of 4 on a scale of 1 to 5.</p>
Interpretation	Parks Canada has set an objective to have 50% of visitors take part in learning activities and 85% express satisfaction about these experiences.	The proportion of tourists satisfied with the interpretation activities in which they took part is 93%.
Activities and services	Parks Canada’s set an objective to have 85% visitors satisfied with the activities and services offered.	The availability of staff, campgrounds and hiking trails earned a satisfaction rate of over 85% from tourists, while satisfaction with the availability of picnic areas, kitchen shelters and signage in the islands was less than 85%. The condition of the reception buildings, bathroom facilities, campsites, picnic areas, kitchen shelters and trails received a satisfaction rate of nearly 90% from tourists.

1.1 Main Results of Management Measures

- Strengthened relations with the Nutashkuan Innu following the negotiation of an Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) regarding the park reserve
- Negotiation, signing and implementation of the protocol agreement for the genuine participation pilot experiment in the park reserve with regard to the review of the management plan, with specific involvement from the Mamuitun mak Nutashkuan Tribal Council (MNTC) and the Nutashkuan Innus

-
- Announcement about the creation of the Maison de la culture innue Ekuanitshit
 - Participation from the Ekuanitshit community in presenting Innu culture
 - Strengthened relations with the Innu communities after staffing a position for a liaison officer for Aboriginal affairs
 - Acquisition of a basic understanding of natural resources in the East sector
 - Monitoring of traditional hare harvesting to ensure their numbers and the continuance of the activity itself
 - Improvement in the condition of both Mingan thistle colonies
 - Prospect of a diversified visitor experience with the launch of the project to restore the two lighthouse stations
 - Improvement of visitor experience, safety and awareness of conservation due to the creation of a brochure on sea kayak safety
 - Visitors informed of the conservation of plants and wildlife while visiting the site, reception kiosks and taking part in interpretation activities
 - Creation of a 2005 visitor information study
 - Creation of a 2007-2008 visitor study: Visitor Use Patterns
 - Creation of a study to examine park visits by residents of the Mingan region
 - 2008 study on visitor expectations and experience
 - Knowledge and support of mandate by tourism visitors
 - New permanent exhibit in 2008 at the Longue Pointe de Mingan Reception and Interpretation Centre following upon the 2005 study of the Minganie Research and Interpretation Centre
 - Presentation of activities themed on the culture and traditional practices of local communities to visitors
 - Improvement of partner involvement and visitor experience owing to the establishment of a number of partnerships with local organizations, including one to develop international cruise traffic
 - Visitor satisfaction with regard to activities and staff
 - Improvement of stakeholder involvement due to the formation of a follow-up committee
 - Increased communication with the public about MANPRC's projects

1.2 Main issues

An assessment of the current state of MANPRC with regard to the expected results in the areas of conservation of heritage resources, external relations and visitor experience was conducted. Several key issues arose from the assessment for consideration by park reserve management in the years ahead:

Collaboration with the First Nations

Maintaining and developing good relations with the First Nations is very important, particularly where it concerns traditional practices (Innu Aitun) for which site use and management have yet to be defined. These must be drawn up with consideration for ancestral rights, improving the economic possibilities for the Innu communities, and fulfilling Parks Canada's mandate. The insubstantial representation of First Nations' members on the MANPRC staff is another challenge to be faced in the upcoming years, along with the integration of Innu knowledge and experience in order to promote their cultural values.

East Sector

This sector of the park reserve represents geographically distinct features that remain largely undiscovered. Although difficult to access, this sector offers a number of opportunities for visitor experiences provided jointly with the neighbouring communities and the Nutashkuan Aboriginal community. Knowledge acquisition about natural and cultural resources is also an issue for the East sector. To date, very few protection, education or visitor experience initiatives have been set up. Nor have the measures for the ecological integrity monitoring program been established for the East sector.

Ecological Integrity

The ecological integrity monitoring program has been completed; however, certain measures have not yet been implemented in the field.

Cultural Resources

Knowledge about MANPRC's cultural resources is somewhat limited. Those that have been discovered, namely the Aboriginal vestiges and the Basque ovens, are not overly protected or presented. The renovation of the lighthouse stations is well underway.

Community Support

In recent years, a number of productive partnerships with regional decision-makers and stakeholders have come into being, thus providing a way for communities to participate in carrying out Parks Canada's mandate. It is very important to maintain these relations and capitalize on all new opportunities for collaboration and partnership. However, there is a low participation rate from the local population, including Innu communities, in projects on site such as special activities themed around natural resources.

Low Visitor Traffic

The relatively low use of the MANPRC in comparison to its reception potential is a problem area. Visitor traffic amounted to 34,874 in 2009. Tourists accounted for 16,064 visits, or 46% of the total, and local visitors comprised the remainder for 18,810 visits, or 54%. Visits by residents have doubled since 1997, while visits from tourists are on the decline. The clientele is not well-targeted, making it difficult to engage them and offer activities to match their expectations. Furthermore, promotional activities are limited and tend to target too broad an audience. Competition is on the rise in the tourism industry. The park is located far from major urban centres, which has a significant impact on visitor traffic.

2. Introduction

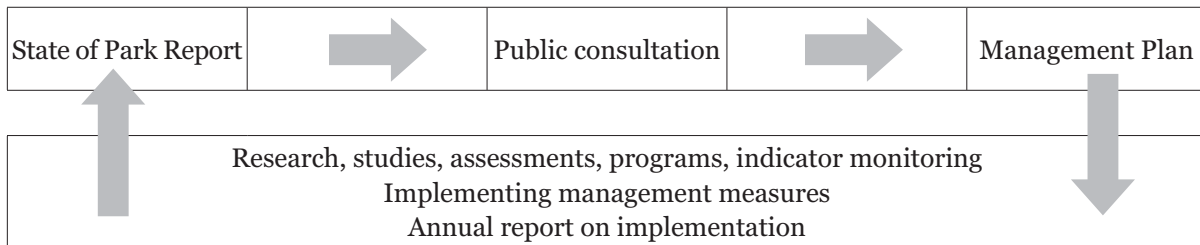
2.1 State of the Park Report

This report provides an overview of the state of Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada. It reports on relations and collaboration with the First Nations, heritage resource conservation, external relations and the visitor experience. Various indicators¹, assessed using relevant measures, are used to assess the state of the resources and the progress made towards the targets set by Parks Canada. The report also contains the principle results achieved following the application of management measures. It also determines the main issues to be included

in the next planning period. In short, the report provides the general public and Parks Canada's management with information about the current situation in this protected heritage area.

The report is based on the analysis and follow-up of various components of the mandate. The studies and monitoring that underpin the ecological integrity monitoring program, the studies conducted with tourists and local visitors, the knowledge possessed by site staff and the specialists consulted, provide information with which the overall state of the protected heritage site can be assessed.

Diagram illustrating the role of the report in the planning process.



Moment of relaxation
Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

2.2 The Park Reserve

Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve is located in the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, between Anticosti Island and Quebec's Middle North Shore. An isolated land mass measuring approximately 100 km², it is comprised of twenty some islands and 1,000 or so islets that are strung out over more than 150 km from Île aux Perroquets in the west, to Rivière Aguanish in the east (see map entitled Location of the Park Reserve).

1. Since the 2005 management plan was written, Parks Canada has reviewed the indicators for national parks. The indicators in this report are therefore not the same as those in the 2005 management plan. This makes it more complicated to reconcile the content of the present report and that of the 2005 management plan.

The park reserve was created in 1984 to preserve a representative sample of the St. Lawrence Eastern Lowlands within Canada's network of national parks. In actual fact, it is composed of two distinct physiographic entities that make up the East and West sectors. The West sector, which represents the natural region intended by the designation, is composed of twenty some sedimentary islands and islets. This sector is what is called the Mingan Archipelago. The East sector is a complex network of nearly 1,000 islets of igneous and metamorphic rock and is part of the Canadian Shield. There are two migratory bird sanctuaries in the park reserve: Betchouane, in the western part, and Watshishou, in the eastern part (see map entitled Current Use).

The park is located across from five coastal agglomerations: Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan, Ekuanitshit (Mingan), Havre-Saint-Pierre, Baie-Johan-Beetz and Aguanish, for a total population of approximately 4,500. Although the Innu community of Nutashkuan (Pointe-Parent) is not situated directly across from the park, the First nations have a territorial link with the East sector owing to the comprehensive land claim by

the Innus accepted by Canada in 1979. As well, a large part of MANPRC is situated within the Nitassinan of Nutashkuan, as presented in the Agreement-in-Principle of a General Nature (APGN).

The landscape of the West sector, or the Mingan Archipelago, is the result of eroded stratified limestone. It features low plateaus scattered with ancient raised beaches, former sea cliffs, spectacular monoliths and present-day sea cliffs sculpted by the Gulf waters. All of these combine to form a mosaic of ecosystems: forests, peat bogs, barrens, shorelines, cliffs, lakes and salt marshes. More than 490 species of vascular plants, 302 species of bryophytes and 190 species of lichens grow in the West sector's maritime boreal climate and rocky limestone environment. The archipelago is also home to 82 species of rare plants. Approximately 200 bird species use the archipelago. In spring, passeriformes and birds of prey bring the interior of the islands to life. Large seabird colonies nest in the islands. Thousands of migrating shorebirds stop there in summer. It is also a winter range for the ducks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Although isolated, the islands are also home to 20 land



Shoreline
Parks Canada / Claude Samson

mammal species. The adjacent waters are visited regularly by several whale species and three seal species.

The East sector, or the islands of the Canadian Shield, is comprised of close to 1,000 islets formed where the sea meets the gently sloping Precambrian shield in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Massive areas of crystalline rock expose an impressive diversity of geological and geomorphologic phenomena. Although not very diverse, the plant life includes several species not found on the sedimentary islands of the park. The proximity of the shore makes the islands more accessible to land animals. On the most isolated islands, the absence of predators creates ideal nesting conditions for seabirds such as the common eider, the double-crested cormorant, gulls and terns.

The history of human occupation in the territory dates back millennia to the First Nations, who were followed in the 15th century by the Europeans (Basques, French and Jerseys), the Acadians and the Canadians. Note the Basque ovens on Île Nue de Mingan, the operation of the lighthouse stations on Île aux Perroquets and Petite île au Marteau by the lighthouse keepers and their families, and the vestiges of the fox breeding industry on Île du Havre. Still today, local communities live in close connection with the natural environment and carry on the traditional activities of gathering, hunting and fishing.



Islands in the East sector
Parks Canada / Nancy Dénomée

A variety of programs, activities, services and facilities are available to the public, offering memorable and meaningful visitor experiences that include the quiet contemplation of the park vistas and the discovery of natural and cultural features, all enjoyed in a context of respect for heritage resources. An external relations program is under development for the purpose of encouraging partners, stakeholders and the public to understand, value and support Parks Canada's mandate. Further details on the visitor experience and external relations are provided in later sections.

