

Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association

GUIDE TO CREE-LED ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN PROTECTED AREAS



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AEQ Aventure Écotourisme Québec	KRG Kativik Regional Government
AMW Albanel-Mistassini-and-Waconichi Lakes	MBS Migratory Bird Sanctuary
COTA Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association	MELCCFP Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (Ministry of the Environment, the Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks)
CNG Cree Nation Government	MRNF Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests)
EFA Exceptional Forest Area	SÉPAQ Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (Quebec Outdoor Establishments Company)
EIJBRG Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government	TRFPAP Territorial Reserves for Protected Area Purposes
EIT Eeyou Istchee Tourism	
JBNQA James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement	





CONTEXT

WHY WAS THIS GUIDE CREATED?

The Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA) has been mandated to assess the potential of ecotourism activities in Eeyou Istchee's protected areas. Between 2020 and 2023, consultations were held with tourism officers and tallymen representing each of Eeyou Istchee's communities. It was determined that community members may be interested in developing ecotourism activities in protected areas, but that there is a lack of information available to guide the process.

WHO IS THE GUIDE FOR?

This guide is specifically designed for individuals who are interested in developing Cree-led **ecotourism projects within protected areas**. The definitions for "protected area" and "ecotourism" follow.

WHAT IS A PROTECTED AREA?

Broad Definition

According to the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#), a protected area is "a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values" This is also the definition adopted by the Government of Quebec (Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec, 2023).

Protected Area Network in Quebec

Under the [Natural Heritage Conservation Act](#), the Government of Quebec has designated specific lands as part of their official network of protected areas. These lands are subdivided into specific legal or administrative categories and listed on the [register of protected areas](#). The areas designated within the registry have long-term protection status under the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*. Within their boundaries, certain activities may be controlled or prohibited with the aim of protecting natural heritage, cultural heritage, and biodiversity.

Several different categories of protected areas currently exist in Eeyou Istchee. This information will be further detailed in this guide.

Ongoing Evolution of Protected Areas in Eeyou Istchee

As of 2023, over 20% of Eeyou Istchee is officially protected under the Quebec register of protected areas. 23 territories were newly added to the registry in 2020, following negotiations between the Cree Nation Government and the Quebec Government. Many protected areas in Eeyou Istchee are still under study or under provisional status. The details regarding protected areas included in this guide are therefore subject to change (Cree Nation Government, 2020).



WHAT IS ECOTOURISM?

Ecotourism can be defined as a type of tourism that allows the discovery of a natural environment while preserving its integrity. Ecotourism promotes a philosophy of respect towards nature, encourages sustainable development, and can lead to socio-economic benefits for local and regional communities (Ministère du Tourisme du Québec, 2013).

Examples of ecotourism activities include:

Land Activities	Water Activities	Winter Activities	Cultural Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canicross• Hiking• Trekking• Biking (fat bike, mountain bike)• Climbing• Ziplining• Fauna (bird-watching, caribou sighting)• Flora (mushrooms, berries, herbs)• Geocaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canoe-camping• Kayaking• Kitesurfing• Windsurfing• Whitewater river-boarding• Rafting• Sailing• Stand-up paddle boarding• Scuba diving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ice canoeing• Winter sea kayaking• Sledding• Ice fishing• Snowshoeing• Cross-country skiing• Off-trail skiing• Snow kiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stays in tepees or shaptuans• Guided tours• Arts and crafts classes• Traditional cuisine• Storytelling• Traditional learning

Table source: Aventure Écotourisme Québec, n.d.

Since ecotourism focuses on preserving nature, many ecotourism activities are aligned with the conservation aims of protected areas.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:

Ecotourism projects in protected areas should be developed with the assistance and support of COTA. If your ecotourism project involves activities or interventions requiring authorization from the ministry responsible, you will need to be represented by COTA or by your local Cree First Nation to obtain authorization.





INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS GUIDE

OBJECTIVES OF THIS GUIDE

The objectives of the guide are two-fold:

1. Help you begin to define aspects of your ecotourism project.
2. Guide you towards resources or information regarding what you may need to launch an ecotourism project in protected areas.

This guide does not provide any advice on business development or funding for ecotourism projects. Please check with the COTA office for any additional resources and/or information you may need.

HOW THE GUIDE WORKS

The guide is divided into two main parts:

Part 1 – Workbook, and **Part 2 – Resources**. The two parts of the guide are divided into the same seven sections. The workbook in Part 1 should be completed first, as the questions are designed to help you navigate the information provided in Part 2.

The seven sections of the guide each address an important aspect of developing ecotourism in protected areas. In Part 2, you will find the following information:

Section 1 – Activities and Interventions:

Relevant tourism and outdoor activity associations, ecotourism standards, information and recommendations or requirements based on different activities.

Section 2 – Land Use Planning and Management:

Overview of land use planning authorities in Eeyou Istchee, authorities responsible for protected areas and wildlife reserves, and what rules apply based on the location(s) of your project.

Section 3 – Other Environmental and Cultural Heritage Considerations:

Considerations surrounding wetlands, shorelines, threatened and vulnerable species, and designated cultural or historical heritage sites.

Section 4 – Utilities and Waste Management:

Considerations regarding water, waste, and energy.

Section 5 – Accommodation and Services:

Laws and regulations governing tourist accommodations and food services.

Section 6 – Access and Safety:

Safety considerations related to ecotourism development, especially in remote areas. Resources for safety accreditation, training.

Section 7 – Transportation:

Considerations for different modes of transportation (such as licences and permits required).

At the end of this guide, you will also find two appendices:

Appendix 1 contains community maps. These are intended to be used while completing of the workbook (instructions are provided in Part 1).

Appendix 2 contains a summary to help you understand the various land use planning verifications which may be involved in the development of your ecotourism project. This is a summary of information provided throughout Part 2 of the guide.



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE SYMBOLS

Throughout the workbook (Part 1), you will encounter the following symbols to help guide you towards important information and resources included in Part 2 of the guide:



This symbol indicates that more detailed information or resources will be provided in Part 2 to help support the development of your ecotourism project.



This symbol indicates that there may be legal requirements applicable to your ecotourism project, and/or that your project may require specific permits or authorizations. Information is provided in Part 2 regarding what is required.



This symbol indicates that, if you do not know how to answer a question in the workbook (Part 1), resources will be provided in Part 2.





Part 1
WORKBOOK

PART 1

WORKBOOK

As previously noted, this workbook is intended to be completed before consulting Part 2. It is recommended to complete all questions.

.....

SECTION 1 — ACTIVITIES AND INTERVENTIONS

A Define which activities will be involved in your ecotourism project. The examples listed below are based on consultations, and therefore do not include all possible options. Note that for the purposes of this guide, hunting and trapping are not considered as ecotourism activities.

Check all that apply to your project or describe it in the space provided at the end.

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

Hiking, walking, climbing or trekking

Biking

Wildlife observation

Flora exploration
(picking mushrooms, berries, herbs, etc.)

Sightseeing (e.g. observing northern lights)

Tours on off-road vehicles (e.g. ATVs)

WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES

Boat tours (on a motorized watercrafts)

Whitewater river boarding or rafting

Canoeing, kayaking, canoe-camping,
stand-up paddle

Fishing

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Stays in teepees or shaptuans

Guided tours

Arts and crafts classes

Storytelling

Introduction to Cree culture and history

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Ice canoeing

Cross-country skiing or ski mountaineering

Tours on off-highway vehicles (e.g. snowmobiles)

Ice fishing

Snowshoeing



OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):



For more information on accreditation standards, training, and best practices for ecotourism, consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 1 – Activities and Interventions*.



In developing any type of ecotourism project, there may be considerations regarding insurance and liability. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 1 – Activities and Interventions*, for more information.

! If you selected fishing, tours involving motorboats, or tours involving off-highway vehicles as part of your ecotourism project, please be aware that various regulations apply. Consult the information on fishing, as well as the section on the use of off-highway vehicles and motorcrafts in *Part 2 - Resources, Section 1 – Activities and Interventions*.

B Will your ecotourism project involve the development or construction of new infrastructure or installations? Examples could include construction of a dock or boat launch, making changes to an existing cabin or camp, adding a washroom facility, creating a new trail or rehabilitating an old trail, expanding a trail, building equipment storage, creating a new campsite, adding signage or panels, etc.

Select **“yes”** if you think the development of new installations or infrastructure will be required for your ecotourism project, select **“no”** if this is not anticipated.

Yes

No

C Will your ecotourism project involve any of the following interventions? Check off any that apply.

Gathering timber or cutting down trees

Gathering non-wood forest products (mushrooms, berries, etc.)

Circulating on motorized vehicles within a protected area

Staying overnight in a protected area or wildlife reserve

! If you selected “yes” to question B or checked off any of the options to question C, it is important to note that there may be permits or authorizations required to complete your project, especially in protected areas. Some interventions may also be prohibited in certain protected area types.

The next section of this workbook will help you determine the location(s) of your ecotourism project. After completing the workbook, make sure to pay close attention to *Part 2 – Resources, Section 2 – Land Use Planning and Management*, where different information about rules and regulations in protected areas will be provided. Also consult the summary provided in Appendix 2.



SECTION 2 — LAND USE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

A First, identify the areas where your ecotourism project might be located by drawing on your community's maps provided in Appendix 1 of the guide. Two maps are provided for each community:

- Community Map 1: Shows Category lands in each community.
- Community Map 2: Identifies protected areas in and around each community, as well as wildlife reserves (if applicable).

Draw out your itinerary, or mark specific areas of interest, on each map provide for your community. If possible, use Google Maps or another mapping tool to identify the coordinates of specific location(s) and write them below. In the space provided below, you can also write down any other location information you think might be important (place names, waterbodies, etc.).

B Using your drawings on Community Map 1, identify the following: In which Category lands is your ecotourism project taking place? Is your project taking place in the Eeyou Marine Region? Finally, if your project is near Whapmagoostui, will it be located in the Kativik Region?

[The Cree Geoportal website](#) has a map showing Category lands, the Eeyou Marine Region Boundaries, and the Eeyou Istchee territory boundaries.

Category IA lands

Category II lands

Kativik Region

Category IB lands

Category III lands

Eeyou Marine Region

C Identify which traplines and tallymen are concerned by your ecotourism project. To identify traplines, you can use the [Cree Geoportal website](#).

If you do not know which tallymen are concerned, contact your local office of the Cree Trappers Association. Write down the traplines and names of tallymen below:



It is important to discuss your ecotourism project idea with any concerned tallymen and obtain their permission to proceed.



Different regulations, by-laws, and requirements may apply depending on where you project is located. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 2 – Land Use Planning and Management*, and review the information about the land use planning regime in Eeyou Istchee. Also consult the summary provided in Appendix 2.



D Using your drawings on Community Map 2, identify what types of protected areas are relevant to your ecotourism project location(s).

DISCLAIMER: Given the scale of the community maps, some protected areas may be difficult to distinguish or may not appear clearly. Some protected area designations are under provisional status and therefore have yet to be officialized. It is recommended to also consult the following mapping tools to identify specific protected areas:

- [Eeyou Conservation protected areas interactive map](#): This map shows protected areas in Eeyou Istchee, as well as community boundaries and Category lands. It is available in English, but may not be as up to date as Government of Québec data.
- The Government of Québec (Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs, MELCCFP) [protected areas map](#) has the most up-to-date and reliable information (in French)

Once you have determined the protected areas relevant to your ecotourism project, check off all that apply:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic reserve (or proposed aquatic reserve) | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional forest area (old forest or rare forest) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity reserve (or proposed biodiversity Reserve) | <input type="checkbox"/> Migratory bird sanctuary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National park (or national park reserve) | <input type="checkbox"/> Territorial reserve for protected area purposes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat (Heronry) | |



More information about the different types of protected area designations can be found in *Part 2 – Resources, Section 2 – Land Use Planning and Management*.



Certain authorizations might be required if your ecotourism project will take place in a protected area. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 2 – Land Use Planning and Management*, for more information.

E Lastly, using your drawings Community Map 2, identify if your ecotourism project will be located within a wildlife reserve. Check off all that apply:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assinica Wildlife Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Albanel-Mistassini-and-Waconichi Lakes Wildlife Reserve |
|--|--|



Certain authorizations might be required if your ecotourism project will take place in a wildlife reserve. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 2 – Land Use Planning and Management* for more information.



SECTION 3 — OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS

A Are you aware of any threatened or vulnerable species in or near the planned location(s) of your ecotourism project?

 Yes No I don't know

If you do not know the answer, consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 3 – Other Environmental and Cultural Heritage Considerations*, where you will find more information about threatened and vulnerable species.



Certain species are protected by legislation and regulations. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 3 – Other Environmental and Cultural Heritage Considerations* for more information.

B In order to develop your ecotourism project, are you planning on constructing any infrastructure or installations in or near a shoreline or near a wetland? Check all that apply:

 Construction near a shoreline Construction in or near a wetland I don't know

Regulations may apply if your ecotourism project is located near a shoreline or near a wetland and includes the construction of new infrastructures. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 3 – Other Environmental and Cultural Heritage Considerations*, where you will find more information about shorelines and wetlands.

C In order to develop your ecotourism project, are you planning on constructing any infrastructure or installations that may be located near an archeological site or another cultural/historical heritage site?

 Yes No I don't know

If you do not know the answer, consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 3 – Other Environmental and Cultural Heritage Considerations* for more information on how to locate such sites.



Archaeological and heritage sites are protected by legislation. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 3 – Other Environmental and Cultural Heritage Considerations*, where you will find more information about restrictions and authorizations pertaining to archeological sites.



SECTION 4 — UTILITIES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

A Are there any washroom facilities in proximity to your activity site(s), or do you plan on installing any?

 Yes No

B Are there any waste disposal facilities and waste collection services available near your activity site(s)?

 Yes No

For more information on waste management (including “leave no trace principles” and other considerations), consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 4 – Utilities and Waste Management*.



Certain regulations may apply with regards to wastewater and washrooms. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 4 – Utilities and Waste Management*.

C Is there a source of drinking water near your planned ecotourism project site(s)?

 Yes No

For more information on drinking water and safety, consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 4 – Utilities and Waste Management*.

D Will your activity require the storage of any petroleum products onsite (e.g., heating oil, vehicle fuel, plane fuel, etc.)?

 Yes No

Certain regulations may apply if you need to store petroleum products on or near the site(s) of your ecotourism project. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 4 – Utilities and Waste Management* for more information.

SECTION 5 — ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES

A Will your ecotourism project involve hosting or lodging tourists at your own camp, cabin, or other accommodation?

 Yes No

Regulations apply to tourist accommodations. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 5 – Accommodation and Services* for more information.

B Will you be providing meal services as part of your ecotourism project?

 Yes No

If you are planning on providing meals as part of your ecotourism project, a permit may be required. Consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 5 – Accommodation and Services* for more information.



SECTION 6 — ACCESS AND SAFETY

A How can your ecotourism project site(s) be accessed? Check any that apply:

Road Network

Water

Air transport

B How close is the nearest community to the site(s) involved in your ecotourism project (in km)?
How far are the closest clinics and/or hospitals? Write down the information below:



For more information on safety and access considerations, consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 6 – Access and Safety*.

SECTION 7 — TRANSPORTATION

A What modes of transportation will you be using for your ecotourism project? Select all that apply:

Human-powered vessel (canoe, kayak, etc.)

Off-highway vehicle (e.g. snowmobile, ATV)

Motorized watercraft

Airplane or helicopter

Automobile

! Permits, licensing, and accreditations may be required depending on the mode of transportation selected. Other considerations may also apply. Please consult *Part 2 – Resources, Section 7 – Transportation*, for more information.



Part 2

RESOURCES

Part 2 of the guide is designed to provide you with additional information, considerations, and resources for developing your ecotourism project in protected areas. Each section addresses a separate theme. Use your answers in *Part 1* to help you navigate the details provided.

Please note that *Part 2*'s table of contents is available at the beginning of *Part 1*.

Also note that all information featured in *Part 2* are up to date as of March 2023. The information provided may change over time, including the names of ministries, legal information provided, and links to existing documents.

SECTION 1 ACTIVITIES AND INTERVENTIONS

In the workbook (*Part 1* of this guide), you identified what activities and interventions might be involved in your ecotourism project. *Part 2, Section 1* provides further information and resources regarding ecotourism development generally, and information specific to various ecotourism activities.

The information is divided as follows:

- **1.1 Tourism Associations and Support Networks** lists different associations and support networks that may be relevant to ecotourism projects, as well as the services they offer.
- **1.2 Information and Resources by Activity Type** outlines key legal information, resources regarding best practices and standards, as well as useful resources pertaining to specific activities.
- **1.3 Insurance Considerations** provides an introductory overview to insurance for ecotourism projects.

1.1 TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS AND SUPPORT NETWORKS

1.1.1 LOCAL AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SUPPORTS

Both local and regional supports are available to those looking to develop an ecotourism project in Eeyou Istchee. If your community has a tourism officer (or equivalent), it is recommended to consult them directly as they may be able to provide support in the development of your project.

At the regional level, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA) provides support and services to tourism operators and outfitters across Eeyou Istchee. COTA is a membership-based non-profit organization.

COTA has created a separate organization, Eeyou Istchee Tourism (EIT), to play the role of a recognized regional tourism association (as defined by the Government of Quebec). EIT's mission is focused on developing sustainable tourism that is in harmony with Cree culture and values, and that involves a partnership with Cree communities, institutions, and businesses.

Becoming a member of COTA/EIT has several benefits, including access to training and workshops, business development and marketing services, as well as other resources (such as this guide). COTA can support tourism operators in the process of developing their projects and provide guidance.

Information about joining COTA/EIT as a member is provided [here](#).

1.1.2 ASSOCIATIONS AND SUPPORTS BY TOURISM SECTOR TYPE

Aventure Écotourisme Québec (AEQ)

AEQ is the association recognized by the Ministère du Tourisme as the sector-based tourism association for ecotourism and outdoor adventure tourism. They provide accreditation and certification, support and services in the development of tourism projects, as well as practical tools and best business practice models (Aventure Écotourisme Québec, n.d.). AEQ's [website](#) provides more detailed information about membership eligibility and benefits, as well as other resources.

Obtaining a certification or accreditation with AEQ is recommended, for two reasons:

1. They can help ensure that you are following requirements, standards, and best practices related to ecotourism activities.
2. Having their seal of approval can signal to tourists that your project adheres to a recognized set of standards.

Quality Safety Seal

AEQ's "[Quality-Safety](#)" seal is offered in two forms:

- Accreditation (requires full membership with AEQ); and
- Certificate (does not require full membership).

The Quality-Safety seal testifies to your project's professionalism and confirms that it adheres to rigorous safety and quality standards established by AEQ. Joining AEQ also allows you to become a member of a wider network of professional and access various resources. Note that it is mandatory for any adventure tourism organization wishing to obtain funding from the Ministère du Tourisme (Aventure Écotourisme Québec, n.d.).

Ecotourism Certification

AEQ has developed a set of [9 standards for ecotourism](#) relating to protection of the environment, sustainable practices, and respect for communities (among other factors). To achieve this certification, you must already be a member of AEQ. Other requirements also apply.

Indigenous Tourism Québec

Indigenous Tourism Québec is a tourism association recognized by the Ministère du Tourisme as the official representative of the Indigenous tourism industry in the province. Membership with the associations has many benefits, including access to funding programs, tools, training, and opportunities for business development. Becoming a member may be particularly relevant for operators of ecotourism projects focused on cultural activities. More information about becoming a member of this association can be found on [their website](#).

Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada

The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada is the recognized Canada-wide association representing Indigenous Tourism. Membership offers many benefits, such as access to resources, business support and development opportunities, and training. Membership may be particularly relevant for ecotourism projects focused on cultural activities. More information about becoming a member of this association can be found on [their website](#).

The association has an accreditation program, which allows tourism businesses to demonstrate to clients that they adhere to a set of quality standards. It is a formal recognition that a business is "market ready" and offers a high-quality product.

1.1.3 ASSOCIATIONS AND SUPPORTS BY ACTIVITY TYPE

Réseau Plein Air Québec

Réseau plein air Québec groups 11 non-profit organizations dedicated to promoting ethical and safe practice for various outdoor activities. These organizations are recognized by the Ministère de l'Éducation for their ability to supervise and educate the population and provide the tools necessary to practise an activity safely (Réseau plein air Québec, n.d.).

The websites of these organizations generally have publicly available resources pertaining to safe practice (see Table 1). Note that the websites for the organizations listed are in French.

TABLE 1 - Federations in the Network

NAME OF FEDERATION	ACTIVITIES
Canot-kayak Québec	Kayaking, canoeing
Rando Québec	Hiking, snowshoeing
Fédération Québécoise de kite	Snow kite and kite surf
Eau Vive Québec	White-water sports (includes kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddle, rafting, surfing)
Spéléo Québec	Cave exploration
Vélo Québec	Cycling, mountain-biking, fat biking
Fédération Québécoise de la montagne et de l'escalade	Climbing, downhill skiing, activities in mountain environments

NAME OF FEDERATION	ACTIVITIES
Voile Québec	Sailing
Québec Subaquatique	Diving and snorkelling
Ski de fond Québec	Cross-country skiing
Cheval Québec	All activities involving horses

Other Federations

Other federations not included in the network of Réseau plein air Québec may also be relevant to your ecotourism project (see Table 2). Note that most of the websites for the organizations listed are in French.

TABLE 2 - Other Relevant Federations

NAME OF FEDERATION	ACTIVITIES
Fédération Québécoise des clubs quads	Quad biking
Fédération des clubs de motoneigistes du Québec	Snowmobiling
Camping Québec and Fédération Québécoise de Camping et de caravaning	Camping and campsite operations

1.2 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES BY ACTIVITY TYPE

The following section (1.2) provides resources and information regarding standards, training, and key legal information specific to different types of ecotourism activities.

Note that this is not a comprehensive overview of all possible ecotourism activities, as this guide is designed to focus on activities which were proposed by tourism officers representing Eeyou Istchee communities.

1.2.1 Disclaimers

Legal Information Provided

The information included in this section provides key legal information specific to practising various ecotourism or outdoor adventure activities. Other legal requirements not included in this guide may also apply to your ecotourism project, depending on the specifics of the activities and locations involved. For example, certain activities may be restricted within protected areas or require authorization in specific locations. This guide is not a replacement for consulting legal texts. In developing your ecotourism project, you must conduct your due diligence to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Some additional information about laws, regulations, and rules potentially associated with ecotourism projects can be found in the following sections of this guide, as their pertain to the following:

- The location of a project (including protected areas and wildlife reserves) and if infrastructure is required to carry out a project (*Part 2, Section 2*).
- Sensitive areas, vulnerable or threatened species, and designated heritage sites (*Part 2, Section 3*).

- Utilities and waste management potentially associated with ecotourism projects (*Part 2, Section 4*).
- Services potentially associated with ecotourism projects (*Part 2, Section 5*).
- Modes of transportation potentially associated with ecotourism projects (*Part 2, Section 7*).

Standards and Best Practices

Most activities are associated with standard practices, such as those established by the federations of their related discipline, or general best practices. While following these standards is not mandatory, the recommendation of this guide is to respect them in order to develop a safe and high-quality ecotourism project.

1.2.2 Sport and Recreational Fishing

Key Legal Information

Outfitting Operations

The [Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife \(chapter C- 61.1\)](#) states that to provide fishing services for recreational purposes, for remuneration, an outfitter's licence is required. Information regarding the process for obtaining an outfitter's licence is available on the [Cree geoportal website](#).

Additional Fishing Regulations

Furthermore, the Government of Quebec has a [dedicated website](#) for understanding all legal information pertaining to fishing, including:

- Fishing licensing (a general requirement for non-Cree, in Category I and II lands within Eeyou Istchee);
- Zone-based regulations ([see fishing zones map](#));
- Fishing periods and quotas;
- Mandatory catch and release;
- Particular species;
- Fishing limits, possession, and identification;
- Types of fishing bait;
- Generally prohibited practices.

Location-based rules apply in addition to the general fishing rules listed above. These rules do not affect Cree fishing rights, pursuant to Section 24 of the [James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement \(JBNQA\)](#) and the [Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories \(chapter D-13.1\)](#).

Below is a summary of information directly sourced from the Government of Quebec's sport fishing website (Gouvernement du Québec, n.d.-a).

