

Provisional Master Plan



Parc national de la Kuururjuag

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Foreword

Since the enactment of the Parks Act in 1977, the government of Québec has created 22 national parks and a 23rd has proceeded through the public hearings process towards creation. Each park is created on the basis of criteria established by the World Conservation Union, as such the forestry, mining and energy resources of a park are protected from commercial and industrial development. This means that hunting is also prohibited, as is the transition of oil and gas pipelines and power transmission lines. The purpose of these measures is to protect territories and to safeguard their natural heritage for future generations.

V

The government of Québec's commitment to creating *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* is in keeping with one major agreement it has signed on to. On April 9, 2002, the Makivik Corporation, Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and government of Québec signed a partnership agreement to broaden the economic and community development of the Nunavik territory (*Sanarrutik*). In an effort to bolster Nunavik's tourist development, proposals were made to create the *parc des Monts-Torngat-et-de-la-Rivière-Koroc*, today known as the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project and the *parc national des Lacs-Guillaume-Delisle-et-à-l'Eau-Claire* project, located on the eastern shore of Hudson Bay.

VI



While two hunters were hunting caribou, Tuunngaq appears in front of them.
Tuunngait are evil will meaning spirits.

Stonecut Print, 2004. 22/50

Drawing

Tivi Etok (1929-), Kangiqsualujjuaq

Cutting and printing

Peter Morgan (1950-), Kangiqsualujjuaq

Kativik Regional Government



Introduction



1

At the northern tip of the Québec-Labrador peninsula lies a mountain range that has some of the highest continental peaks in eastern Canada: The Torngat Mountains. This mountainous region is a place of legend, believed by the Inuit to be inhabited by venerated and malevolent spirits. The spectacular landscapes rival those of Canada's Rocky Mountains and are unique due to the presence of many deep fjords that carve through the mountains. The Koroc River, which finds its source in the Torngat Mountains, flows through a deep valley and travels some 160 km all the way to Ungava Bay. For thousands of years, the Inuit have used this valley, which they call Kuururjuaq, as a travelling route that links the coast of Ungava Bay to the Labrador Sea. At its centre, the forested Koroc valley is an oasis in the heart of the tundra that sustains a unique variety of wildlife unusual for this latitude.

The vast unique territory of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* is as rugged as it is beautiful, and is the 24th park in Québec's network of national parks. As yet, the region is still too unfa-

miliar with Quebecers, but the park will come to demonstrate how spectacular nature can truly be in this province.

The Purpose of Creating the Park

Under its 1982 *Politique sur les parcs québécois* (Québec parks policy), the *ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche (MLCP)* announced plans to develop a network of parks, the focus of which would be to protect the representative or exceptional components of Québec's natural heritage. By creating the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*, the *ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP)* plans to protect a territory that is a representative sampling of the natural region of the Torngat mountains foothills (B-43) and to safeguard exceptional elements (see Map 1). The territory under study includes two other natural regions: the George River Plateau (B-33) and Ungava Bay coastline (B-42). The park project also plans to promote exploration and appreciation of this natural setting. By creating the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*, the government affirms its commitment to ensure that the Inuit

actively participate in protecting, developing and managing the territory. An agreement will be concluded with the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) detailing these responsibilities.

History of the Park's Creation

The idea of creating a park in the Torngat Mountains and Koroc River region dates back to the early 1980s. Several years earlier, in 1977, Québec introduced framework legislation that would enable it to create parks according to criteria recognized by the World Conservation Union. From this moment on and up until the beginning of the 1980s, the *ministère du Tourisme, de la Chasse et de la Pêche*, which handled park matters at the time, revised the boundaries and vocations of existing parks. It developed a policy and tools that would facilitate selection of sites to achieve its long-term objectives. It also designated among the other territories under its responsibility, those which it wished to integrate into the system of Québec parks. The system was established on solid foundations thanks to this planning exercise.

In 1982, a working group (*Pitsiataugik*) from the *MLCP* drafted a list of several regions in northern Québec that could be granted a status of land protected. These regions were selected on the basis of their spectacular features, the diversity of their biological and physical components and their exceptional or rare appeal. This planning exercise led to setting aside the region that encompasses the Koroc River and a portion of the Torngat Mountains massif as a territory ideal for establishing a park.

Over the period 1980-1986, the government created 14 parks south of the 49th parallel, in the part of Québec most heavily exposed to natural resource development and under the most environmental stress. It then declared a moratorium on new park creation in an effort to consolidate and develop established parks.

In 1989, the *MLCP* tabled a memorandum before the *Comité ministériel permanent de l'aménagement, du développement régional et de l'environnement (COMPADRE)* (permanent ministerial committee on land use, regional development and environment) which detailed sites of interest within the province that were located north of the 49th parallel, in order that the *ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources* list them as park projects in the public land use plan that was being prepared at the time. The goal was to protect lands representative of a natural region or that offer

particular attractions, from development of forestry, mining and energy resources, until the government of Québec was ready to allocate legal park status to such lands.

In 1990, subsequent to an inter-ministerial consultation, the *COMPADRE* endorsed the 18 projects submitted and requested that the *ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources* include these sites in the public land use plan.

In 1992, the proposed territory to protect the Koroc River and a portion of the Torngat Mountains massif was included in the second group of territories north of the 49th parallel that were set aside for park creation and therefore were excluded from eligibility for mine staking, cartographic representation, mining research, and mining exploration by a ministerial order issued by the *ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources* (M.O. 92-170 [July 15, 1992], 1992 O.G.2., 4596, eff. 1992-06-18).

In 1992, the *MLCP* unveiled its plan of action entitled "*La nature en héritage*". An important step in recent Québec park history, this plan provided for a marked increase of areas of land protected by park status. The plan's contents detailed the Ministry's intention to create the *parc des Monts-Torngat-et-de-la-Rivière-Koroc* in Nunavik and its wish for the local community to participate in its development and management. The Ministry underscored its intention to consult the communities concerned first and to ensure that its projects complied with the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA).

Meetings were then set up with the various committees arising out of the JBNQA. The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) subsequently passed a resolution to support park projects in a Nordic environment, insofar as the harvesting rights of beneficiaries were to be respected, as provided in Chapter 24 of the JBNQA and the *Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories* (R.S.Q., c. D-13.1). Discussions were also held with the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee and Kativik Environmental (KEAC) Quality Commission (KEQC).

In 1996, the KRG, mandated with the development of the Nunavik territory, issued the *Master Plan for land use in the Kativik region* in which all park projects in this part of Québec, including the *parc des Monts-Torngat-et-de-la-Rivière-Koroc*, were identified. This plan received approval following a KRG Council resolution in 1998.



The KRG was very closely involved in preparing the park project. Following initial involvement in creation of the *parc national des Pingualuit*, the KRG was granted additional responsibilities to create parks in Nunavik, as was set forth in an agreement with the *Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec* in June 2002. In accordance with the agreement, the *parc national des Monts-Torngat-et-de-la-Rivière-Koroc* would be created and the KRG would be responsible for carrying out work to build facilities and development, as well as the management of operations, activities and services.

In order to formalize discussions during the process leading up to the creation of the *parc national des Monts-Torngat-et-de-la-Rivière-Koroc*, a Working Group was set up in 2002. This committee is comprised of representatives of the KRG, the Northern Village of Kangiqsualujjuaq, the village's Landholding Corporations, the Makivik Corporation and MDDEP. The Working Group encourages the participation of regional organizations to help advance the project. Inventory work conducted by the KRG and MDDEP parks service was carried out in cooperation with the local community during the summer of 2003. The project that was tabled for public consultation was therefore developed in close partnership with the citizens of Kangiqsualujjuaq and was bolstered by their wealth of knowledge.

The Provisional Master Plan

The procedure to produce the provisional master plan is the standard course of action in land use development projects. To start with, the planning team collected scientific data on the natural, archeological and historical resources in the area being studied. Accessibility, services, conservation, economic development and tourism objectives in the local community were also assessed to ensure that the proposed park would fit with the services that are available in the region. A description of the land use and tenure rounded out the data. This information was gathered in an accompanying document prepared by the KRG entitled *Status Report*.

The data analysis presented in the *Status Report* separated the more fragile sectors from those with greater development potential. On the basis of this information, the optimal perimeter of the park could be established for the park to fulfill its role. Once all of the components had been examined, guidelines for preserving the natural and cultural heritage were drafted, along with the

policies that plan to be followed concerning the availability of activities and services.

This provisional master plan, prepared by the *Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs* of MDDEP, reflects recommendations made by representatives of the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq.

The upcoming public hearing, scheduled in accordance with the *Parks Act* (R.S.Q., c. P-9), will be an opportunity for the public to voice opinions and comments that will improve the *Provisional Master Plan*. Once the KEQC authorizes the project, it can be submitted to the government, following which an order is issued to proceed with the park's creation. The final version of the master plan, in which matters expressed during the hearing will be taken into account, will serve as a framework to ensure that the conservation initiatives park administrators introduce to preserve the park's natural and cultural heritage remain an ongoing concern.

Harvesting Rights of the Beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement

Since the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project is located on territory governed by the Agreement, it is important to clarify that in compliance with Chapter 24 of the JBNQA and the *Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories* (R.S.Q., c. D-13.1), beneficiaries will retain harvesting rights within park boundaries. Visitors who are not beneficiaries of the Nordic agreements, however, are subject to the provisions of the *Parks Act*, which under section 7 a) prescribes that “*Notwithstanding any provision of law, hunting or trapping of every kind is prohibited in the park.*” All of the parks in the network must comply with this legal provision.