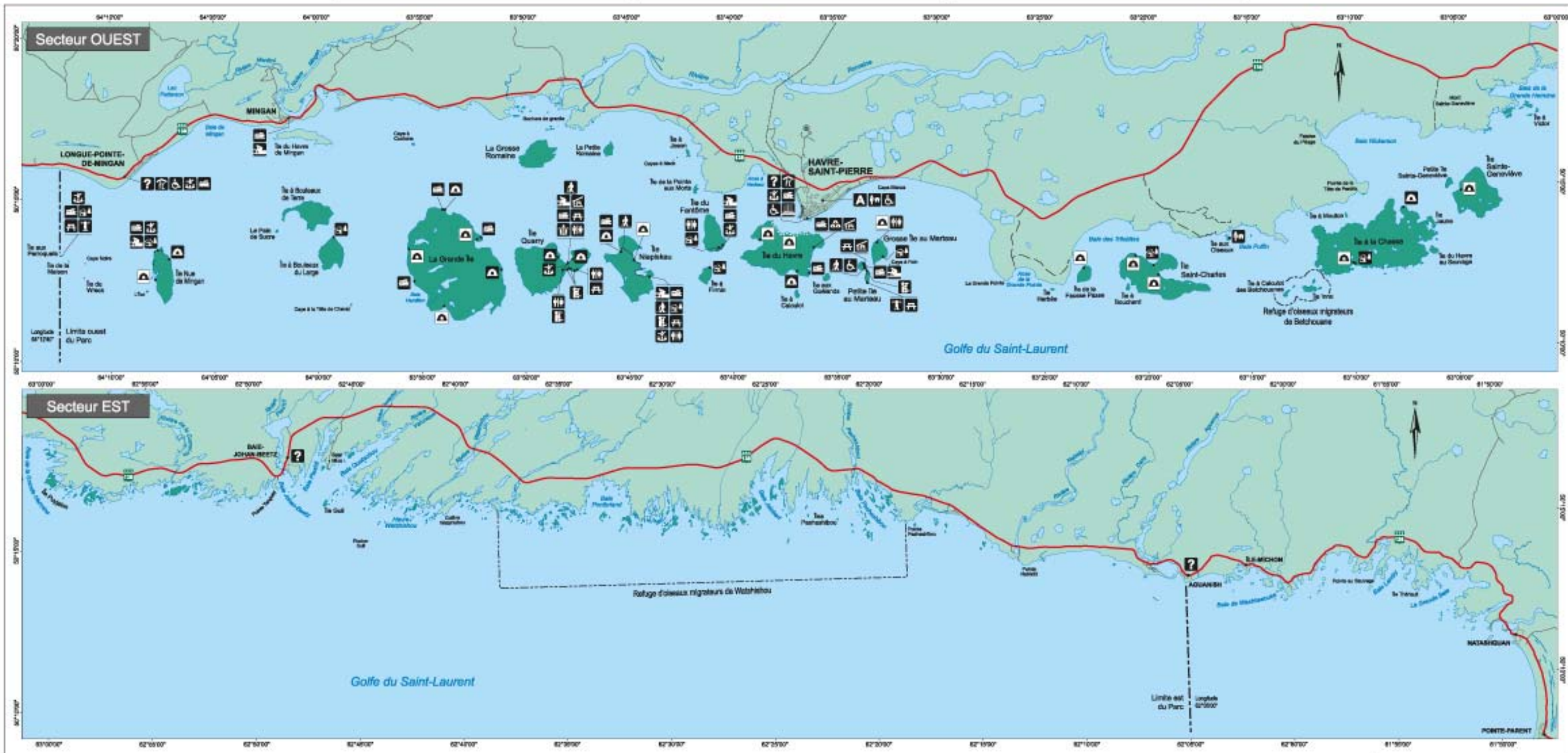
LOCATION OF MINGAN ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK RESERVE OF CANADA



UTILISATIONS ACTUELLES
RÉSERVE DE PARC NATIONAL DU CANADA
DE L'ARCHIPEL-DE-MINGAN

CURRENT USE
MINGAN ARCHIPELAGO
NATIONAL PARK RESERVE OF CANADA

E ITAPASHTAKANIT ANUTSHISH
NE PAK, KANATA ASSIT, KA ISHINIKATAKANITI
EKUANITSHIU-MINISHTIKUA



<p>--- Limite de la réserve de parc national du Canada de l'Archipel-de-Mingan Boundary of Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada Nelo eshpahel ne pak ka ishnikatani Ekuanitshiu-Minishtikua</p> <p>--- Refuge d'oiseaux migrateurs Migratory Bird Sanctuary Anla leusht'i misap(iship) ka nishat</p>	<p> Centre d'accueil et d'interprétation Visitor Reception and Interpretation Centre Mishuap ka eshpapakanit manleat ka ka upatshikanit'ishikuansu</p> <p> Départ ou escale des bateaux Tour Boat Departure or Stop Uel'ishipenit'ik akumut'ishikute-utal</p> <p> Dérivage Wharf Pikupeshikan</p> <p> Marina Marina Akumunan</p>	<p> Mouillage pour bateaux de plaisance Pleasure Craft Anchorage Area Ka akumut'ishikute-utal</p> <p> Abri d'urgence Emergency Shelter Mishuap ka akushimant</p> <p> Poste de garde Warden Station Mishuap ka nekusapashant</p> <p> Phare Lighthouse Katapushet</p>	<p> Belvédère Lookout Anla a sasheshshant</p> <p> Sentier pédestre Hiking Trail Mishkanu tshu pashimant</p> <p> Bureau administratif Administrative Office Mashikanitshuap ka tshapakanit'ishikunant</p> <p> Camping Camping E kushimant</p>	<p> Camping traditionnel pour résidents Traditional Camping for Residents Tshu kushimant'ishikunant'ishikunant'ishikunant</p> <p> Camping de groupe Group Camping Tshu kushimant'ishikunant'ishikunant'ishikunant</p> <p> Aire de pique-nique Picnic Area Anla tshu m'ishikunant</p> <p> Abri-cuisine Kitchen Shelter Mishkanitshuap</p>	<p> Toilette Washroom Mishkanitshuap</p> <p> Activités d'interprétation Interpretive Activities Tshikunant'ishikunant'ishikunant'ishikunant</p> <p> Accès aux personnes handicapées Access for Disabled People Tshu tshu-p'ishikunant'ishikunant'ishikunant</p>	<p> Parcs Canada Parks Canada</p> <p>Projet cartographique illustré Transverse Illustrée Systeme de référence géographique NAD83</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5 km</p>
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3. Aboriginal Perspectives – Collaboration with the First Nations²

3.1 Background

The first occupants of the North Shore have a long history that dates back several millennia. For time immemorial, the ancestors of the Innus have lived on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a vast territory they call Nitassinan – Our Land. Their culture has been handed down orally in stories, tales and legends by elders like Mathieu Mestokosho, the caribou hunter.

In the Middle North Shore specifically, Innu presence dates back to at least 6,000 years BP³, and a number of researchers cited by archaeologist Jean-Yves Pinal⁴ propose an initial inhabitation in the Lower North Shore reaching back as far as 9,000 years BP. Although Innu presence in the Archipelago is still inadequately documented by archaeologists, a certain number of sites have been located in the islands (see map entitled Archaeological Sites Identified in the West Sector of the Archipelago).

Coastal gatherings and the practice of various traditional activities on the shores and islands go back thousands of years. After spending several months in the interior of their lands, Innu families returning to the coast via the rivers would camp along the shores. They hunted migratory birds, collected eggs, medicinal plants and berries, fished lobster at low tide and engaged in other activities. Today these constitute the traditional activities practised by modern Innus.

The way they occupied the land and used the resources was based on an annual cycle of activities that saw them travel hundreds or even thousands of kilometres extending largely outside

such recent political boundaries as the Labrador border. Great caribou hunters and salmon fishers, generations of Innu men, women and children walked and paddled the expanse of land and waterways they called Nitassinan. Peoples of the forest (Nutshimiu) and the shores (Unipek), the Innus experienced major changes with the arrival of the Euro-Canadians.

The vestiges of the Basque site on Île Nue de Mingan are testimony to the era of first contact with the whalers and cod fishers who came from Europe in the 15th century. In the archives of the fur trading companies, we read the history of trade and the development of fur trading with the Innus. Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, the Euro-Canadians appropriated the mouths of the main rivers and colonized the shores to the point where the Innus felt increasingly like strangers on their ancestral lands. The creation of Indian reserves less than 60 years ago proved to be the final step in the sedentation of Innu families.

Nutashkuan First Nation

Thus it was that the Nutashkuan First Nation was granted a parcel of land that extends today over 20.3 hectares and is populated by 984 people, 916 of whom live on the reserve. The average population density is 45 people per hectare. The population is very young, with 74% of the community under the age of 35. Despite their confinement on the reserve, the Innus have continued their traditional activities, which take place in the MANPRC territory and surrounding area.

Since the abrupt decline in the international fur trade, traditional activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping are no longer viable economic

2. The text discussing the Aboriginal perspectives component was written with the participation of the Nutashkuan and Ekuaniitshit communities.

3. BP : Before Present

4. J.-Y., Pinal, 1998, *Aux frontières de la mer : La préhistoire de Blanc-Sablon*, Les publications du Québec, Collection Patrimoine.

ventures for the Nutashkuan Innus. Sedentation on the reserve brought about an improvement in living conditions, but at the cost of strong dependence on government transfers and services. As a result, the Innu community has not been able to develop an economic foundation in Nitassinan that would support true economic independence.

Today, the employment situation in the community is weak and mostly seasonal. What jobs that can be found are in community services, artisanal work, outfitting for salmon fishing on the Natashquan River, some commercial seafood fishing and housing construction. With an ever growing, youthful Innu population, the community needs to be able to count on every job creation opportunity in their ancestral territory.

There are some opportunities with the Romaine hydroelectric complex construction projects due to the direct and indirect spin-offs for the Innus.

Ekuanitshit First Nation

In 1963, a strip of land was granted to the Ekuanitshit (Mingan) Innus. The community comprises 561 members of whom 60% are under age 35. They live together on an 18.1 km² piece of land the island across from the West sector.

The Innus have occupied this area since the time of their ancestors. Coastal gatherings and the practice of various traditional activities on the shores and islands were common. Today, the migratory bird hunt and the collection of eggs and medicinal plants in the archipelago are vital resources for their subsistence.

The employment profile is all but identical to the other Innu communities on the Lower North Shore. The Ekuanitshit peoples primarily hold seasonal jobs, except for the jobs related to community services. Their economy is based on the operation of an outfitter for salmon fishing on the Mingan and Manitou rivers and on commercial sea fishing. The community owns a construction management company. The Romaine hydroelectric complex construction project also brings

economic benefits. One issue in the community is training their youth so that more diverse and sustainable employment can be created.

3.2 State of Collaboration

The MANPRC territory is classed as national park reserve because it is the subject of land claims by the Nutashkuan and Ekuanitshit Innu communities.

In its 2005 management plan, the park set three objectives with regard to relations with the First Nations: to give consideration to the ancestral or treaty rights of the Innu communities, honour previous commitments Parks Canada has made to these communities, and maintain harmonious relations with them in managing the park.

To meet its first objective, Parks Canada has continued its relations with Innu communities and given consideration to their ancestral and treaty rights. In 2006, the position of liaison officer was created with a view to increasing the opportunities for discussion and collaboration with the First Nations.

For nearly 30 years the Nutashkuan Innus have been negotiating the effects and manner in which their ancestral rights are exercised, including their Aboriginal title on territory that was mapped and formalized in the Agreement-in-Principle of a General Nature (APGN) signed by Nutashkuan, Canada and Quebec in March 2004. The Nitassinan of Nutashkuan extends into MANPRC, including all of the islands east of Grande Pointe. This background is ideal for forging bonds and working towards a closer collaboration with the Nutashkuan Innus for presenting MANPRC, particularly the East sector.

Section 4.11 of chapter 4 in the APGN deals specifically with MANPRC. These five articles provide for the creation of the Mingan Archipelago National Park which will replace the MANPRC. This section also provides for “*a privileged relationship distinctive from that applicable to other stakeholders for the creation and management of Mingan Archipelago National Park*” and the

negotiation of an Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) agreement covering the park reserve. The agreement was in fact negotiated in 2007-2008. Some components of the agreement have yet to be finalized and will come into force on the date the treaty is signed.