Fishing in the Nord-du-Québec Region

- To fish in Nord-du-Québec (including Eeyou Istchee), non-Cree must comply with the [Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories \(chapter D-13.1\)](#).
- To fish on Category I or II lands in Eeyou Istchee, non-Cree must first obtain authorization from the Cree authorities concerned and must abide by their conditions.
- In all the fishing zones in Nord-du-Québec, you may only fish with a line, or a rod equipped with a line. Fishing with bows, crossbows or harpoons is prohibited.
- Some fish species are reserved for exclusive use of the Indigenous people in fishing zones 22 to 24 (see the fishing zones map):
 - > Sucker;
 - > Non-anadromous whitefish;
 - > Sturgeon;
 - > Mooneye;
 - > Goldeye;
 - > Burbot.
- A non-resident of Québec (such as an international or out-of-province visitor) who wishes to fish Nord-du-Québec must use the services of an outfitter.

Fishing in Protected Areas and Wildlife Reserves

- Fishing in protected areas is governed by specific rules based on the specific protected area type. See *Part 2, Section 2* for more information.
- Fishing in wildlife reserves is governed by specific rules based on the specific protected area type. See *Part 2, Section 2* for more information.

Resource for Best Practices

The government of Québec has developed a set of "[good fishing practices](#)" to follow related to voluntary releasing, reporting catches, boat and equipment cleaning, and environmental considerations. You should consider their recommendations in the development of your ecotourism project.

Training Recommendations

- Marine first aid (if the activity is taking place in a Marine environment). See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- Wilderness and remote first aid. See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.

1.2.3 Paddling and White-Water Sports

Key Legal Information

Paddling activities and white-water sports are subject to the following regulations governing recreational boating, under the [Canada Shipping Act, 2001 \(S.C. 2001, chapter 26\)](#):

- [Small Vessel Regulations \(SOR/2010-91\)](#): See safety equipment requirements for pleasure crafts.
- [Collision Regulations \(C.R.C., chapter 1416\)](#): Describes passing procedures, navigation rules, signalling requirements.

Consult [Transport Canada's Safe boating guide](#) for up-to-date information on current regulations governing recreational boating.

(Note: boating regulations are also discussed in *Part 2, Section 7* of this guide).

Resources for Best Practices

- [Guide de pratique et d'encadrement sécuritaire d'activités de plein air – canotage \(Canot-Kayak Québec\)](#) (in French) : Recognized standards for canoeing.
- [Guide de pratique et d'encadrement sécuritaire d'activités de plein air – sea kayaking \(Canot-Kayak Québec\)](#) (in French) : Recognized standards for sea kayaking.
- [Règlement de sécurité \(Eau Vive Québec\)](#) (in French) : Security rules for members of Eau Vive Québec. May be useful to consider as a guide for safe practice.

To ensure that you are consulting the most up-to-date information, it is recommended to visit the websites of Canot-Kayak and Eau Vive Québec directly.

Training Recommendations

- Marine first aid (if the activity is taking place in a Marine environment). See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- Wilderness and remote first aid. See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- [Training offered by Canot-Kayak Québec](#) (in French).
- [Training offered by Eau Vive Québec](#) (in French).
- [Training offered by Paddle Canada](#).
- [Field Leader \(Paddling\) courses offered by the Outdoor Council of Canada](#).

Other Resources

- [Liste aide-mémoire canot \(Canot-Kayak Québec\)](#) (in French): Canoeing tipsheet.
- [Liste aide-mémoire kayak \(Canot-Kayak Québec\)](#) (in French): Tipsheet for kayaking.
- [Guide d'encadrement pour une pratique nautique sécuritaire \(City of Montreal\)](#) (in French): Guide for the safe practice of nautical sports. This guide was created specifically for the practice of water-based activities in Montreal; however, it contains useful information that can be applicable to safe practice in any context.
- [Safety guide for downriver trips \(Société des établissements de plein air du Québec, SÉPAQ\)](#). Note that some information may not be relevant as the guide is specific to National Parks.
- [Safety guide for canoe-camping \(SÉPAQ\)](#). Note that some information may not be relevant as the guide is specific to National Parks.

1.2.4 Snow Kite and Kitesurf

Key Legal Information

Kitesurfing (as a water-based activity) is subject to the following regulations governing recreational boating, under the [Canada Shipping Act, 2001 \(S.C. 2001, chapter 26\)](#):

- [Small Vessel Regulations \(SOR/2010-91\)](#): See safety equipment requirements for pleasure crafts.
- [Collision Regulations \(C.R.C., chapter 1416\)](#): Describes passing procedures, navigation rules, signalling requirements.

Consult [Transport Canada's Safe boating guide](#) for up-to-date information on current regulations governing recreational boating.

(Note: boating regulations are also discussed in *Part 2, Section 7* of this guide).

Resource for Best Practices

- [Règlement de sécurité \(Fédération Québécoise de Kite\)](#) (in French): Security rules for members of the federation. May be useful to consider as a guide for safe practice.

To ensure that you are consulting the most up-to-date information, it is recommended to visit the Fédération Québécoise de Kite website directly.

Training Recommendations

- Marine first aid (if the activity is taking place in a Marine environment). See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- Wilderness and remote first aid. See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- Training offered by a [school certified by the Fédération Québécoise de kite](#) (in French).

Other Resources

- [Guide d'encadrement pour une pratique nautique sécuritaire \(City of Montreal\)](#) (in French): Guide for the safe practice of nautical sports. This guide was created specifically for the practice of water-based activities in Montreal; however, it contains useful information that can be applicable to safe practice in any context.

1.2.5 Hiking, Trekking, and Snowshoeing

Resource for Best Practices

- [Guide de la pratique et de l'encadrement sécuritaire en randonnée pédestre \(Rando Québec\)](#) (in French) : Recognized standards for hiking and snowshoeing.

To ensure that you are consulting the most up-to-date information, it is recommended to visit the Rando Québec website directly.

Training Recommendations

- Wilderness and remote first aid. See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- [Training offered by Rando Québec](#) (in French).
- [Field Leader \(Hiking\) courses offered by the Outdoor Council of Canada](#).

Other Resources

- Trousse du randonneur (Rando Québec). Hiker's toolbox. Contains multiple resources (in French).
- Trousse du randonneur en hiver (Rando Québec). Winter hiking toolbox. Contains multiple resources (in French).
- Safety guide for summer backpacking (SÉPAQ). Note that some information may not be relevant as this guide is specific to National Parks.
- Safety guide for winter backpacking (SÉPAQ). Note that some information may not be relevant as this guide is specific to National Parks.
- Safety guide for snowshoeing (SÉPAQ). Note that some information may not be relevant as this guide is specific to National Parks.

1.2.6 Cross-Country Skiing

Resource for Best Practices

- [Guide de pratique et d'encadrement sécuritaire d'activités de plein air – ski de fond \(Ski de fond Québec\)](#) (in French): Recognized standards for cross-country skiing.

To ensure that you are consulting the most up-to-date information, it is recommended to visit the Ski de Fond Québec website directly.

Training Recommendations

- Wilderness and remote first aid. See options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.

Other Resources

- [Safety guide for winter backpacking \(SÉPAQ\)](#). Note that some information may not be relevant as this guide is specific to National Parks.

1.2.7 Mountain Climbing and Ski Mountaineering

Resource for Best Practices

- [Guide de pratique et d'encadrement sécuritaire d'activités de plein air – escalade et ski de montagne \(Fédération Québécoise de la montagne et de l'escalade\)](#) (in French) : Recognized standards for mountain climbing and ski mountaineering.

To ensure that you are consulting the most up-to-date information, it is recommended to visit the Fédération Québécoise de la montagne et de l'escalade website directly.

Training Recommendations

- Wilderness and remote first aid. See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- [Training offered by Fédération Québécoise de la montagne et de l'escalade](#) (this website is in French).

Other Resources

- [Safety guide for winter backpacking \(SÉPAQ\)](#). Some information may not be relevant as this guide is specific to National Parks.
- [Safety guide for rock climbing \(SÉPAQ\)](#). Some information may not be relevant as this guide is specific to National Parks.

1.2.8 Mountain Biking and Fatbiking

Resources for Best Practices

- [Guide de la pratique responsable du fatbike \(Vélo Québec\)](#) (in French) : Fatbiking best practices.
- [Code de conduite en vélo de montagne \(Vélo Québec\)](#) (in French) : Code of conduct for mountain biking.

Training Recommendations

- Wilderness and remote first aid. See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*
- [Training offered by Vélo Québec](#) (this website is in French).

Other Resources

- [Guide for accidents \(Vélo Québec\)](#) (in French).

1.2.9 Wildlife Observation

Key Legal Information

Species at Risk and Vulnerable Species

As detailed in *Part 2, Section 3* of this guide, certain species are designated as particularly vulnerable or at risk and have legal protection status. Particular attention should be given to avoid disturbing these species. See *Section 3* for more information.

Wildlife Observation in the Nunavut Portion of the Eeyou Marine Region

Portions of the Eeyou Marine Region located within the Territory of Nunavut are subject to territorial legislation. Under the [Wildlife Act, SNu 2003, chapter 26](#), a wildlife observation licence is required for a person to "establish, offer, or provide any organized activity in which wildlife is the object of interaction, manipulation or close observation" (Wildlife Act, 2003).

The application form to obtain this licence is available on the [Nunavut Department of Environment website](#). Instructions for submitting the application are on the last page of the form.

Observation of Marine Mammals and Whales

Marine Mammals are subject to the provisions of the [Marine Mammal Regulations \(SOR/93-56\)](#) of the [Fisheries Act \(R.S.C., 1985, chapter F-14\)](#). This includes rules for whale watching and approaching marine mammals. When observing most marine mammals and whales, you must respect a specific minimum distance requirement (based on the type of mammal).

Consult this [webpage dedicated to watching marine wildlife](#), by the Government of Canada, which provides a summary of the rules surrounding observing marine wildlife.

Resources for Best Practices

- [Wildlife Observation Best Practices \(SÉPAQ\)](#).
- [Watching Marine Wildlife \(Government of Canada\)](#): See “how to avoid disturbing marine mammals” section.
- [Code d'éthique en ornithologie \(Québec Oiseaux\)](#) (in French) : Birdwatching code of ethics.

Training Recommendations

- Marine first aid (if the activity is taking place in a Marine environment). See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- Wilderness and remote first aid. See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.

1.2.10 Flora Exploration and Foraging

Key Legal Information

Area-Based Regulations

Gathering forest products (such as berries, mushrooms, herbs, plants, etc.) may be prohibited or may require authorization in certain areas. Consult *Part 2, Section 2* for more information.

Species at Risk and Vulnerable Species

As detailed in *Part 2, Section 3* of this guide, some plants are designated as species at risk or vulnerable species. These cannot be harvested, with the exception of traditional subsistence activities carried out by beneficiaries of the [JBNQA](#).

Resources for Best Practices

- [Champignons du Québec \(Filière mycologique de la Mauricie\)](#) (in French): This guidebook is intended to provide guidance to all industries involving wild mushrooms, including the tourism industry. The document includes best practice for picking mushrooms, safety tips, responsibilities for mushroom picking guides, and more.
- [Harvesting and Processing Wild Plants – Best Practices Guide \(Ontario Nature\)](#): General guide for foraging best practices. Some sections may not apply as this guide was produced by an Ontario-based organization.

Training Recommendations

- Wilderness and remote first aid. See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- [Training offered by Filière mycologique de la Mauricie](#) (in French): This training only relates to mushroom picking.

1.2.11 Use of Off-Highway Vehicles and Motorized Watercrafts

Key information regarding these activities can be found in *Part 2, Section 7* of this guide, which pertains specifically to modes of transportation.

If your project is taking place in a wildlife reserve or protected area, there may be rules concerning the use of motorized vehicles and watercrafts. Consult *Part 2, Section 2* of this guide for more information.

1.2.12 Cultural Tourism Activities

For the purposes of this guide, the term “cultural activities” refers to activities such as introducing tourists to Cree culture and history, guided tours, and arts and crafts.

Resource for Best Practices

- [National Guidelines for Indigenous Tourism \(Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada\)](#): The National guidelines are designed to support the development of authentic and market-ready Indigenous tourism products.

Training Recommendations

- Wilderness and remote first aid. See training options listed in *Part 2, Section 6*.
- Training provided by Indigenous Tourism Québec or the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (membership is required).

1.3 INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Given the range of products and services associated with ecotourism, the risk for property damage, accident, and injury, among others, may be elevated. As such, while developing an ecotourism project, it is essential to conduct due diligence and enter into a comprehensive insurance agreement with coverage for all assets and activities associated with the specific ecotourism project. All ecotourism operators should consider that a failure to protect users and customers may be contradictory to the [Civil Code of Quebec \(chapter CCQ-1991\)](#) and should be sure to understand legal liabilities associated with not obtaining complete insurance coverage for their installation.

It is recommended that all ecotourism operators should enter into an insurance agreement that includes coverage for the specific risks associated with the proposed project. The following list of potential coverage inclusions is not exhaustive:

- Property coverage;
- Vehicle coverage;
- Equipment coverage;
- Liability coverage;
- Accident coverage.

Some tourism associations, such as AEQ, offer special insurance programs to accredited members.

SECTION 2 LAND USE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

In the workbook (*Part 1* of this guide), you identified where your ecotourism project will be taking place, including identifying the following details regarding the location of your ecotourism project: Category lands (or Eeyou Marine Region, Kativik Region), traplines, protected areas, and wildlife reserves. You also identified what types of activities and interventions may be involved in your ecotourism project.

Part 2, Section 2 includes a general roadmap regarding important land use planning authorities and entities, particular considerations for projects involving construction, and finally, key information regarding protected areas and wildlife reserves.

The information is divided as follows:

- **2.1 Land Use Roadmap for all Ecotourism Projects in Eeyou Istchee** explains which entities or individuals should be informed of your project, depending on its location. Authorizations from these entities may be required. This section also lists other legal considerations for projects which involve construction.
- **2.2 Roadmap for Projects in Protected Areas** provides key information for understanding the protected areas network in Eeyou Istchee, the legislative frameworks which apply to them, and the management authorities that govern them.
- **2.3 Roadmap for Projects in Wildlife Reserves** details the legislative framework concerning wildlife reserves in Eeyou Istchee, as well as the entities responsible for managing them.

2.1 LAND USE ROADMAP FOR ALL ECOTOURISM PROJECTS IN EEYOU ISTCHEE

Depending on the specifics of your ecotourism project, various land use planning and management entities will need to be informed, and authorizations may be required to carry out certain activities and interventions, particularly if construction is involved. In all cases, you should work with COTA to develop your ecotourism project. You must consider the following:

1. Any concerned tallymen need to be informed of your project and you must obtain their permission before proceeding with any project happening in their traplines (even if you are just passing through an area).
2. Authorizations may be required from either local or regional authorities, depending on the location of your project and what is involved. The following applies to projects involving the construction of new infrastructure or installations, which will require specific authorizations, leases, and permits.
 - a. For projects located in Category I lands, you must obtain authorization from your local community administration.

- b. For projects located in Category II lands, you must obtain authorization from the Cree Nation Government (CNG)'s Environmental and Remedial Works department, and the Eeyou Planning Commission.
 - c. For projects located in Category III lands, you must obtain authorization from the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government.
 - d. For projects located in the Eeyou Marine Region, you must obtain authorization from the Eeyou Marine Planning Commission and the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board.
 - e. For projects in the Kativik Region, you must obtain authorization from the Kativik Regional Government. This applies to projects near Whapmagoostui.
3. If your project is taking place in a protected area or wildlife reserve, specific legislation and regulations applies, and certain activities and interventions are controlled or prohibited. Authorizations may be required from the authority responsible (depending on your activity or intervention). Details on each protected area are provided in Sections 2.2 and 2.3.

2.1.1 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION

Projects involving the construction of buildings or ground installations, or the development of any type of infrastructure, will be subject to specific legislation and regulations, depending on the location. You must first determine whether construction or development for an ecotourism project is permitted and feasible in the chosen location(s) and ensure to comply with any applicable legal requirements. In addition to the laws regulating protected areas and wildlife reserves (see Sections 2.2 and 2.3), the following laws and their associated regulations could apply to your project if it involves construction or development (this is not a comprehensive list):

- [*Environment Quality Act \(chapter Q-2\)*](#): Environmental protection and impacts. This Act and associated regulations contain provisions related to water, waste, construction in sensitive areas such as wetlands and shorelines (among others). Note that wetlands and shorelines are discussed in *Part 2, Section 3* of this guide.
- [*Cultural Heritage Act \(chapter P-9.002\)*](#): Protection and conservation of designated heritage sites. This is further discussed in *Part 2, Section 3* of this guide.
- [*Sustainable Forest Development Act \(chapter A-18.1\)*](#): Forest management permits, provisions regarding the cutting of trees.
- [*Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species \(chapter E-12.01\)*](#): Threatened and vulnerable species. Note that this is discussed in further detail in *Part 2, Section 3* of this guide.
- [*Act Respecting the Lands in the Domain of the State \(chapter T-8.1\)*](#): Land rights and access in public lands.

This could also include specific local and regional regulations, zoning regulations, permitting requirements, and other types of provisional regulations.

Depending on the specifics of your project, you may be required to provide specific documentation, create detailed site plans approved by a recognized professional, obtain a land lease, and acquire permits. Your project may also require an authorization from a ministry. This will all depend on the specific area of your

project and what you are building. You must conduct your due diligence and ensure compliance with these requirements.

In Appendix 2 of this guide, you will find a summary of the different verifications that should be made regarding land use when developing an ecotourism project. This summary is not comprehensive, but rather intended to provide a high-level overview.

2.2 ROADMAP FOR PROJECTS IN PROTECTED AREAS

Protected areas are lands which have been designated by the Government of Quebec for the purposes of natural conservation and have long-term protection status. The priority objective of protected areas is to ensure the conservation of nature and biodiversity. Each protected area type is subject to specific legislation. Pursuant to the [Natural Heritage Conservation Act \(chapter C-61.01\)](#), protected areas in Quebec are listed on the [register of protected areas](#) (this webpage is in French).

Ecotourism projects in protected areas will be limited to what can be authorized within their boundaries. More information is provided below on what may be permitted/prohibited, based on protected area type.

All projects taking place in protected areas should be developed with the support of COTA.

2.2.1 Overview of Protected Areas in Eeyou Istchee

There are currently several different types of protected areas currently existing in Eeyou Istchee. Table 3 provides a list of the current types of protected areas existing in Eeyou Istchee (and identifies the communities in which they are currently located) These are also illustrated geographically in Figure 1. It is important to note that the information provided in Table 3 and Figure 1 only includes areas designated as of March 2023.

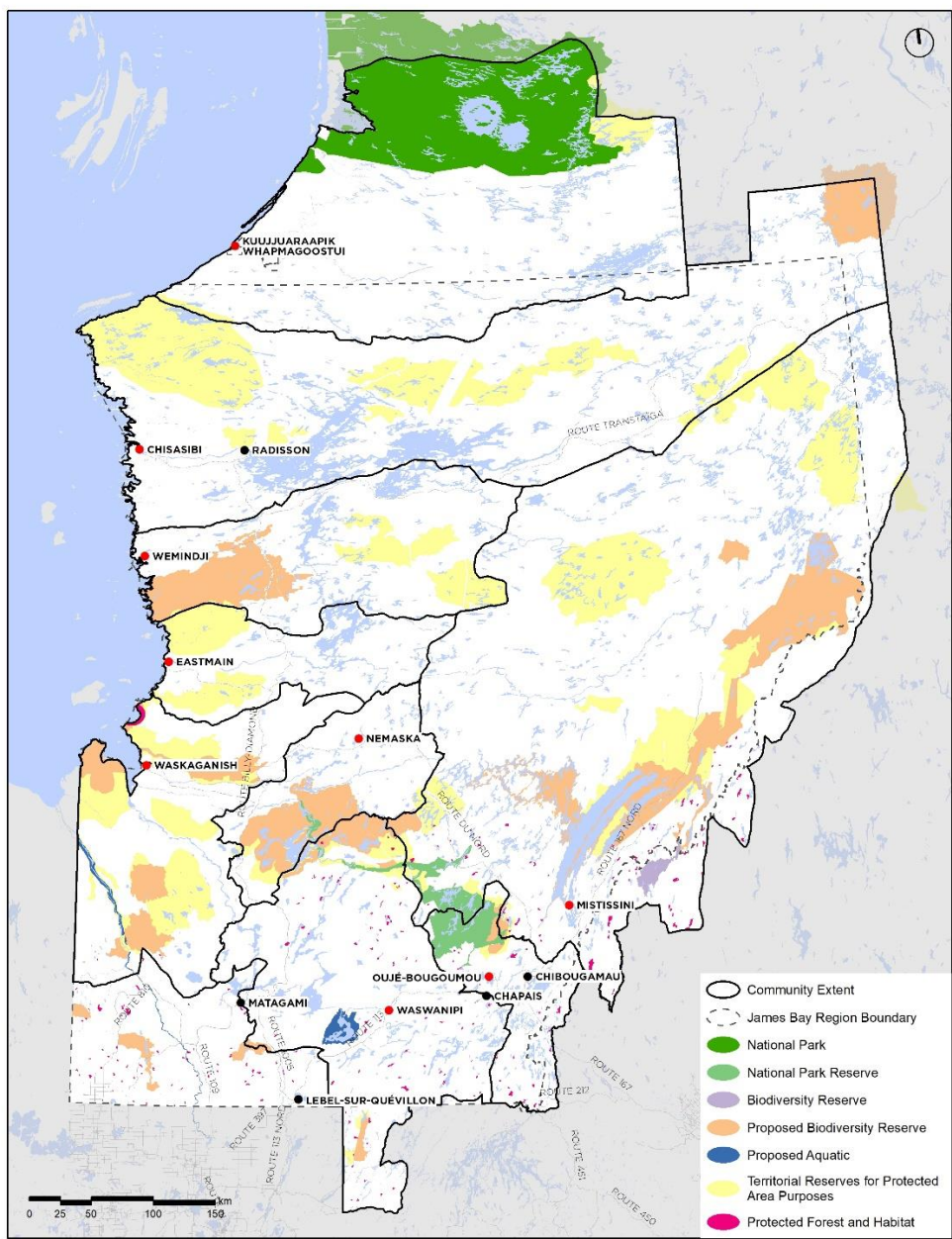
For the most up to date information on protected areas, consult the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP)'s [protected areas map](#) and the [register of protected areas](#) (both are in French).

TABLE 3 - Protected area designations in Eeyou Istchee

DESIGNATION	COMMUNITIES
Aquatic reserve (or proposed aquatic reserve)	Waskaganish Waswanipi
Biodiversity reserve (or proposed biodiversity reserve)	Chisasibi Eastmain Mistissini Nemaska Ouje-Bougoumou Waskaganish Waswanipi Wemindji

DESIGNATION	COMMUNITIES
National park (or national park reserve)	Mistissini Nemaska Ouje-Bougoumou Waswanipi Whapmagoostui
Wildlife habitat (heronry)	Mistissini Nemaska Ouje-Bougoumou Waskaganish Waswanipi
Exceptional forest area (old forest and rare forest)	Mistissini Waskaganish Waswanipi
Biological sanctuary	Ouje-Bougoumou Mistissini Nemaska Waskaganish Waswanipi
Migratory bird sanctuary	Waskaganish
Territorial reserve for protected area purposes	All Eeyou Istchee communities

Figure 1 - Protected areas in Eeyou Istchee (as of March 2023)



Map disclaimer: On this map, "Protected Forest and Habitat" groups together exceptional forest areas, biological sanctuaries, migratory bird sanctuaries, and wildlife habitats (heronry). These types of protected areas are scattered throughout the territory and typically quite small geographically, therefore difficult to illustrate on a map of this scale.

Disclaimer Regarding Legislation in Protected Areas

The information included in this subsection focuses on legislation that specifically regulates each protected area type. It is important to note, however, that other legislations and regulations apply within and outside the boundaries of protected areas. If you are planning to establish a project in protected areas, it is your responsibility to conduct your due diligence and ensure compliance. This guide is not a replacement for legal texts.

2.2.2 Territorial Reserves for Protected Area Purposes (TRFPAPs)

The following summarizes information from the MELCCFP website (n.d.).

Description and Legal Context

The status of TRFPAP allows for the recognition of a territory until legally protected status is attributed to it. The management procedures respecting this type of status comply with international standards governing protected areas. TRFPAPs can thus be recorded in the register of protected areas. Most TRFPAPs in Eeyou Istchee are intended to become designated as biodiversity reserves.