1 Current situation



1.1

Territory Under Study

The territory that is being examined for the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project is located east of Ungava Bay and occupies the northern portion of the Ungava-Labrador peninsula between 58° 27' and 59° 12' north latitude and 63° 35' and 66° 05' west longitude (see Map 2).

1.1.1 THE NATURAL REGIONS REPRESENTED

The natural region of the Torngat Mountains foothills (B-43) occupies the centre of the Ungava-Labrador peninsula and covers an area of 8,350 km². It consists of two similar sectors: to the east, a mountain chain (Torngat Mountains) rising to a height of over 1,500 m and to the west, a series of plateaus at an altitude of over 800 m, that drop off towards Ungava Bay. This region is intersected by several deep valleys, the principal one being the Koroc River valley. Many remnants of the last ice age are still visible in the area: U-shaped valleys, cirques, morainic ridges, hanging valleys, etc. Severe weather conditions sustain tundra vegetation. At this altitude, however, the Koroc River valley is an enclave that safeguards a vast ecological wealth. Within this enclave there is a pocket of boreal forest, which contrasts with the region's expanses of barren slopes and summits. In terms of wildlife, the distribution of species is closely linked to vegetation, topography and climate. The region has two remarkable wildlife characteristics worth noting: the Torngat Mountains caribou herd and the nesting grounds of the Barrow's goldeneye (*ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche*, 1986).

The natural region of the George River Plateau (B-33) extends from the head of the George River to the Alluviaq Fjord, located on the east coast of Ungava Bay. This is a flat plateau that slopes from east to west, rising from an elevation of 800 m to 900 m along the Québec-Labrador border, to approximately 400 m in the western portion of the territory. Forest tundra covers the plateau and clusters of boreal forest line the valley floors. In terms of wildlife, the calving grounds of the George River caribou herd are part of this plateau. Wolves, black bear, snowy owls and willow ptarmigan also inhabit the region and rivers team with Atlantic salmon and Arctic char (*ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche*, 1986).

The natural region of the Ungava Bay coastline (B-42) shows ancient scored erosion surfaces, particularly in old archaic crystalline rocks. The coastline has an irregular profile that is dissected by sea channels, bays, islands and a few fjords. The estuaries of large watercourses, however, set the tone of the landscape. In terms of hydrography, the tidal flows along this coastline are extremely high (one of the world's widest tidal ranges), rising to well over 15 m in Leaf Bay. This tidal flow, which is attributed to the region's generally flat topography, has contributed to shaping the huge foreshores littered with ice-rafted boulders. The extreme cold at these latitudes allows little more than tundra vegetation to grow. The Ungava Bay coastline is the land/sea interface that affects wildlife composition. Estuaries populated with salmon, Arctic Char and brook trout are also frequented by beluga and many species of seal (*ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche*, 1986).

1.2

Situation of the Region

The administrative region of Northern Québec is divided into two separate subregions, James Bay and Nunavik. The line of the 55th parallel separates them, with Nunavik occupying the northern position. Nunavik, which covers an area of 500,164 km², has 14 Inuit communities scattered along the coastline. The closest village in the territory under study is

Kangiqsualujjuaq, less than 20 km south of the mouth of the Koroc River.

1.2.1 LAND REGIME

The region of Nunavik is subject to the application of the land regime defined in the JBNQA (see Map 2). Under the regime, the territory is divided into three land categories, which determine how land can be used, along with the terms and conditions and responsibilities for management. The Kangiqsualujjuaq region, on category I land, is owned by the Qiniqtiq Landholding Corporation, except for the subsoil. These lands edge around the limits of the village and include the zone of influence where traditional activities are intense. There are also Category II lands, which are lands belonging to the province and where the Inuit have exclusive hunting, fishing and trapping rights. The boundaries for these lands are defined according to the availability of resources that the Inuit can access, guaranteeing their right to harvest. The remainder of the territory consists of Category III lands, where the Inuit can hunt, fish and trap but do not have exclusive rights (Beauchemin, 1992).

1.2.2 USE OF THE TERRITORY

The territory under study, concerning the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*, is used primarily by the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq to exercise harvesting rights. The intensity of traditional use is strong near the coastline and declines towards the interior, but remains average in the Koroc River valley. There are a few hunting and fishing camps in the territory under study, particularly in the coastal area.

The territory is also used for other purposes, namely tourist activities, to preserve the natural heritage or for mining exploration.

Regional Services and Tourism

Outfitting operations currently offer Arctic char sport fishing vacations or caribou hunting activities within the territory of the park project and surrounding area. These operations include Alummi Aventures outfitters, located at the mouth of the Koroc River and Rapid Lake Lodge outfitters, located on the shore of the Barnoin River. G.R. Coop Association also has a camp that is no longer in operation in the coastal region of the territory under study, near Qarlituranga Bay.

These businesses have recently begun to diversify the types of services they offer to attract ecotourists. They could become partners by cooperating with park authorities to provide activi-

ties geared to education and conserving the region's heritage. For example, the Rapid Lake Lodge outfitters offers guide services for long hiking tours in the Mount D'Iberville sector and other sites in the Torngat Mountains.

Since the early 1980s, a few adventure tourism companies, based in Montréal, Québec and Ontario offered sporadic services in the Torngat Mountains. The presence of a bush airstrip at the head of the Koroc River makes accessing the site easier. Mount D'Iberville and the Nachvak Fjord attract the largest numbers of hikers. Some groups also travel down the Koroc River by canoe, kayak or inflatable raft. Most of the visits, however, are organized by private individuals and are not supervised by a guide.

Other Protected Areas

There is only one other protected area near the territory under study. Under the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act, ratified on January 22, 2005 in Nain, Labrador, Canada's Environment Minister signed two agreements that defined the framework under which Canada's 42nd national park would be established. The Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada, covering 9,600 km², has since become one of the largest protected areas in the Atlantic provinces.

The boundaries of this Canadian National Park run alongside the boundaries of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project, located on the topographical divide, along the summit ridge of the Torngat Mountains that divides Québec and Labrador (see Map 2). Together, these two parks protect the heritage of a large part of the Torngat Mountains massif.

Mining Potential

Although most of the territory under study is excluded from eligibility for mine staking, cartographic representation, mining research and mining development, under ministerial order 92-170, mining titles for uranium exploration have been granted in some excluded areas. Also, further north, approximately fifty kilometres from the limit of the excluded area, the company Diamond Discoveries International Corp. is exploring for diamonds.



1.3

Status Report Summary

This section is a summary the document entitled “*Parc de la Kuururjuaq Project: Status Report*” prepared by the KRG in 2005. The reader may consult this document if more detailed information is required.

1.3.1 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Due to the size of the territory under study and its varied and rough terrain, the geography of the region significantly impacts climate. At higher altitudes, the Koroc River plateau and massif of the Torngat Mountains are characterized by an arctic-alpine climate. In the lower reaches of the Koroc River and along the coast, however, it is a maritime climate. The large water mass of Ungava Bay has a regulating effect on weather. The Atlantic Ocean, however, has little effect on climate in the territory because the Torngat Mountains form a natural barrier that limits its moderating effect.

The average annual temperature of the coastal portion of the territory under study is - 5.7° C. When you penetrate into the land's interior, on the Koroc River plateau and in the Torngat Mountains, the average annual temperature is - 7.5° C. At the peaks of the Torngat Mountains, the average temperature is obviously lower. The wind chill factor, however, can affect how temperatures are perceived. This effect is obviously much greater on mountain peaks where wind speed is 20% higher than winds in neighbouring valleys. Unpredictable weather changes in the Torngat massif sector is a significant component that must be considered when planning activities in this sector.

The coastal sector receives 527 mm of precipitation each year, half of which falls in the form of snow. In the land interior, total annual precipitation is an estimated 600 mm. Snow generally accumulates to a maximum depth of 3 m to 4 m in valleys and on slopes sheltered from wind. Windswept hill crests and mountain peaks are snow-free or have a thin layer of hardened snow.

Lakes in the region usually freeze over around November 10 or 20, and rivers freeze after December 1. Rivers thaw between May 20 and June 1 and lakes, between June 10 and 20. Variable weather is not uncommon in the coastal sector, on the plateau, in valleys or in the Torngat Mountains. The coastline of Ungava Bay usually freezes by mid-December and begins to

thaw around mid-July, but is thawed completely one month later.

1.3.2 NATURAL HERITAGE

The natural heritage of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project has a variety of components that are representative of the natural region of the Torngat Mountains foothills.



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The Landscape and Formation

On an axis running from east to west, the territory under study includes an area of high mountains and sprawling plateaus, which gradually drop off towards Ungava Bay. This series of formations is intersected by a network of U-shaped valleys, the largest of which is the Koroc River valley. At the centre of the Torngat Mountains massif is Mount D'Iberville, the highest peak in Québec, rising 1,646 metres.

The bedrock of the territory under study is part of the Canadian Shield and part of the Churchill Tectonic Province, which covers the entire region west of Mount D'Iberville and the Nain Province to the east. An estimated 1.8 Ga¹ ago, these two tectonic provinces collided and produced the Torngat Mountains.

Between 1.6 Ma and 10 ka ago, the territory under study, like all of Canada, experienced four major ice ages. Only evidence of the last ice age, the Wisconsinan glaciation, is still visible today. At the height of the glaciation period, 20 ka ago, the ice sheet was 2,000 m to 3,000 m thick. This huge ice sheet caused water levels in the world's oceans to decline and depressed the earth's crust. The movement of glaciers also changed the landscape by shaping valleys and hollowing out huge bowl-shaped depressions in mountains called *cirques*.

¹ Ga: Billion years; Ma: Million years; ka: Thousand year

Until recently, studies suggested that the peaks of the Torngat Mountains had remained ice-free during the glacial maximum. Current research, however, shows that this was not the case.