In another chapter of the APGN that deals with meaningful involvement, the agreement states that Canada shall use customized procedures to conduct, on a voluntary and experimental basis, a genuine participation pilot experiment. The results will facilitate an assessment before the treaty is signed. Parks Canada has agreed to participate in this pilot experiment, which will touch on the planning and management of the park reserve. With this in mind, a protocol agreement for the genuine participation pilot experiment to be applied to the management plan review was signed in October 2009. It is now in force and will end when the 2012-2016 management plan is tabled in the Canadian Parliament.

No agreements-in-principle concerning comprehensive land claims have been signed between the Ekuanitshit First Nation and the federal and provincial governments. However, since the creation of the park reserve in 1984, the community has submitted a brief outlining its concerns about the community's rights, aspirations and needs.

The second objective of the management plan with regard to the First Nations was to follow up on Parks Canada's prior commitments to these communities. Consequently, Parks Canada, Canada Economic Development and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada jointly invested two million dollars to support the creation of the Maison de la culture innue in the Ekuanitshit community. Delivery is scheduled for 2011. The project will provide the members of the Ekuanitshit community with a place to share their culture, while at the same time showcasing the Innu language and the close ties that unite the Mingan islands. The Maison de la culture innue will offer authentic and inspiring expe-

riences within a community willing to share its everyday culture.

In order to achieve the third objective, a position for liaison officer was created in 2006. The new assignment resulted in improved communication and relations between the two communities. A number of specific projects involving the Ekuanitshit community resulted. Activities presenting Innu culture are part of the visitor program. Innu youth have worked on maintenance crews and been involved in conservation work in the field. All of this has been done collaboratively and has provided training in various work sectors of the park reserve for the Aboriginal students on staff. The situation should improve for Nutashkuan in the coming years.

The difficulties surrounding Aboriginal employment arise from the level of qualifications required for the positions available at Parks Canada. The school enrolment rate in Aboriginal communities is still lower than the national average. In 1992, the park reserve hired its first two seasonal employees from Ekuanitshit. Later, in 1995, special funds for the creation of Aboriginal employment were used to hire a member of the Nutashkuan community for a two-year term. Since 2006, two to three Ekuanitshit students have been hired each year for the seasonal work period. To date, all positions held by Aboriginal members have been term positions of short duration.

Although the efforts to improve relations between Parks Canada and the Innu communities over the past five years have increased the level of trust, Parks Canada has not yet achieved sufficient rapport to meet its commitment to "take into account the existing ancestral or treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples." Nonetheless, Parks Canada is optimistic that the two parties will succeed in implementing initiatives that will bring about meaningful involvement of the First Nations in the management of MANPRC while preserving their traditional activities (Innu Aitun).

4. Heritage Resource Conservation – Ecological Integrity

4.1 Background

The national park reserve is located in the maritime boreal bioclimatic zone. Its ecology is noteworthy for its insular character, geology and unique biodiversity (see map entitled Park Reserve Ecosystems). Its islands, diverse in size, lie various distances from the mainland and the other islands. As a result, they are exposed to varying influences from the mainland and the sea, which combine to give each island its distinctive ecological features. The larger islands contain disparate habitats, producing an amazing diversity of species and landscapes. The smaller islands, often deeply influenced by their exposure to the sea, provide shelter for large seabird populations. The proximity to the coast is conducive to wildlife movement, influences the climate and affects the coastal marine environment.

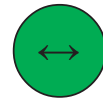
The sea affects the climate, the coastal dynamics and the food resources available to wildlife. Human activity around the world has resulted in certain impacts, including marine pollution and the rise in sea level, which affect the marine environment and the islands. By using the islands, visitors can form a connection, a sense of ownership and a commitment to protect.

4.2 State of Resources




The ecological integrity monitoring program involves monitoring the state of the park reserve's five major ecosystems: the forest, the coastal environment, the barrens, the peat bogs and the Precambrian archipelago. These ecosystems are the indicators selected to assess ecological integrity. For each indicator, a series of measures specify the conditions and changes of the characteristic features of the ecosystem under study.

The measures were selected using the frame of reference that Parks Canada developed for the monitoring program. This framework has three components: biodiversity, processes and stressors. The measures selected are the ones that reflect the ecosystem's general patterns. When most of the measures are in a particular state (good, fair or poor), the indicator (ecosystem) will reflect that condition. Since the monitoring system is recent, many of the ecosystems' measures lack data. As a result, the state of these ecosystems (indicators) is not rated. A number of planned monitoring projects are currently underway or scheduled for implementation over the next few years.

4.3 Forest Indicator



The forest covers 65% of the park reserve. The forest dominates most of the large sedimentary islands but is often absent from smaller islands that are exposed to wind. The forest is characterized by fir stands and by natural disturbances such as windfall and cormorant damage. The forests' wildlife communities vary depending on the islands' degree of isolation. The presence of the common eider is a distinctive feature of the park reserve. Large numbers of this species nest on the forested islands that are free of land predators. Three of the four monitoring measures selected for this ecosystem indicate a high level of ecological integrity. The windfall system has yet to be assessed, but there are no worrisome signs in this regard. Therefore, the overall state of the ecological integrity of the park reserve forests is judged good and holding stable.

MEASURE FOREST INDICATOR	STATE
Dominating plant species	
Windfall	N.R.
Unstocked areas following Cormorant disturbance	
Number of eider nests	

Measure: Dominating plant species



Fir stands dominate the park reserve forests by 88%. This characteristic, which differentiates them from mainland spruce forests, can be attributed to the combined influence of the maritime climate, the isolation of the islands and the geologic foundation. Natural evolution dictates that fir remain dominant in the forests. Between 1996 and 2006, the percentage of firs in the tree stratum increased in the fir stands, which is consistent with the development predicted for these stands.



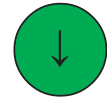
Windfall
Parks Canada / Yann Boudreau

Measure: Windfall
Not rated

The park reserve's insular nature makes its exposure to forest fires unlikely. Since firs are particularly vulnerable to windthrow, windfall

is the primary renewal process for old fir stands. In a context of climate change, variations in the strength or frequency of storms could change the number and extent of the windfalls, thereby potentially altering the composition and structure of the forests. The impact of climate change was documented by aerial photos and LIDAR surveys taken in 2009. A comparison with some older aerial photos will demonstrate the changes in disruption rate that have occurred over the past few decades.

Measure: Unstocked areas following Cormorant disturbance

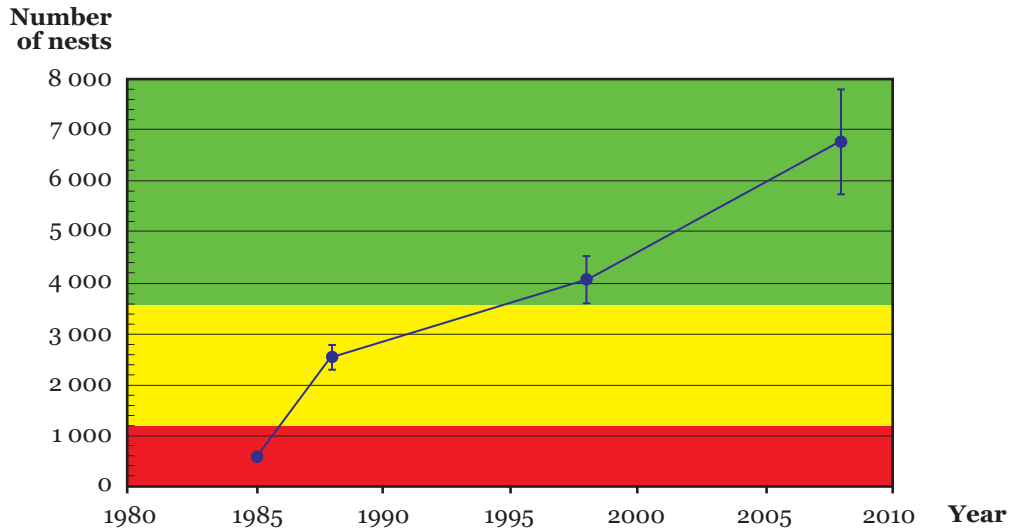


The double-crested cormorant's use of the forests dates back to the 1920s. Prior to that, the species inhabited the region's rocky islets. When cormorants nest in trees, their droppings kill stands quickly and slow down their regeneration. While this mortality is a natural disturbance, its specific role in the dynamics of the archipelago's forests remains to be clarified. To date, three islands have been disturbed by cormorant nesting. The area of stressed forest expands more quickly than the area can regenerate after the birds leave, but the affected areas are still relatively marginal on the park reserve scale.

Measure: Number of eider nests



The Mingan Archipelago has the highest concentration of eider breeding sites in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The species has higher breeding success in the forest than in the barrens and the Precambrian islets of the East sector. According to two recent inventories, the number of pairs of eiders nesting on the forested islands is estimated at nearly 7,000. This finding confirms the significant increase in population observed since the park reserve's creation in 1984.



Changes in the number of eider nests in the forest ecosystem between 1985 and 2010. The red zone indicates a poor level of integrity for this measure, the yellow zone a fair level and the green zone a good level. The vertical line indicates the level of uncertainty of the estimate, with a confidence interval of 80%.



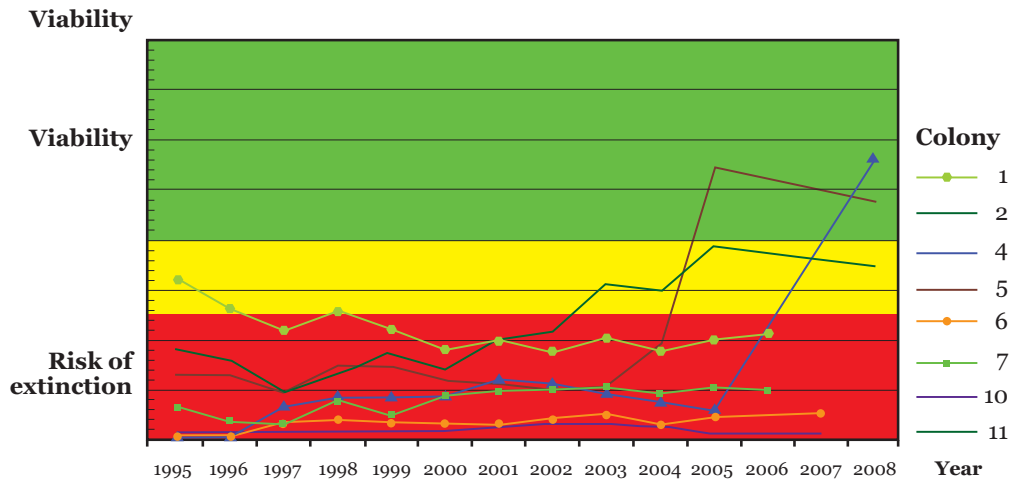
Eider nest
Parks Canada / Claude Samson

4.4 Coastal Environment Indicator Not rated

The coastal environment includes a portion of the salt marshes, island seaside cliffs, and shorelines, composed of sand, gravel, boulder or

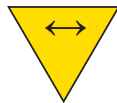
rock. The coastal ecosystem is the park reserve's most dynamic ecosystem because of its constant interaction with the sea. It is also the gateway to the islands and the most frequently visited ecosystem. The coastal environment of sedimentary bedrock is home to regionally unique plants. It provides breeding sites for a number of seabird species, but it is also exposed to marine pollution. The erosion affecting the banks of the North Shore could also affect the Mingan Archipelago. However, the assessment of this phenomenon has yet to be completed. In addition, the measures do not all indicate the same level of ecological integrity. For these two reasons, this indicator was not assessed.