The MELCCFP and the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF) jointly ensure the protection of TRFPAPs and the requisite administrative and legal provisions to prohibit throughout the territories all natural resource exploitation activities (mining, energy, and forests) until legally protected status is attributed to them.

TABLE 4 - TRFPAPs in Eeyou Istchee

TRFPAP NAMES
Aashukan
Aawitakuch
Assinica
Baie-de-Boatswain
Bassin-Aval-de-la-Broadback
Caribous-de-Nottaway
Chisesaakahikan
Coldwater-Juneshew-Sibi
Collines-de-Muskuchii
Lac-Burton-Rivière-Roggan-et-la-Pointe-Louis-XIV
Minahiku-Wachî
Mishigamish
Namewaakamiishtikw-Piskuchitishu-Siipii
Neoskweskau-Amont-Eastmain
Nibiischii

TRFPAP NAMES
Nord-Est-du-Lac-Nichicun
Péninsule-de-Ministikawatin
Pipunishiwini-Saahkaniishitkw
Plaine-de-la-Missisicabi
Rivières-Cheno-et-Papas
Rivière-Harricana-Nord
Rivière-Kanaaupscow-et-Lac-Kukamaw
Waskaganish
Wichishkw-Uubauquushduuk
Tursujuq-Centre et Tursujuq-Sud

The locations of TRFPAPs can be identified using the MELCCFP's [protected areas map](#) (this map is in French).

Ecotourism Projects in TRFPAPS

TRFPAP are an administrative tool which allows an area to be protected from resource exploitation until a permanent legal designation is assigned. As such, there is currently no clear legal framework pertaining to developing ecotourism activities in TRFPAP.

If your project involves any kind of development or construction, you must communicate with the Nord-du-Québec office of the [MRNF](#) and of the [MELCCFP](#) and submit a request for opinion regarding your project. In addition, you may also be required to obtain other types of authorizations and permits, as well as a land lease, to carry out your project.

2.2.3 Quebec National Parks

Description and Legal Context

A (Quebec) national park's primary purpose is "to ensure the conservation and permanent protection of areas representative of the natural regions of Québec and of natural sites with outstanding features, in particular because of their biological diversity, while providing the public with access to those areas or sites for educational or cross-country recreation purposes" (Parks Act, 1977).

Note: The term 'cross-country recreation' is defined as "a type of recreation characterized by the use of little frequented territory and the use of relatively simple equipment" (Parks Act, 1977).

National parks are regulated by the [Parks Act \(chapter P-9\)](#), which governs "the establishment and administration of parks as well as the adoption of related regulations" (Gouvernement du Québec, n.d.). The [Parks Regulation \(chapter P-9, r. 25\)](#), under the *Parks Act*, "specifies elements related to zoning, operator roles, administrative rules for the activities and services provided, including certain conditions related to visitor stays. Each park is also subject to its own regulation, which provides a technical description of park

boundaries” (Gouvernement du Québec, n.d.-b). The Parks Regulation (chapter P-9, r.25) also details access fees for park visitors.

In addition, further guidelines for management and development are established in each national park’s individual Master Plan. These plans are created in collaboration between the Government of Quebec and the organizations responsible for the specific park. These can be found on the MELCCFP [website](#) (in French).

National Parks in Eeyou Istchee

[Tursujuq National Park](#) is located to the north of Whapmagoostui (therefore is within the administrative boundaries of Nunavik) (this link is in French). This park is currently operated and managed by [Kativik Regional Government](#).

In Eeyou Istchee territory, two national parks are in the process of being created, in partnership with the Cree Nation Government:

- [Nibiischii \(formerly Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish\)](#) (this link is in French); and
- [Assinica](#) (this link is in French).

As these are still in the process of being established, they are designated under “national park reserve” status. Once they have been finalized, these will be operated and managed by the Cree Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou.

The locations of national parks can be identified using the MELCCFP’s [protected areas map](#) (this map is in French).

Management and Responsibilities

The MELCCFP has authority over the territory of a park and is responsible for its management; The Minister has the power to delegate management and operations to specific entities (as described in the *Parks Act* (chapter P-9)). Only entities or individuals authorized by the Minister, or the organization responsible for the park (through contract or agreement), can:

- Carry out maintenance, development or construction work in or make changes to the grounds of a park (without an authorization or contract).
- Operate a business, provide a service, or organize an activity in a park (without an authorization or contract).

However, the CNG or Cree community represented by its council can request the power to carry out both of the aforementioned processes, within and outside the boundaries of a park. The contract “may provide that all or part of the fees paid to enter a park or to stay, travel or engage in an activity in a park devolve on the other contracting party” (Parks Act, 1977). Otherwise, contracts and authorizations for such activities must be arranged with the MELCCFP. Such activities must also be compatible with conservation measures and the protection of the park’s recreational potential.

The organization responsible for a park also has the power to make regulations to:

- "ensure the protection and conservation of the natural environment, or any specific element thereof;
- divide it into different zones;
- determine to what extent and for what purposes the public may be admitted;
- determine the conditions governing any person staying, travelling or engaging in an activity in a park;
- prohibit or regulate the possession and transport of firearms, hunting gear or fishing tackle;
- prohibit or regulate the use of boats, aircraft or any type of vehicle, motorized or not;
- absolutely or partially prohibit fishing and determine the conditions on which fishing may be allowed;
- regulate the transportation and possession of animals or fish;
- prohibit or regulate the posting of bills;
- ensure that the park is kept clean and orderly and the persons enjoy peace and quiet;
- prohibit certain outdoor activities;
- determine the conditions for participation in outdoor activities;
- determine the cases where a person may be refused admittance or removed from the park;
- entrust the employees of the Société or the employees of the other party to a contract made under section 8.1 or 8.1.1 with any power or duty connected with admissions or activities;
- prescribe the rules of procedure to be followed at public hearings;
- determine which of the prescriptions of regulations made under this section entail penalties under section 11.3 for their contravention" (Parks Act, 1977).

Activities and Interventions in National Parks

Note that, pursuant to Section 24 of the [JBNQA](#), Cree beneficiaries may exercise their harvesting rights within the boundaries of a national park. Where conflicts between these Acts exist, Cree beneficiaries' rights prevail over the *Parks Act* (chapter P-9) and associated regulations.

Under the *Parks Act* (chapter P-9) "every person who enters a park or stays, travels, or engages in an activity in a park must, in the cases determined by regulation, hold an authorization issued for that purpose by the Minister or the Société or a person designated by the Minister or the Société. The authorization shall be issued on payment of the fees fixed in the regulation." The *Parks Act* also states that in a national park the following activities are prohibited:

- hunting or trapping of every kind (does not apply to Cree beneficiaries engaging in traditional subsistence activities);
- all forms of prospecting, and any utilization, harvesting or harnessing of resources related to logging, mining or the production of energy, and the laying of oil or gas pipelines or power lines.

Furthermore, the Parks Regulation (chapter P-9, r.25) dictates that "no person who travels, stays or engages in an activity in a park for purposes other than scientific or management purposes may:

- fell, damage, remove or bring in a tree, a shrub, a plant, a mushroom or a part thereof; however, the picking of edible vegetable products is allowed, except for commercial purposes or in a preservation zone or maximum preservation zone;

- paint, deface or remove rocks or parts thereof, pebbles, fossils or other natural formations;
- feed animals living in the park or leave food for them;
- bring in animals or fish except:
 - guide dogs;
 - dogs or horses used to engage in an activity offered in the park;
- to travel across the park or to travel in the park in possession of an animal or a fish kept at all times inside a vehicle or a boat;
- to travel or stay in a park or to engage in an activity in the park with a dog kept at all times on a leash and only at the places marked for that purpose;
- make fires at places other than those marked for that purpose;
- capture insects or spiders."

As mentioned, organizations responsible for national parks also have the power to set specific regulations for each individual park.

Ecotourism Projects in National Parks

First, any ecotourism activities occurring within the boundaries of a national park must comply with the legislation and regulations described above, as well any regulations specific to the individual park, and any other applicable legislation. If you are conducting ecotourism activities in a park, ensure that you consult with the organization responsible for park management.

As mentioned, generally, development and construction work can only be undertaken by the organizations responsible (or otherwise through an agreement or contract with the MELCCFP). If your ecotourism project requires new infrastructure (including trails), these should be planned and implanted through a collaboration with the organization responsible for the park.

As mentioned, in the case of the two future parks of Eeyou Istchee, management will be delegated to the Cree Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou. Since these parks have not yet been finalized, it is recommended to consult with the CNG regarding any project proposal, and subsequently request authorization from the MELCCFP if required.

2.2.4 Biodiversity Reserves

Description, Management, and Legal Context

Broadly, biodiversity reserves are designed to protect the natural environment by prohibiting activities that could have significant impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, such as industrial activities. Generally, activities related to education and recreation are permitted if they are in line with nature conservation objectives. These protected areas are managed by the MELCCFP.

First and foremost, the aim of biodiversity reserves is to achieve the objectives of conserving plant and animal species and their genetic variability and maintain ecosystems. Furthermore, any activity carried out on the

territory or on a portion of the territory of a protected area must not alter its essential biological character. In the event of conflict, nature conservation takes priority.

Biodiversity reserves are governed by the [Natural Heritage Conservation Act \(chapter C-61.01\)](#). Although other Acts also apply in biodiversity reserves, this is the main Act that dictates the activities authorized and interventions in biodiversity reserves.

In addition, biodiversity reserves all have a conservation plan which includes:

- "an ecological overview of the area concerned as well as a description of its occupation and uses;
- conservation and development objectives for the area concerned; and
- a map of the protected area" (Natural Heritage Conservation Act, 2002).

Conservation plans may contain additional rules, zoning specifications, or management guidelines that are particular to an individual reserve. Table 5 provides links to the conservation plans for biodiversity reserves in Eeyou Istchee. Some plans are only available in French. Note that all biodiversity reserves in Eeyou Istchee are currently under the provisional status of "proposed biodiversity reserve," which means they have yet to be fully finalized.

TABLE 5 - Conservation Plans for Biodiversity Reserves in Eeyou Istchee

NAME AND CONSERVATION PLAN LINK
Réserve de biodiversité des Drumlins-du-Lac-Clérac
Réserve de biodiversité projetée Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish
Réserve de biodiversité projetée Assinica
Réserve de biodiversité projetée Chisesaakahikan-et-de-la-Rivière-Broadback
Réserve de biodiversité projetée de la baie de Boatswain
Réserve de biodiversité projetée de la péninsule de Ministikawatin
Réserve de biodiversité projetée de la plaine de la Missisicabi
Réserve de biodiversité projetée de Waskaganish
Réserve de biodiversité projetée des collines de Muskuchii
Réserve de biodiversité projetée du lac Taibi
Réserve de biodiversité projetée du lac Wetetnagami
Réserve de biodiversité projetée du Lac-Sérigny
Réserve de biodiversité projetée du ruisseau Niquet
Réserve de biodiversité projetée Hirondelle
Réserve de biodiversité projetée Paakumshumwaau-Maatuskaau

The locations of biodiversity reserves can be identified using the MELCCFP's [protected areas map](#) (this map is in French).

Activities and Interventions in Biodiversity Reserves

In 2011, the MELCC (now the MELCCFP) published the report [Activity Framework for Biodiversity Reserves and Aquatic Reserves](#). This report lists the activities and interventions permitted in biodiversity reserves, under the provisions of the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act (chapter C-61.01)*. A summarized version is provided in Table 6, however, the report contains much more detail and should be consulted prior to implementing an ecotourism project in biodiversity reserves, in addition to consulting the Act directly, as well as the conservation plans of said reserves. Table 6 is directly sourced from the MELCCFP (n.d.).

Note that, pursuant to Section 24 of the [JBNQA](#) Cree beneficiaries may exercise their harvesting rights inside the boundaries of biodiversity reserves. Where conflict between these acts exists, the JBNQA prevail over the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act (chapter C-61.01)*.

TABLE 6 - Principal Activities That are Generally Permitted or Prohibited in Biodiversity and Aquatic Reserve

ACTIVITY	PERMITTED OR PROHIBITED
Industrial forestry development	Prohibited
Mining, natural gas, and oil exploration and extraction	Prohibited
Hydropower operations	Prohibited
All commercial and/or industrial energy production	Prohibited
Hunting	Permitted
Fishing	Permitted
Trapping	Permitted
Motor vehicle access and circulation (off-road, snowmobiles, motorboats, etc.)	Permitted
New infrastructure construction (buildings, roads, trails, etc.)	Prohibited (unless authorized by the MELCCFP)
Allocation of new land rights for personal purposes (recreational, temporary shelters, etc.)	Prohibited
Traditional aboriginal activities for alimentary, ritual, or social purposes	Permitted
Non-mechanized harvesting of non-wood forest products (berries, mushrooms, etc.)	Permitted
Firewood gathering (temporary shelters or trapping camps)	Permitted
Firewood gathering (other users of the territory)	Prohibited (unless authorized by the MELCCFP)
Research and education	Permitted
ZEC, outfitter, and wildlife reserve day-to-day activities	Permitted
Seeding and stocking	Prohibited (unless authorized by the MELCCFP)
Hiking and recreation (walking, bicycling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, etc.)	Permitted.

In Table 6, certain activities are listed as "prohibited (unless authorized by the MELCCFP)." These are examples of activities that are generally not compatible with the conservation objectives of biodiversity reserves but may be authorized within specific parameters. For example, construction of new infrastructure is not considered compatible and generally prohibited, however:

- A) Infrastructure associated with an existing right, such as the rights of Cree beneficiaries pursuant to the JBNQA and the [Act Respecting the Land Regime in the James Bay and New Québec Territories \(chapter R-13.1\)](#), are permitted. This includes for example, construction associated with a hunting or trapping camp. It is important to note, however, that cutting trees for such construction does require a permit (Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, 2015).
- B) In addition, infrastructure which is integral to a project whose purpose is compatible with biodiversity reserves may be authorized, in some cases. This could include infrastructure that is needed to carry out recreational activities. For example, "a shelter along a hiking trail or a building for visitor reception and biodiversity interpretation. Applications for projects of this nature will be studied on the basis of that compatibility" (Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, 2015).

Furthermore, the addition of new trails in biodiversity reserves is "not desired," however, "applications for authorization will be assessed on the basis of their specific components and degree of compatibility with conservation objectives" (Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, 2015).

Ecotourism Projects in Biodiversity Reserves

First, any ecotourism activities occurring within the boundaries of a biodiversity reserve must comply with the legislation and regulations described above, as well as any regulations specific to the individual biodiversity reserve, and any other applicable legislation.

In terms of projects involving development or construction of new infrastructure, you must ensure that your project complies with the activity regime effect in the territory before carrying out any work. It is recommended to first contact the [Nord-du-Québec regional office of the MELCCFP](#) and submit a request for opinion to determine whether your activity will require authorization. You may then be asked to submit a formal request, using the following [request form for activities in biodiversity reserves](#) and attach the appropriate documentation, including, for example: a land lease, other required permits, etc. Please note that both links lead to French webpages.

2.2.5 Aquatic Reserves

Currently, three proposed aquatic reserves exist within the territory of Eeyou Istchee (see Table 7); However, changes made to the [Natural Heritage Conservation Act \(chapter C-61.01\)](#) in 2021, the designation of aquatic reserve is being replaced by a new designation, marine reserve.

While awaiting the legal status of marine reserves, these areas have a provisional designation (TRFPAP). The TRFPAP is a transitional administrative tool, whose protection measures will have to be improved when the marine protected area is created. More information regarding TRFPAPs is provided in *Section 2.2.2*.

TABLE 7 - Proposed Aquatic Reserves in Eeyou Istchee

NAMES OF PROPOSED AQUATIC RESERVES
Réserve aquatique projetée de la haute Harricana
Réserve aquatique projetée de la rivière Harricana Nord
Réserve aquatique projetée du Lac-Waswanipi

The locations of aquatic reserves can be identified using the MELCCFP's [protected areas map](#) .

2.2.6 Wildlife Habitats (Heronries)

Description, Legal Context, and Management

Heronries are a type of wildlife habitat. Wildlife habitats are defined as natural (or in some cases artificial) environments occupied by a species or group of species. In this environment, animals find key elements necessary to their survival and reproduction (Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, 2015). Wildlife habitats are protected under the [Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife, CQLR c C-61.1](#) and the [Regulation respecting wildlife habitats, CQLR c C-61.1, r 18](#). The purpose of this Act is the conservation and enhancement of wildlife and their habitats. The Act defines specific habitats which are subject to legal protections, including heronries.

Each wildlife habitat also has an individual conservation plan, which identifies the boundaries of the habitat, and specific conditions applicable to the individual site. These plans can be downloaded as a geospatial dataset format from the [Données Québec website](#) (in French).

Wildlife habitats are under the responsibility of the MELCCFP.

Only certain heronries have been designated as protected areas under the [Natural Heritage Conservation Act \(chapter C-61.01\)](#). These are included on the [register of protected areas](#) (this link is in French).

TABLE 8 - Heronries in Eeyou Istchee

NAMES OF HERONRIES
Héronnière des Îles Tesipitaakan Kaakuutech
Héronnière du Lac File Axe
Héronnière du Lac Évang
Héronnière du Lac Chevillon
Héronnière de la Rivière Broadback
Héronnière du Lac soscumica
Héronnière du Lac Storm

NAMES OF HERONRIES
Héronnière du Lac Amisquioumisca
Héronnière F3161

The locations of heronries can be identified using the MELCCFP's [protected areas map](#) (this map is in French).

Activities and Interventions in Heronries

The [Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife \(chapter C-61.1\)](#) establishes various prohibitions that relate to the conservation of wildlife resources and various standards of safety, and sets forth the rights and obligations of hunters, fishers and trappers. The [Regulation respecting wildlife habitats \(chapter C-61.1, r 18\)](#) also outlines specific requirements for activities near heronries. It is important to note that the provisions of this Act and the regulations made under that Act does not apply when inconsistent with those of the [Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories \(chapter D-13.1\)](#), in which case the latter prevails.

A key element of the *Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (chapter C-61.1)* is that generally, in a wildlife habitat, it is forbidden to carry out an activity that might modify any of its biological, physical, or chemical characteristics; However, the Act also states the Minister has the power to authorize an activity that alters a wildlife habitat, and can attach conditions as they determine.

Any activity which has the potential to alter a heronry is subject to authorization and may be refused.

In 2015, the MELCC (now MELCFFP) published a document titled [Lignes directrices pour la conservation des habitats fauniques](#) (Guidelines for the conservation of wildlife habitats, in French). This document provides information regarding the process for evaluating interventions taking place in wildlife habitats (including heronries). It should be noted that changes have been made to the *Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (chapter C-61.1)* since the publication of these guidelines. The document states that the guiding principle for the management of wildlife habitats and activities taking place within them is to aim for a no net loss of habitats (Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, 2015). Loss of habitat must be compensated with restoration measures.

As noted, further information regarding each individual heronry is also detailed in the conservation plan specific to the site.

Ecotourism Projects in Heronries

Authorization is required for any activity susceptible to modify a wildlife habitat (as mentioned this does not apply when in conflict with Cree harvesting rights).

It is recommended to consult with [the Nord-du-Québec regional office of the MELCCFP](#) if your ecotourism project is located in a wildlife habitat and is susceptible to modifying this habitat. If an authorization is needed for your project, you will be required to submit a formal request form and associated documents. The

information for obtaining authorization for an activity susceptible to modify a wildlife habitat can be found on the [following webpage](#) (in French).

2.2.7 Boatswain Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Description, Legal Context, and Management

The Boatswain Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) is located approximately 35 km north of Waskaganish, along the coastline. This is an important place for many bird species in terms of feeding, nesting, and resting, and has therefore been designated as a sanctuary.

The offshore portions of the Boatswain Bay MBS are under federal jurisdiction, and therefore under the responsibility of Environment and Climate Change Canada. The land within the boundaries of the MBS is under provincial jurisdiction, and therefore under the responsibility of the MELCCFP.

The management of the Boatswain Bay MBS is governed by the [Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, S.C. 1994 \(chapter 22\)](#), which "allows for the promulgation of regulations for the protection of migratory birds from the taking, injuring, destruction or molestation of their nests or eggs, within any prescribed area, and for the control and management of that area" (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2011). This provision forms the basis of the [Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations, C.R.C \(chapter 1036\)](#), which outline the specific prohibited and permitted activities in MBSs (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2011). It is important to note that the Act and associated regulations are subject to the [JBNQA, Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories \(chapter D-13.1\)](#), and the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims. If any conflict exists between these Acts and agreements and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, S.C. 1994 (chapter 22)* and these agreements, the former prevail.

In addition, the land-based portions of the Boatswain Bay MBS have been designated as a territorial reserve for protected area purposes (TRFPAP) and added to Quebec's [register of protected areas](#) (this link is in French). The status of TRFPAP allows for the recognition of a territory until legally protected status is attributed to it. More information regarding this designation can be found on *Section 2.2.2* of this guide.

Activities and Interventions in the Boatswain Bay MBS

Entry and access to the Boatswain Bay MBS is not restricted, however, certain activities are prohibited or controlled under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, S.C. 1994 (chapter 22)* and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations, C.R.C (chapter 1036)*.

The primary purpose of the MBS designation is "the protection of migratory birds from killing, harm and harassment during a critical part of their life cycle, such as breeding, nesting, moulting, or staging and stopover during their migration" (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2011). Unless a permit has been issued authorizing such activity, or if an exemption exists (for example, pursuant to the JBNQA) the Regulations prohibit the following activities in an MBS:

- no person shall hunt migratory birds;

- no person shall disturb, destroy, or take the nests of migratory birds;
- no person shall have in their possession a live migratory bird, or a carcass, skin, nest or egg of a migratory bird (a resident of an MBS may have in their possession migratory birds lawfully killed outside an MBS);
- no person shall have in their possession in an MBS any firearm; or any hunting appliance except as otherwise provided in these Regulations (does not apply to residents of an MBS);
- no person shall permit a dog or cat to run at large in an MBS;
- no person shall carry on any activity that is harmful to migratory birds or the eggs, nests or habitat of migratory birds, except under the authority of a permit for those MBS on provincial, territorial and federal lands (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2011).

Ecotourism Projects in Boatswain Bay MBS

First, any ecotourism activities taking place in an MBS must to comply with the legislation and regulations described above. If you are developing an ecotourism project within the Boatswain Bay MBS, it is recommended that you contact the [Quebec Region office of Environment and Climate Change Canada](#) to ensure that your project is in compliance (scroll to the “contact information” section of the linked webpage for details).

In addition, it is recommended that you consult with [the Nord-du-Québec regional office of the MELCCFP](#) and submit a request for opinion as to whether your activity requires authorization (as part of the sanctuary is under provincial jurisdiction).

2.2.8 Exceptional Forest Areas

Description, Legal Context, and Management

Exceptional forest areas (EFAs) are protected due to their important role in contributing to the diversity of forest ecosystems and certain vulnerable species. Lands under this designation are legally protected under the [Sustainable Forest Development Act \(chapter A-18.1\)](#) and associated regulations.

Three sub-categories exist under this protected area designation: rare forests, old growth forests, and shelter forests for threatened or vulnerable species. Only the first two types are currently present in Eeyou Istchee. EFAs are under the administrative responsibility of the MRNF.

Only certain EFAs have been designated as protected areas under the [Natural Heritage Conservation Act \(chapter C-61.01\)](#). These are included on the [register of protected areas](#). (this link is in French).

TABLE 9 - EFAs in Eeyou Istchee

NAMES OF EFAs
Forêt ancienne de la Baie du Poste
Forêt ancienne de l'Eske-du-Lac-Cosnier
Forêt ancienne du Lac de l'Hypne-dorée

Forêt ancienne du Lac-Blanot
Forêt ancienne du Lac-Machisque
Forêt ancienne du Lac-Tournemine
Forêt ancienne Hugues-Cosnier
Forêt rare de la Baie Gunn
Forêt rare du Lac-des-Vents
Forêt rare du Lac-Phooey
Forêt rare du Portage-Mackenzie
Forêt rare et ancienne du Lac-Cummings

The locations of heronries can be identified using the MELCCFP's [protected areas map](#) (this map is in French).

Activities and Interventions in EFAs

In 2005, the MRNFP (now the MRNF) published a document titled [Lignes directrices pour la gestion des territoires classés écosystèmes forestiers exceptionnels](#) (Guidelines for the management of territories classified as EFAs, in French). These guidelines provide a broad overview of the authorization process for interventions in EFAs, and the guiding principles governing their management. It is recommended to consult these guidelines, as well as the *Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1)* before implementing an ecotourism project in EFAs. Note that, pursuant to Section 24 of the [JBNQA](#), Cree beneficiaries may exercise their harvesting rights inside the boundaries of EFAs. In the event of any conflict, the JBNQA prevails.