Once the ice sheet retreated, the landscape had been completely transformed. New unconsolidated deposits in the region had different shapes, depending on how the glacier moved over them and how melt waters molded them. Valley slopes also show deposits marking the outline of an ancient shoreline and reveal evidence that a lake had submerged a large area of the park project. Along the coastal portion of the territory under study, there are visible signs of high shorelines that are the result of marine flooding. Because the earth's crust rose as the ice sheet retreated over a period of several thousand years, the sea, which had advanced deeply into the land interior, gradually began to withdraw, causing loose marine deposits to accumulate.

Nowadays, thawing and freezing shape the landscape: cones, landslides and evidence of avalanches are common on steep slopes. Signs of wind and water sculpting the landscape are visible along the Koroc River. There is also evidence of cones of sediment due to the occasional torrential flow through some tributaries and sand dunes are constantly being reshaped by wind as it sweeps through the valley.

Vegetation

Despite its northern latitude, the territory under study reveals a diverse variety of plant life. This may be the result of a combination of factors: the type of rock at the site, topography, altitude and the direction in which valleys are oriented. In the Torngat Mountains sector and high plateaus overlooking the Koroc River, most of the vascular species observed have arctic characteristics. Here, most of the vegetation consists of mosses and lichens in rock fields. As you penetrate into the Koroc River valley, below an altitude of 275 metres, boreal species dominate. In other words, a segment of the Koroc River forms a boreal enclave in an Arctic zone that shelters old-growth forests populated by black spruce and a large stand of larch. The largest trees are 20 to 25 cm in diameter and 8 to 12 metres high, but some larch are 35 cm in diameter. One particularly rare finding in the valley is a small stand of white birch on a south-facing rocky slope. This is the northern-most stand of white birch in Québec. The stand consists of no more than 200 specimens and is in all likelihood the relic of a stand that was much larger in the past.

Along the wetlands of the Koroc River, where there are thick organic deposits, rich structured peat bogs are visible. Some peat bogs contain ice lenses that cause the formation of tussocks called *palsen*.

To date, 269 species have been identified over the territory under study. Of this number, 3 are likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable in Québec and 4 are deemed rare in Canada. Within the territory under study, 59 species are deemed to be rare. These consist mainly of species that are at the northern limit of their distribution range or species that have a sporadic distribution due to their unique habitat requirements.

To date, little is known about the invascular flora, namely lichens, mosses and liverworts, within the territory under study. Botanical explorations conducted by Jacques Rousseau in 1951 along the Koroc River and Tassivialuk Strait, and subsequent studies by the KRG and collaborators in 2003 and 2004, led to the identification of 141 lichens, 57 mosses and 43 liverworts. A Labrador study in the vicinity of Mount D'Iberville, also reported a high concentration of mosses and liverworts that are rare in Canada, which was an unexpected finding.

Fauna

The fauna profile of the territory under study reveals a diverse composition, due mainly to the diversity of habitats. From the mouth of the Koroc River to its source in the Torngat Mountains, there is a succession of sharply contrasting environments: a coastal environment dissected and punctuated by islands, some of which are clearly marine, and others with varying degrees of salinity, a forest environment dominated by conifers, scrub hugging valley slopes and a vast open tundra environment that developed as a consequence of altitude. Based on fauna distribution maps in Québec and prior research, there are 23 fish species, 74 bird species and 37 mammal species within the territory of the park project.

The Koroc River is a choice location for Arctic char. With the George River to the southwest, it is the most prolific sector in Nunavik. A total of 17 spawning grounds were counted along the Koroc river, up to Korluktok Falls. The river is also home to other species, including brook trout, whitefish and Atlantic salmon.



There are potentially 74 bird species present in the territory, 34 of which nest within the park project, predominantly in the forest enclave. Because this is the northern-most stand of forest, many of the species present are living at the northern limit of their geographical range. These include large numbers of Passeriformes and spruce grouse.



Marine mammals are also present in the coastal area. Species include walrus, 4 types of seals and 8 types of whales, which make their way into the southeast portion of Ungava Bay. In addition to marine mammals, there are 24 species of land mammals in the territory. Two of which warrant special interest. Caribou are frequently observed in the territory under study. Numerous trails that are the result of recurrent migrations testify to their presence. Two distinct herds frequent the territory of the park project: the George River herd and Torngat Mountains herd. Although the numbers and migration movements of the George River herd (440,000) have been well documented, little is known about the Torngat Mountains herd. The numbers of this herd are unknown, but we do know that it makes brief migrations between the eastern shore of Ungava Bay and the Labrador Sea.

The black bear is abundant in the territory under study. Observations are made frequently during field season and by visitors. Because black bears are curious by nature, it is not unusual for a bear to approach a campsite -- a point to consider regarding the safety of future park visitors.

1.3.3 CULTURAL HERITAGE

Three periods of prehistoric occupation of Nunavik have been documented: Pre-Dorset (4,000 - 2,500 years BP), Dorset

(2,500 – 600 years BP) and Thule (750 years BP – history period). To date, some thirty archeological sites have been catalogued within the territory under study, revealing evidence of three phases of occupation. The sites are located mainly in the coastal area of the territory under study, but also along the shores of the Koroc River. Prior archeological excavations

at these sites have unearthed fragments showing evidence of work with Ramah quartzite, a highly-prized material used to fashion tools. The quartzite originates from outcroppings found along the rim of Ramah Bay in Labrador, approximately 13 km east of the territory under study. Ramah quartzite was particularly prized during the prehistory of Labrador and Nunavik. Fashioned pieces of this material have been found at different sites in Nunavik. The Koroc

River valley therefore played an important role in transporting quartzite to the east coast of Ungava Bay, the Hudson Strait, and further still to Southampton Island and Baffin Island. The transportation of raw material also meant movement of man, and therefore, interaction between different groups.

Research conducted near the territory under study during the 1970s and 1990 reveals that unlike the west coast, the east coast of Ungava Bay was relatively unpopulated during the paleohistoric period and during recent history. The lack of population is attributable to the area's jagged morphology and high tidal range, factors that may have limited the ability to establish encampments. Geomorphologists believe that this region, unlike the rest of Nunavik, was submerged during these periods, which explains the erosion of sites near the sea.

The first contact between inhabitants of the Ungava-Labrador peninsula and Europeans dates back to the period of explorers who were looking for the northwest passage in the 1550s. These however were only brief encounters. It was not until 1771 that regular contact began to be made, following the settlement of Moravian missionaries in Nain, Labrador. These missionaries, native to Germany, were committed to converting indigenous people to Christianity. Other missions were also set up along the Labrador coast, including one in 1868 on the Nachvak

Fjord, that was abandoned the same year, and another in Ramah Bay in 1871. Up to the mid-19th century, Moravian missions were the most important supply points for European goods for the Inuit of Labrador.

On June 24, 1811, Moravian missionaries Kohlmeister and Kmoch, guided by an Inuit, embarked on a journey from Okak, Labrador to Ungava Bay. The missionaries arrived in Kangertlualuksoak (now Kangiqsualujjuaq) on August 7, 1811 and examined the area for several days. Once they had determined that there was enough wood and game to survive and to build a mission, they claimed the land on behalf of King George III and gave his name to the George River.



This expedition opened the way for further voyages of exploration by the Hudson Bay Company. In 1838, the company opened a trading post on the shore of the George River, 16 km upstream. In 1952, after a period of repeated openings and closures, the trading post closed down permanently. It was then, in the wake of a study on the region's economic potential, conducted by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, that the George River Eskimo Fishermen's Cooperative was established in 1959. This was the first Inuit cooperative in Canada and today is known as the *Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec*.

In 1962, with growing provincial and federal involvement in the North, various Inuit encampments scattered along the George River were brought together in one location, Akilasakallak Cove, to establish the village of Kangiqsualujjuaq. That year, homes, a school, a power plant and sawmill were built.

The history of Kangiqsualujjuaq is also shaped by a remarkable number of myths and legends linked to the territory stretching from the Ungava Bay coast to the Labrador Sea, by way of Killiniq. These myths and legends range from the presence of malevolent spirits (*Torngak*) in the Torngat Mountains who place obstacles in the path of people, to the existence of little people (*Tuunit*) leaping onto the necks of Inuit to suffocate them with their stomachs, and a giant polar bear (*Nanuklurk*) who is responsible for ice breaking up on the Labrador coast. People from the village have many other tales to tell. These stories, myths and legends are passed from generation to generation through oral tradition and some local artists incorporate them in entertainment acts (Heyes et al., 2003).

1.4

Heritage Status

Most of the natural heritage of the territory under study for the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project is pristine. Human presence in the territory has had only a minimum impact on ecosystems. The positioning of stones or cairns in some locations are the occasional tell-tale signs of hikers and canoeists. The most visible markings on the territory are those attributed to repeated caribou migrations.

1.5

Service Profile

Other than an airstrip at the head of the Koroc River and the presence of outfitting operations, there is no other service activity within the territory.



2 Situational analysis and diagnosis



A review of literature and ground surveys revealed components of the natural and cultural heritage that are representative of the natural regions that require protection, but also the rare or fragile components that warrant particular attention. The analysis revealed the following information.

2.1 Conservation Threats

At this, the dawn of a new millennium, the effects of global warming in the Arctic have been making newspaper headlines throughout the world. Nunavik is of course no exception. For several years now, record temperatures have been set and the sea is free of ice for longer periods. It is important to note that Ungava Bay experienced an early thaw in the summer of 2006. In the Kangiqsualujjuaq region, the mouth of the George River and Ungava Bay coast were ice-free in mid-June, one month earlier than normal.