MEASURE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT INDICATOR	STATE
Rare plant populations	
Number of tern nests	
Shoreline erosion/sedimentation	N.R.
Oil spills	



The viability of the Mingan thistle colonies was assessed based on the abundance of plants in each colony. When a colony's level of viability falls into the red zone, the colony's extinction is considered probable. A thistle recovery program was introduced in 2001. Recovery success is already evident with a significant increase in the abundance in certain colonies.

Measure: Rare plant populations

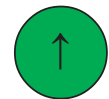


The park reserve is inhabited by 82 species of rare vascular plants, including 31 in the coastal ecosystem. They account for 28% of all vascular plant species in this environment. Six species are being monitored. The persistence of all these colonies is checked every five years. One of these species, the Mingan thistle, is being monitored more closely to determine the abundance trends of each colony's plants.

The status for five of the six species was found to be satisfactory, as all of their colonies have persisted over the past few years. However, the status Mingan thistle is considered critical,

as the number of plants for half of the colonies is less than the minimum viable population size. This measure is therefore rated "fair" and the trend, "stable," although the situation is improving among certain colonies thanks to the success of thistle recovery activities.

Measure: Number of tern nests



The park reserve is inhabited by tern colonies with two co-existing species: the common tern and the Arctic tern. These colonies are among the largest in Quebec. The tern nests in the coastal ecosystem are inventoried every five years. The tern populations there have been increasing since the park reserve's creation. In 2009, the Mingan Archipelago had 4,424 tern nests.



Monitoring rare plants
Parks Canada / Nancy Dénomée



Arctic terns
Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

Measure: Shoreline erosion/sedimentation
Not rated

Large portions of the Gulf of St. Lawrence shoreline are eroding due to climate change. The park reserve has begun monitoring the coastal sedimentary dynamics based on aerial photo analysis and with the assistance of field monitoring stations. The park reserve is part of a network of more than 3,000 stations installed along the North Shore of the Gulf and in the Gaspé Peninsula. The state and trend for this measure have yet to be assessed.



Measure: Oil spills

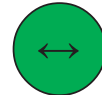
In 1999, the park reserve was struck by an oil spill that contaminated many kilometres of the coast and hundreds of seabirds. The impact of oil spills on the coastal ecosystem is assessed by taking into account the quantities of contaminants and the sensitivity of the affected areas. The park reserve has not experienced any large spills in the past five years.

4.5 Barrens Indicator
Not rated

The barrens account for 10% of the park reserve and are defined as open, dry areas with high wind exposure. They fall into four main categories: grassland barrens, scrubland barrens, lichen barrens and gravel barrens. These environments are relatively accessible, but particularly vulnerable to trampling. The density of their fragile natural resources (seabirds, rare plants, and unique plant communities) makes them priority conservation areas. The barrens also have northern affinities that make them particularly sensitive to the anticipated changes in the climate parameters governing them, such as wind and snow depth. The monitoring measures do not all indicate the same level of ecological integrity and some have yet to be assessed. For these two reasons, this indicator was not assessed.

MEASURE BARRENS INDICATOR	STATE
Rare plant populations	
Plant phenology	N.R.
Number of Herring gull nests	
Number of Common Eider nests	
Area measurement of barren types	N.R.

Measure: Rare plant populations



Slightly less than half (43%) of the vascular plant species in the barrens are considered rare. Nine of these 40 species are being monitored. The persistence of all of the colonies of these species is verified regularly. The Sparrow's-egg Lady's-slipper is being monitored more closely based on plant abundance in some of the colonies.

The status of seven of the nine species was found satisfactory, as all of the large colonies have persisted over the past few years. Similarly, the abundance of the sparrow's-egg lady's slipper has been stable. However, the status of the pincushion plant is considered of concern, as one of the five colonies monitored has disappeared in recent years. This is also the case with the Hooker's orchard, as there were no sightings of two of the five colonies in 2010. Overall, this measure is nevertheless rated good and the trend is stable.



Sparrow's-egg Lady's-slipper
Parks Canada / Valérie Delisle-Gagnon

Measure: Plant phenology
Not rated

Arctic/alpine plants may be particularly sensitive to climate changes. The flowering onset dates are being monitored. Three species, divided into 17 stations, are undergoing monitoring. The results are fed into PlantWatch, Environment Canada's national monitoring system. The early years of monitoring will be used to establish the reference state with which to compare future data. Significant trends can be identified only over the long term because of substantial annual variations.



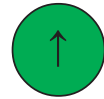
The date of the mountain avens, spring bloom is monitored.
Parks Canada / Valérie Delisle-Gagnon

Measure: Number of gull nests



In light of their numbers, their varied diet, their sensitivity to environmental changes and the interest in harvesting their eggs, the gull species are very useful for ecological monitoring. The herring gull and the great black-backed gull nest on numerous non-forested islands (barrens). According to the most recent inventories, the number of gull nests in the barrens is estimated at 3,896, which is less than half of the numbers observed between 1988 and 1998. In the mid-1990s, some research projects had detected productivity problems within the archipelago's main colony, which was located on Île Nue. This suggested a decline. This colony has now disappeared. A similar decline was observed throughout the North Shore sanctuaries in the early 1990s. In the park reserve, the current populations differ significantly from the average populations observed since its creation. That is why this measure is rated "fair." This situation is worrisome and warrants further study.

Measure: Number of Common Eider nests



Approximately 20% of the park reserve's eiders nest in the barrens. These populations are particularly vulnerable as a result of their increased exposure to wind, cold, predators and poachers. In 2008, there were 1,884 eider nests in the barrens, a slight increase suggesting a satisfactory state of population.

Measure: Area measurement of barren types
Not rated

In the barrens, lichen, gravel, shrub and grass surfaces come together, forming a mosaic. Largely maintained by climate conditions, this distribution is relatively stable over time. However, the anticipated climate change could alter it. At present, there is insufficient data to assess this measure. The recent update to the aerial imagery of the islands will make this monitoring possible during the next cycle of ecological monitoring.



Herring gulls
Parks Canada / Claude Samson

4.6 Wetlands Indicator Not rated

The park reserve's wetlands consist almost entirely of ombrotrophic and minerotrophic peatlands. These peat bogs provide the most floristically diverse ecological environment in the park reserve. Apart from climate change, few issues are currently affecting the peat bogs.

MEASURE WETLANDS INDICATOR	STATE
Plant species recovery	N.R.
Open Water Area	N.R.

Measure: Plant species recovery Not rated

The peat bog plant communities will be monitored. Thus far, the field-tested methods have been

too imprecise. It is too early to assess this measure and its changes.

Measure: Open Water Area Not rated

The water level has a direct influence on a peat bog's size and floristic composition. The shape and size of the ponds are indicative of this level and should not change significantly over the next few decades if current conditions persist. These areas could nevertheless be affected by climate changes. We currently lack sufficient data to assess this measure. An examination of old and recent aerial photographs will help lay the foundation for this monitoring.

THE ECOSYSTEMS
MINGAN ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK RESERVE OF CANADA



Île Niapiskau



Peatlands
Wetlands
Organic accumulation
Resistance to change
Wide diversity of vegetation



Precambrian Archipelago
Igneous and metamorphic geology
Proximity to mainland
Low vegetation
Seabirds



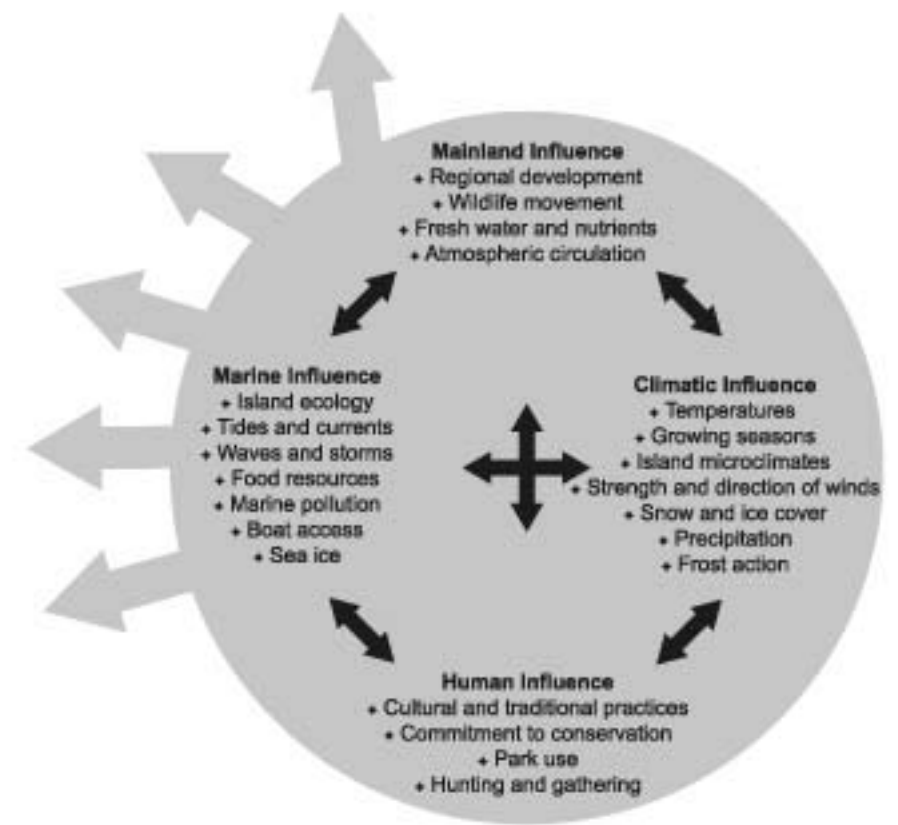
Boreal Forest
Balsam fir wetlands
Windfalls and cormorant colonies
Land mammals
Forest birds
Seabirds



Coastal Areas
Beaches, flats and cliffs
Upper coastal vegetation
Sedimentary dynamics
Marine pollution
Seabirds
Rare plants
Accessibility



Barrens
Low wind-exposed vegetation
Uplands with northern affinities
Attractive open landscape
Sensitive resources
Seabirds
Rare plants





Ombrotrophic peat bog
Parks Canada / Nancy Dénomée

4.7 Precambrian Archipelago Indicator Not rated

The Precambrian archipelago is a chain of nearly a thousand islets scattered along 70km of the East sector coast. Its igneous and metamorphic geology, its proximity to the coast, its distinctive plant and animal communities, its use and its history distinguishes it from the sedimentary portion of the park reserve.

Approximately half of the Precambrian archipelago's islets are also designated as migratory bird sanctuaries. This area is a very favourable nesting environment for several species of seabirds. The Watshishou sanctuary alone has several thousand common eiders. To increase the monitoring program's relevance, the local communities, including the Nutashkuan First Nation, will be consulted during the selection and development of the monitoring measures for the Precambrian archipelago.

5. Heritage Resources Conservation – Cultural Resources

5.1 Background

Parks Canada's management of cultural resources is guided by the Cultural Resource Management Policy. Under this policy, cultural resources can include landscapes, buildings and structures, archaeological sites and objects. Once assessed, some of the park reserve's heritage resources could be officially designated as cultural resources. The park reserve's heritage resources are currently considered potential cultural resources.

5.2 State of Cultural Resources

The conservation of these heritage resources is monitored based on the state of the landscapes, buildings and structures, archaeological sites and objects, as well as on the management methods applied to these resources.

5.3 State of Resources Indicator

Measure: Landscapes
Not rated

Given that the park reserve has no inventory of the landscapes likely to be recognized as cultural resources, we cannot rate this category.

Measure: Buildings and structures⁵



There are cultural resources on Île aux Perroquets and Petite île au Marteau. These resources relate to the operation of two lighthouses.