Generally, EFAs are publicly accessible, through non-motorized means and if the establishment of new trails is not required. EFAs are protected against activities that are susceptible to modifying the forest, including creating new infrastructure or chopping wood (among others).

All forest development activities and mining are prohibited (unless otherwise authorized). The guiding principle for the management of these areas is to avoid human interventions as much as possible (Bouchard, 2005). In certain cases, "the development of an exceptional forest ecosystem for educational, scientific, and even recreational purposes may be justifiable, provided these activities do not alter the EFA's exceptional character" (Bouchard, 2005). In all cases, interventions that require forest development work require authorization from the MRNF. Permits for interventions in EFAs are only awarded if the project involves no risk to the ecosystem in question. (Bouchard, 2005). Any granting of new intervention permits or authorizations in these areas of activity:

A) shall not be associated with the construction of new buildings and infrastructure, nor with the development of new accommodation sites (camping, rustic shelter, etc.);

B) must only be associated with light infrastructure requiring little or no maintenance, which can channel the movement of people along a pathway or at a specific point (bridge, culvert, boardwalk, observation tower, lookout, etc.);

C) can only be granted if this infrastructure is outside of sensitive areas of the EFA (Bouchard, 2005).

Finally, fishing, trapping, and hunting are permitted without authorization in EFAs (subject to other applicable legal provisions) (Bouchard, 2005).

Ecotourism Projects in EFAs

First, any ecotourism activities occurring within the boundaries of an EFA must be in compliance with the legislation and regulations described above, as well any regulations specific to the individual EFA, and any other applicable legislation.

In terms of projects involving development or construction of new infrastructure, you must ensure that your project complies with the legal framework in effect in the territory before carrying out any work. It is recommended to contact the [Nord-du-Québec regional office of the MRNF](#) and submit a request for opinion to determine whether your activity will require authorization. You may then be required to submit a [request for a permit](#) through the MRNF website (in French) and attach the appropriate documentation, including, for example: a land lease, other required permits, etc.

2.2.9 Biological sanctuaries

Description, Legal Context, and Management

Biological sanctuaries are small forest areas (usually around 200 hectares) scattered throughout the province of Quebec in which habitats are protected permanently to maintain biodiversity. These areas are legally protected under the [Sustainable Forest Development Act \(chapter A-18.1\)](#) and associated regulations. Biological sanctuaries are under the administrative responsibility of the MRNF.

Only certain biological sanctuaries have been designated as protected areas under the [Natural Heritage Conservation Act \(chapter C-61.01\)](#). These are included on the [register of protected areas](#) (this webpage is in French).

As there are numerous biological sanctuaries throughout the territory of Eeyou Istchee, a full list is not included in this guide. The locations of biological sanctuaries can be identified using the MELCCFP's [protected areas map](#) (this map is in French).

Activities and Interventions in Biological Sanctuaries

In 2014, the MFFP (now the MRNF) published a document titled [Lignes directrices relatives à la gestion des refuges biologiques](#) (Guidelines for the management of biological sanctuaries, in French). The guidelines provide information regarding management principles for these protected areas, and what activities are deemed "compatible" or "incompatible" with biological sanctuaries, under the provisions of the [Sustainable Forest Development Act, CQLR c A-18.1](#). It is recommended to consult these guidelines, as well as the [Sustainable Forest Development Act, CQLR c A-18.1](#) before implementing an ecotourism project in biological sanctuaries.

Note that, pursuant to Section 24 of the [JBNQA](#), Cree beneficiaries may exercise their harvesting rights inside the boundaries of biological sanctuaries. In the event of any conflict, the JBNQA prevails.

Forest development and mining activities are considered incompatible and are generally prohibited (unless otherwise authorized) in biological sanctuaries. In addition, the construction of new trails, campgrounds, or trails is deemed incompatible with biological sanctuaries (in most cases).

Biological sanctuaries are publicly accessible, through non-motorized means and if the establishment of new trails is not required. Activities related to research, education and tourism are deemed compatible if they do not alter the fundamental characteristics of biological sanctuaries. The guidelines for educational and recreational activities are as follows. This is a free translation from the MRNF's guidelines (Poulin, 2014):

Where an individual or organization expresses an interest in carrying out educational or recreational activities in a biological sanctuary, and the activities require the felling of trees, the application is subject to an authorization under section 30 of the *Sustainable Forest Development Act*. After analysis, this request may be deemed opportune if the activities that the individual wishes to carry out do not affect (or only slightly affect) old growth forests, if they are deemed not to affect the protection and maintenance of biological diversity and if they meet the conditions determined by the Minister.

Any granting of new intervention permits or authorizations in these areas of activity:

A) shall not be associated with the construction of new buildings and infrastructure, nor with the development of new accommodation sites (camping, rustic shelter, etc.);

B) must only be associated with light infrastructure requiring little or no maintenance, which can channel the movement of people along a pathway or at a specific point (bridge, culvert, boardwalk, observation tower, lookout, etc.);

C) can only be granted if this infrastructure is outside of sensitive areas of the biological sanctuary.

Finally, fishing, trapping, and hunting are permitted without authorization in biological sanctuaries (subject to other applicable legal provisions).

Ecotourism Projects in Biological Sanctuaries

First, any ecotourism activities occurring within the boundaries of a biological sanctuary must comply with the legislation and regulations described above, as well any regulations specific to the individual biological sanctuary, and any other applicable legislation.

In terms of projects involving development or construction of new infrastructure, you must ensure that your project complies with the legislative framework in effect in the territory before carrying out any work. It is recommended to contact the [Nord-du-Québec regional office of the MRNF](#) and submit a request for opinion to determine whether your activity will require authorization. You may then be required to submit a [request for a permit through](#) the MRNF website and attach the appropriate documentation, including for example: a land lease, other required permits, etc. This webpage is in French.

2.3 ROADMAP FOR PROJECTS IN WILDLIFE RESERVES

Wildlife reserves are not protected areas but are included in this guide due to their mission as dedicated spaces devoted to the conservation, promotion and use of wildlife, and secondarily, to the practice of recreational activities. Note that natural resource exploitation (such as ores and wood) is not prohibited in wildlife reserves.

2.3.1 Legal Context

Wildlife reserves are regulated through the [Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife \(chapter C-61.1\)](#), which stipulates that "The Minister may establish wildlife reserves on lands in the domain of the State and dedicate them to the conservation, development and utilization of wildlife and to the carrying on of recreational activities incidental thereto are fixed with a view to preserving the wildlife habitat or the habitat of a species of wildlife." In addition, the [Regulation respecting wildlife reserves \(chapter C-61.1, r 53\)](#) has additional provisions regarding what is permitted in wildlife reserves. Wildlife reserves fall under the responsibility of the MELCCFP.

The *Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (chapter C-61.1)* further stipulates that the Minister can delegate management of wildlife reserves to an organization by contract or agreement. The Act states that "no person may organize activities or provide services for profit or operate a commercial undertaking in a wildlife reserve with a view to the development or utilization of wildlife or for the purposes of recreational activities without being authorized by a contract with the Minister or without complying with the conditions of such authorization."

Furthermore, the Minister can "refuse an authorization in particular if the organization of an activity, the provision of a service or the operation of an undertaking already forms part of a recreational activity development plan. "

2.3.2 Management

Two wildlife reserves currently exist in Eeyou Istchee, the Assinica Wildlife Reserve and the Albanel-Mistassini-and-Waconichi (AMW) Lakes Wildlife Reserve. The boundaries of each reserve can be identified [using this map](#).

Since 2017, these have been entirely managed by the Nibiischii Corporation on behalf of the Cree Nation of Mistissini (for the AMW Lakes Wildlife Reserves) and the Cree Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou (for the Assinica Wildlife Reserve). The management of the latter has been temporarily assigned.

It is important to note that certain parts of each of these wildlife reserves have been designated for the purposes of future national parks (Assinica National Park Reserve and Nibiischii National Park Reserve). Once these projects have been finalized, the boundaries of the existing wildlife reserves will change, and so will the legislative framework surrounding activities and interventions within these areas.

2.3.3 Activities and Interventions in Wildlife Reserves

It is important to note that the Regulation respecting wildlife reserves "does not apply to Cree, Inuit or Naskapi beneficiaries [...] in the Wildlife sanctuaries of Assinica and Albanel, Mistassini and Waconichi lakes."

For non-Cree, Inuit or Naskapi beneficiaries, the Regulation respecting wildlife reserves (chapter C-61.1, r 53) stipulates that:

- Access rights must be obtained for any person who stays on the territory for recreational purposes.
- Fishing rights and hunting must also be obtained, and these activities must be reported.
- Those travelling through the territory using off-highway vehicles must use designated trails and must have access rights.

In the wildlife reserves operate by Nibiischii Corporation, only sport and recreational fishing are permitted, whereas other harvesting activities are reserved for beneficiaries. In addition, certain species of fish are also reserved for the exclusive rights of beneficiaries.

The [Nibiischii Corporation website](#) provides more information regarding fees, rules, and services provided for each of the Assinica wildlife reserve and the AMW Lakes wildlife reserve.

2.3.4 Ecotourism Projects in Wildlife Reserves

First, ecotourism projects in wildlife reserves must comply with the applicable legislative framework described above, as well as the specific regulations pertaining to the reserves operated by Nibiischii Corporation.

In addition, ecotourism projects taking place in the Assinica Wildlife Reserve or the AMW Lakes Wildlife Reserve must be developed in collaboration with the Nibiischii Corporation. If further authorizations are needed, these must be obtained from the MELCCFP through Nibiischii Corporation.

SECTION 3 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS

In the workbook (*Part 1* of this guide), you identified whether your project may be located in proximity to sensitive areas, precarious species or cultural heritage sites. The goal of this section (*Part 2, Section 3*) is to highlight other considerations regarding environmental and cultural heritage that may apply in addition to protected area laws. One of ecotourism's key tenets is to respect flora and fauna, as well as the culture, traditions, and ways of living of the local populations. This type of tourism can go beyond the support and protection of environmentally sensitive areas to include ways of valuing cultural heritage assets. This section also resources that might be useful to consider should you wish to integrate environmental and cultural lenses into your project.

The information is divided as follows:

- **3.1 Species in a Precarious Situation** outlines the legislative frameworks surrounding species at risk and vulnerable species. It also provides resources for mapping the locations of these species.
- **3.2 Shorelines and Wetlands** explains relevant rules and regulations surrounding shorelines and wetlands, particularly in relation to construction near them.
- **3.3 Cultural Heritage** explains relevant rules and regulations surrounding various types of heritage resources and how they are protected.

3.1 SPECIES IN A PRECARIOUS SITUATION

3.1.1 Definition

A species living in a precarious situation can be defined as a species that faces threats. Threats can include habitat degradation, pollution, disease, collision with vehicles or boat propellers, and human disturbance. Some species have small populations, which makes them more fragile (Gouvernement du Québec, 2023; Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, 2023).

In Canada, both the Federal and Provincial governments provide legislative mechanisms to protect these species. While Federal and Provincial mechanisms need to be considered, provincial acts and regulations are usually more restrictive.

It is important to mention that for the Federal Government, the term "species living in a precarious situation" encompasses endangered and threatened species while for the Government of Quebec, it includes threatened or vulnerable species.

3.1.2 Designated Species

The Federal Government's list of endangered and threatened species is available in [SCHEDULE 1 - List of Wildlife Species at Risk](#) of the [The Species at Risk Act \(S.C. 2002, c. 29\)](#).

The below regulations include lists of threatened or vulnerable species designated under the Quebec legislation:

- [Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable plant species and their habitat \(chapter E-12.01, r. 3\)](#),
- [Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable wildlife species and their habitats \(chapter E-12.01, r. 2\)](#);
- [List of plant and wildlife species which are likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable \(chapter E-12.01, r 5\)](#).

The list is also available in an interactive map format, the [Map of species in precarious situation](#) developed by the Quebec Government. This map is in French.

3.1.3 Legislative Frameworks

The following content lists key Acts and regulations that might be important to consider if you develop an ecotourism project. Particular attention is given to the elements that might be relevant to developing an ecotourism project located in or near an endangered, threatened, or vulnerable species habitat. It is important to note that in case of conflict between the Acts and regulations mentioned below and [JBNQA](#), the latter prevails.

Some of these Acts have been previously discussed in *Part 2, Section 2* of this guide, specifically in relation to protected areas.

Species at Risk Act

[The Species at Risk Act \(S.C. 2002, chapter 29\)](#) aims to help prevent wildlife species' extinction and support their recovery. It provides for the legal protection of wildlife species and the conservation of their biological diversity.

Some important elements to retain from this Act are the following:

- This Act outlines prohibitions to protect listed threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat. The general prohibitions are outlined in sections 32 and 33 of the Act.
- This Act dictates compensation provisions following the imposition of the critical habitat prohibitions (section 64).

Act Respecting Threatened or Vulnerable Species

As mentioned above, the [Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species \(chapter E-12.01\)](#) allows two statuses to be assigned to species and thus ensures their protection and recovery. The law also allows for

the listing of wildlife species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable. It is important to note that this Act applies subject to the [Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories \(chapter D-13.1\)](#).

Two key elements to retain from this Act are the following:

- It is generally forbidden to manipulate (harvest, exploit, mutilate, destroy, acquire, transfer, offer to transfer, or genetically modify) a threatened or vulnerable plant species (section 16).
- In a threatened or vulnerable plant species habitat, it is generally forbidden to carry out an activity that might impact the ecosystems, the biological diversity, or the physical/chemical components of this habitat (section 17).

Act Respecting the Conservation and Development of Wildlife

The [Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife \(chapter C-61.1\)](#) establishes various prohibitions that relate to the conservation of wildlife resources and various standards of safety, and sets forth the rights and obligations of hunters, fishers and trappers. It is important to note that the provisions of this Act and the regulations made under that Act does not apply when inconsistent with those of the [Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories \(chapter D-13.1\)](#), in which case the latter prevails.

A key element of this Act to keep in mind is that generally, in a wildlife habitat, it is forbidden to carry out an activity that might modify any of its biological, physical, or chemical (Section 128.6). This is discussed in *Part 2, Section 2* of this guide in relation to wildlife habitats (specifically, heronries) that have been designated as protected areas.

Regulation Respecting Threatened or Vulnerable Plant Species and Their Habitat

The [Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable plant species and their habitat \(chapter E-12.01, r. 3\)](#) contains the list of threatened and vulnerable plant species, as well as the list of threatened and vulnerable plant species habitats, as per the [Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species \(chapter E-12.01, ss. 34.1 and 39\)](#). This regulation can therefore help you identify if your ecotourism project might involve threatened and vulnerable plant species or threatened and vulnerable plant species habitats. The [map of species in precarious situation](#) mentioned above represents another useful source.

Regulation Respecting Threatened or Vulnerable Wildlife Species and Their Habitats

The [Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable wildlife species and their habitats \(chapter E-12.01, r. 2\)](#) contains the list of threatened and vulnerable wildlife species as per the [Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species \(chapter E-12.01, ss. 34.1 and 39\)](#). This regulation can thus help you identify if your ecotourism project might involve threatened and vulnerable wildlife species. The [map of species in precarious situation](#) mentioned above represents another useful source.

List of Plant and Wildlife Species Which are Likely to be Designated as Threatened or Vulnerable

The [List of plant and wildlife species which are likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable \(chapter E-12.01, r. 5\)](#) contains schedules in which are listed species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable. This list can therefore help you identify if your ecotourism project might involve plant or wildlife species that are likely to be designated as threatened and vulnerable.

3.2 SHORELINES AND WETLANDS

3.2.1 Defining Shorelines and Wetlands

Wetlands

The [Environment Quality Act \(chapter Q-2\)](#) defines wetlands as natural or man-made sites which contain a permanent or temporary presence of water. This water may be diffused, occupy a bed, or saturate the ground (Section 46.0.2). While data about wetlands are compiled by the MELCCFP, it is important to note that in Eeyou Istchee and elsewhere in Quebec, some existing wetlands may not yet have been identified.

Wetlands play an essential role in the maintenance of ecosystems and the species that depend on them. Wetlands contribute to water purification and supply, flood management, erosion control, carbon storage and sequestration, and habitats for biodiversity. They can take the form of peatlands (fen and forested bogs), marshes, swamps, and shallow water ecosystems.

Shorelines

A shoreline is the part of a territory bordering a lake or watercourse. Shorelines also play a crucial role for the protection of waterways, vegetation, and wildlife. For instance, they can prevent erosion, contribute to preserve wildlife habitats, and help mitigate the destruction of natural landscapes. Ultimately, they can benefit the environmental quality of our rivers and lakes.

3.2.2 Legislation Protecting Shorelines and Wetlands

If you intend to pursue new construction in or near a wetland or shoreline, it will be important to consult all Acts and regulations relating to these environments. The key legislative frameworks relating to wetlands and shorelines are outlined below, with a particular attention given to the elements that might be relevant to know if you wish to develop an ecotourism project in or near a wetland or shoreline.

Environment Quality Act

The purpose of the [Environment Quality Act \(chapter Q-2\)](#) is to protect the environment and the living species inhabiting it. A key element to consider from this Act is that generally, it is forbidden to perform work, erect structures or pursue other interventions in wetlands and bodies of water without first obtaining authorization from the MELCCFP (Section 22, paragraph 4). The elements that the minister may consider when assessing

an application for authorization are outlined in section 24 of this Act. The information and documents required from the applicant are detailed in sections 23 and 46.0.3 of the Act.

Act Respecting Compensation Measures for the Carrying out of Projects Affecting Wetlands or Bodies of Water

The [Act respecting compensation measures for the carrying out of projects affecting wetlands or bodies of water \(chapter M-11.4\)](#) grants the MELCCFP the authority to request compensation for projects affecting a wetland or a body of water. You might need to consult this Act if your project affects wetland or a body of water, and if the Ministry requests compensation.

Regulation Respecting Activities in Wetlands, Bodies of Water and Sensitive Areas

The [Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas \(chapter Q-2, r. 0.1\)](#) prescribes general standards applicable to entities carrying out activities in wetlands and bodies of waters as per section 46.0.2 of the [Environment Quality Act \(chapter Q-2\)](#). This regulation should be considered if your project involves the carrying out of an activity in a wetland or body of waters.

Regulation Respecting the Temporary Implementation of the Amendments Made by Chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2021 in Connection with the Management of Flood Risks

The [Regulation respecting the temporary implementation of the amendments made by chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2021 in connection with the management of flood risks \(chapter Q-2, r. 32.2\)](#) constitutes a municipal authorization regime for activities carried out in floodplain and coastal environments. This regulation is also referred to as the *Transitional regime for floodplain, riverbank and coastal management*. The expression "Transitional regime" means that regime is not permanent and might be subject to change.

This regulation is implemented through several other regulations, all of which complement each other. For more details on this regulation, to consult the webpage [Régime transitoire de gestion des zones inondables, des rives et du littoral](#) (Transitional regime for the management of flood plains, riverbanks, and coastlines) developed by the Quebec Government (in French).

With regards to developing an ecotourism project in a coastal environment, the key elements to consider from this regulation are the following:

- In general, construction, such as that of buildings and accessory structures (garages, sheds, swimming pools), is prohibited in the littoral and the shoreline. They must therefore be located at least 10 or 15 m away from the limit of the littoral shoreline. When planning such works, it is therefore necessary not only to set the limits of the littoral, but also to establish the upper limit of the shoreline on the ground. For more details on shorelines and how to delineate them, it is possible to consult [the Aide-mémoire Méthodes de delimitation des rives](#) (tipsheet on shorelines) published by the MELCCFP (in French).

- It is forbidden to carry out activities listed in section 6 of this regulation in the littoral zone of a lake or watercourse without obtaining prior authorization from the local municipality in whose territory the activity is to be carried out.
- It is forbidden to carry out activities listed of section 7 of this regulation on the shore or bank of a lake or watercourse without obtaining prior authorization from the local authority in whose territory the activity is to be carried out.

3.3 CULTURAL HERITAGE

3.3.1 Defining Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage reflects the identity and history of a community. Ensuring its preservation can help pass along cultural heritage elements and celebrate it for the benefit of other community members. While there are many definitions of cultural heritage, the [Cultural Heritage Act \(chapter P-9.002\)](#) defines this concept as follows: “Cultural heritage consists of deceased persons of historical importance, historic events and sites, heritage documents, immovables, objects and sites, heritage cultural landscapes, and intangible heritage.” (section 1).

3.3.2 Legislation Protecting Cultural Heritage

If you come across a feature of heritage interest while developing your ecotourism project, it is recommended that you consult the legislation surrounding cultural heritage. The following Acts and documents will help you navigate what you need to do if you come across cultural heritage features throughout the development of your project. A particular focus is given to steps you must take if you come across an archeological site or potential archeological site.

Cultural Heritage Act

The main legislation concerning heritage in Quebec is the [Cultural Heritage Act \(chapter P-9.002\)](#). This Act’s purpose is to support the knowledge, protection, enhancement, and transmission of cultural heritage. It also aims to promote the designation of deceased persons of historical importance and historic events and sites.

A key element to retain from this Act is that it provides for several levels of protection. These levels of protection are detailed on the Quebec Government’s website [Types de statuts légaux et mesures de précaution](#) (types of legal statuses and protection measures. This webpage is in French), as well as in the PDF document, [The Protection of Québec’s Heritage](#), published by the Government of Quebec’s Direction du patrimoine et de la muséologie.

The list of elements designated, classified, declared, identified or recognized under this Act as cultural heritage is available online via the [Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec](#) (Repertory of cultural heritage in Quebec. This page is in French). It is important to keep in mind that there might be important areas of cultural and/or historical heritage that are not formally listed. Furthermore, the government does not always

provide the precise location of heritage elements online. Therefore, you might need to consult the Cree Nation Government or local community stakeholders to obtain more detailed local information.

Natural Heritage Conservation Act

This Act was discussed in *Part 2, Section 2* of this guide, specifically in relation to protected areas in Quebec.

As mentioned, the [Natural Heritage Conservation Act \(chapter C-61.01\)](#) provides the Government of Quebec with an effective legal tool to meet new challenges related to natural environment conservation. The goal is to ensure the conservation of Quebec's natural heritage and of the associated values.

An important element to retain from this Act is that it contains conservation measures meant to ensure the maintenance of Quebec's natural heritage and of the ecosystems it comprises, with a focus on their protection, ecological restoration, and sustainable use. Specific measures are outlined in Chapter II, of the Act. You might have to consult these measures if your project is located in one of these areas:

- Natural settings;
- Northern conservation areas;
- Protected areas with sustainable use, biodiversity reserves, ecological reserves and marine reserves (as discussed in *Part 2, Section 2* of this guide);
- Nature reserves;
- Man-made landscapes.

3.3.3 Archeological Sites: Key Legal Considerations at a Glance

If your ecotourism project comprises an archeological site, you should know that it might officially be classified or declared as a heritage site by the Government of Quebec or the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

At the time this document was written, there was only one officially classified heritage property in Eeyou Ischee, the Waapushukamikw (Coline-Blanche) archeological site, and no officially declared heritage site. As heritage changes over time, the following paragraphs will help you understand some key legal insights about these two levels of protection.

3.3.4 Classified Heritage Properties

On an officially classified as a heritage property by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, it is necessary to obtain an authorization before carrying out the following actions:

- Carrying out any work on the classified heritage site.
- Acquiring the classified heritage site.
- Selling the classified heritage site.
- Transferring the classified heritage site.

More details are available in Chapter II, Division IV of the [Cultural Heritage Act \(chapter P-9.002\)](#).

3.3.5 Declared Heritage Sites

On an officially declared heritage sites it is mandatory to consult the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications' conservation plan before carrying out any interventions. This plan contains the minister's orientations for the preservation, rehabilitation, and enhancement of the site. For more details on current conservation plans, you can consult the Quebec Government's webpage, [Plans de conservation des biens patrimoniaux](#) (Conservation plans for heritage assets. This webpage is in French).

Furthermore, within an officially declared heritage site, an authorization from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications is mandatory before carrying out the following actions:

- Dividing, subdividing, redividing, parcelling out land.
- Changing the layout or location of a building.
- Making a construction.
- Repairing or modifying the external appearance of a property.
- Demolishing all or part of a property.
- Excavating the ground, even inside a building (except for burials and exhumations).
- Making a new posting.
- Modifying, replacing, or demolishing a sign or billboard.