These shifts in climate will have an effect not only on the distribution of plant and animal species in the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*, but also on the way of life of Kangiqsualujjuaq residents and construction of the park's visitor facilities.

Currently, most of the territory under study for the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project is protected only from mining activity. Therefore, forestry activity and hydroelectric or wind

turbine facilities could be allowed. The current status therefore does not permanently protect the representative elements of natural regions, rare features and biodiversity.

Mining operations outside the boundaries of the proposed park may negatively impact areas within the park. On the edge of the park project, there are active mineral titles for uranium exploration. If exploration reveals positive development potential, protection of the entire Koroc River catchment area will help to preserve fragile components and guarantee the river's water quality.

Once park status has been granted, lodging and visitor facilities, along with increased traffic to some of the park's more interesting features may represent threats and could have appreciable impacts on the heritage. The heritage conservation plan will define procedures to minimize impacts in order to preserve the heritage.

2.2 Development Potential and Constraints

The territory of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project shows enormous potential. The potential varies according to the size, quality and degree of representativeness or unique features within the natural region. These assets are related mainly to geomorphology, hydrography, vegetation, wildlife and archeology. The appeal or panoramic view of certain sites has also been recognized.

On the basis of these factors, the territory has been subdivided into four separate landscape units: Torngat Mountains, Koroc River valley, Koroc plateau and the coast of Ungava Bay (see Map 3). Each unit contains a series of unique attractions and clearly distinguishes itself within this inclusive group.

2.2.1 TORNGAT MOUNTAINS

The Torngat Mountains are the "Rocky Mountains" of eastern Canada. The topography of the region is punctuated by tower-

ing peaks and steep cliffs that offer an unparalleled panorama unique in eastern North America. A view of the landscape from the summit of Mount D'Iberville is awe-inspiring. Because this is the highest peak in the region, the view is extraordinary in all directions. To the east, you can see as far as the Labrador Sea. On a clear summer day, icebergs can be seen drifting down the Labrador coast. The turquoise and steel blue colour of glacial lakes contrast with the grey, brown and ochre colour of surrounding mountains. On the valley floor, other senses are fueled. The grass vegetation and sounds of flowing water add to the appeal of the hiking experience. The steep walls taper off in some locations, changing the landscape as the walk progresses.

This sector features a series of geological, geomorphological, wildlife and botanical attractions. Cirques, summit rock fields, tributary hanging valleys and moraines are easily identifiable within territory and are a testament to the movement of glaciers. In terms of biology, it is important to remember that this sector includes an area of the calving grounds of the Torngat Mountains caribou herd. The presence of many types of rare mosses and liverworts in such a small area is also an exceptional point of interest. Some of these species are common to the High Arctic and their presence on the summits of the Torngat Mountains is the southern limit of their distribution range in eastern North America.



The Torngat Mountains sector offers the largest number of natural attractions in the park project and will likely be the principal draw of visitors.

This mountainous region, however, poses a series of obstacles to operations within the territory. The many steep slopes are subject to avalanches and rock slides. Glacial scarring is visible on slopes. The sector is also scattered with alluvial cones, evidence of calamitous geomorphologic processes. The cones were produced as a result of landslides, heavy rain, rapid thaw or the drainage of lakes formed by natural barriers (Lafortune et al., 2003). Although settling does occur relatively quickly, these dejection cones can be reactivated and just as destructive. The Torngat Mountains sector is located in a continuous permafrost zone. Since permafrost has a limited carrying capacity, adapted permanent facilities must be built and located on well-drained surfaces.

2.2.2 KOROC RIVER VALLEY

Although the Koroc River flows from the Torngat Mountains, the landscape unit of the Koroc River valley begins at the junction with the Palmer River valley and ends at the Narsaaluk stream. Touring this river, which was traveled for many hundreds of years by the Inuit to reach the Labrador Sea, is an opportunity to take in magnificent scenery sculpted by glaciers and the unique vegetation at this latitude. The presence of an enclave of boreal vegetation in an Arctic environment has enabled some more southerly animal species to call this home and thrive at the northern limit of their distribution range. This is the case, of the spruce grouse. It is also important to mention the existence of a stand of white birch in the downstream section of this landscape unit because it is the northern-most stand of this species in Québec.

Towering at a height of 732 m, Mount Haywood holds a strategic position in the Koroc valley. The vista from the summit of this mountain offers visitors a view of the colossal work of the glaciers that formed the Koroc River valley, Nakvak valley to the east and Palmer River valley to the north, both of which are located in



Labrador. A number of tributaries of the Koroc River spill into this valley from different heights. Since they are also enclosed in valleys, they are considered to be hanging valleys.

The waters of the Koroc River, which churn in some areas, will challenge paddlers, who will be required to portage in some sectors to avoid drops in the river and Korluktok Falls. Korluktok Falls plunges 30 metres and creates a natural barrier to the spawning run of Arctic char. According to reports of Kangiqsualujjuaq residents, during spawning season the bottom of the falls takes on a reddish hue due to the large numbers of fish. Near the André-Grenier River, the north wall of the valley contains layers of rust-coloured gneiss exposed to weathering, which offers a colour pattern that contrasts with the surrounding vegetation. Further downstream, the river flows through starkly different environments. In wetlands, the discontinuous permafrost manifests itself in the form of raised mounds known as *palsa*. When the ice lenses that form these mounds melt, there is a local collapse. In loose soil, the localized thawing of permafrost causes small depressions known as *thermokarsts* to form. In a few well-drained areas, the wind sculpts the landscape. Large barren sand dunes are present at the river's edge and on the islands.

Traces of the recent and ancient past are still present in this sector steeped in history and residents of Kangiqsualujjuaq enjoy telling anecdotes and legends about some of these sites.

The Koroc River valley sector also features a wide variety of focal points and can be ranked second in terms of the park's hot spots.

This sector also has constraints that will affect land use development in the territory. Unlike the Torngat Mountains sector, the Koroc River valley is located mainly in the discontinuous permafrost zone. Due to the presence of steep cliffs, many cones and talus slopes are visible along the river. The numerous alluvial cones along the river's edge are markers of past catastrophic events, which, although vegetation has firmly taken root in them, could be reactivated. In the downstream portion of this sector, a few peat bogs border the river and in well-drained sectors there are sand dunes and deflation hollows. This region's instability and poor carrying capacity are factors that do not play in favour of building permanent facilities.



Residents of Kangiqsualujjuaq continue to use the Koroc River valley for traditional hunting, trapping and fishing, mainly in the area downstream from Korluktok Falls. The sector of operations of the Allumi Adventures outfitting operation, whose main camp is located outside of the park project, also extends up to the falls.

2.2.3 KOROC PLATEAU

Located on either side of the Koroc River valley, the plateau sector is carved out by a few tributary valleys of the Koroc River, the largest of which include the André-Grenier River and Sukaliuk stream. This sector supports Arctic-Alpine vegetation that is dominated by scrubland, herbaceous plants and mosses and lichens. Although this sector has the least diversity in plant species, this does not mean that it lacks interest. Vascular

and invascular species of flora that are deemed threatened or vulnerable in Québec have been identified, as well as a new species of fern in eastern North America (*Botrychium pedunculosum*) near Thoynard Lake.

The topography of the sector is relatively smooth, wide-open and flat, it contains the elements that are representa-



tive of the natural region of the Torngat Mountains foothills. In the southern portion, near Tasiguluk Lake, visitors can view spectacular phenomena associated with melting glaciers and a proglacial lake. To the southeast of Tasiguluk Lake, the plateau is dissected by a deep subglacial gorge approximately 5 km long. At its southern tip, an immense moulin kame rises an estimated twenty metres high. This feature formed as a result of a depression on or in a glacier, that filled with sediments during glaciation, and which remained at this location when the glacier melted. When the glacier retreated, many of the valleys in the territory under study were submerged by a proglacial lake. The ancient shorelines of this lake are still visible on the mountain slopes that surround Tasiguluk Lake. Today, these shorelines look like green corridors that contrast with other more barren slopes.

In the Mount Nuvulialuk sector, the north-south alignment of ridges shaped by differential erosion reveals a monocline geological structure (strata of rock layered in the same direction) forming a succession of large rocky crests. On the mountain slopes, landslides and avalanches form long spectacular talus slopes. At the base of Mount Nuvulialuk, a huge number of easily identifiable phenomena yield telling clues about the region's geology and changes it has undergone since the last glaciation period.

The principal constraints to development in the Koroc sector are mainly climate related. The almost total lack of large landforms offers little protection from strong winds.

2.2.4 COAST OF UNGAVA BAY

The landscape unit of the coast of Ungava Bay offers a view that is quite different from the other units. This sector of

the park has a larger amount of water coverage. In fact, the largest lake, Qarliik Lake, covering 1,566 ha, is near the Ungava Bay coast.

The coast's irregular shorelines are edged by current and raised shorelines, erected by the former D'Iberville Sea. The convergence of fresh water, brackish water, salt water and sea air give rise to a rich and diverse biological environment. Depending on

the season, many marine mammals, such as seals, polar bears and beluga frequent the coastal area. This sector is also home to a taxon of vascular flora, at the northern limit of their distribution range (*Rumex salicifolius* var. *mexicanus*).

This sector is without a doubt the richest in terms of historical and paleohistorical sites, most of which are found along the shores of the Tasiujakuluk Cove. These sites are records of the way of life of paleo- and neo-eskimo people who hunted marine mammals.



The principal constraint to development of this sector is the area's high tidal flows. The Kangiqsualujjuaq area and mouth of the Koroc River region experiences tides well over 8 m high. Transportation services must therefore include a boat crossing in Ungava Bay to connect the park to the village, and the service must be provided at high tide. By crossing at high tide, the maritime facilities in Kangiqsualujjuaq will be available and



boats can travel through channels between the islands, which are connected by land at low tide.