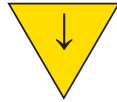
The buildings that Parks Canada oversees at the Île aux Perroquets lighthouse are the lighthouse keeper's house, the assistant lighthouse keeper's house and the fog horn shelter, as well as four more rudimentary accessory buildings, that is, the hen house, the forge, the shed and the chaffaud. The overall condition of these structures is very poor in terms of both their envelope (windows, roofs, exterior siding) and their framework, which are severely damaged in some spots. Some roof work was done recently. Parks Canada intends to do major renovation work on the exterior of the building over the next few years.

The four main buildings that Parks Canada oversees at the Petite île au Marteau lighthouse are the lighthouse keeper's house, the assistant lightkeeper's house, the garage and the fog horn shelter.

As part of the Accelerated Infrastructure Program (AIP), all exteriors of the island's buildings, in addition to the tower, the interior of the lighthouse keeper's house and the fog horn shelter, were given a face lift. Parks Canada intends to use these facilities, including the new multi-purpose room in the lighthouse keeper's house, to offer new activities that will attract a broad range of clients. The work completed through the AIP in order to improve the islands' reception infrastructures included expanding the wharf, adding washrooms and benches, and adapting the facilities and equipment to accommodate people with reduced mobility.

5. The lighthouse buildings on Petite île au Marteau have undergone extensive work, which has helped improve their condition. However, the Île aux Perroquets buildings are in poor shape and unusable. Under the circumstances, the fair rating assigned reflects the improvements already made to the lighthouse on Petite île au Marteau as well as the commitment to renovate the Île aux Perroquets lighthouse.

Measure:
Archaeological sites



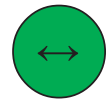
Since the creation of the park, two archaeological potential studies, coupled with two field inventories and certain ad-hoc initiatives, have made it possible to identify 40 land-based archaeological sites in the park reserve's West sector. Eleven of these sites contain evidence of paleohistoric occupation, while the others relate to the historic period (see map entitled Archaeological Sites Identified in the Archipelago's West Sector).



Basque ovens covered with vegetation
Parks Canada / Stéphanie Cloutier

When the archaeological sites were inventoried in 1985, the Île Saint-Charles cutting shop and Île Nue Basque ovens were the only sites identified as being at risk. The areas at risk at the Île Saint-Charles site were excavated in 1990, and the state of the site was then rated “good.” The Basque ovens site underwent two archaeological operations, one in 1986 and a second in 1994. Today, although appearing relatively stable, the state of the ovens remains poor and of extreme concern. The Île aux Perroquets lighthouse site underwent excavation in conjunction with archaeological monitoring through a soil remediation project conducted in 2001. The state of the site is good. The state of the other archaeological sites has not been reassessed since their discovery in 1985. No risks were documented or observed at that time.

Measure: Objects



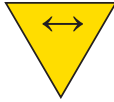
The collection of ethnological objects has three artefacts. However, the archaeological collection contains approximately 210,000 objects. Most were collected during the excavations of the Île Saint-Charles cutting shop site (about 190,000 artefacts) and the Île Nue de Mingan Basque ovens site (about 12,000 artefacts). The remainder of the archaeological collection originates from 47 other identified sites.

The state of the archaeological objects is rated “good” in more than 95% of cases. The 5% of the objects whose state is rated “fair” are almost exclusively made of metal. This rating can be attributed to the fact that, in most instances, they have not undergone any corrosion stabilization treatment. The three objects of the ethnological collection are in good condition.



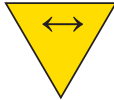
Artefacts
Parks Canada / Joceline Boulais

5.4 Applied Management Methods Indicator



For the management methods applied to potential cultural resources, the indicator was assigned an overall rating based on the following measures: inventory, assessment, potential cultural resources management strategy and monitoring program.

Measure: Inventory



The park reserve does not have a landscape inventory at this time. Some landscapes may eventually be recognized as cultural resources. The park reserve has an assets inventory that lists all buildings and structures. It has an inventory of the archaeological sites and a summary inventory of the archaeological artefacts that have been gathered. However, approximately 94% of the archaeological artefact inventory is non-computerized and was not conducted in accordance with current standards.

Measure: Assessment



To date, the historic value of the landscapes, buildings and structures at the archaeological sites, and objects has not been formally assessed. The cultural resources and their associated values can be determined by preparing a Cultural Resource Value Statement (CRVS). In addition, the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office has assessed a number of the lighthouse buildings. However, none have been rated or recognized based on the criteria used by this organization.

Measure: Resource management strategy



The notion of cultural resource management at MANPRC has evolved significantly over the past few years. Community interest, staff training on the Cultural Resource Management Policy and management's commitment have resulted in increased concern about the protection of cultural resources.

The cultural resource management strategy is based on the Cultural Resource Management Policy. Thus, while the park reserve currently lacks a CRVS, the management measures taken for buildings, archaeological sites and objects likely to be recognized as cultural resources nonetheless take into account their historic value.

Consequently, when projects or work likely to have an impact on potential cultural resources are developed, whether in the formal context of an environmental assessment or not, they are submitted to the Cultural Heritage Service specialists to determine their impact and to propose mitigation or improvement measures. A good example would be the planning for the Petite île au Marteau/Île aux Perroquets lighthouse refurbishment project.

Measure: Monitoring program



The state of the buildings at the lighthouse stations has been the subject of several assessments. These assessments have produced a number of recommendations for ensuring minimal preservation of the buildings. Although some of the proposed measures have been put into action, this has not prevented the deterioration of the structures. The 2005 reports on the state of the buildings on Petite île au Marteau and Île aux Perroquets provide a solid base for comparison and will aid in monitoring the state of the cultural heritage constructions.

The park reserve does not have a formal program to cover archaeological sites. The Basque ovens site, the only archaeological site identified as threatened, is monitored periodically. Measures have been proposed for stabilizing the site with consideration given to the fragile natural environment. A periodic monitoring program covering all of the Archipelago's archaeological sites should be set up for the purpose of assessing changes in the preservation conditions.

Objects in the collection are preserved under controlled conditions and their preservation is ensured over the long term with a monitoring program.

SITES ARCHÉOLOGIQUES IDENTIFIÉS AU SECTEUR OUEST DE L'ARCHIPEL
RÉSERVE DE PARC NATIONAL DU CANADA
DE L'ARCHIPEL-DE-MINGAN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IDENTIFIED IN THE WEST SECTOR OF THE ARCHIPELAGO
MINGAN ARCHIPELAGO
NATIONAL PARK RESERVE OF CANADA



IDENTITÉS CULTURELLES

- Amérindien paléohistorique (Période d'occupation unique entre 1200 et 450 AA)
- Amérindien paléohistorique composantes multiples (Plusieurs périodes d'occupation entre 1200 et 450 AA)
- Amérindien historique (1500 et 1950)
- Euro-canadien (1534 À 1950)
- Site historique d'appartenance culturelle indéterminée (1500 à 1950)
- Site potentiel

Notes: 1- Actuellement, il n'y a pas eu d'inventaire archéologique dans le secteur est de l'archipel.
 2- La localisation des sites est approximative.
 3- AA: Avant aujourd'hui

CULTURAL IDENTITIES

- Paleo-Amerindian (Sole occupation period between 1200 and 450 B.P.)
- Multiple Paleo-Amerindian components (Several occupation periods between 1200 and 450 B.P.)
- Historic Amerindian (1500 to 1950)
- Euro-Canadian (1534 to 1950)
- Historic site of indeterminate cultural identity (1500 to 1950)
- Potential site

Notes: 1- To date, no archaeological inventories have been taken in the East sector of the Archipelago.
 2- The site locations are approximate.
 3- B.P.: Before present

--- Limite de la réserve de parc national du Canada de l'Archipel-de-Mingan
 Boundary of Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada

--- Refuge d'oiseaux migrateurs de Betchouane
 Betchouane Migratory Bird Sanctuary



Projection cartographique Mercator Transverse Modifiée
 Système de référence géodésique NAD83
 Modified Transverse Mercator map projection
 NAD83 geodetic reference system



6. External Relations – Public Education through Outreach Efforts

6.1 Background

The outreach program is designed to reach Canadians wherever they are—at their recreational activities, in the schools and in their communities. It helps to create a sense of connection to the national parks and secures a place of importance for them in the lives of Canadians. It features learning opportunities designed to bring Canadians to a better understanding and appreciation of our heritage. It fosters commitment to protecting and presenting our national parks.

The park reserve has been exploring ways to meet the objectives of the program and incorporate this new reality. Aside from Web clientele, schools and local communities, the public audiences, partners and strategies for fulfilling these objectives have yet to be defined.

6.2 The State of Public Education through Outreach Efforts

The main tool for outreach programs in the park reserve is the website. Visitor traffic and the number of unique visitors⁶ have decreased in past years. The presentation and content of the website need to be brought in line with current web trends and the needs of the site's users.

YEAR	MANPRC WEBSITE	
	Individual visitors	Visitor traffic
2005	73,540	97,532
2006	65,175	87,220
2007 ⁷	50,855	61,023
2008	64,639	77,085

In its 2005 management plan, the park reserve set an objective to increase the number of people reached by the website by 5% per year between 2005 and 2007. The data analysis shows that this objective was not met. On the other hand, an upward trend was noted in 2008. The 2009 data is not included since a new statistical tool has been developed.

The school program in the Mingan region is also a component of the outreach efforts. In order to reach the Sheldrake school clientele in Nutashkuan, the park reserve developed a program to be delivered by a guide-interpreter in class and in the field. The program is aimed at elementary students from grades 2, 4 and 6, including students from the Innu communities. The school program has been adapted to align with the objectives of the provincial educational reform.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE SCHOOL PROGRAM					
YEAR	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Class	306	306	246	213	141
Field ⁸	14	309	169	53	77
Total	320	615	415	266	218

The park reserve set an objective to increase the number of students participating in the program by 10% between 2005 and 2007. The total number of students that participated in the school program increased nearly 30% for this period, which satisfied the objective for these years. Almost every school in the Mingan region participates in the school program from year to year. However, the number of students in the field program varies according to the funds available for transportation to the islands. This accounts in part for the

6. A unique visitor is only counted on the first visit.

7. Statistics for the first three months of 2007 were not collected. Therefore, the totals for this year are under assessed.

8. Schools must pay to participate in field trips. Participation fluctuates from one year to another depending on the school budget. Participation in class activities is free.

decrease observed in 2008 and 2009. As well, the average number of students per class was 9, whereas it was 12.75 in 2005.

6.3 Appreciation and Understanding Indicator

Nationwide surveys have been conducted to measure Canadians' appreciation and understanding.

In its outreach efforts, the park reserve has undertaken a number of specific actions to keep local communities informed and aware of the many projects related to cultural and natural resources. Here are some examples:

- An experimental gardening project at the Lestrat school (Mingan thistle)
- Educational posters about conservation projects (hare, common eiders, sandpipers, etc)
- Radio interviews and articles in area newspapers about projects related to cultural and natural resources
- Talks in local communities to explain the research projects in progress (underwater archaeology, red knot, commemoration program, etc.).



Mingan thistle seeding by the schools
Parks Canada / Pierrot Vaillancourt

Although still early on in the process, steps have been taken to reach the public in urban areas. The Montréal Biodôme is working towards integrating Quebec's threatened plants into its St. Lawrence marine ecosystem; two plants from the park reserve are included in the project. As well, one of the flower species has been introduced to the alpine garden in the Montréal Botanical Garden. The park reserve has also gained public exposure through publications in specialty magazines and television appearances on "Salut Bonjour" and "La petite seduction."

7. External Relations – Engaging Stakeholders and Partners

7.1 Background

Engaging stakeholders and partners is achieved by inviting interested citizens and organizations to get involved in activities to do with heritage protection, public education and visitor experience.

Parks Canada seeks to work in close collaboration with local communities and all citizens to accomplish its mandate through an integrated effort. Such collaboration is based on establishing and maintaining harmonious relations that will bring about a shared vision concerning protection, education and visitor experience. Parks Canada also envisions developing opportunities for members of local communities to get involved through volunteer and other activities.