More details are available in Chapter II, Division V of the [Cultural Heritage Act \(chapter P-9.002\)](#).

3.3.6 Potential Archeological Sites

If you come across a potential archeological site while developing your ecotourism project, you need to inform the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications. According to the [Natural Heritage Conservation Act \(chapter C-61.01\)](#), this obligation applies whether the discovery occurs in a context of archaeological excavations and research or not (section 74). You should also inform the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute's Archaeology Department, which may be able to assist you in this process.

SECTION 4 UTILITIES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

In the workbook (*Part 1* of this guide), you answered questions regarding waste management and other utilities related to your ecotourism project.

The goal of this section (*Part 2, Section 4*) is to provide general recommendations regarding the following aspects of developing an ecotourism project: waste management, drinking water, and energy. This section contains both legal considerations and references relating to good practices.

The information is divided as follows:

- **4.1 Waste** includes relevant information regarding both solid waste and wastewater.
- **4.2 Drinking Water** focuses on the provision of drinking water and the installation of water treatment systems.
- **4.3 Energy** examines key considerations regarding energy generation.

4.1 WASTE

When developing an ecotourism project, it is important to plan how waste will be managed. Reflecting on a waste management strategy will help minimize the environmental footprint of ecotourism activities. It will ultimately support the protection of nature, which is a key principle of ecotourism.

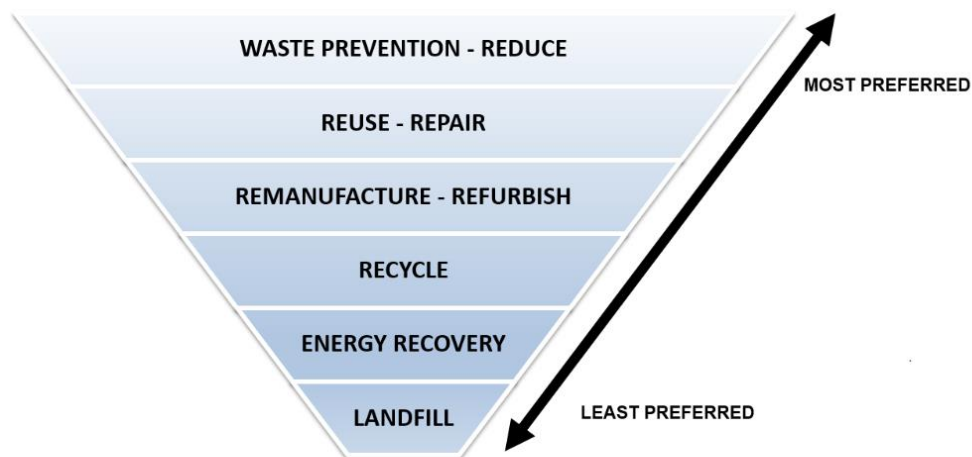
In protected areas, general waste disposal facilities are not always available. If your ecotourism project is in a protected area that does not have these facilities, you will need to bring the waste to an appropriate facility (i.e., a facility located in one of the region's communities). In that case, you will need to come to an agreement with the community.

4.1.1 Key Considerations for Waste Management

General Waste Management: The 4R's Principles

A key concept of sustainable local waste management is the 4R's principles. The letter "R" is the initial of the words reduce, reuse, recycle, and recovery. This waste hierarchy ranks the favoured approaches to waste reduction and management. The objective is to support the recovery and value of used materials (Government of Canada, 2021).

Figure 2 - The Waste Hierarchy



(Government of Canada, 2021)

The following are definitions for the 4R principles, directly citing Environment and Climate Change Canada:

- **Waste prevention:** Preventing the generation of waste in the first place at the manufacturing, consumer, and institutional level.
- **Reduce:** Reducing and preventing the amount of material entering the recycling and solid waste stream.
- **Reuse:** Reusing materials and/or products as much as possible through repairing and refurbishing before entering the recycling or solid waste stream.
- **Recycle:** Recycling by collecting, sorting, and using materials as a resource input or selling them to secondary markets.
- **Recovery:** Using materials or waste that cannot be reused or recycled to produce fuel or energy using technologies such as Waste-to-Energy and Anaerobic Digestion (Government of Canada, 2021).

It is the recommendation of this guide that you keep in mind the 4R principles, when developing your ecotourism project's waste management strategy. For more information on this, you can consult the Government of Canada's webpage [Reducing municipal solid waste](#).

The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

The seven principles of leave no trace are an internationally recognized framework for minimizing impacts on the environment while engaging in outdoor activities. Principle 3 focuses on the disposal of waste. [Leave No Trace Canada's webpage on waste disposal](#) provides many useful tips for the responsible disposal of various forms of waste.

Residual Materials from Construction and Demolition Work

If, as part of your ecotourism project, you intend to carry out construction or demolition work, you should consult the [Regulation respecting the reclamation of residual materials \(chapter Q-2, r. 49\)](#). Chapter III, Reclamation of Residual Materials from Construction or Demolition Work, might be particularly important to review.

4.1.2 Wastewater Management

Legal Considerations Regarding Wastewater Management

Below are listed two web pages containing information that might be pertinent to your project if you plan on construction new infrastructure that involves the production of wastewater:

- [Wastewater from Isolated Dwellings](#): MELCCFP webpage about wastewater from isolated dwellings, pertaining to systems which generate less than 3, 240 litres of domestic wastewater per day. It contains a comprehensive list of references including regulations, information sheets, best practices guides, and publications.
- [Eaux usées domestiques, communautaires et municipales](#) : MELCCFP webpage about domestic, community, and municipal wastewater (in French). It contains a list of on relevant Acts and regulations, as well as information sheets and other reference documents. This webpage also features content on authorizations that might be requires from the MELCCFP for systems generating more than 3,240 litres of water daily.

Washroom Facilities

Your ecotourism site may contain existing washroom facilities, in which case you should use those existing assets if permitted. That said, it is possible that it does not present any such facilities. In this case, below are outlined recommendations depending on whether you plan to add such facilities.

Ecological Toilets

A potential option is the Ecological Toilet, also called the Composting Toilet or Compolette. This type of toilet presents several pros:

- It does not need water, electricity, sewage, or chemicals and works using the sun and the wind, according to the orientation.
- It requires little maintenance and is accessible to people with reduced mobility.
- It is suitable for outdoor spaces, including during the winter.
- As this toilet works utilizes a tank, no contact between the material and soil is created. The Ecological Toilet therefore generate no risk of soil contamination or environmental pollution.
- A comparative research would be necessary to better estimate the lifespan of an Ecological Toilet, but some references support that some models last for more than 20 years (Atmosphere, 2021).

It is important to note that, per the [Regulation respecting waste water disposal systems for isolated dwellings \(chapter Q-2, r.22\)](#), ecological toilets must follow specific norms and certifications. More information on this can be found on the [MELCCFP website](#) (in French).

For more details about how the Ecological Toilet works, as well as on its maintenance, capacity, installation, and price, you can consult the following resources (in French):

- [Toilettes Écologiques - Guide d'information](#) (in French) : Information guide on the Ecological Toilet. Contains details on how it works, how to maintain it, and how to install it.
- [Tout sur la toilette sèche et la toilette à compost](#) (in French): Online short article explaining how the Ecological Toilet works.

Leave No Trace Tips for Human Waste

If you are not able to install a washroom facility for your project, and no existing facilities are located near your project site, it is recommended that you follow Leave No Trace Canada's [tips for disposing of human waste](#).

4.2 DRINKING WATER

Having access to safe drinking water is important as part of your ecotourism project. It is indeed a public health concern. Depending on where your project is located, drinking water may or may not be available onsite. If that is the case, you might need to use water sources from springs or streams. In this case, it is important to be aware that drinking water sources from springs or streams located outside of the Cree communities' boundaries are not monitored. As a result, it is essential to follow some recommendations before using water from those unmonitored sources. The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay highlights some key recommendations about safe drinking water in this document titled [Water Sources and Storage of Drinking Water in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee Hunting Camps](#).

You can also find useful information on drinking water through consulting the [Drinking Water](#) MELCCFP webpage. Among others, this webpage comprises a list of relevant Acts and regulations, as well as contents on authorizations that might be required from the MELCCFP. For example, if your project will involve the installation of drinking water equipment to serve more than 20 people, an authorisation is required from the MELCCFP, per the [Environment Quality Act \(chapter Q-2\)](#).

4.3 ENERGY

Key Considerations Regarding Energy

You might need to generate your own electricity as part as your ecotourism project. If this is the case, you might want to consult Hydro-Québec's webpage, [Produce Electricity While Remaining Connected to the Hydro-Québec Grid](#). This page contains information for those who want to generate their own sources of electricity. For general information on different sources of energy that exist to generate electricity, you can consult the webpage [All source of energy](#), developed by the Government of Quebec.

Financial Programs for Green and Renewable Energy Sourcing

There is a diversity of financial programs meant to support green and renewable energy sourcing. These programs are managed by different organizations such as the federal, provincial, municipal governments and public services companies.

Examples of these programs include the following:

- **ÉcoPerformance Program:** Quebec Government program meant to fund measures seeking to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of businesses. Link to program website (in French) [here](#).
- **Efficient Solutions Program:** Hydro-Québec program that offers financial assistance to commercial and industrial customers to implement predefined energy efficiency measures. Link to program website [here](#).
- **Energy efficiency program - Efficient construction and renovation:** This program was developed by Énergir, for their customers. Through a grant, it is aimed at encouraging the construction of energy efficient buildings. Link to program website [here](#).

There are numerous additional programs that might support the use of sustainable energy as part of your ecotourism project. You can consult the Natural Resources Canada's [Directory of Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Programs in Canada](#) for more information.

Key Considerations Related to Heating Oil (or Other Hazardous Materials for Energy Generation)

If your ecotourism project necessitates the use of heating oil or any other hazardous material, it will be important that this oil or hazardous material is stored in a way that conforms to the law. According to Section 20 and 21 of the [Environment Quality Act \(chapter Q-2\)](#) you will be responsible to recover, clean, or treat all matter that has become contaminated in the event that hazardous materials are released. Having compliant storage installations will reduce the risk of accidental contamination.

The [Regulation respecting hazardous materials \(chapter Q-2, r. 32\)](#) will be a key regulation to consult if your ecotourism project requires the use of heating oil or any other hazardous material. Sections that might be the more relevant to you are the following:

- **Section 3** defines what a hazardous material is according to the law.
- **Chapter III** contains provisions on the use of residual hazardous materials for energy generation purposes.
- **Chapter IV** contains provision about the storage of residual hazardous materials.

SECTION 5 ACCOMODATION AND SERVICES

In the workbook (*Part 1* of this guide), you identified whether your tourism project involves providing accommodations or food services to tourists. Consult the following section (*Part 2, Section 5*) if these services may be included in your ecotourism project.

The information is divided as follows:

- **5.1 Tourist Accommodations** outlines legal requirements for lodging tourists.
- **5.2 Food Services** provides information regarding permits for food services.

5.1 TOURIST ACCOMODATIONS

If your project involves the hosting of visitors, there are a few rules that you will need to consider. This information can also be found on the Government of Quebec's webpage (in French) titled [Hébergement touristique de courte durée](#) (short-term tourist accommodation).

5.1.1 Steps for Registering a Tourist Accommodation

In Quebec, short-term tourist accommodation is governed by the [Act respecting tourist accommodation establishments \(chapter E-14.2\)](#) and the [Regulation respecting tourist accommodation establishments \(chapter E-14.2, r.1\)](#). You must register your establishment, even if it is your principal residence, when you offer at least one accommodation unit (bed, room, flat, house, cottage, camping site, etc.) under the following circumstances:

- to tourists;
- for a fee; or
- for periods of 31 days or less (e.g., overnight, weekly or weekend).

You must attach the following documents to your application:

- 1 A document from a competent authority showing that the operation of the tourist accommodation establishment covered by the application complies with the planning by-laws relating to uses;
- 2 The title of ownership, the municipal tax notice (municipal tax bill) or the rental contract;
- 3 Proof of civil liability insurance of \$2,000,000 per event guaranteeing compensation for bodily injury or property damage caused while operating the establishment;
- 4 A copy of the provisions of the rental agreement, or declaration of co-ownership if the establishment is in a building held in divided co-ownership, permitting the operation of the establishment for tourist accommodation purposes. If such provisions are not included in the declaration of co-ownership or the rental agreement, you must produce an authorization from the owner or an authorization from the syndicate of co-owners allowing the operation of a tourist accommodation establishment;

- 5 Photographs that identify the establishment (one of the exterior and one of the interior).

You must also pay the applicable registration or registration renewal fees* listed below in Table 10.

TABLE 10 - Registration Fees for Short-Term Tourist Accommodations

REGISTRATION	
Type of Accommodation	Fee
General tourist accommodation establishments	\$145
Youth tourist accommodation establishments	\$ 120
Primary Residence Establishments	\$ 50
ANNUAL REGISTRATION RENEWAL	
Type of Accommodation	Fee
General tourist accommodation establishments	\$145
Youth tourist accommodation establishments	\$ 120
Primary Residence Establishments	\$ 50

* The fees indicated were published by the Quebec Tourist Ministry and are in force for 2022. They are not taxable.

5.1.2 Display of the Registration Number

A written notice indicating the registration number, the street address and, if applicable, the name of the establishment and its category must be displayed in full view of the tourist clientele at the main entrance.

5.1.3 Insurance for Tourist Accommodations

To protect yourself, as well as your visitors, you will need to purchase insurance for your accommodation establishment. Several insurance companies offer different coverage packages. You could decide to purchase a plan as part of a home insurance policy, as some insurers could accept to insure your accommodation establishment in addition to your residence. However, in some cases, the insurance can (and should) be integrated with a business policy.

That said, depending on your accommodation establishment type, it may need to conform to some provisions of the to the [Quebec Construction Code](#).

5.2 FOOD SERVICES

Policies drafted by the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation detail the need for all food establishments to obtain a permit prior to beginning operations and service (Ministère de l'agriculture, des Pêcheries, et de l'Alimentation, n.d.). Four permit categories exist including:

- Restaurants (including ice cream stands, mobile food ventures, and cafeterias);
- Food sales (including grocers, convenience stores, bakeries, and natural food stores);
- Not for profit uses; and

— Special events (for a maximum of 30 consecutive days of operation).

Consult the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation [permits webpage](#) (in French) for more information on permit categories and how to apply for them.

You must do your due diligence should your proposal include food-related installation(s). It is your responsibility to obtain all appropriate permits, otherwise your installation may face any applicable penalties.

SECTION 6 ACCESS AND SAFETY

In *Part 1* of this guide, you selected the mode of access that will be required for your selected site, and you contemplated the distance from your ecotourism operation to the nearest healthcare facility.

Within the context of ecotourism projects, it is important for you to consider how access to the site will be maintained and how the safety of users will be guaranteed throughout the operation of the project. The remote nature of some projects may require a high degree of planning for access and safety in order to provide a tourism experience that meets the needs and expectations of your visitors that may be less familiar with the territory. As an ecotourism service provider, it is your responsibility to consider how the physical isolation of your selected site may impact communications and access to emergency healthcare.

This guide recommends that your ecotourism project include a clear emergency and risk management plan, including: a strategy in case of accident or injury, liability and accident coverage, rescue procedures, necessary equipment, etc. (Rando-Québec, n.d.). The details of this plan will be determined by the specifics of the ecotourism project.

The following section (*Part 2, Section 6*) outlines specific considerations relating to the access and safety that should be considered when creating an ecotourism operation.

The information is divided as follows:

- **6.1 Emergency Medical Services** outlines considerations regarding emergency medical services in remote areas.
- **6.2 Recommended Safety Training** provides resources for safety training.
- **6.3 Safety During Hunting Season** explains key considerations regarding safety and hunting, and recommendations for further reading.

6.1 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

It is the recommendation of this guide that contingencies for emergency medical service provisions should be made, especially in the case of projects in remote areas with limited access to medical clinics or hospitals. You may choose to explore private organizations that operate emergency services in northern and rural Quebec. One such company, Airmedic, provides subscription services for business including emergency evacuations and support with emergency preparedness plans. The [Airmedic website](#) can be consulted for further information.

In addition to emergency healthcare contingencies, it is recommended that all ecotourism installations have ready access to high quality first aid kits, that are replenished regularly. These should be highly visible and accessible.

6.2 RECOMMENDED SAFETY TRAINING

It is highly recommended that prior to beginning operations, you seek out training to ensure both quality and safety. This includes both: training related to different activity types, and general safety and wilderness training. Recommendations for activity-specific training are included in *Part 2, Section 1* of this guide.

In terms of safety training, AEQ recommends various options on their website. These companies offer two options in terms of training delivery:

- Training scheduled at select sites. May only be offered in French.
- Customized training at the location of your choice. Can be requested in English or French.

SIRIUS MEDX

Sirius MEDX is nationally recognized as a provider of safety and first aid trainings. These include the following options:

- Basic wilderness first aid (20h);
- Advanced wilderness first aid (40h);
- Wilderness first responder (80h).

In addition to their remote first aid programs, SIRIUS MEDX offers the following specialized courses, such as:

- Wilderness readiness and survival (8h);
- Wilderness risk management (2 days);
- Bear awareness and safety (8h);
- Wildlife predators defense (8h);
- GPS and navigation (4h); and
- Map and compass (4h).

Consult the [SIRIUS MEDX's website](#) for a full list and description of course options.

Atout Plus Inc

Atout Plus Inc offers many Canadian Red Cross courses, such as

- Standard first aid and CPR;
- Marine first aid; and
- Wilderness and remote first aid.

Consult the [Atout Plus Inc. website](#) for a full list and description of course options.

Impact Santé+

Impact Santé+ also offers Canadian Red Cross courses, including:

- Standard first aid and CPR; and
- Marine first aid.

Consult the [Impact Santé+](#) for a full list and description of course options.

Other Options

To find other first aid and wilderness safety training options, consult the Canadian Red Cross website's [search tool](#).

6.3 SAFETY DURING HUNTING SEASON

As an ecotourism operator, you should have in-depth knowledge of hunting seasons and how these may impact tourism operations of the proposed project, depending on the season. All efforts should be made to educate visitors on the risks associated with participating in activities during open season. Tourists and employees should be provided with fluorescent orange bibs when participating in any wilderness activity during hunting season. The following links can be explored for more information on [hunting seasons](#) and on [general hunting rules](#).

It is also imperative that you maintain a clear and active line of communication with all concerned tallymen in the project's vicinity in order to discuss hunting activities, impacts and risks.

SECTION 7 TRANSPORTATION

In *Part 1* of this guide, you identified which modes of transportation may be involved with your project.

As an ecotourism operator, you will have to consider the accessibility of your site in order to select transportation modes that respond to the specific contexts of each project. Elements that may be considered include:

- Topography;
- Climate;
- Vegetation;
- Potential environmental impact of transportation modes; and
- Proposed activities.

This guide recommends that, where possible, you invest in multiple transportation options in order to guarantee safe access to the site during operations.

Finally, it is your responsibility, and that of your staff, to ensure that all persons operating transportation vehicles have any and all required permits and meet the requirements associated with the mode of transportation in question. Failure to do so may limit the validity of some insurance agreements and may have financial and/or judiciary consequences for the project proponent.

The following section (*Part 2, Section 7*) outlines legal requirements for various modes of transportation. The information is divided into sections based on transportation type, as follows:

- **7.1 Off-Highway Vehicles;**
- **7.2 Automobiles;**
- **7.3 Non-Motorized Vessels;**
- **7.4 Motorized Watercrafts;**
- **7.5 Aircrafts.**

7.1 OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

The use of off-highway vehicles is highly regulated within the province of Quebec. It is your responsibility to understand and apply all applicable laws and regulations when operating off-highway vehicles. Failure to understand and apply the following documents, among others, may lead to offenses as described by provincial entities.

- The [Act respecting off-highway vehicles \(chapter V-1.3\)](#), which provides the legal basis for regulation, outlining definition, scope, conditions of use, civil liability, equipment specifications and inclusions specific to the use of off-highway vehicles by Indigenous communities.

The following regulations apply to specific modes of transportation that fall within the off-highway vehicle category:

- [Regulation respecting off-highway vehicles \(chapter V-1.2, r. 5\)](#) outlines specific regulations for the use of off-highway vehicles.
- [Regulation respecting snowmobiles \(chapter V-1.2, r 1\)](#), outlines specific regulations for the use of snowmobiles.
- [Regulation respecting all-terrain vehicles \(chapter V-1.2, r 6\)](#), outlines specific regulations for the use of all-terrain vehicles.

These regulations contain specific provisions relating to the possession of a valid driver's licence (or training certificate, where applicable) by all operators, the registration of all vehicles, the civil liability insurance must be obtained and the need for trail permits, where applicable, among others.

In addition, enterprises offering guided excursion on off-highway vehicles are now legally required to complete the following mandatory training, pursuant to the [Regulation respecting the recognition of training for off-highway vehicle excursion guides \(chapter V-1.3, r 1\)](#):

- Wilderness and Remote First Aid (20 h) certified training through SIRIUSMEDX or the Canadian Red Cross.
- Off-road vehicle safety training delivered by AEQ.
- Refresher training offered by the AEQ.

Consult the [AEQ website](#) for more information regarding training. This information is in French.

7.2 AUTOMOBILES

Automobile operation associated with any ecotourism project must comply with the regulations and standards as defined by [the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec](#). This includes all required processes for obtaining a valid licence, renewing a licence, registering a vehicle, renewing a registration, obtaining a copy of a driving record, etc. We recommend that you consult all required regulations [here](#), and ensure that all drivers have appropriate licensing, that all vehicles be registered in accordance with the law, and that appropriate insurance has been obtained.

Note that if your vehicle has more than eight seats, it falls into the category of a mini-bus. These are subject to specific regulations and requirements, particularly for regarding the transportation of tourists. More information can be found on the [Commission des transports website](#) (in French).

7.3 NON-MOTORIZED VESSELS

As mentioned in *Part 1, Section 1* of this guide, activities involving kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, and kitesurfs are subject to the following regulations governing recreational boating, under the [Canada Shipping Act, 2001 \(S.C. 2001, chapter 26\)](#):

- [Small Vessel Regulations \(SOR/2010-91\)](#): See safety equipment requirements for pleasure crafts.
- [Collision Regulations \(C.R.C., chapter 1416\)](#): Describes passing procedures, navigation rules, signalling requirements.

Consult [Transport Canada's Safe boating guide](#) for up-to-date information on current regulations governing recreational boating.

7.4 MOTORIZED WATERCRAFTS

All motorized watercrafts are subject to the above non-motorized vessel regulations but must also respect the [Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations \(SOR/99-53\)](#). This federal legislation outlines specific competencies that must be acquired by pleasure craft operators, the accredited courses that exist and information on the tests that must be administered under an approved protocol.