2.3

Proposed Boundaries

The proposed territory for creation of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* covers an area of 4,273 km² (see Map 4). It encompasses all of the elements that are representative of the natural region of the Torngat Mountains foothills and exceptional features. The park would therefore represent 41.5% of the area of natural region B-43. With regard to the other natural regions in question (the George River Plateau and Ungava Bay Coastline), other park projects will include elements that are not represented in these areas.

The perimeter of the park project was defined with protection of the Koroc River watershed area in mind. To the west, however, this concern does not apply, because the perimeter borders on the Category I lands of the Northern Village of Kangiqsualujjuaq. The largest part of the territory is located on Category III lands (67%), the rest (33%), on Category II lands. The eastern boundary of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project meets the Labrador border and therefore, the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada. These two adjoining parks will form a vast protected area covering over 13,000 km².

At the request of local representatives who are members of the Working Group, two other sectors have been examined for inclusion in the park project. These include Mount Nuvulialuk, to the south and Tasikallak Bay, to the north. Because there are active mining claims in these areas, they cannot be incorporated in the park area. However, when the mineral titles expire and if they are not renewed, the areas can be examined again for inclusion in the park.

The need to protect an area as wide as that of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project is founded on the basis of conclusions of biogeographical studies over the last thirty years. The number of habitats is as fundamental to the survival of species as the type and quality of habitat. Furthermore, species such as the black bear, caribou and wolf have large home ranges and require larger areas to sustain viable populations. Large protected areas are also more likely to adapt easily to natural or man-made disturbances (Meffe et al., 1994). Parks Canada

Agency has used this line of development for parks created in Canada's Arctic (see Table 1).

Table 1 Areas of a Few Canadian National Parks

Park	Year Established	Area (km ²)
Wood Buffalo (Alberta and NWT)	1922	44 802
Kluane (Yukon)	1976	22 013
Nahanni (NWT)	1976	4 765
Auyuittuq (Nunavut)	1976	19 707
Ivvavik (Yukon)	1984	9 750
Quttinirpaaq (Nunavut)	1988	37 775
Aulavik (NWT)	-	12 200
Vuntut (Yukon)	1995	4 345
Tuktut Nogait (NWT)	-	16 340

Source: Parks Canada (1998)

2.4

Challenges

To date, the processes involved in creating the park have taken place in a spirit of cooperation between the different interests represented by the Working Group. Once the park is created, administrators will face the following challenges:

- ensure that the park's ecological integrity, culture and landscape heritage are preserved and protected;
- share the same vision as the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve to manage the two adjoining protected areas;
- maintain an integrated environmental management framework throughout the region;
- encourage the local community to protect the park's natural and cultural heritage;
- provide a quality ecotourism product that will cater to visitors;
- bolster economic benefits to the local community.



3 Conservation and Development Concept



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The proposed conservation and development concept for *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* is based on a series of findings:

- With an area of more than 4,000 km², *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* will be the second largest park created in Québec to date.
- The territory is located far from large population centres and there are risks associated with this type of remoteness.
- The territory is not very frequented and the level of ecological integrity is high.
- The territory has a wide variety of flora, fauna and landform attractions.
- Climate changes have an impact on the distribution of plant and animal species, as well as traditional Inuit activities.

- The ties that bond the Inuit to nature are an important aspect of the reality of the region.
- Under the JBNQA, beneficiaries of the agreement are ensured harvesting rights, which distinguishes this park from Québec's southern parks where wildlife harvesting is prohibited, except sport fishing.
- The territory includes Category II lands.
- The region's tourist services lack diversity.

All aspects of park management must focus first and foremost on safeguarding the park's ecological integrity, in other words, efforts will be made to preserve indigenous species and ecosystems, as well as the natural processes that shape and bring them together. Efforts will also be made to preserve the integrity of other types of heritage, namely the cul-

tural and landscape heritage. In Nunavik, the consensus is that the KRG will oversee efforts to preserve ecological integrity, in compliance with the conservation principle defined in Chapter 24 of the JBNQA.

Management orientations and the zoning plan can also serve as the basis for establishing long-term actions to achieve harmonious results without harming the park's precious attributes.

3.1

26

Management Orientations

Consultations between park administrators and Inuit communities will be required to ensure protection of the natural, cultural and landscape heritage of *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*. The conservation principle, which means preserving the inherent rights of the Inuit and park management, must also include the firm cooperation of hunters who practise traditional activities within the region.

The management orientations that are detailed in this document will serve to guide the actions of park administrators on issues of conservation, development, safety and administration.

3.1.1 CONSERVATION

The document entitled *La Politique sur les parcs. La conservation*, (MDDEP, pending) reaffirms the importance of allowing visitors to access Québec national parks to explore and appreciate a park's rich heritage. This document also lists three fundamental principles on which park conservation is based:

- conservation takes priority over development;
- all aspects of heritage must be preserved;
- any decisions made must be based on the precautionary principle.

The integrity of an ecosystem is deemed to be preserved if:

- its structure and functions remain undamaged;
- its components and natural processes are likely to continue to exist;
- human activity and facilities do not interfere with an ecosystem's limited ability to support activities or level of activity, even after activities have finished.

Enforcing the precautionary principle will help to manage the territory. This principle defines the approach that an administrator must adopt when it is believed that activities may have an impact on the heritage. This should not, however, be interpreted as an encouragement for restriction, but rather as an incentive to actively manage risks. Park management procedures will be adapted to accommodate the northern environment. A heritage conservation plan will define firm courses of action to accommodate this need.

The general orientations to conserve and protect the natural, cultural and landscape heritage are as follows:

- Enforce the precautionary principle in all park development activities, by respecting the carrying capacity of the natural environment.
- Establish a harmonization committee that will include representatives from the community, park authorities, KRG, Makivik Corporation and MDDEP, to discuss protection and conservation issues.
- Improve awareness about the park's heritage.
- Examine stress that is generated as a result of park use and stress from outside of the park that threatens or could threaten the heritage.
- Incorporate traditional Inuit knowledge in all initiatives.
- Implement initiatives that are in harmony with the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada.
- Introduce procedures to monitor the park's heritage.
- Use ecologically-sound operating practices.

Administrators of *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* will have at their disposal certain tools that will support their heritage conservation and protection efforts. These include research, monitoring procedures and environmental stewardship programs.

Research

Research is an important service in national parks and is the perfect tool for achieving the conservation objective. Research certifies that ecosystems and biodiversity within a park are managed correctly. It also helps to ensure that development initiatives do not endanger a region's ecological integrity. Given the representative nature of national parks and the degree to which natural and cultural heritage are protected, parks are ideal locations for research projects. A park can choose to



initiate research projects or educational and research institutions can submit applications to conduct research. Since educational and research institutions will likely be filing applications, an information document must be prepared to inform institutions about how to submit applications.



A research plan listing the priority of relevant study units will be prepared once parc national de la Kuururjuaq is created. Each year, a research plan will be prepared in cooperation with authorities from the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada to ensure that projects do not overlap and to help solve problems common to both parks. The following general orientations will apply when a research plan is drawn up:

- Priority will be given to projects that focus on solving park management problems.
- Projects that will provide additional insight into the park's natural and cultural heritage will be given priority. Projects that supplement the park's education program will also be endorsed.
- Projects that are accepted must be approved by communities in the region and must incorporate traditional knowledge.

Monitoring Heritage Status

Ecological integrity is not something that is static. Variations in ecological integrity are measurable. The status of an ecosystem can change and continue to preserve its ecological integrity if the changes it undergoes are acceptable or simply a part of nature. Indicators must be introduced to monitor the "health status" of a park's main ecosystems and to verify their ability to evolve, develop and adapt to changes. Biological diversity and the ecological processes that control them will also be monitored to determine the ability of flora and fauna to adapt to stressors and regenerate. An environmental follow-up program will be introduced to determine how effective initiatives to avoid or mitigate impacts have been, once development takes place in the park.

Monitoring programs and research adapted to the park situation and possible future park emergencies will help to adjust, change and prohibit certain park activities and provide remedies to restore distressed habitats.

The following orientations will apply when monitoring procedures are drafted:

- Implement initiatives that are in harmony with the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada.
- Incorporate traditional Inuit knowledge.
- Establish partnerships with trained researchers.

Environmental Stewardship

Government agencies and national parks in particular must support environmentally friendly practices that are above reproach. Environmental stewardship will contribute to the "greening" of park management initiatives because it will promote approaches based on efficiency and conservation.

The following general environmental stewardship orientations will apply to *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*:

- minimize local greenhouse gas emissions;
- minimize consumption of drinking water;
- develop effective treatment methods that are adapted to the climate for small amounts of wastewater;

- minimize the amount of waste produced by encouraging reduction, reuse, recycling, and, in the last resort, on picking up;
- comply with and exceed standards when purchasing, handling and storing petroleum products.

3.1.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

For visitor's, the mission of Québec's national parks will become apparent through the activities and services that are available to them. Like other national park networks elsewhere in the world, this mission consists of ensuring the conservation of representative or exceptional features of the natural heritage and promoting local heritage by offering exploration activities that show consideration for the heritage and its connected culture (*Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec*, 2002).

The type of activities and services available in Québec national parks is based on the three following principles:

- activities and services must exert a minimum acceptable impact on the heritage;
- activities and services must promote discovery of the heritage;
- activities and services must promote accessibility.



These three principles must be considered an inseparable unit. The first principle, however, takes precedence, pursuant with requirements set forth in section 3.1.1 of this document. Therefore, an activity or service that does not comply with the first principle is not in harmony with the purpose of Québec national parks.