The many partners from near and far who participate in collaboration with Parks Canada demonstrates a degree of interest in MANPRC.



Île aux Perroquets lighthouse station
Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

7.2 State of the Commitment of Stakeholders and Partners

In 1999, following claims by the citizens of Havre-Saint-Pierre and Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan, the park reserve initiated a series of meetings with various area stakeholders. The meetings produced the following results:

- Authorization for residents to snare hare and camp on certain undeveloped sites. These activities were in addition to the winter hunt for eider and oldsquaw ducks, which the residents have been authorized to do since the creation of the park reserve. The authorizations, along with various services and activities that have been offered, have contributed greatly to the local population's acceptance of the mandate.
- Formation of a follow-up committee tasked with ensuring communication between regional stakeholders and the management.

In the same collaborative spirit, the park reserve is currently implementing mechanisms that will ensure improved consideration of Innu traditional practices.

7.3 Target Audience Support Indicator

The park reserve has a number of scientific partnerships with federal and provincial agencies and departments, researchers and educational institutions. These partnerships were formed for the purpose of setting up an ecological monitoring program, maintaining or improving the state of the ecosystems and informing Canadians about the park reserve's resources.

The park reserve also collaborates with departments or organizations involved in public safety and protection of resources, such as Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Canadian Coastguard, Environment Canada and the Centre de recherche et sauvetage. It also collaborates on subjects of shared interest with the municipalities, the North Shore ZIP, band councils, QIT Fer et Titane inc., citizen's committees, hunting and fishing committees and various businesses.

Mingan organizations have demonstrated a strong commitment to developing the visitor experience through their involvement and entrepreneurship in regional development. Some of the main partners at present are:

- The Duplessis Association touristique régionale (ATR), for regional promotion
- The Mingan Islands Research Station, for reception and interpretation at Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan
- The municipality of Havre-Saint-Pierre and the Havre-Saint-Pierre port, for reception and interpretation at Portail Pélagie-Cormier
- The municipalities of Baie-Johan-Beetz and Aguanish, for reception services
- Boat operators, for transportation services to the islands
- The Club nautique de Havre-Saint-Pierre, for managing the marina
- The Maison de la culture Roland-Jomphe, for giving talks
- The Commission scolaire de la Moyenne-Côte-Nord, for the school program
- The Mingan region Regional County Municipality and Canada Economic Development, for presenting the lighthouse stations
- The Havre-Saint-Pierre port, for planning the international cruise accommodation
- The Ekuanitshit community, for organizing activities themed on its Innu culture

- Regional artists, for taking part in exhibitions

The park reserve shares and exchanges technical services with the local communities, community groups and regional stakeholders. It also collaborates with the Mingan Regional County Municipality on matters of territorial and regional development.



Portail Pélagie-Cormier
Parks Canada / Marie Lachance

The park reserve also wishes to establish a program to involve locals in area programs related to cultural and natural resources. Over the past three years, a total of 129 individuals have contributed more than 430 hours of volunteer time. A number of these activities involved inventories or research projects.

In its 2005 management plan, the park reserve set a general objective to hold annual meetings with the follow-up committee, harmonize its offer of services with regional stakeholders, take part in regional forums, maintain and improve existing partnerships and develop others. In recent years, a number of productive partnerships with area decision-makers and stakeholders have come into being, opening the way for communities to participate in carrying out Parks Canada's mandate.

Parks Canada conducted a survey of its stakeholders and partners in 2009 to explore the issues surrounding their commitment. Parks Canada wished to gain a better understanding of the level of support from stakeholders and partners for its activities. The following are a few results from the survey. Of the respondents, 85% felt it was extremely important that an organization



Marina

Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

such as Parks Canada be responsible for national parks. Based on their experiences over the last two years, 73% of respondents said their relations with Parks Canada were satisfactory. Parks Canada's performance was rated lower where it concerned their efforts to understand the needs of the stakeholders and help them achieve their goals (55%);

the way in which Parks Canada considered their feedback in decision-making processes (49%); and their opportunities to participate in planning (48%). A considerable increase was noted in the percentage of stakeholders and partners who seek formal collaboration with Parks Canada in the years to come.

8. Visitor Experience

8.1 Background

The Mingan region offers major attractions for adventure seekers and ecotourism enthusiasts on a quest for tranquility, encounters with the exotic, natural landscapes and cultural experiences. In this respect, the park reserve is a traffic builder for the region. Regional visitor traffic is hampered by travel distances and expenses, the limited number of infrastructures and services, the short summer and the draw of sites and activities closer to the tourism markets.

The park reserve seeks to offer visitors activities and services that respond to their needs and interests so that they enjoy their stay and become ambassadors of the Canadian network of parks. With this goal in mind, Parks Canada is working towards a better understanding of its clients and their profiles in order to reach them and offer activities that meet their expectations for visitor experience.

There are currently three different experiences to explore at MANPRC. Of the three, quiet contemplation is the most intense. Visitors who came with the idea of recharging during their stay in the Mingan region have left realizing that the true island experience is one of contemplation. The uniqueness of the scenery and the spectacular natural environment in the archipelago seem to transform simple relaxation into meditation and reflection. Contemplation arises naturally from observing the exceptional scenery and marvelling at the wild state of the archipelago. Discovery is also on the menu at the MANPRC. A more intellectual experience, discovery brings visitors into contact with the islands. Visitors explore, examine and pursue understanding and knowledge of our national park reserve. And finally, visitors say their experience is entertaining. Their enjoyment

comes from the activities they take part in and largely from the people they meet during their visit or who serve as their guides.

Havre-Saint-Pierre is one of nine stopovers on the St. Lawrence made by international cruise ships. The MANPRC is a major attraction for international cruises in the area. The park reserve also features two lighthouse stations, one on Petite île au Marteau near Havre-Saint-Pierre, and the other on Île aux Perroquets, which overlooks the waters near Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan. Parks Canada and the local communities have recognized that these two lighthouse stations must be featured in the presentation program. A considerable joint effort has been made over the past three years by Parks Canada and stakeholders from the surrounding areas to implement these broad scale projects aimed at improving an already memorable visitor experience. These two projects should open up new markets and increase visitor traffic to MANPRC.

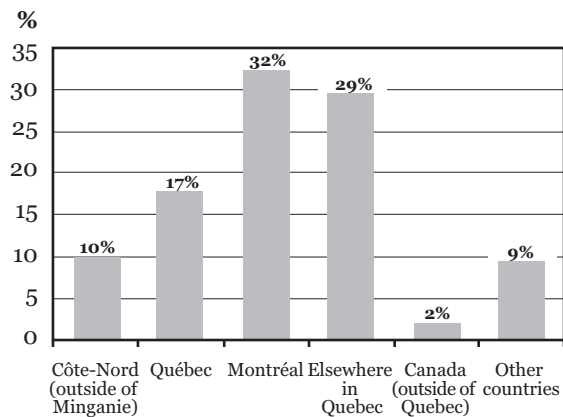
8.1.1 Clientele

In 2009, the park's visitor profile was 46% tourists and 54% local visitors from the Mingan region. These are two separate client groups, since their needs and expectations are not the same. Recent studies have shown that, for the first time, there are more local visitors than tourists. For the time being, the data comes from visitor studies; however, plans are being made to compile this data using postal codes.

Tourists stay an average of 4.2 nights in the Mingan region out of a vacation averaging 8.4 nights away from home.⁹ Most visitors are from Quebec. French is the language used by 99% of tourists. Of the tourists, 79% are visiting the park reserve for the first time.

9. Parks Canada, Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada, *Étude auprès des visiteurs 2007-2008: Patrons d'utilisation des visiteurs*.

Origin of Tourists



Nearly half of the adult residents of the Mingan region have visited the islands during the course of their recreational activities.¹⁰ Most local visitors access the islands by private watercraft (82%). They visit the archipelago on average 6.7 times a year and travel in groups of five or so. Forty-five per cent of local visitors have brought tourists to the park reserve.

8.1.2 Service Offer

The park reserve manages, in partnership, the Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan and Havre-Saint-Pierre Reception and Interpretation Centres. The centres welcome visitors and provide them with information and guidance. Parks Canada agents also work in the tourist reception municipal offices for Baie-Johan-Beetz and Aguanish.

The interpretation program sector is mainly comprised of personalized interpretation activities in the islands of the West sector and talks on the mainland. There is also a permanent exhibit at Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan, a temporary exhibit at Havre-Saint-Pierre, a film featuring the Mingan Islands and several panels and posters. The program enables various clienteles to learn about cultural and natural resources. Publications about the park reserve's resources and activities are available to the public. They include the *Discovery Guide: Mingan Island from Island to Island*, and free brochures.



Reception at Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan
Parks Canada / Jacques Pleau

The key visitor experience at the park reserve is the contemplation of one-of-a-kind landscapes. The park reserve is an open book on the history of the earth's formation. The area is also home to a diverse collection of plants and wildlife. There are very few tools to explain and present the geology of the landscapes and the cultural and natural resources to visitors.

The facilities and services offered in the West sector vary from one island to the next: landing wharves, kitchen shelters, hiking trails, picnic areas, etc. (see map entitled Current Uses). Six of the islands have facilities for single or group wilderness camping. Other undeveloped areas are available to residents of local municipalities for traditional camping.

10. Parks Canada, *Étude auprès des résidents de la Minganie sur leur fréquentation de la RPNCAM*.



Interpretation activity
Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

In the East sector, there are currently no facilities, organized transportation or services for visitors.

Visitors access the islands in the West sector via transportation provided by boat operators certified by the park reserve. Some leave from Havre-Saint-Pierre, and others from Mingan and Longue-Pointe-de Mingan. The types of service vary: excursions of variable duration with one or two stops in the islands, boat-taxi offering more flexibility for destinations and duration and sea kayak expeditions.



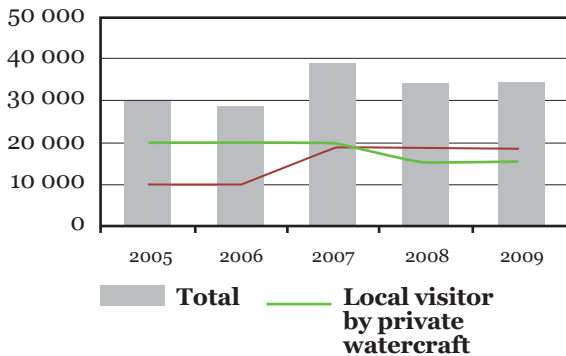
Campsite
Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

8.1.3 Visitor Traffic

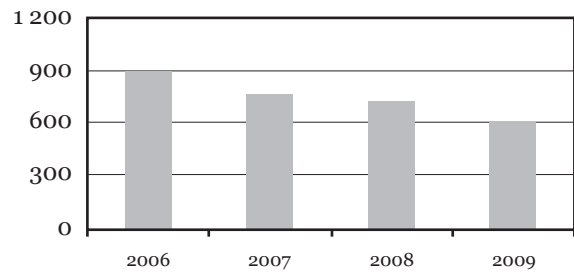
Total visitor traffic at the park reserve amounted to 34,874 visits in 2009. The number of visits from Mingan region residents grew considerably between 1997 and 2009, and now totals 18,810 annually. On the other hand, between 2005 and 2009, tourist traffic fell significantly. This trend is reflected in the participation in interpretation activities and the use of services. Participation in activities that take place indoors, such as talks and film viewing, has decreased. On the other hand, the arrival of the international cruise ships and the demands of several groups have resulted in an increase in special activities.

Visitor traffic from 2007 to 2009 was estimated using a new method that records visits from May 1 to October 31. Comparisons with previous years must be done before any final conclusions can be drawn.