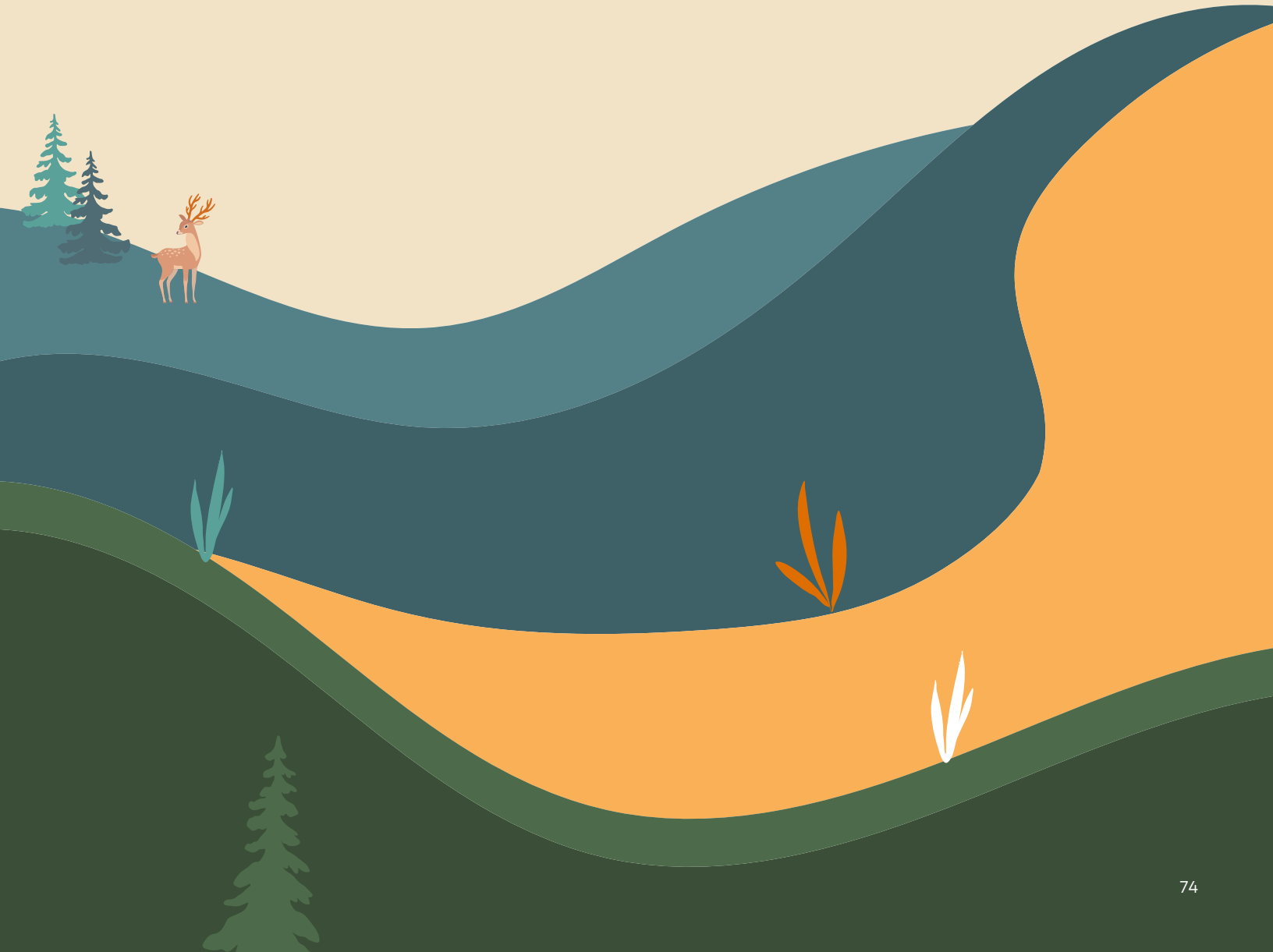
7.5 AIRCRAFTS

In Canada, transportation using aircraft is regulated by means of the [Aeronautics Act \(R.S.C., 1985, chapter A-2\)](#) and all associated regulations. If you are considering providing access to your ecotourism project by means of aircraft, it is the responsibility of ecotourism providers to be familiar with these laws and regulations. Regulations contain information that outlines the specific requirements for permits, licences, ratings, and medical requirements. The following Transport Canada web resources may be useful to you or to any member of your team that may be operating an aircraft for the purpose of your ecotourism operation:

- [General information on pilot licences and permits](#): provides information on the types of permits and licences that exist in Canada, and the process for obtaining such documents.
- [Register and aircraft](#): contains information for registering different types of aircraft.
- [General operating and flight rules](#): contains information relating to general aviation, aircraft operation, equipment requirement, de-icing, potential offences, and enforcement, among others.
- [Aircraft airworthiness](#): provides information on aircraft design, maintenance, and manufacturing.



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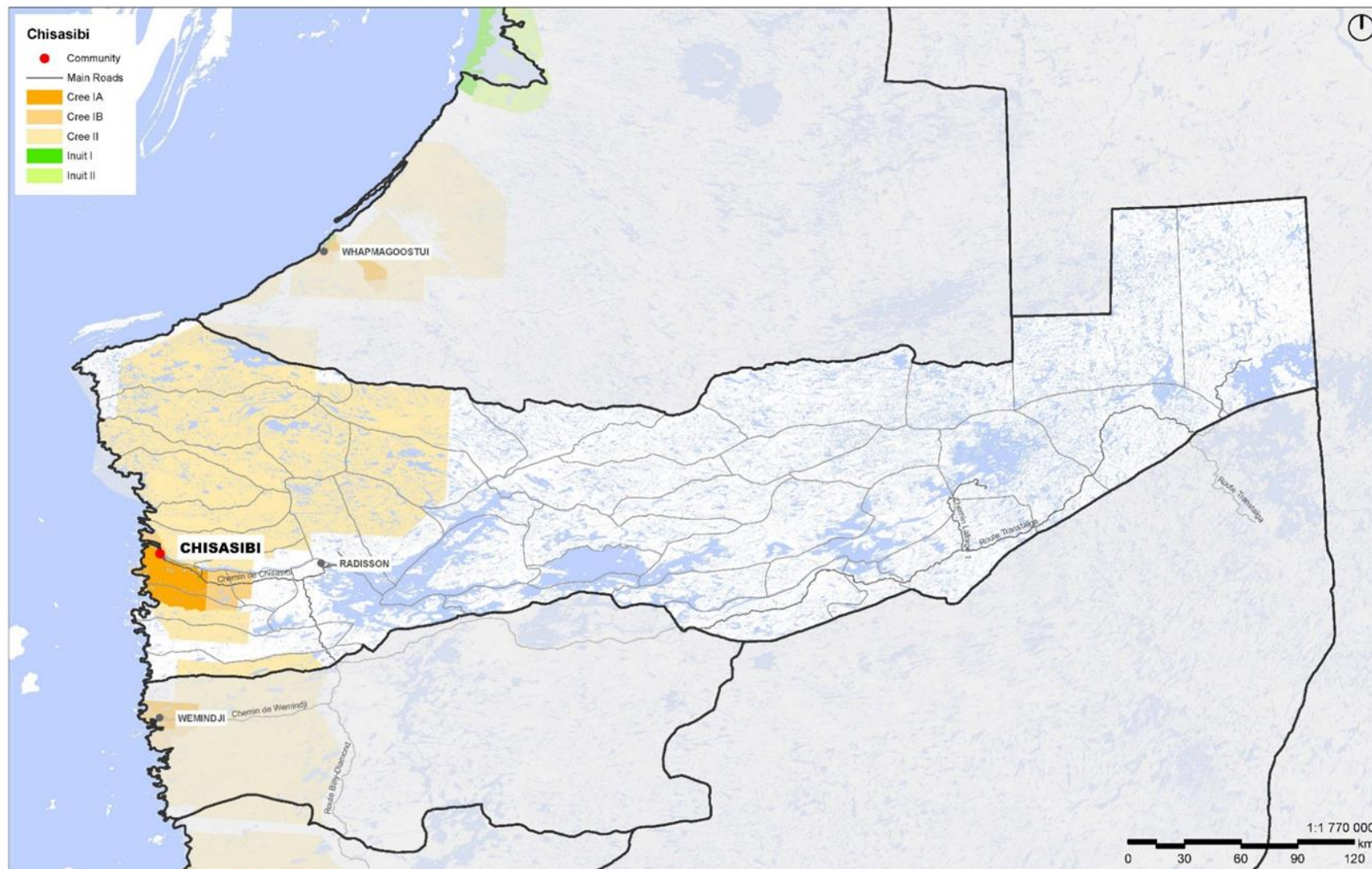
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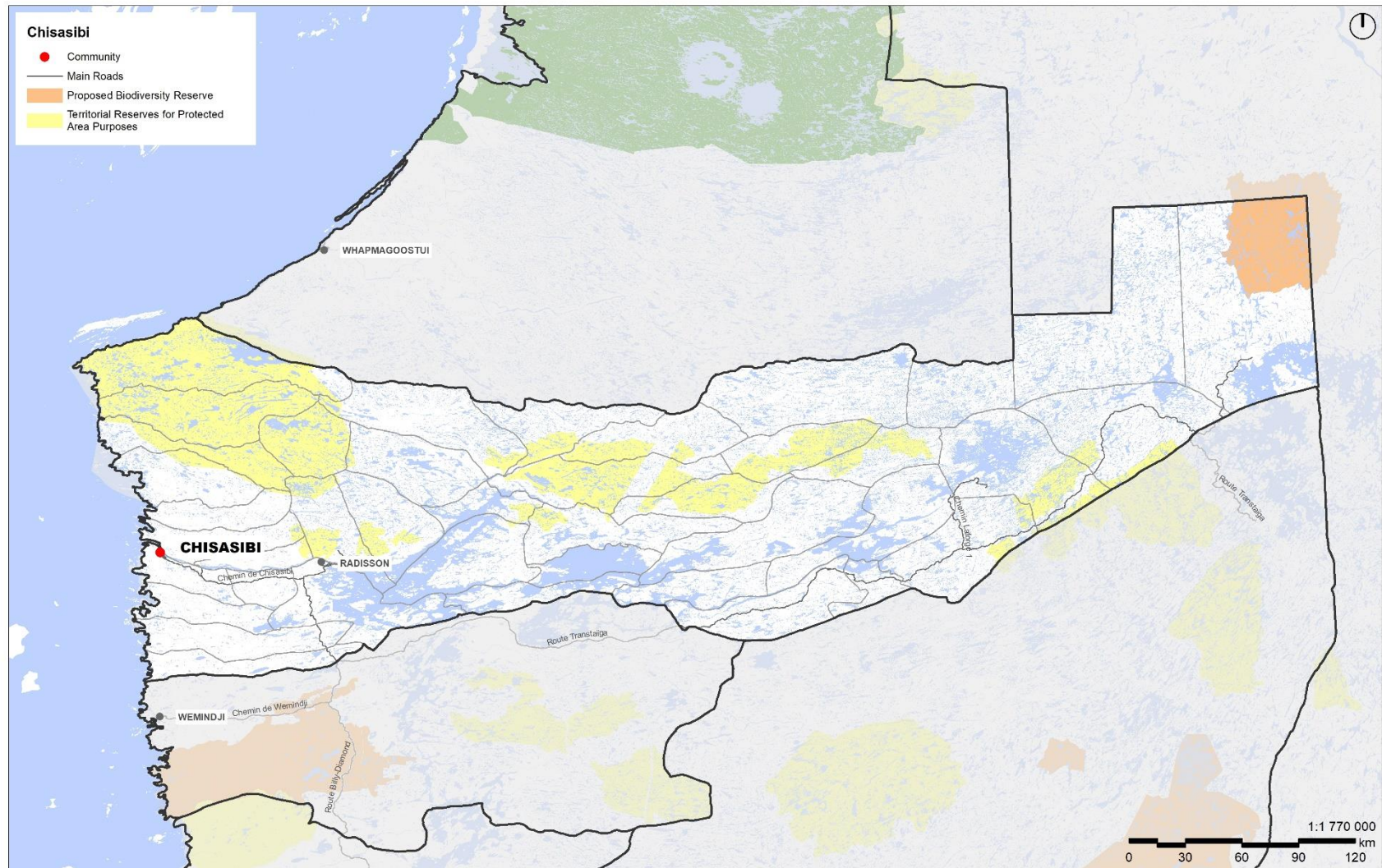
Appendix 1

**COMMUNITY
MAPS**

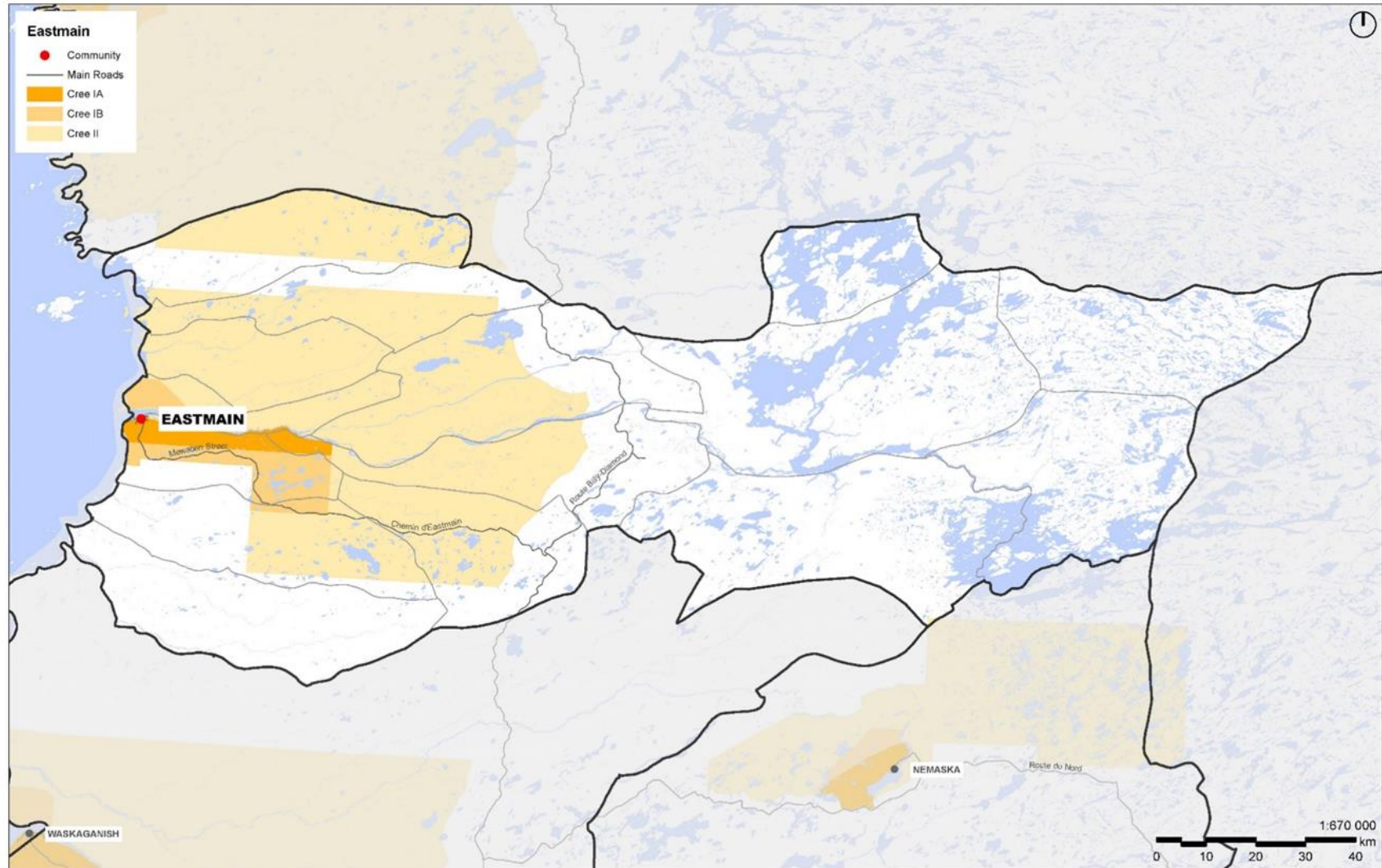
CHISASIBI MAP 1: CATEGORY LANDS



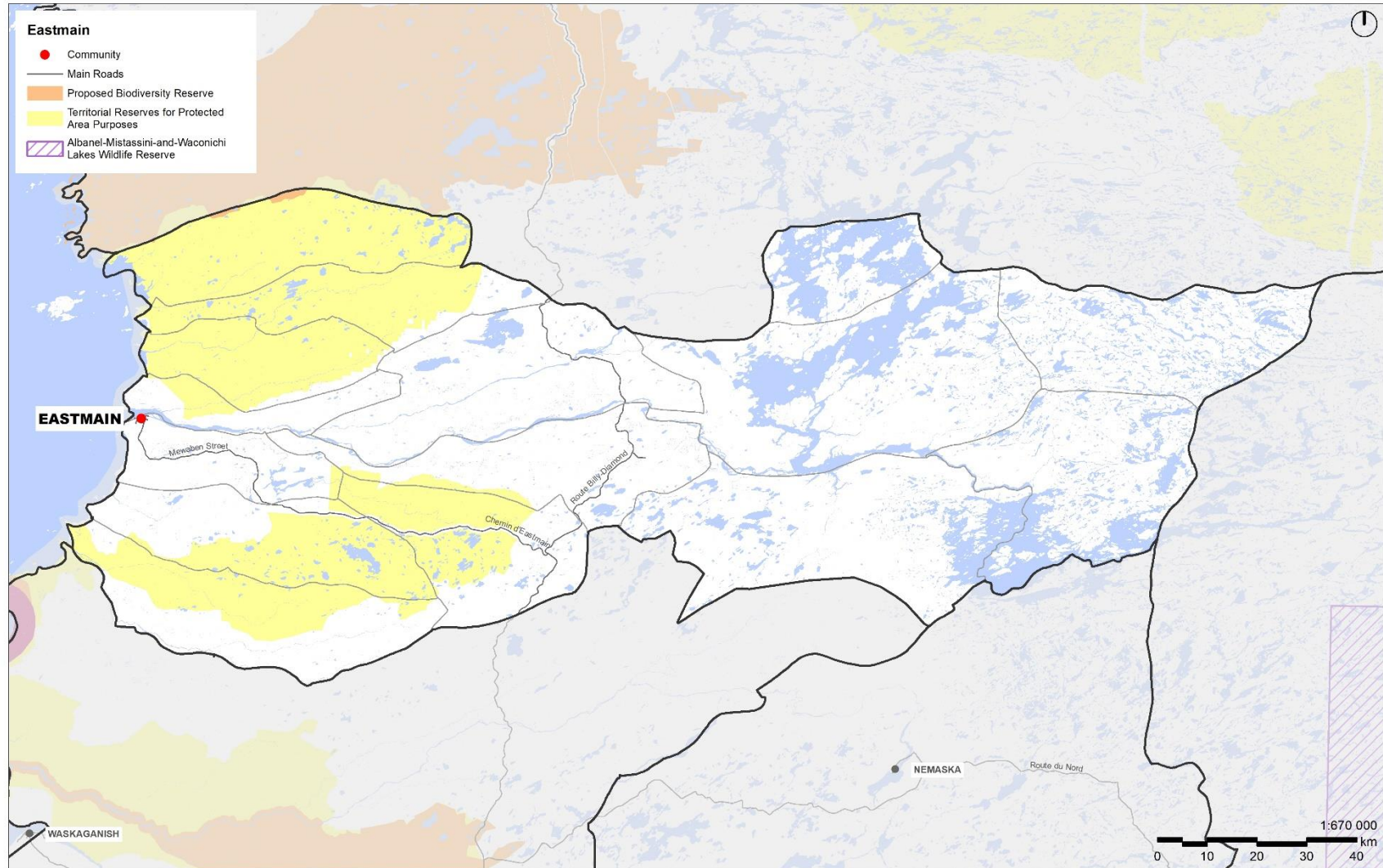
CHISASIBI MAP 2: PROTECTED AREAS



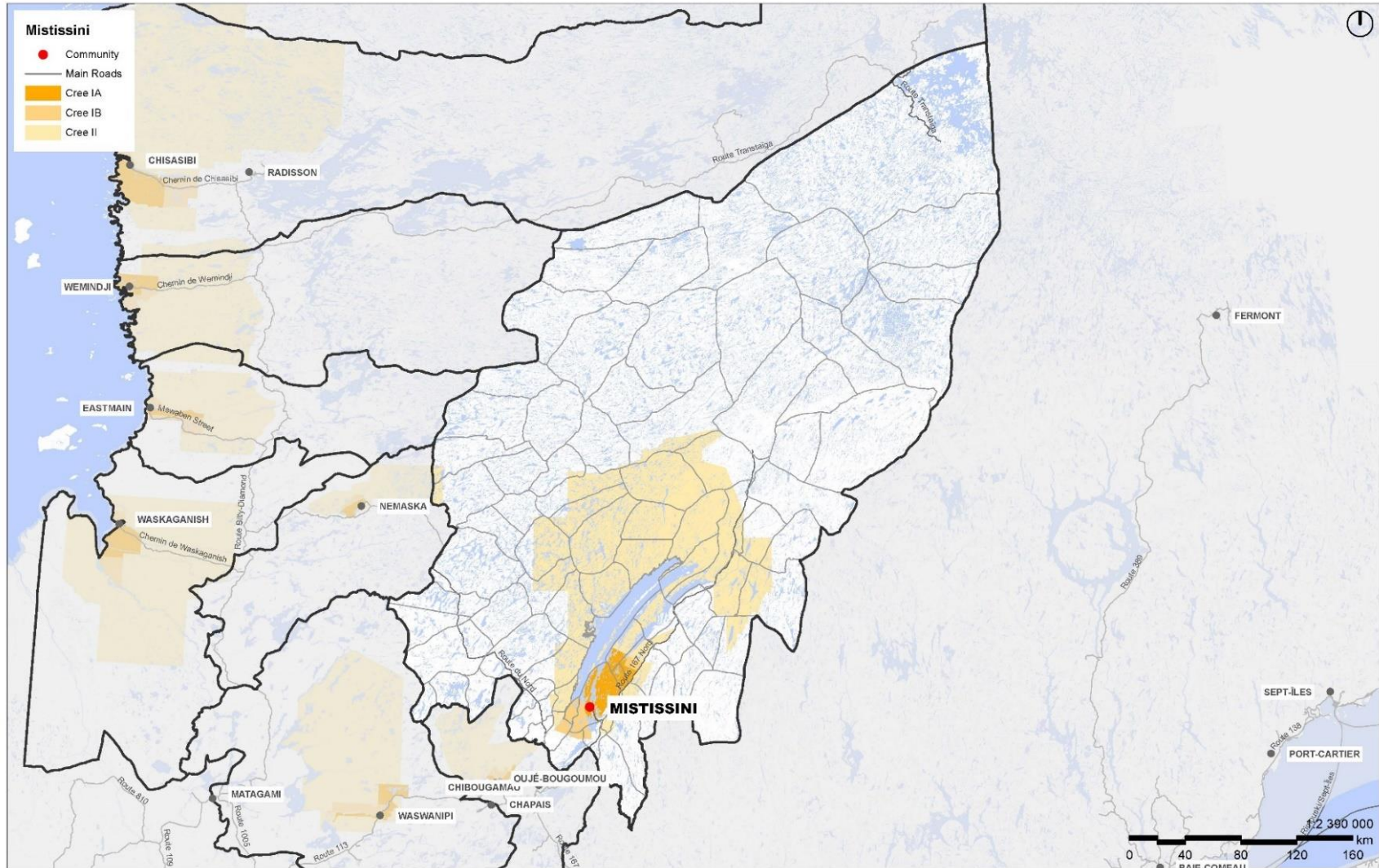
EASTMAIN MAP 1: CATEGORY LANDS



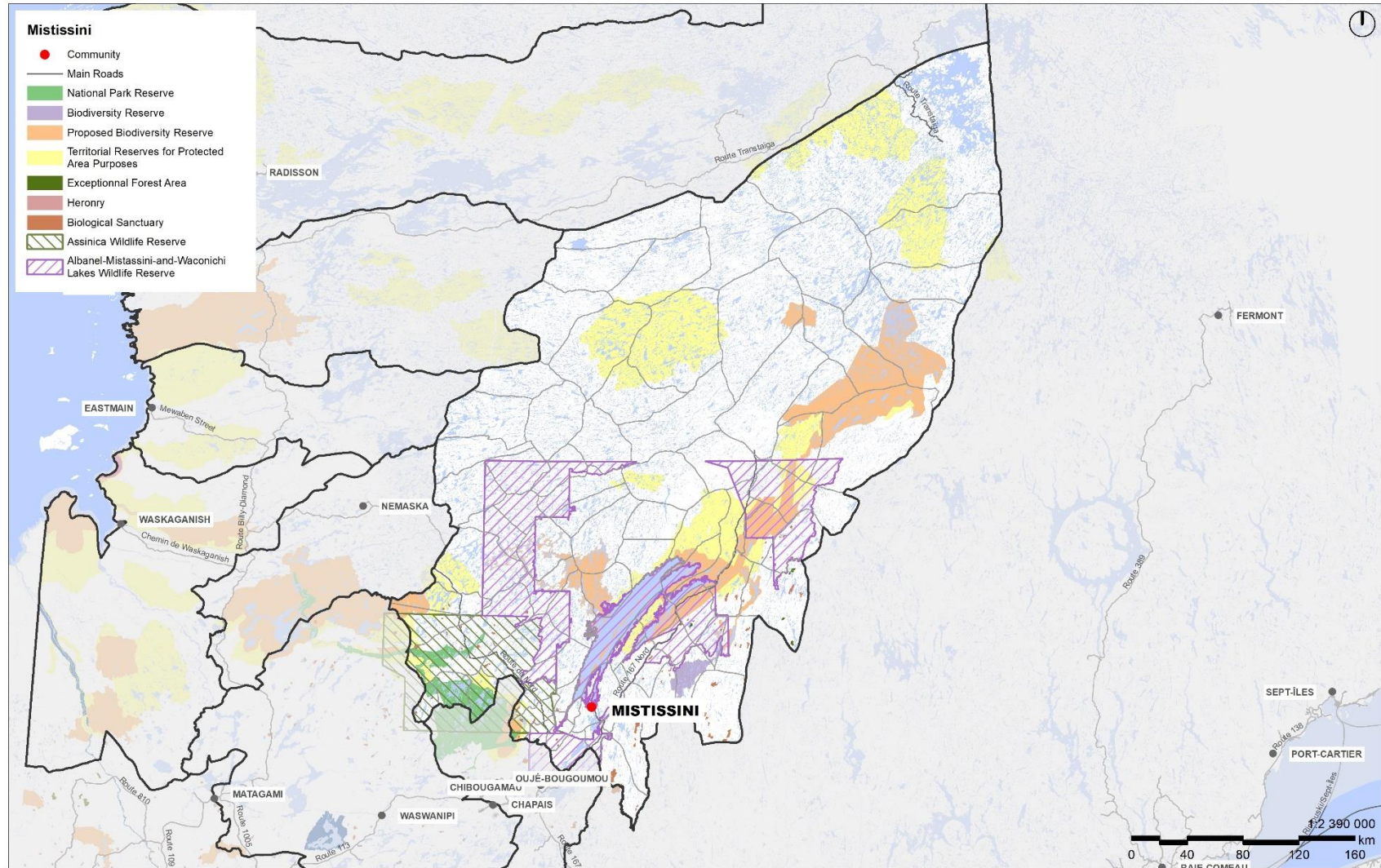
EASTMAIN MAP 2: PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES



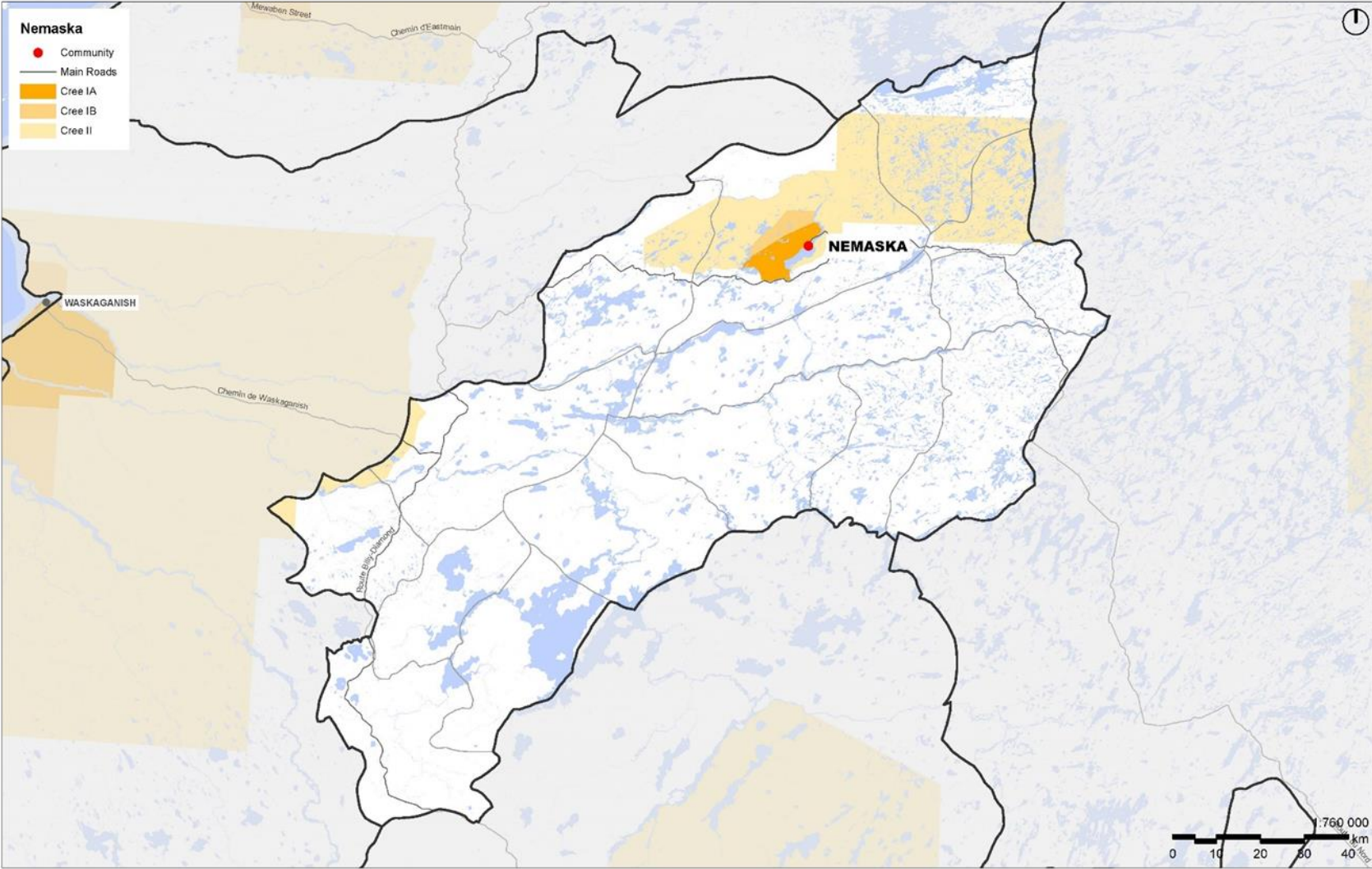
MISTISSINI MAP 1: CATEGORY LANDS



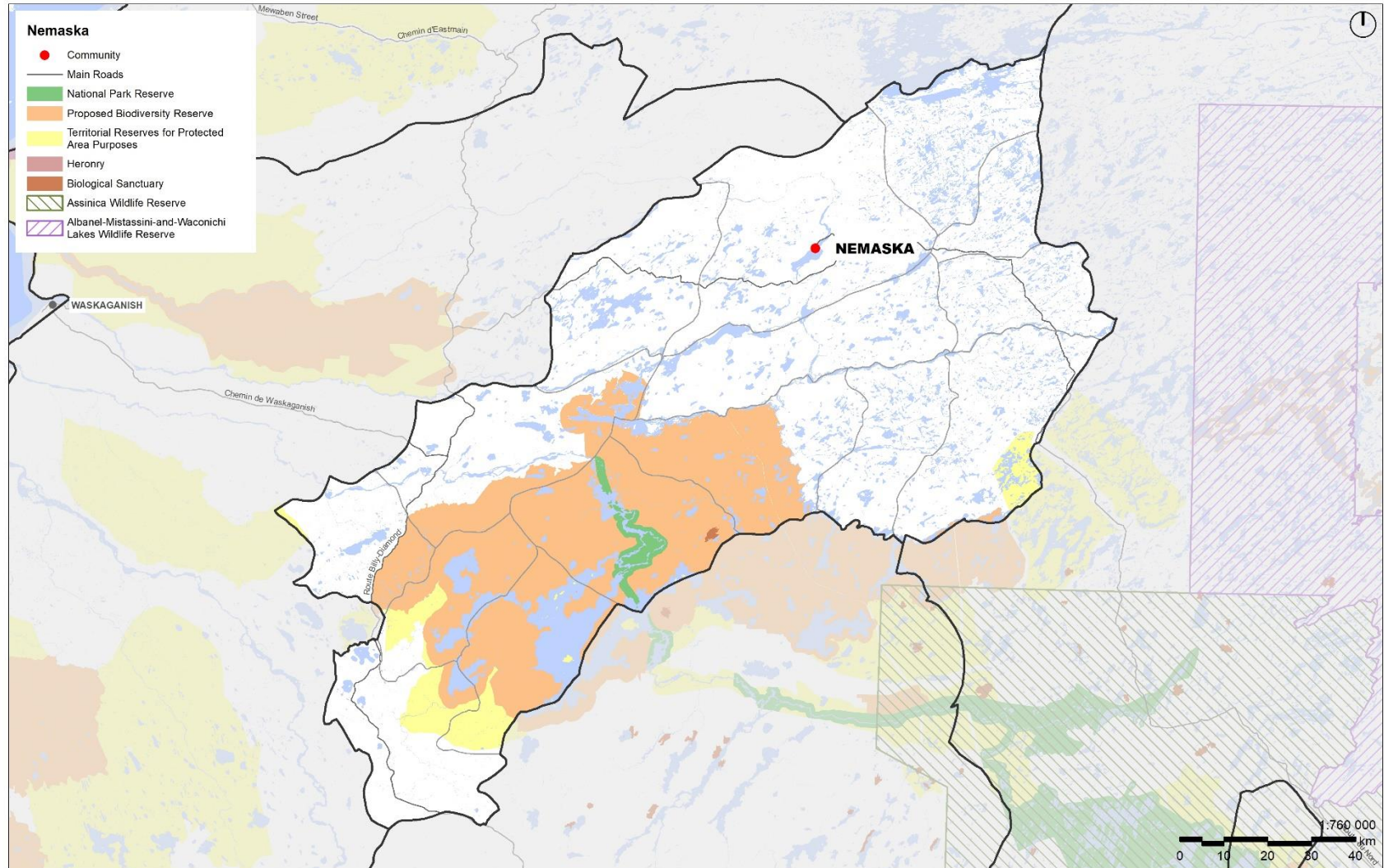
MISTISSINI MAP 2: PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES



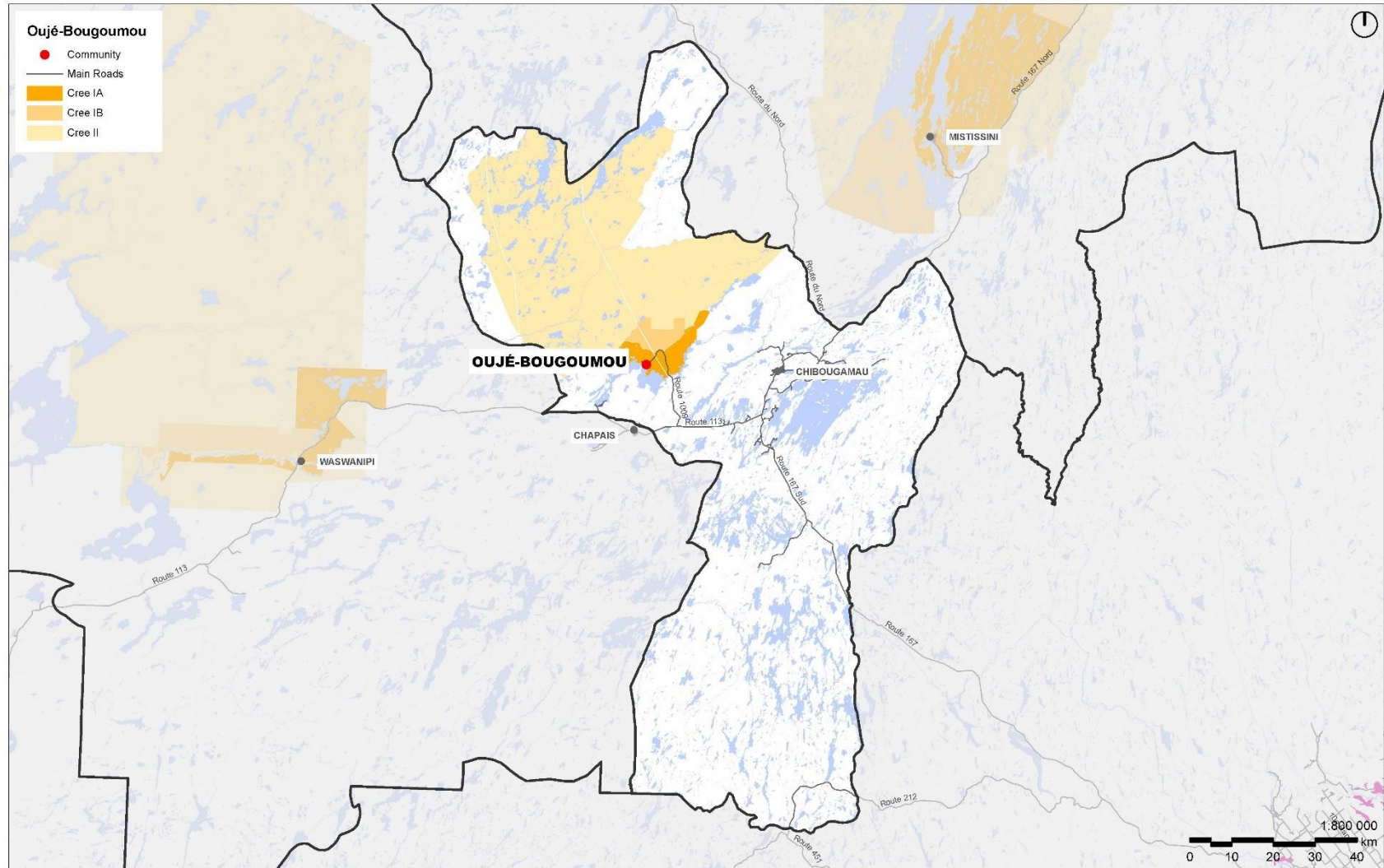
NEMASKA MAP 1: CATEGORY LANDS



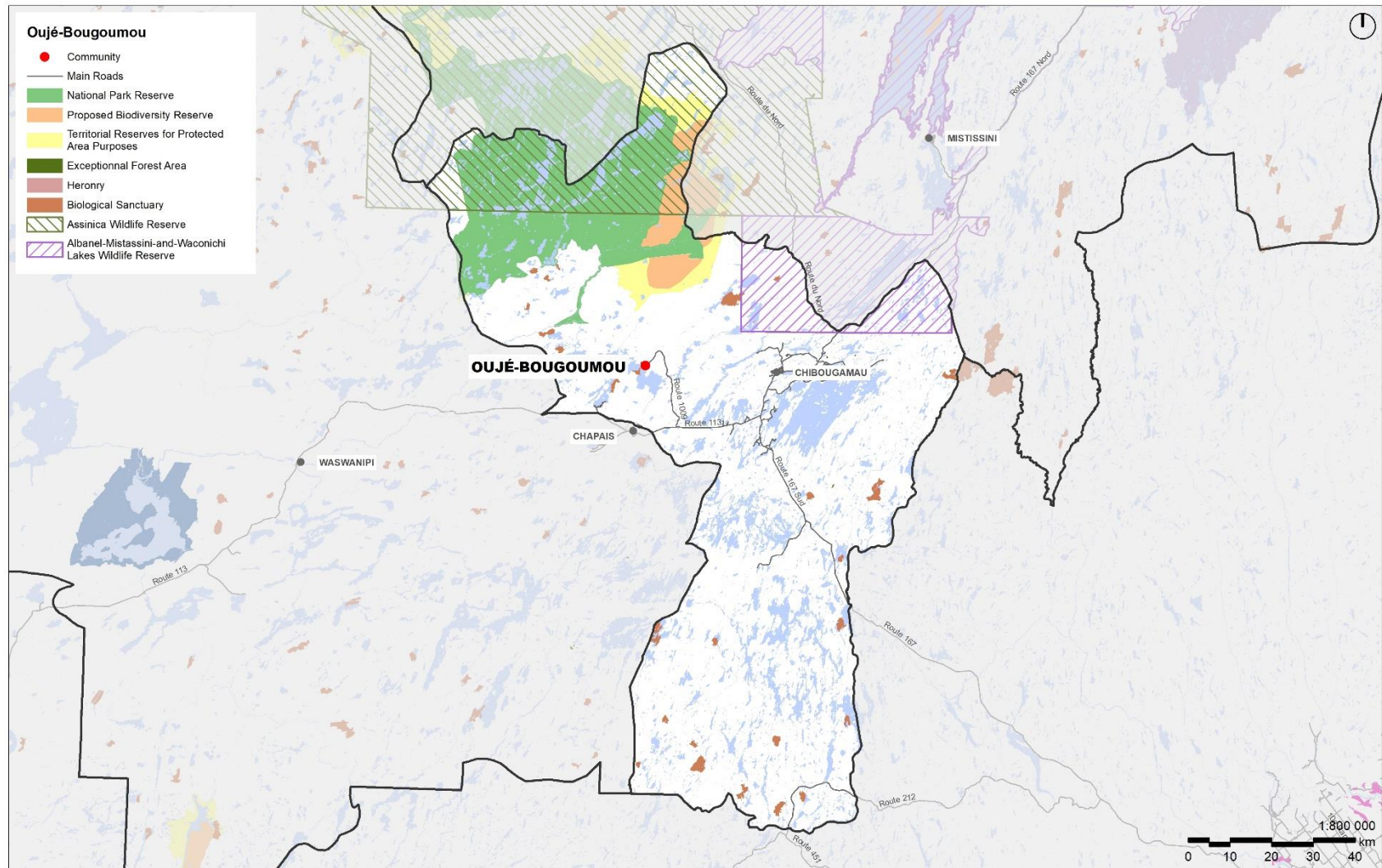
NEMASKA MAP 2: PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES



OUJÉ-BOUGOUMOU MAP 1: CATEGORY LANDS



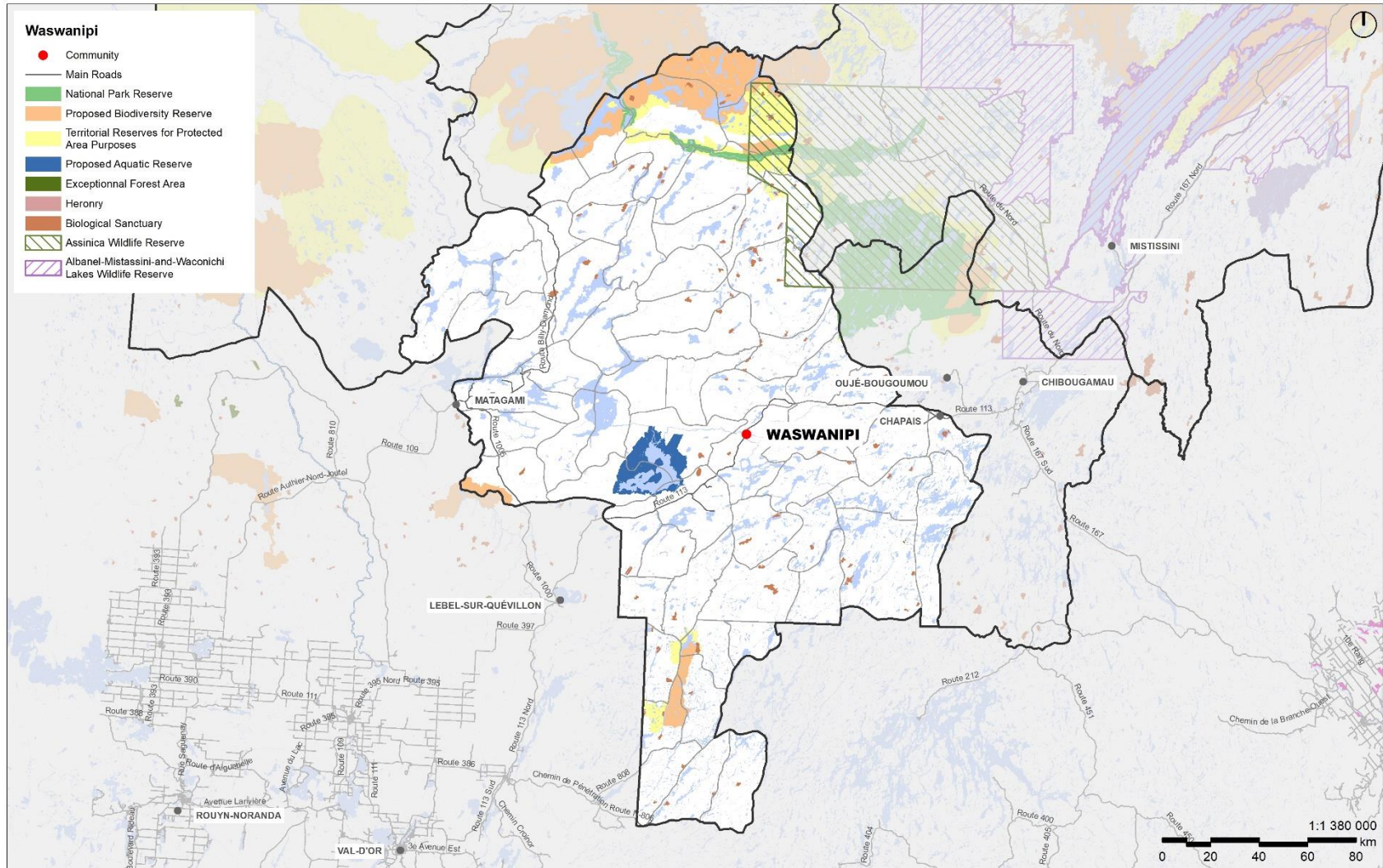
OUJÉ-BOUGOUMOU MAP 2: PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES



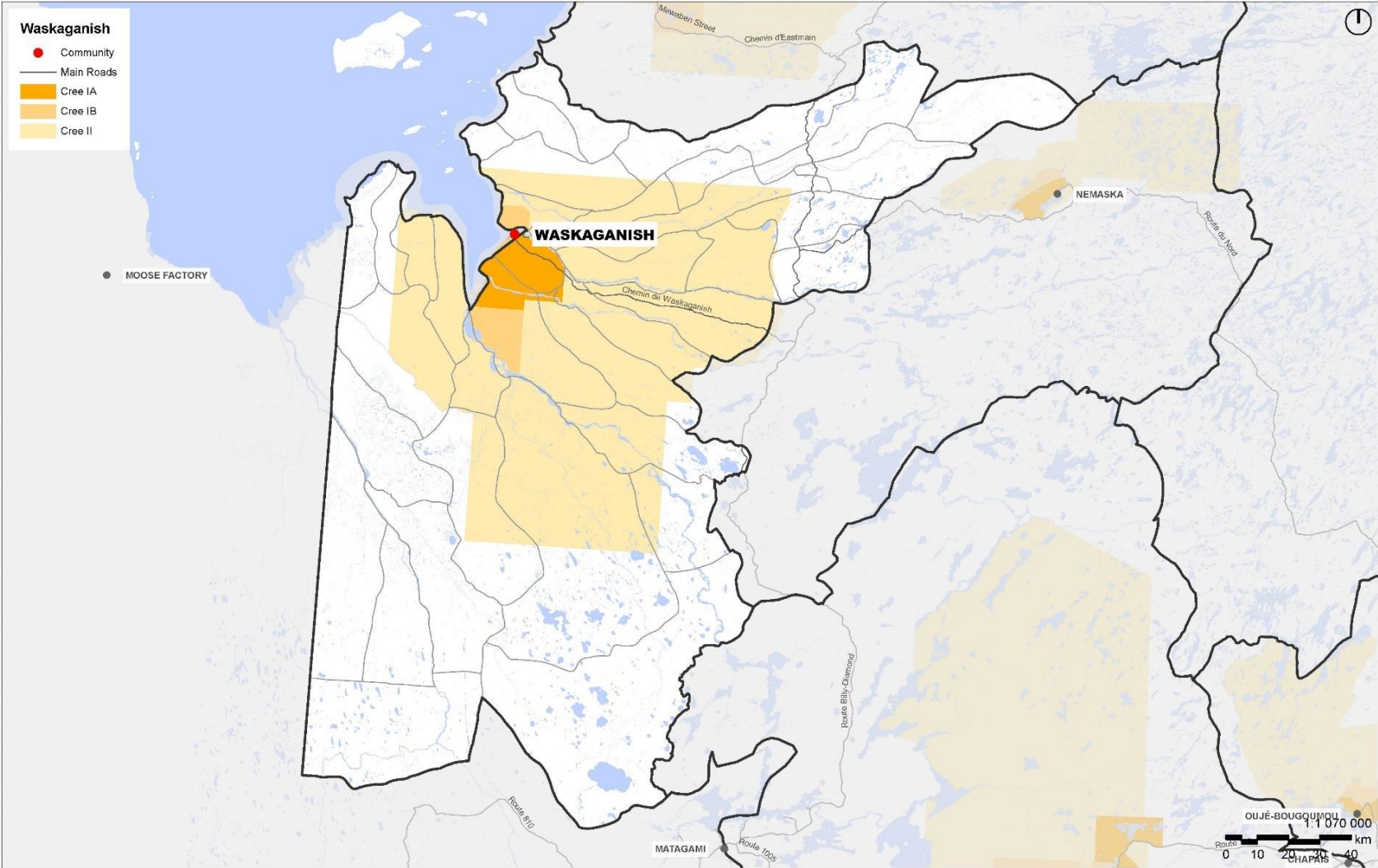
WASWANIPI MAP 1: CATEGORY LANDS



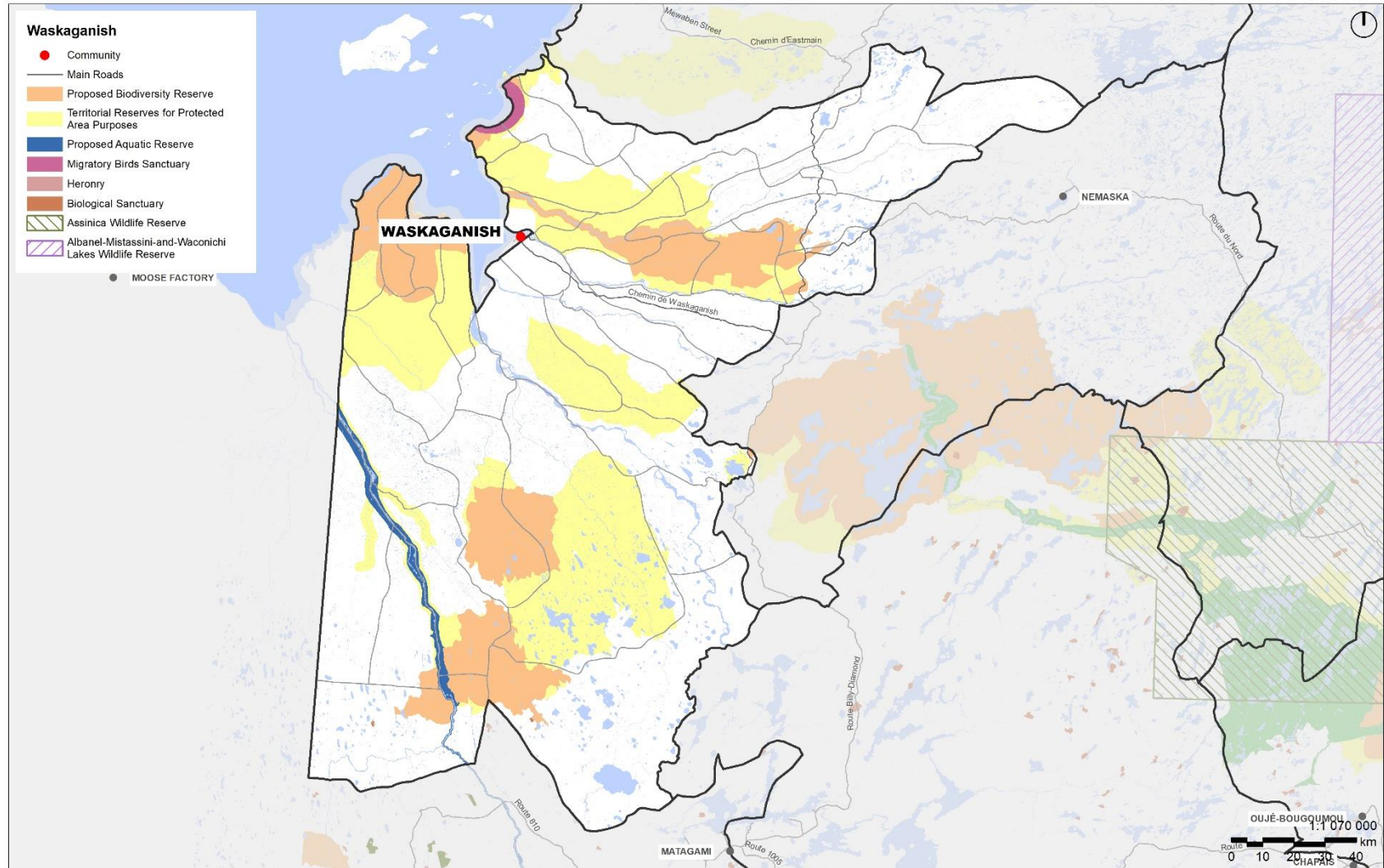
WASWANIPI MAP 2: PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES



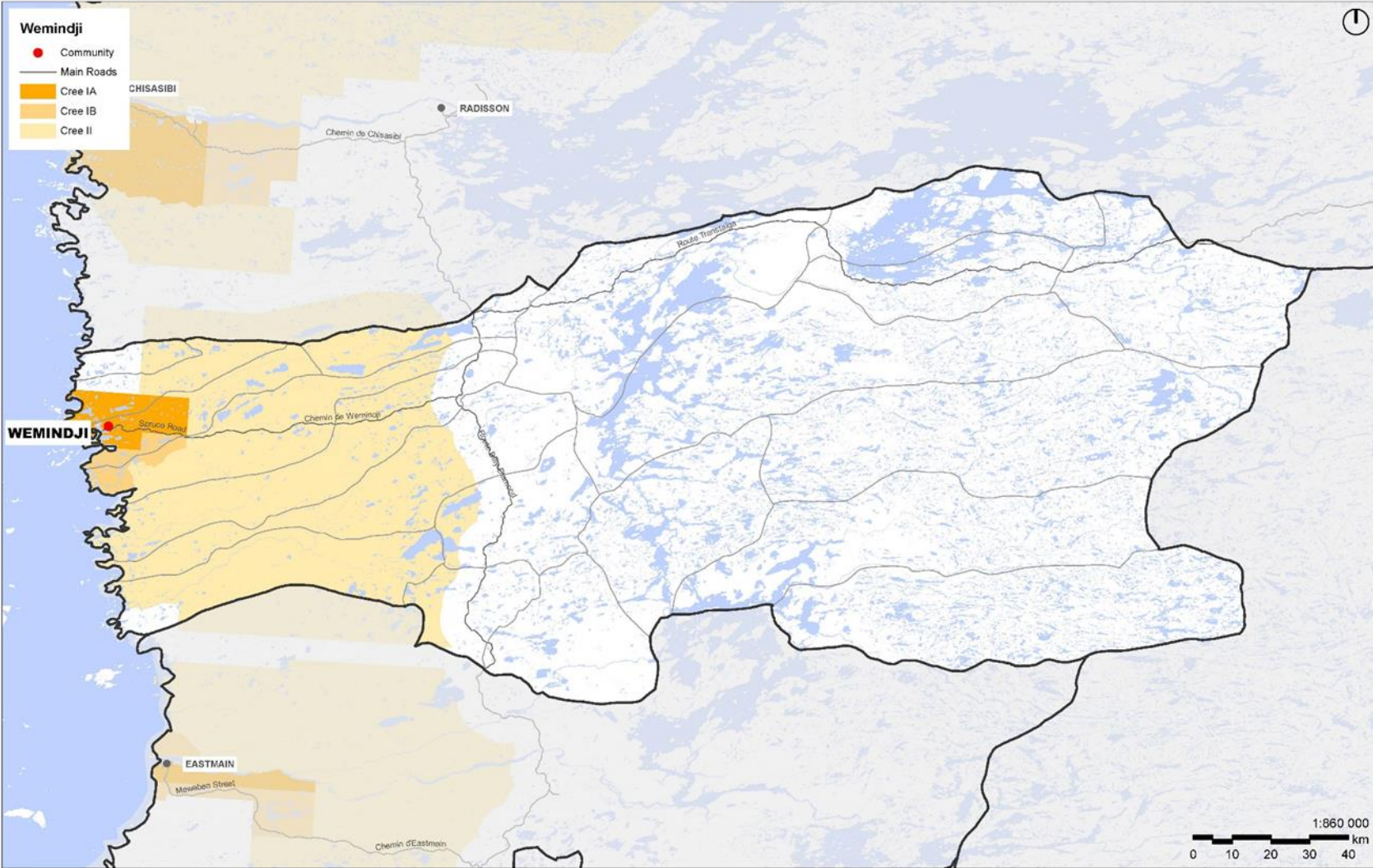
WASKAGANISH MAP 1: CATEGORY LANDS



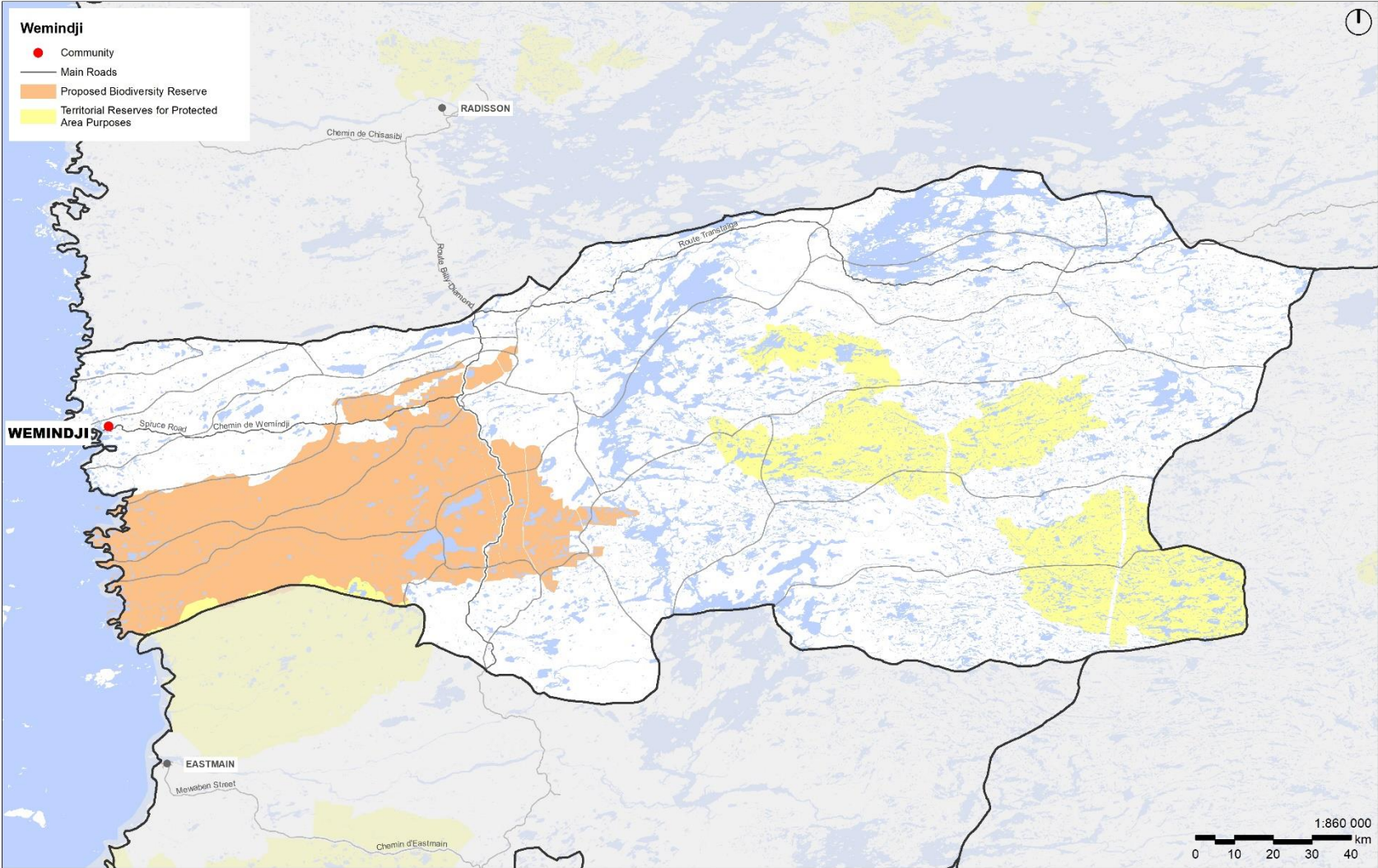
WASKAGANISH MAP 2: PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES



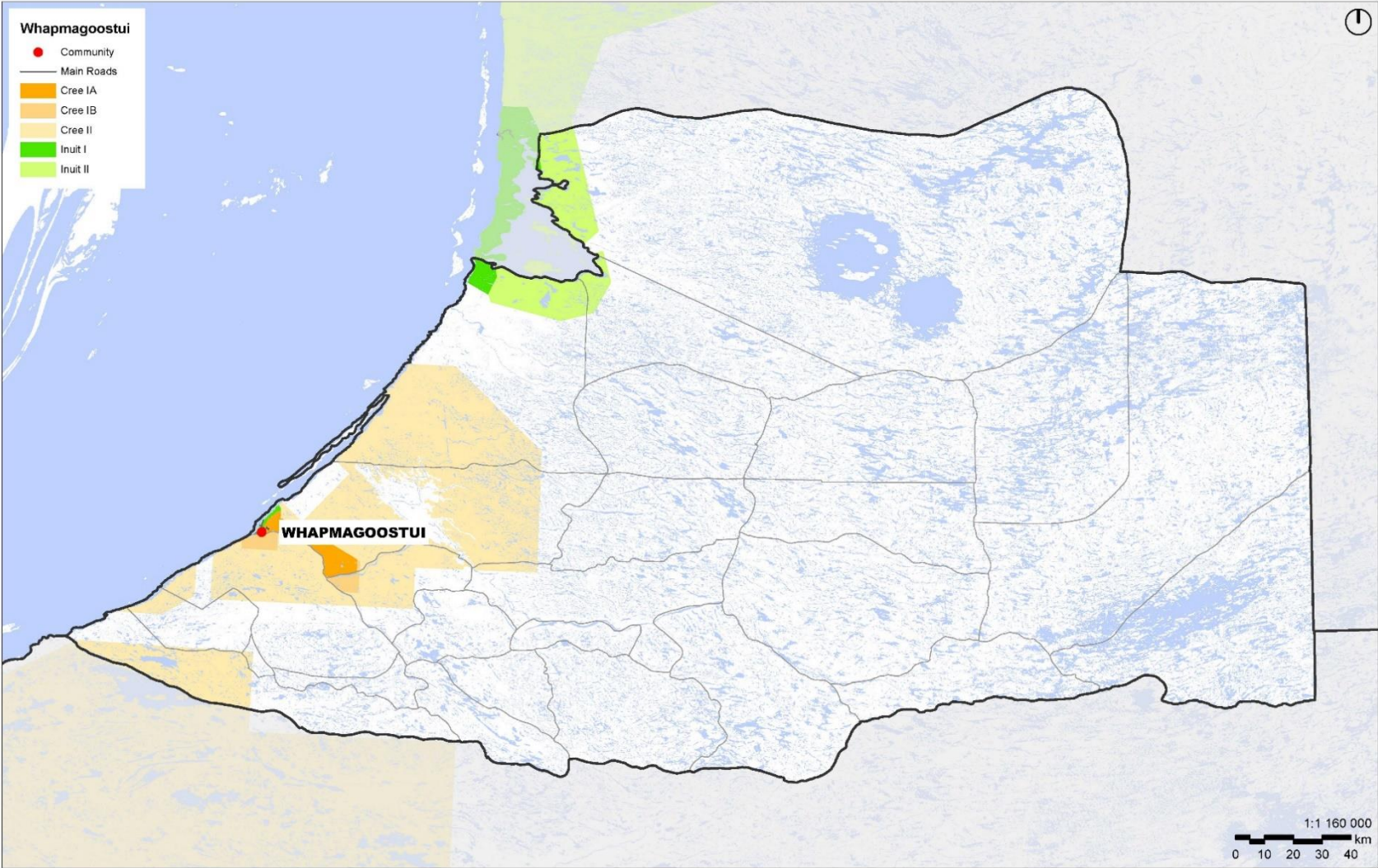
WEMINDJI MAP 1: CATEGORY LANDS



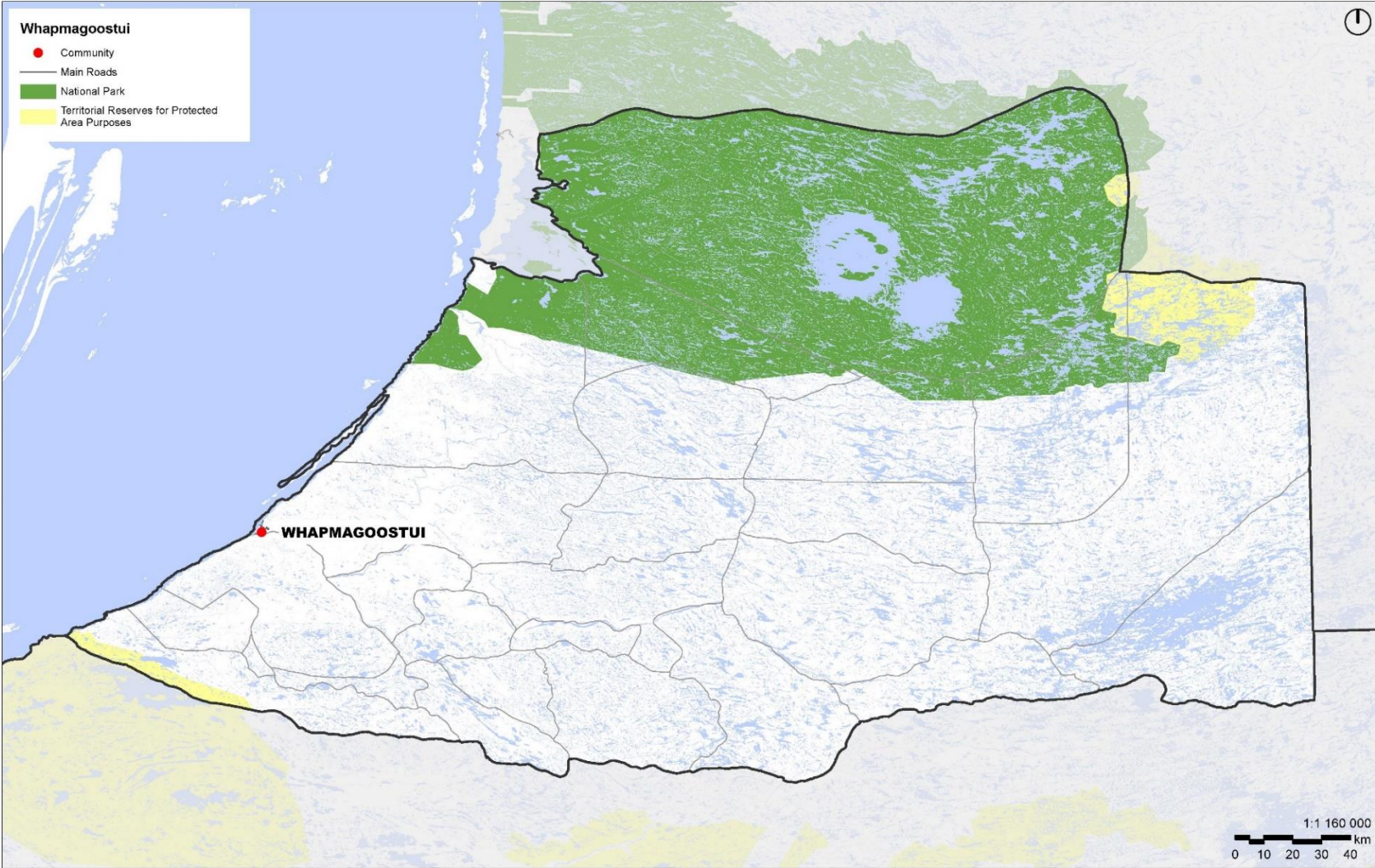
WEMINDJI MAP 2: PROTECTED AREAS



WHAPMAGOOSTUI MAP 1: CATEGORY LANDS



WHAPMAGOOSTUI MAP 2: PROTECTED AREAS



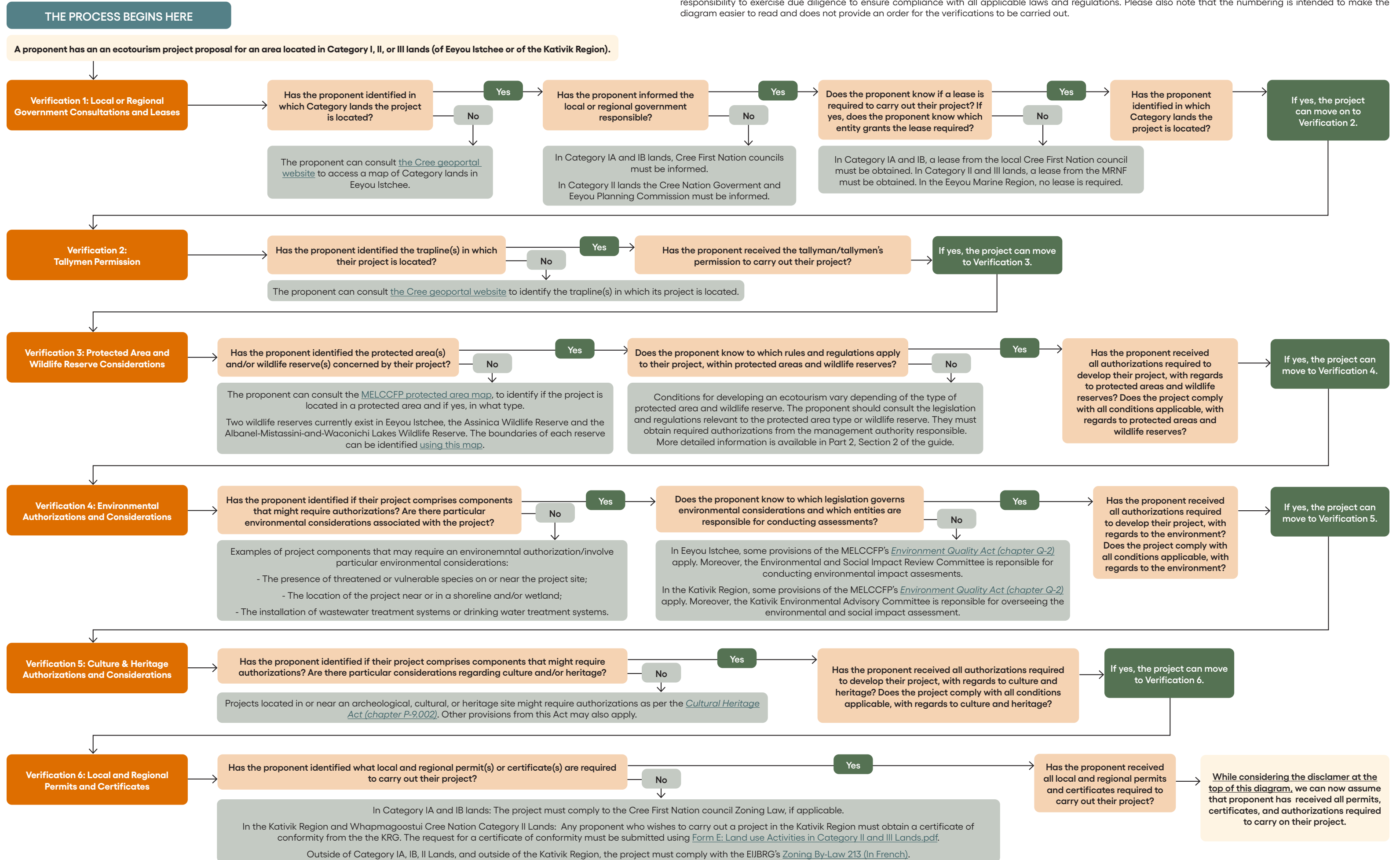
The background is a stylized landscape illustration. It features several mountain peaks in shades of dark green and light yellow. A large, light orange sun with a dotted pattern is positioned in the upper right. A deer with orange antlers stands on a small orange hill in the lower right. There are also some small green and orange plants scattered throughout the scene.

Appendix 2

**ECOTOURISM
PROJECT - LAND
USE PLANNING
VERIFICATIONS
SUMMARY**

ECOTOURISM PROJECT - LAND USE PLANNING VERIFICATIONS SUMMARY

DISCLAIMER: Please note that this process outlines verifications that must be checked in the development of an ecotourism project, with regards to land use planning. Additional verifications (including additional permits, certificates, authorizations and/or licenses) may be required depending on the project. It is the proponent's responsibility to exercise due diligence to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Please also note that the numbering is intended to make the diagram easier to read and does not provide an order for the verifications to be carried out.



BC2

**INTER-NATION
COLLABORATION**
NORTHERN
INDIGENOUS
SOUTHERN