The program of recreational and educational activities in the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* will comply with the following policies:

- Educational activities will focus on establishing a close and significant bond between visitors and the protected heritage to foster an interest to explore the diversity of the heritage and the role and value of this diversity.
- Educational activities will encourage visitors to make a firm commitment to the conservation mission.
- Educational activities provided must adopt the recreational-educational approach as well as the environmental education approach.
- Educational activities will promote the Inuit culture and the wealth of stories and legends of the Ungava-Labrador peninsula.
- Educational activities should include school populations and could be incorporated in the Nunavik curriculum.
- Educational activities will raise visitor awareness about the importance of complying with park regulations.
- Activities and services will be geared primarily to visitors who have experience in remote environments and exposure to harsh weather conditions. Although, some services can be adapted to groups who require more supervision or who seek more comfort.
- The recreational activities and services offered will be based on the vulnerability of the natural heritage, the distances that have to be traveled and the number of visitors expected.
- The presence of political boundaries is not an obstacle to exploring the outer regions of *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*.
- Educational and recreational activities will require a close working relationship with the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada.



3.1.3 SAFETY

The territory of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* abounds with many natural hazards due to the mountainous terrain, cold water, rugged weather and wildlife. Because of the isolation and remoteness, even a small accident could endanger the lives of victims. If help can be contacted quickly, it could take several hours or days before assistance arrives. That is, if a helicopter is available and weather conditions permitting.

The park must prepare an emergency response plan that will detail the names of individuals in charge and define procedures during, among other things, search and rescue operations. The following policies will guide administrators of *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* on safety matters:

- Adopt an approach aimed at prevention, to avoid accidents by notifying visitors of risks.
- Work in cooperation with the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada to coordinate communications and search and rescue operations.
- Ensure that visitors with little experience or limited technical knowledge hire local guides.

3.1.4 ADMINISTRATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The participation of Inuit in developing and managing parks in Nunavik is a formal commitment on the part of the Québec government that was made on April 9, 2002, during the signing of the Partnership Agreement on Economic and Community Development in Nunavik. A specific agreement will also be concluded with the KRG to transfer management responsibilities of park activities and services to the KRG, along with responsibility for building and maintaining facilities. In the case of *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*, participation will be broadened to include the Inuit of Labrador and authorities from the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada, to guarantee quality services to visitors vacationing on the Ungava-Labrador peninsula. An advisory committee will therefore be set up to harmonize plans to develop and manage both parks.

Although the initial focus of Québec's national parks is to preserve heritage, these projects also benefit the local economy. For a small community such as Kangiqsualujjuaq, the economic benefits generated by park activities will be important. The following policies will apply to administration and regional development:

- encourage the hiring of Kangiqsualujjuaq residents;
- call on local businesses to manage certain activities or services;
- work in cooperation with local organizations;
- continue to involve local associations in the park's development;
- provide training adapted to the needs of jobs that are available.

3.2

Zoning

Zoning plans provide legal guidelines for determining park protection and development targets for each unit in the park. It is the first step of fulfilling the policies listed in the section above. It is also important to underscore the fact that guidelines and regulations associated with the zoning plan have no bearing on the harvesting rights granted to beneficiaries of the JBNQA.

The zoning plan of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project (see Map 5) is based on use of the territory by Kangiqsualujjuaqmiut, the degree of difficulty accessing the territory, the anticipated number of visitors and necessary equipment.

3.2.1 MAXIMUM PRESERVATION ZONES

Two maximum preservation zones have been set aside within the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project. These zones cover a total area of 47 km², representing 1.1% of the park's area. Therefore, no activity and no harvesting will be allowed in these zones. Scientific research and some educational activities may be authorized by the park superintendent, under certain conditions and on presentation of a detailed description of the project demonstrating that the techniques in use comply with the park's conservation objectives.

An initial maximum preservation zone of 20 km² will cover a portion of the summit peaks, above an altitude of 760 m. This zone will ensure that a representative sample of the Torngat Mountains summit peaks remain untouched. As indicated earlier, this sector contains an exceptional concentration of invascular plant species that are rare to Canada.

The second maximum preservation zone is on the downstream portion of the Koroc River valley, on its north slope.

This is the location of the northern-most stand of white birch in Québec. This 27 km² zone extends beyond the birch stand. Visitor's will therefore be prohibited access to this zone, but can view the stand from a distance.

3.2.2 PRESERVATION ZONE

Most of the area (3,768 km², representing 88.2%) of the territory of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project will be designated preservation. Visitors will be instructed not to interfere with the most vulnerable components and no motorized vehicles or sport fishing will be allowed. Huts will be built and camping will be allowed along the long hiking trails. The use of huts and camps will be governed by an environmental code of ethics that will be defined in the Heritage Conservation Plan.

3.2.3 AMBIENCE ZONE

The ambience zone will be subject to less restrictive exploration of the park. Unlike, preservation zones, motorized vehicles can be used in ambience zones and different types of lodging facilities are allowed. Fishing will be authorized in watercourses located within the ambience zone, which encompasses the entire Koroc River. The ambience zone therefore includes primarily valley floors, the main traffic corridors that connect the park's points of interest and access to the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada. This zone covers an area of 453 km², representing 10.6% of the territory.

Along the Koroc River and in the tributary valleys, the ambience zone extends 200 m on either side of the river, in order to accommodate huts and camping platforms. The zone widens in the western part of the park, due mainly to the intense use by residents of Kangiqsualujjuaq. A few seasonal camps that exist in the zone have been identified.

3.2.4 SERVICE ZONES

Service zones cover a small area of the park project (5 km², less than 0.1%). This category of zoning was allocated to these areas due to their superior carrying capacity. These sites are set aside for access to the park by air, and for building lodging facilities that offer more amenities and services.

The first service zone is located in the upstream portion of the Koroc River, on the south shore. The zone will be established on an alluvial terrace that has been used for a number of years to access the Torngat Mountains by air. Located less than 20 km away from Mount D'Iberville, this service zone is the main point

of entry to the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*, and for some visitors to the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada. This entire area will also be set aside to lodge visitors or park wardens, to store material and equipment or to build a weather station.

Another service area will be located on the edge of the outlet of Tasiguluk Lake. It was set aside in anticipation of needs that may arise in the medium term with regard to access and lodging for visitors who wish to explore the sector. Seaplanes can also be used to access Tasiguluk Lake.

A third service zone will be established in the coastal portion of the park. The zone was selected for ease of docking boats. On the coast, there are few sites that are suitable for docking due to the tidal flow, strong winds and rocks. This service area occupies an area of 3.09 km² and will serve primarily as a point of entry to explore the park's marine environment.

3.3

Park Development

The territory of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* project is notable for its pristine natural environment. It is only fitting, therefore, that its development reflect this intrinsic wealth, uncommon in the modern world, and that it be preserved. The development concept offers an ecotourism product for exploring the Torngat Mountains and Koroc River valley, and prioritizes conservation of the region's extraordinary natural heritage. The peaks of these mountains on the Labrador side, offer a view of majestic fjords that rival those of Scandinavia. The lush Koroc valley is a unique ecosystem at this latitude, in the heart of the tundra.

But this mountainous region is also rugged, and changes in weather can be brutal and sudden. These are the principal constraints to park development, which affects not only access, but is a particular danger to climbers. Park administrators and visitors must therefore take this constraint very seriously, since the safety of individuals visiting the park and the quality of their experience will depend on it.

Due to the rough terrain of this mountainous region, few sites are well suited for airstrips, base camps, shelters and campsites. Selecting and locating these service units for visitors to the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* and the Torngat Mountains



National Park Reserve of Canada will therefore require a close working relationship between authorities in both parks.

Moreover, in a situation of global warming, the sites and type and method of construction will have to be selected carefully to ensure that structures are not affected by the thaw of permafrost and to ensure stable infrastructures.

The main components of the park's development concept are detailed in Map 6 and the equipment required is described in the sections that follow.

3.3.1 VISITOR CENTRE AND SERVICES

The village of Kangiqsualujuaq will be the principal point of service for the park. It will serve as the park's outpost, where visitors can receive information about their visit to the park and rent special gear. To maintain control of activities and for safety reasons, visitors will be required to register before entering the park and sign out upon leaving. The registration log will also be transferred to administrators of the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve. Sharing information between both parks will help to coordinate search and rescue operations, if necessary.

Locations will be selected in the village to build a visitor centre, which will house the park's administrative services. A warehouse will also be built to store and service equipment.

3.3.2 ACCESS TO THE PARK

There are a number of ways to access the park, depending on the season and the sectors where visitors would like to go. The principal means of transportation are plane, boat and snowmobile. Use of a helicopter will also be possible, but mainly for park management purposes. The high cost of chartering aircraft and the limited space in a helicopter make it less suitable than a plane for transporting visitors and their equipment.

The arrival of visitors from the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve must also be considered. Experienced hikers will therefore be able to access both parks via the Nachvak or Saglek Fjords and via Ramah Bay in Labrador. These major points of interest on the Labrador coast can be accessed by boat from Nain.

Summer Access

In summer, bush planes will be able to drop off visitors in authorized locations. Pilots or the air company will be

required to obtain prior authorization from the park superintendent. To ensure the quality of the experience of visitors, and to disturb wildlife in the Koroc River valley as little as possible, pilots will be instructed to fly outside of the valley corridor.



Since the Torngat Mountains are one of the principal incentives for visiting the park, the park's point of entry will be located in the service area located at the source of the Koroc River. The terrace that is currently used to access the territory will be marked out to improve safety. Other access sites will be selected, but they will be secondary points of entry to the park. One site has been selected facing Mount Haywood on the north side of the Koroc River. Another site has been selected on the edge of Tasiguluk Lake, which is ideal for use by float-plane.