**MANPRC
Number of visits
2005 to 2009**



**Annual number of night
spend on primitive campsites
2006 to 2009**



Number of visitors using interpretation activities	2007	2008	2009
Evening talks	623	411	418
Special activities	439	707	1 370
Interpretation activities on the islands	18,252	14,257	14,438
Film viewing	249	69	94

8.2 State of Visitor Experience

The indicators chosen to assess the state of the visitor experience are: visits, personal connection, interpretation, and activities and services. For each of these indicators there are measures that define the desired performance. *L'Étude auprès des visiteurs 2005, l'Étude auprès des résidents de la Minganie sur leur fréquentation de la réserve de parc, l'Étude auprès des visiteurs 2007-2008 : Patrons d'utilisation des visiteurs, l'Étude auprès des visiteurs 2007-2008 : Analyse de l'expérience de visite* and visitor statistics provided the information used to assess these indicators.



Beauty discovered
Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

8.3 Visit Indicators

The main attractions of the Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada for visitors are the monoliths, the seabirds and the interpretation activities. Visitors come to contemplate, discover, recharge and enjoy. The local communities are also important.

Measure: Availability of information before departure

Visitors wishing to plan a stay in the park reserve can get information from the website, Parks Canada's telephone services and articles in the newspaper and specialty magazines. The availability of information before arrival received a satisfaction rating of 79% among tourists. The main information source that spurred tourists to come to the park reserve was the influence of parents and friends.

Measure: Visitor traffic

Half of the tourists who travel through the Mingan region do not visit the park reserve. The two main reasons for this are lack of time and having visited previously. Some other reasons were: too expensive, lack of interest, uncomfortable on boats and the physical demands of visiting the islands.¹¹

The number of tourists went from around 20,000 in 2005 to approximately 16,000 in 2009, confirming a downward trend that began in 2003. Although the situation is worrisome, the park reserve is not the only destination affected; visitor traffic at the Duplessis tourist offices and at other locations throughout the Parks Canada network have experienced a similar trend.

At the other end of the scale, local visitor traffic has increased, going from 9,702 in 1997 to 18,810 in 2009.¹² This increase might be the result of improvements to some facilities, such as the marina, the opportunity to carry on traditional activities, and improved relations with the neighbouring communities.

8.4 Personal Connection Indicator

Visits to the park reserve are vital if Canadians are to develop a sense of personal connection to the park and come to understand that its ongoing protection is essential. In all, the level of satisfaction expressed by visitors meets the standards set by Parks Canada. Only the price-quality ratio measure received a lower satisfaction rating.

Measure: Visitors are satisfied

Parks Canada set an objective to achieve a rate of 85% of visitors satisfied (50% very satisfied) with their experiences in the national parks. Study results confirm that the park reserve has achieved this performance objective. Ninety-six percent of tourists declared themselves satisfied with their visit on the whole (64% of whom were very

satisfied) and 92% declared themselves satisfied with their experience rated against their expectations (61% of whom were very satisfied).

The study of local visitors did not produce very detailed data about their overall satisfaction; however 57% did not suggest improvements. Those that did suggested that infrastructures be developed and improved.

Measure: Visitors consider the park reserve important

In its 2005 management plan, the park reserve set an objective to exceed a 75% rate of support of its mandate. The objective was met among tourists, who agreed with the four statements defining the mandate, which they supported at a rate of 99%.



Dame de Niapiskau
Parks Canada / Stéphanie Cloutier

Although there is no data on this measure for local visitors, they rated the importance of being able to enjoy a territory in which the resources were protected four on a scale of one to five.

11. Parks Canada, *Réserve de parc national du Canada de l'Archipel-de-Mingan: Étude auprès des visiteurs 2007-2008: Patrons d'utilisation des visiteurs*, Jean-François Rivard, Social Sciences Research, April 2009, 35 pages + Technical Appendices.
12. Local visitor traffic is calculated by means of telephone surveys with a sample group of residents.

Measure: Price-quality ratio

For tourists, access to the park reserve includes the Parks Canada admission fee and the cost of maritime transport. The price-quality ratio received 80% satisfaction for maritime transport and 86% for camping activities. The Parks Canada admission fee on its own received a satisfaction rate of 90%.

8.5 Interpretation Indicator

Parks Canada set an objective to achieve a rate of 85% of visitors satisfied (of whom 50% are very satisfied) with their learning experience and a visitor participation rate of 50% in learning experiences in its national parks. The tourist study indicates that the satisfaction rate has been achieved, although satisfaction with the availability of interpretation activities is just below the targeted threshold. The target participation rate for interpretation activities has also been achieved. The exact satisfaction rate of local visitors is not known, however their participation in interpretation activities is slightly below the target threshold.

Measure: Visitors Participate in Interpretation Activities

Tourists participated at a rate of nearly 91% in interpretation activities in the islands in 2005. Their average participation was 2.5 interpretation activities each. The percentage of tourists satisfied with the interpretation activities in which they participated is 93%. The score for availability of interpretation activities (83% were satisfied) is below the target threshold.

Nearly 45% of local visitors in 2007 participated in one of the interpretation activities offered by Parks Canada. The park reserve also set an objective to achieve a 10% increase in participation from residents in interpretation activities.

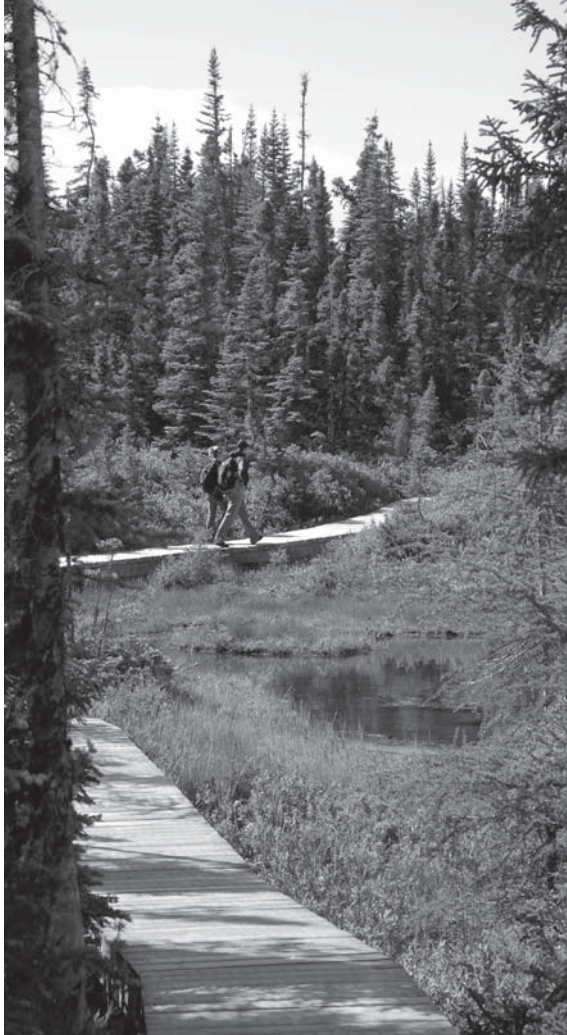


Did you say fossil?
Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

The achievement with respect to this objective cannot be assessed using the existing data. It is difficult to account for the local visitors that visit the park on their own and join the tourists in activities.

Measure: Visitors Learn from Their Experience

In its 2005 management plan, the park reserve set an objective to achieve at least 75% for visitor's knowledge of messages. Tourists appear to have remembered the key messages. When questioned, one-third of visitors answered correctly for all of the statements, and a good majority (75%) answered correctly for three out of four of the statements. The objective was therefore achieved for tourists; however, there is no data on this measure for local visitors.



Hiking trail
Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

In its 2005 management plan, the park reserve set an objective of 60% for visitor knowledge of the characteristics of the culture, practices and traditional knowledge of the local communities. This objective was met for tourists, since 62% of them felt that the characteristics of the culture, practices and traditional knowledge of the local communities had been communicated to them. This data is not available for local visitors. The park reserve also set itself an objective to develop two interpretation activities presenting the traditional practices of the local communities. This objective was met.



Capailloux Guided Hike
Parks Canada / Éric Le Bel

8.6 Activities and Services Indicator

The facilities used for the service offer are on average twenty years old (docking wharves, kitchen shelters, picnic tables, lookouts, boardwalks, etc.) Some of the installations are showing signs of deterioration caused by the maritime environment. Despite this, the objective of 85% of visitors satisfied (50% of whom are very satisfied) with the activities and services was met for tourists.

Access to the East sector was very limited until route 138 was opened in 1996. There are no facilities, activities or services offered in the islands of this sector. A comprehensive examination is currently in progress with the area residents and the Nutashkuan Innu community in order to develop a management and presentation approach for the East sector.

Measure: Visitors use them

Most tourists make one outing in the islands for an average 1.5 outings during their stay in the area. A total of 16% of tourists use the camping facilities. They spend at least one night in the islands, for an average of 1.9 nights.

The most popular activities for tourists are walking, observing nature and photography. Local visitors most often come to walk, observe nature, picnic and engage in social activities.

Percentage of Visits to Different Sectors ¹³ of the Park Reserve				
Type of visitor	West	Centre	East	Extreme East
Local visitors	40%	78%	22%	9%
Tourists	41%	70%	7%	3%
Total	40%	75%	15%	7%

The islands in the Centre sector are visited most frequently. The average number of islands visited is 2.6. Most local visitors only visited one sector in 2007, while one-third of them reported having visited two. The East sector is only visited by 15% of all visitors. This is to be expected since there is only one campsite on Île à la Chasse that is accessible and only one boat operator offers excursions in this sector. Consequently, it is the local visitors with cottages in the sector that visit it.

Measure: Visitors are satisfied with their availability and quality

The availability of staff, campgrounds and hiking trails earned a satisfaction rate of over 85% from tourists, while the availability of picnic areas, kitchen shelters and signage in the islands scored

less than 85%. All of the tourists are satisfied with staff courtesy and 94% of them are satisfied with their level of knowledge. One-third of visitors said that nothing more could be added to make their visit more enjoyable, while 20% indicated that improvements could be made to information and signage.

The general state of the park reserve was judged to be very good by tourists. The state of the reception buildings, bathrooms, campsites, picnic areas, kitchen shelters and trails received a satisfaction rate of nearly 90%.

The satisfaction rate for local visitors is not known.



Kitchen shelter
Parks Canada / Yann Boudreau

13. The sectors referred to here do not correspond to the East and West sectors discussed elsewhere in the document. Here the West sector extends from Île aux Perroquets to Grande Île; the Centre sector, from Île Quarry to Grosse île au Marteau; the East sector, from Île Herbée to Île Sainte-Geneviève and the Extreme East sector includes all of the granitic islets between Île Sainte-Geneviève and the Aguanish river

9. Results of Management Measures

The 2005 management plan presented objectives for realizing the vision for the park reserve. The table below presents some of these objectives along with certain indicators discussed in this report and the related results. Since the 2005 management plan was drafted, Parks Canada has adopted a new vision, new strategic directions and

a results-oriented management approach. In the next management plan, the 2005 objectives will be updated using this data, particularly where it concerns external relations and the visitor experience.

2005 Objectives	Indicators	Results
Respect the ancestral and treaty rights of Innu communities adjacent to the park reserve.		Strengthened relations with the Nutashkuan Innus following the negotiation of an Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) and the creation of a protocol agreement for the genuine participation pilot experiment applied during the management plan review.
Follow up on Parks Canada's previous commitments to the Innu communities.		Participation from the Ekuanitshit community in activities presenting the Innu culture. Announcement of a 2.2 million dollar investment to create the Maison de la culture innue d'Ekuanitshit.
Promote harmonious dialogue with the Innu communities with regards to park management.		Strengthened relations with the Innu communities after staffing a position for a liaison officer for Aboriginal affairs.
Improve knowledge about eco-systems so as to better document and preserve the park's ecological integrity.	Precambrian archipelago	Acquisition of basic knowledge of natural resources in the East sector.