Visitors can also enter the park by boat from Kangiqsualujuaq. The excursion can be made only during high tide however and the trip to the park will take an estimated two hours, depending on the type of watercraft used. Access can also be made through the service zone located in the coastal sector of the park. Rapids at the mouth of the Koroc River prevent an ascent of the river to the camps of the Alummi Adventures outfitting operation.

Winter Access

Snowmobiles are the most cost-effective means of accessing the park during winter. Optimal conditions for a visit are between March and May, because the first months of winter are extremely harsh and daylight is very brief.

The local population has created a network of snowmobile trails that extend from Kangiqsualujuaq. The distance from the village to the park is an estimated 30 km and then, the Koroc River must be followed. Inside the park, snowmobiles stay on

marked trails along valley floors. Snowmobiles can follow the river to reach the Torngat Mountains, where visitors can explore the sector.

Visitors will also be able to travel by dogsled, a service that some residents of the village may be able to provide. This method of transportation ties in perfectly with the type of experience visitors are looking for in Nunavik.

Access to the Torngat Mountains sector by ski airplane is another option.

3.3.3 ACTIVITIES

As with all Québec parks, discovering and enjoying *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* will depend on recreational and educational activities. To take advantage of the park's breathtaking landscapes and to discover the wealth of biodiversity, ecotourists can take part in outdoor activities. During summer, hiking, climbing, canoeing, kayaking and rafting are activities that allow visitors to connect with the emerald and turquoise waters of the Koroc River, as they descend the river. In winter, nordic skiing and snowshoeing offer memorable excursions into valleys where snow accumulates. Education will also be an excellent means of facilitating and encouraging exploration, by explaining the significance of certain types of phenomena and landscapes to visitors.



The fragile nature of nordic ecosystems and their vulnerability when tread upon and the poor ability of flora to regenerate when damaged, reveals a low carrying capacity. Specific mea-

sures for development and restricting the number of visitors must apply in visitor sites and along hiking trails to respect an ecosystem's carrying capacity. In fact, carrying capacity must be an ongoing concern among park administrators.

Education

In *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*, education will be the principle medium for introducing visitors to the park's heritage. Visitors will be made aware of the importance of their involvement to conserve the park's heritage and a focus will also be on ensuring compliance with regulations.

Through education, visitors will:

- value the underlying objectives that are part of the creation of national parks;
- identify with and respect the Inuit way of life;
- absorb themselves in the atmospheres unique to the park's wide open spaces;
- realize the risks that certain types of activities involve.

Efforts will also be made to educate Kangiqsualujjumiut. This will help advance and keep traditions unique to the Inuit culture alive. A special education program will be introduced for Inuit children in particular.

The educational initiatives that park administrators introduce will focus on the natural, cultural and landscape heritage of the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*. Attention will also centre on a number of heritage attractions in the village of Kangiqsualujjuaq and surrounding area.

Visitor education will begin in the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq where a permanent exhibit will be on display in the visitor centre. The purpose of the exhibit will be to encourage visitors to explore the park's main attractions and to learn about some of the aspects of the park's rich cultural heritage and its region of influence.



In addition to the exhibit, administrators will be using other types of media to highlight the regional and park heritage: guided or self-guided hiking tours, brochures, posters in shelters, interpretive talks, live demonstrations, activities to share Inuit culture, excursions, etc. Recreational activities should also include components that impart a greater appreciation of the territory.

The park will have an education plan, a framework for planning and developing educational activities. The plan will describe the type of visitors and educational objectives, which will require development of themes and the educational media proposed. The plan will also target short-term educational initiatives.

Hiking

Mountain hiking will definitely be the most popular activity among visitors, since it requires little special equipment and no particular technique. Where the terrain is more challenging, however, a number of warnings will be issued to more adventurous hikers who would like to climb certain peaks.

Given that such open environments encourage the use of different trails to connect two points in valleys and on piedmont plains, and considering the serious impact that repeated treading in the same spot will produce, laying out trails is not recommended. Instead, visitors will be encouraged to fan out as they walk and to use different paths when walking from one point to another. Use of a preprogrammed GPS for each visitor is strongly recommended to ensure that walking is safe, particularly in dense fog.

Hikers who leave without a guide in the Torngat Mountains massif will be required to demonstrate to park officials that they have all of the equipment necessary for their expedition. They will also be required to submit a copy of the itinerary they plan to follow and notify authorities of any changes.

The route of the long trek detailed in Map 6 will help visitors discover the principal attractions of the Torngat Mountains massif, but hikers will not be confined to this area. It must be specified that not all climbers will be able to reach mountain peaks, particularly Mount D'Iberville. This mountain is a horn, i.e. a summit where three cirques meet, and can be accessed from the Québec or Labrador side. The climb is generally not a technical one, until you reach the summit ridge. From this point on, individuals who are not used to approaches

that require technical climbing, that is, requiring the use of hands and ropes because of sheer walls, cannot climb to the summit. There are three knife-edge ridges that radiate away from the summit: the north ridge (in Labrador), the east ridge and southwest ridge. The mountain should be approached using the east and southwest ridges because climbers can loop around from the base camp (see Figure 1). The loop is an estimated 12 km and has a difference in elevation of just over 1,000 m. The east ridge is the easiest approach to the summit, but is nonetheless technical. Over most of the climb, the level of difficulty is class 3YDS², but some sections are class 4YDS. The southwest ridge is more difficult to climb than the east ridge. First, the ridge consists of much more loose rock and has a rock face an estimated ten metres high that can only be climbed using techniques that require 5.6YDS difficulty experience. When ascending the ridge, climbers must downclimb this step (Lavigne, 2006).

The Koroc River valley is also suitable for hiking, but is not the best means of exploration. Some points of interest, however, will be accessible during a short hike. Canoeists and kayakers who would like to engage in another type of experience will appreciate the valley.

Climbing

Climbing is not for everyone and requires skilled techniques, special gear and minimum training to ensure safety. It will therefore be offered as only as a secondary activity in the park.

Park administrators will be required to indicate which rock faces can be climbed and specify the degrees of difficulty. The rock faces selected should not include any protected plant species or nesting areas of Falconiform species. Climbing will be allowed only on specific rock faces. Climbing in other areas will be permitted only where special authorization has been issued by the park superintendent.

Skiing

Like hiking, skiing is an excellent means of exploring parc national de la Kuururjuaq in winter. This activity can be performed over short or long distances. The valley of the Sukaliuk stream is ideal for this activity and will allow enthusiasts to explore the Koroc plateau and to access Tasiguluk Lake. This picturesque valley, which is a woodland where it meets the Koroc River, rises gradually to the plateau. There are few reference points on the plateau and skiers will

be exposed to severe weather. Quality navigation equipment and weather-appropriate clothing will be crucial.

In the Torngat Mountains massif, the skiing experience will be different and steep descents will require specialized equipment and extreme skill. No motorized vehicles will be available to skiers to climb to the top of slopes because this is in a preservation zone. Some slopes are also vulnerable to snow accumulations and avalanches. Skiers should therefore possess the knowledge necessary to determine if skiing conditions could trigger an avalanche, and should also have the required safety equipment.

Boating Activities

The Koroc River offers excellent potential for water activities such as canoeing, kayaking and rafting. When descending the river, rapids and varying degrees of navigating difficulties will challenge paddlers. It is a grueling canoeing route, because most of the waters are at least class III rapids and some are class IV or higher (Conseil québécois du loisir, 2005 b). To avoid waterfalls, sills and extreme rapids, paddlers can easily portage. Portage routes must be clearly marked along the river. The Koroc River is generally shallow and since it can only be easily navigated during the spring swell, this constraint reduces the period during which descending in the direction of Ungava Bay is favourable, for many types of watercraft. Beginning in late July, water levels in the upstream section of the river, in the Torngat Mountains is already low and navigation difficult.

Primitive campsites will be selected along the Koroc River canoe route. Lodging in huts will also be available in some locations.

A limited number of watercraft will be available for rental at the site, in the service area at the head of the Koroc River. Visitors can also bring their own boats. At the end of the route, at the mouth of the Koroc River, a boat shuttle service to the village will be available.

Exploration of the park's coastal area will be primarily by means of boating activities. A camp located in the service zone, which is easy to access from Kangiqsualujuaq by motor boat, will serve as the point of departure for visitors to explore the marine environment in a sea kayak or motor boat. Since this sector of the territory has a large number of archeological sites, a few of these sites can be developed as

an opportunity for visitors to learn about the ancestral way of life of Kangiqsualujuaq residents.

Wildlife Harvesting

Like all Québec national parks, only sport fishing will be authorized in the *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*. Beneficiaries of the JBNQA, however, can continue traditional harvesting activities, including hunting, fishing and trapping.

Sport fishing by visitors can be incorporated with other park activities on waters set aside for this purpose in ambience zones only. People who would like to fish in the park must hold a valid provincial fishing licence. Incidentally, visitors frequenting the park solely for the purpose of sport fishing will be urged to contact the existing outfitting operator.

Arctic char can be fished anywhere along the Koroc River. In fall and winter, however, fishing downstream from the Korluktok Falls will be restricted only to beneficiaries of the JBNQA. During this period of the year, the sector is particularly prized by residents of Kangiqsualujuaq. Details regarding this restriction will be contained in the Heritage Conservation Plan.

Other Activities

Requests for activities other than those listed above will be examined on a case-by-case basis. If the activity is considered "extreme", the request will be examined on the basis of frameworks that apply to Québec's network of national parks.