2005 Objectives	Indicators	Results
Ensure that park development and use respects the integrity of its natural resources.	Forest, coastal environment, barrens, wetlands and Precambrian archipelago Personal connection	<p>Preparation of an analysis grid for designating activities compatible with the existing natural resources.</p> <p>Informing visitors about protecting plants and wildlife while visiting the site and reception kiosks and taking part in interpretation activities.</p> <p>Increased awareness of seabird protection through the production of a code of ethics on navigation and seabird observation.</p> <p>Improvement of visitor experience, safety and conservation awareness due to the creation of a brochure on kayak safety.</p>
Ensure the sustainability of the park reserve's resources and ecosystems with regards to traditional harvesting of renewable resources and traditional recreational activities authorized by Parks Canada for the non-Aboriginal residents of local communities.	Forest	Improved assessment of the impact of the activity on the resource through monitoring showshoe hare snares and catches.
Maintain and restore the park's ecosystems as required.	Coastal areas (Forest, barrens and Precambrian archipelago)	<p>The program to re-establish the Mingan thistle has produced an improvement in the two colonies.</p> <p>Initiation of a shore clean-up program.</p> <p>Removal of five sea-marks (visible fixed object serving as a reference point at sea or on shore) and restoration of the impacted sites.</p>

2005 Objectives	Indicators	Results
Ensure the protection of cultural resources and other important evidence of human history.	State of resources	Improved management of cultural resources following the project to restore the buildings at the two lighthouse stations.
Offer a visitor experience that will make it possible for different clienteles to understand the purpose of the park reserve, and to appreciate all of its heritage values. This will aid in maintaining its ecological integrity.	Interpretation and personal connection	Tourists know the park reserve's mandate and support it at a rate of 99%. Creation of a new permanent exhibit in 2008 at the Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan Reception and Interpretation Centre.
Collaborate on the presentation of local cultures, including traditional knowledge and practices.	Interpretation	Sixty-two per cent of visitors felt that the characteristics of the culture, practices and traditional knowledge of the local communities had been communicated to them.
Develop ties with regional stakeholders and develop partnerships for presenting the natural and cultural heritage of the park reserve and the Mingan region.	Support of target audience	Improvement in the commitment of partners and the visitor experience owing to the establishment of numerous partnerships with local organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New agreements are in place with the municipalities of Havre-Saint-Pierre, Baie-Johan-Beetz and Aguanish for sharing reception and interpretation space. • An agreement is in place for the development of a stopover project for international cruises.
Maintain and improve the quality of visitor services and the facilities in some sectors of the park reserve.	Activities and services	Service quality has been maintained, as shown by visitor satisfaction with activities and staff, which exceeds 85%.

2005 Objectives	Indicators	Results
Implement the management plan over the next five years through the participation of all employees, transparent management and the support of local communities and regional partners.	Support of target audience	Improvement of stakeholder involvement due to the formation of a follow-up committee.
Promote transparent management and harmonious dialogue with local communities and regional organizations.	Support of target audience	Increased communication with the local and regional population with respect to the park reserve's natural resource themed projects.

10. Main Issues

An assessment was conducted of the current state of MANPRC with regard to the expected results in the areas of conservation of heritage resources, external relations and visitor experience. Several key issues for future consideration by park management arose from the assessment:

Working with First Nations Peoples

It is very important to maintain and develop good relations with the First Nations peoples, especially in matters concerning traditional practices (Innu Aitun) for which land use and management conditions need to be defined. These relations must be developed with respect for ancestral rights while aiming to enhance the economic interests of the Innu communities and the Parks Canada mandate. Among the challenges over the coming years is the need to address the poor representation of First Nations members in the MANPRC workforce. There is also a need to integrate the knowledge and experience of the Innus in order to promote their cultural values.

East Sector

The East sector of the park reserve is a separate geographic entity that remains largely unknown. Although difficult to access, it holds potential for a variety of visitor experiences through collaboration and partnership with the local people and the Aboriginal community of Nutashkuan. Acquiring knowledge about natural and cultural resources is another issue for the East sector. Few initiatives in terms of protection, education and visitor experience have been launched. Measures for monitoring ecological integrity in the East sector have not yet been developed.

Ecological Integrity

The ecological integrity monitoring program has been completed, although some of the identified measures have still not been implemented on the territory. We must ensure that the ecosystem monitoring measures allow us to identify changes in ecological integrity so that the visitors can discover and enjoy healthy ecosystems. Moreover, climate change could have a significant impact on the ecosystems of the park reserve.

Cultural Resources

Knowledge of MANPRC's cultural resources is limited. The main known resources, namely Aboriginal artefacts and Basque ovens, are not well protected or presented. The lighthouse station renovations are well begun. However, it would be worth completing them over the next few years. MANPRC is also without a cultural resource value statement, which would be helpful in managing the park reserve's cultural resources.

Community Support

Over the past few years, many productive partnerships have been formed between decision-makers and regional stakeholders and have allowed communities to participate in achieving the Parks Canada mandate. It is vital that we maintain these relations and seize any new opportunities for collaboration or partnership. Moreover, a small percentage of the local population, including the Innu communities, is involved in the field projects, which include special activities pertaining to natural resources.



Princess Danae 2009
Parks Canada / Charlotte Cormier

Low Visitor Traffic

The relatively low use of MANPRC in relation to its potential presents an issue. There were 34,874 visitors in 2009. Tourists accounted for 16,064 visits, that is, 46% of the total use, and local visitors accounted for 18,810 visits, or 54% of the total. Use by local visitors has more than doubled since 1997, whereas use by tourists has trended downward. The clientele has been inadequately

targeted, so it has been difficult to make proper contact with them and offer activities suited to their expectations. In addition, the promotional activities are modest and tend to be too broad in their outreach. Competition is on the rise in the tourist industry. A significant barrier to visitation is the remoteness of the park reserve, which makes it necessary for visitors to travel long distances.

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12. Glossary

Parks Canada

Public entity created in December 1998 by Law C-29. The Agency's mandate is to conserve, protect and present important components of Canada's natural and cultural heritage. It is directly responsible to the Minister of the Environment.

Ancestral Rights

Ancestral rights are the rights protected under section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982, according to its interpretation by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Archaeological Site

Encompasses surface, subsurface or submerged remains of human activity at which an understanding of these activities and the careful management of these resources can be achieved through the employment of archaeological technique.

Bog

A bog is a peatland with the water table usually at or near the surface. The surface often rises above the surrounding terrain. Bogs are strongly acidic and extremely nutrient poor. The peat layer is usually greater than 40 cm and is usually covered with Sphagnum spp. (moss). Bogs may have tree growth or be open.

Cultural Resource Value Statement

Strategy document that describes the cultural resources and their value for national parks and national marine conservation areas administered by Parks Canada and that establishes objectives to protect them.

Ecological Integrity

Condition of a park that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes. (Canada National Parks Act, subsection 2(1)).

Ecology

The science that studies the conditions of existence of living beings and the mutual relations between organisms and the medium they inhabit.

Ecosystem

Structured unit consisting of a well-defined geographic area characterized by particular ecological conditions (climate, soil, etc.), which provides a physical support for biological communities.

Ecotourism

A form of tourism designed for people to discover a natural environment while maintaining its integrity. Ecotourism includes interpretation of the environment's natural or cultural elements (educational component), promotes respect for the environment, is based on sustainable development concepts and leads to socioeconomic benefits for the local and regional communities.

Fen

A fen is a peatland with the water table at or just above the surface. There is very slow drainage by seepage. Fens are more nutrient rich than bogs due to drainage from upslope mineral water. The vegetation consists of sedges, mosses, shrubs and sometimes sparse tree growth.

Follow-up Committee

The Follow-up Committee is made up of representatives of local communities and organizations interested in the management of the park reserve. It plays a consultative role for the management of the park reserve with respect to the issues and guidelines related to the protection and heritage presentation of the resources. The committee helps improve the integration of the management of the park reserve into its surrounding environment while respecting the framework of its mission.

Habitat

The ecological environment in which an organism, species, population or species-group lives.

Heritage Presentation

Heritage presentation encompasses activities, programs, facilities and services that bring the public into contact, either directly or indirectly, with the national park reserve.

Impact and Benefit Agreement

An agreement between Parks Canada and an Aboriginal land claim group that addresses any matter connected with a protected heritage place owned and administered by Parks Canada, that might have a detrimental impact on the Aboriginal group or that could reasonably confer a benefit on the Aboriginal group.

Igneous rock

Rock formed by the cooling and solidification of magma.

Indicator

A nationally or bio-regionally consistent summary reporting statement that provides a comprehensive synopsis of each element of the Agency mandate. It is based on a combination of data, measures and critical success factors that provide a clear message about current conditions and the change since the last measurement.

Innu Aitun

“Designates all activities, in their traditional or modern manifestation, relating to the national culture, fundamental values and traditional lifestyle of the Innus associated with the occupation and use of Nitassinan and to the special bond they have with the land. These include in particular all practices, customs and traditions, including hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities for subsistence, ritual or social purposes. All spiritual, cultural, social and community aspects are an integral part thereof. The commercial aspects are, however, governed by the prevailing legislation of Canada and Quebec. Innu Aitun entails the utilization of animal species, plants, rocks, water and other natural resources for food, ritual or social purposes and for subsistence purposes in accordance with section 5.2.4. [of the APGN]” (APGN articles 1.2 and 1.3).

Local Communities

In this document, the local communities are all of the communities located near Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada between Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan and Nutashkuan.

Measure Data

Surveys or other measurements that present conditions or trends in a protected area. Measures are components of indicators.

Metamorphic Rock

Endogenic rock formed without the melting of pre-existing rock (igneous or sedimentary), mainly through recrystallization due to increases in temperature and pressure.

National Park

A national park named and described in Schedule 1 to the Canada National Parks Act or a park established pursuant to a federal-provincial agreement that is under the responsibility of the Parks Canada Agency and that is not described in Schedule 1 to the Canada National Parks Act. The parks of Canada are dedicated to the people

of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment. They must be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for current and future generations.

Nitassinan

Part of the ancestral territory of the Innus of Nutashkuan, located in the Province of Quebec.

Outreach Activities

Learning opportunities offered to Canadians outside the boundaries of the national heritage areas, such as the website, publications and the educational programs offered in schools.

Phenology

Study of the effects of climate on the periodic phenomena of plant and animal life.

National Park Reserve

A national park reserve named and described in Schedule 1 to the Canada National Parks Act or a national park reserve that is under the responsibility of the Parks Canada Agency and that is not described in Schedule 2 to the Canada National Parks Act. The Canada National Parks Act states that “park reserves are established where an area or a portion of an area proposed for a park is subject to a claim in respect of Aboriginal rights that has been accepted for negotiation by the Government of Canada.”

Sedimentary Rock

Rock that is produced or formed by the gradual accumulation of weathered material, called sediment, from other rocks or organic remains (shelly material).

Vascular Plants

Plants with a stem, root and leaves, and with vessels for conducting sap.

Visit

The entrance of a person into the park reserve for recreational, educational or cultural purposes during opening hours. Local, commercial and transit traffic as well as returns in the same day or during the same stay that are not new visits are excluded.

Visitor Experience

The sum total of a visitor’s personal interaction with heritage places and/or people that awakens the senses, affects emotions, stimulates the mind and leaves the visitor with a sense of attachment to these places.

Visitors

People visiting the park reserve, whether from local communities, elsewhere in Canada or abroad.