3.3.4 LODGING

Accommodation options in *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* were assessed on the basis of distance, weather conditions, means of transportation, types of activities, target visitors and user safety. All of the accommodation options proposed here are primitive, except for units in service zones. To ensure that sites remain in good condition, strict rules of conduct will be outlined in the Heritage Conservation Plan for drinking water use, kitchen waste and wastewater management, etc.

During winter expeditions, visitors who hire local guides can learn how to build an igloo, and to experience a true Nordic adventure, can sleep out in their homemade igloos.

Camps

Two camps will be built in *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*, and will offer more comfort than huts. The camps will be available

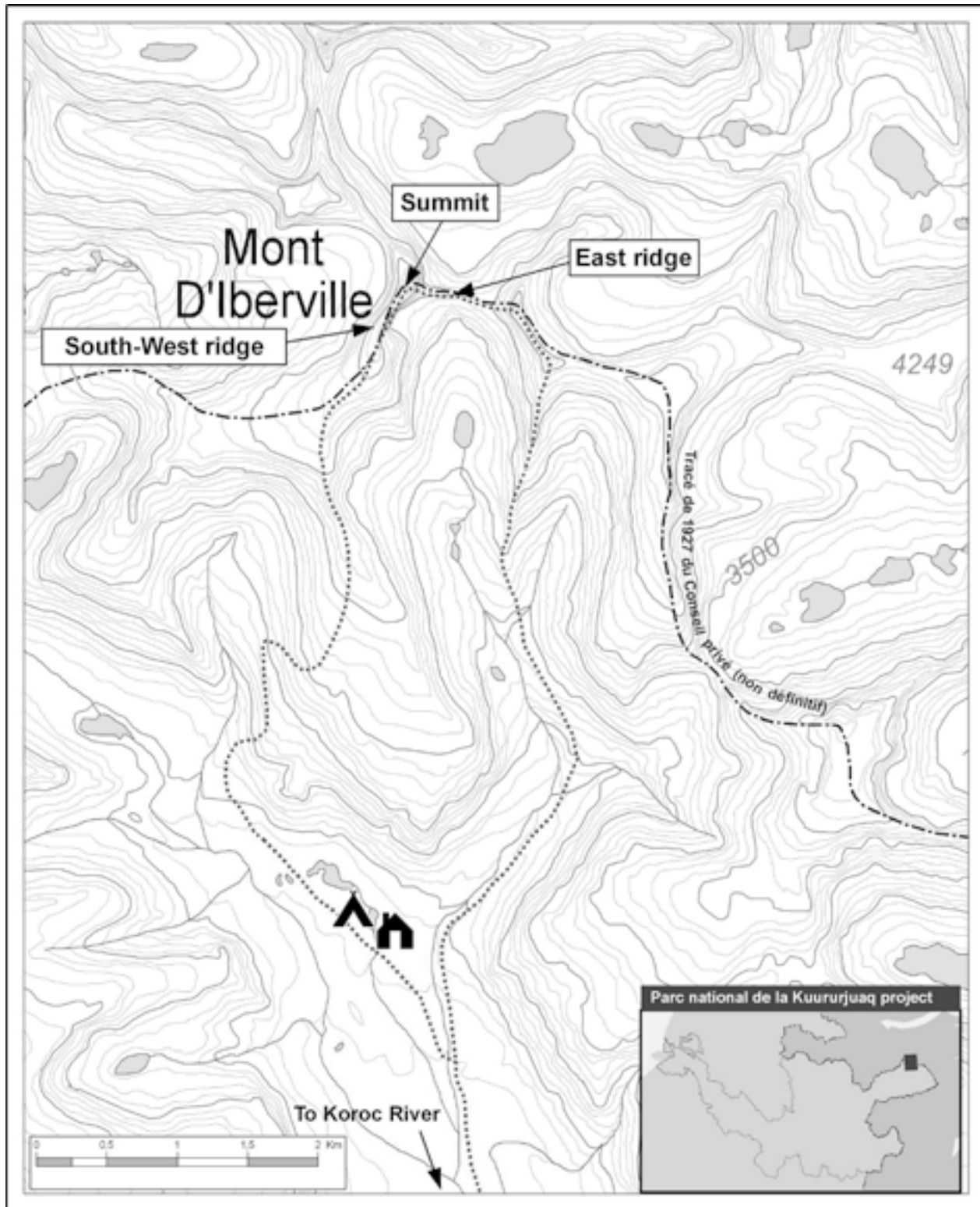


Figure 1
Recommanded path to
climb Mont D'Iberville

for brief stays (less than five days) and will be large enough to accommodate 16 people. They will include semi-private dormitories and a communal kitchen for meals. Each dormitory will have four units of two beds separated by partitions, a washroom with a sink and shower, and a lounge area. Dormitories and the kitchen will be heated, lighted and supplied with water.

The first camp will be located in the service area of the Torngat Mountains massif, near the landing strip. Because this is a key sector of the park, visitors will be staying here longer and numbers may increase over time. The site must therefore be closely monitored to minimize impacts due to visitors. The camp will also be equipped with a radio communication system that will enable individuals who are present to relay weather conditions in the sector to air pilots or to call for help in an emergency.

The second camp will be located in the coastal sector. This camp will be set aside for individuals who are passing through Kangiqsualujjuaq and who would like to stay a few days to explore the marine environment. Also, given the development of the cruise line industry to Nunavik, this camp will be set aside for cruise passengers to stop over for brief guided tours.

Huts

Communal huts will be built to house park visitors in remote areas away from service zones. They will be mostly for winter use, but will likely be popular when summer weather conditions get nasty. A total of seven huts have been planned inside the park, including three along the Koroc River, three in the Torngat Mountains and one on Tasiguluk Lake. Along the Koroc River, huts will be located thirty kilometres apart. The first will be built near the maximum preservation zone that protects the stand of white birch, the second, near Korluktok Falls and the third at the junction of the Palmer River valley. In the Torngat Mountains, huts will be built north of the valleys perpendicular to the Koroc River, except one, which will be used as the base camp for climbing Mount D'Iberville.

The huts will accommodate a maximum of 12 people and offer minimum comfort: heat, beds, table and a counter to prepare meals. The design and colour of huts will blend in with the local landscape to avoid contrasts. Huts will also contain equipment that users may require in emergency situations, such as food, blankets and a communications system. The GPS coordi-

nates of each hut will also be given to visitors who venture out without a guide, to ensure that they can locate huts if necessary.

Emergency Shelters

The park administrator may build emergency shelters on the high summits of the Torngat Mountains. These rudimentary shelters will provide no comfort and can be used by hikers to take shelter during extreme weather. Hikers will therefore be able to spend the night protected from severe conditions. This type of shelter can be built on the top plateau that accesses Mount D'Iberville on the eastern ridge.

Camping

Wilderness camping will be encouraged during the summer season and campers will be urged to come equipped with all the necessary gear to explore the area. Wilderness camping will be allowed in almost all of the territory, except maximum preservation zones and on high summits, for safety reasons due to violent winds. Campers will be encouraged to select locations that have a durable surface or a previously-used site. Campsites will be set up along hiking trails. This will help to protect the landscape in some locations.

Along the Koroc River, campsites will be set up approximately every 15 km. Canoeists will be urged to use these sites rather than set up sites elsewhere. Signs will be placed to indicate campsite locations. This will prevent visitors from spreading out along the river, since large numbers are expected. Campsite areas may be identified by markers and may contain wooden platforms or lean-tos. Dry toilets will also be provided where the type of soil permits.

3.3.5 PRIORITIES FOR BUILDING FACILITIES

Considering the fact that a visitor centre and lodging facilities must be built and the local constraints related to transportation of materials and given the brief season during which building can take place, all of the necessary facilities cannot be built in one year. Short-term efforts should therefore focus on the following:

- building the visitor centre and warehouse;
preparing airstrips;
- building a camp at the head of the Koroc River;
- building a hut near Korluktok Falls;
- building an emergency shelter on Mount D'Iberville.



These facilities will provide basic services for the first visitors to *parc national de la Kuururjuaq*. Over the medium and long term, other facilities can be built to fulfill needs for lodging, based on growth in the number of visitors.



4 Conclusion

The creation of *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* is a valuable addition to the Québec park network, given the representative nature of the park and its breath-taking landscapes. With a proposed perimeter of 4,273 km², the park will protect a large portion of the territory and Québec's natural and cultural heritage.

The territory targeted by this park located east of Ungava Bay, will preserve the entire Koroc River valley, which is home to extraordinary ecosystems at this latitude of the province. Similarly, working in close cooperation with the authorities of the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada will ensure that a large part of the Torngat Mountains massif that covers the Ungava-Labrador peninsula is protected.

This remarkable valley, which has served as the link between Ungava Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, will continue to be the purveyor of ancient legends and contribute to furthering traditional Inuit activities. The region's extraordinary setting and unique features will serve as the inspiration for a variety of adventure activities that will incorporate an educational theme, to capitalize on the park's rich natural and cultural heritage.

Mindful of the fragile nature of the region's ecosystems and traditional Inuit activities, the provisional master plan favours

a cautious development approach. By entrusting park management to the Inuit of Nunavik, the government of Québec will ensure that development of *parc national de la Kuururjuaq* will comply with a firmly anchored Inuit vision and values.

It is therefore important for Quebecers, but more specifically the Kangiqsualujjua miut, to read and understand the contents of this provisional master plan and that they voice their opinions and aspirations with the MDDEP and KEQC during upcoming hearings. The plan is accompanied with an environmental and social impact study that details the effects this type of project will have. The KEQC will be responsible for approving the development and management components that have been planned for this national park, but only at the outcome of hearing. Once approval is received, the process leading to the legal creation of a park can begin.





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