



WOODLAND CARIBOU HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PLAN

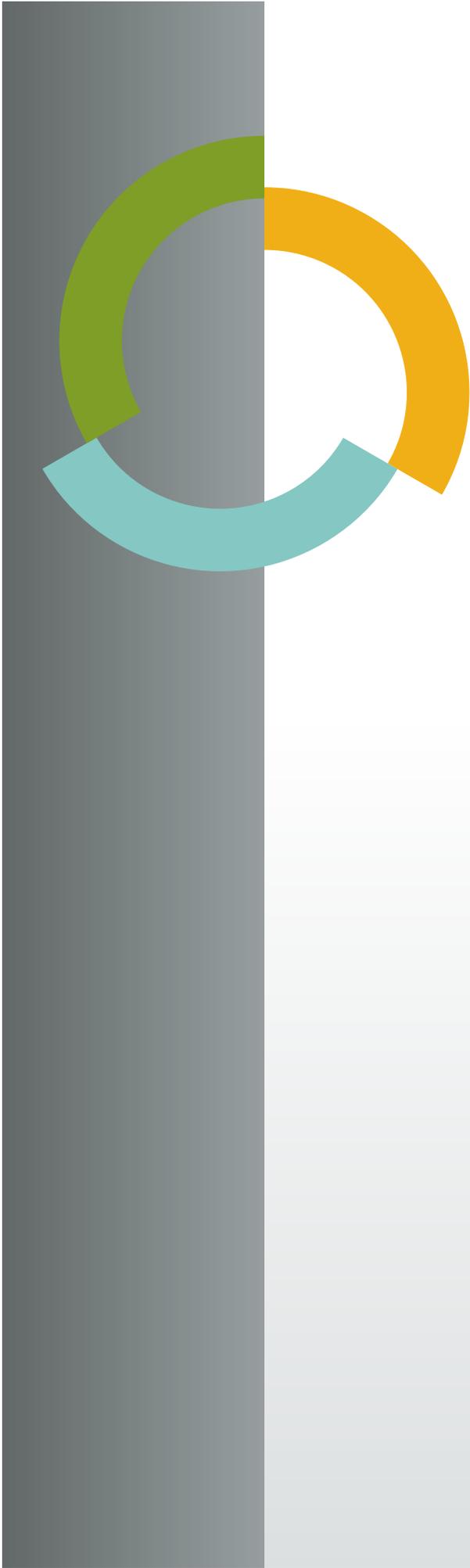
THE APPROACH

To meet the considerable challenge of sustainable forest management, the Government intends to implement a weighted approach in which the bulk of the protection effort is focused on the key elements of caribou habitat, in places where the chances of success are the greatest.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION PLAN: A BRIEF SUMMARY

The Government's action plan is divided into two phases. In the first phase, specific actions will be taken immediately, in order to maintain the essential components of caribou habitat and calm the controversy. In the second phase, the socioeconomic consequences of the measures under consideration will be analyzed in detail, the actors concerned will be consulted, alternative sources of timber will be identified, and a long-term strategy for caribou habitat stewardship will be prepared.

April 2016



Phase 1

IMMEDIATE ACTION

- **Possible adjustments to the northern boundary for timber allocations:** A new boundary has been drawn up, based on the recommendations of the Scientific Committee, and the portions of favourable habitat in which logging operations will no longer take place as a result of this have been highlighted. Roughly 75% of the habitat suitable for caribou is therefore located above the northern boundary, and roughly 25% below it.
- **Protection of intact forests:** Québec has made a choice and will protect more than 90% of the so-called intact forests within its territory.
- **Intensification of monitoring by officers, and enhancement of their educational mission:** Despite a total ban on woodland caribou hunting in 2001, the species' situation continues to be a cause for concern due to poaching.
- **Additional measures in the boreal forest, to achieve inter-regional equity:**

Nord-du-Québec region

- Creation of a protected area in the Broadback valley (roughly 9,000 km²)
- Adapted forest planning to create an immense space for caribou within a territory that includes the Broadback Valley protected area
- Adapted forest planning to create an immense space for the "Detour Herd"

Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region

- Maintenance of residual forest tracts in disturbed areas
- Adapted forest planning to create an immense space for caribou in the White Mountain sector, in respect of which a proposal for a large protected area is currently under consideration

Côte-Nord region

- Trial program to dismantle forest roads, allowing for the creation of an immense space for caribou in the eastern portion of the region
- Experimental habitat restoration project in disturbed areas, in collaboration with the Essipit community (Côte-Nord and Lac-Saint-Jean)
- Delimitation of an immense space for caribou on René-Levasseur Island, in respect of which a proposal for a large protected area is currently under consideration

Phase 2

ANALYSIS OF SOCIOECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES AND ADOPTION OF A LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR WOODLAND CARIBOU HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

As part of a process aimed at achieving a shared understanding of the issues, within the context of climate change among other things, and involving the partners and interest groups

Part 1 – Detailed analysis of the local and regional economic consequences of all the proposed measures

The local and regional socioeconomic consequences of all the proposed measures will be analyzed in detail.

Part 2 – Systematic consideration of alternative timber supply sources where impacts on the allowable cut are inevitable

All alternatives will be assessed systematically, with a view to mitigating supply reductions for the affected mills: timber production strategy, sustainable yield concept, appropriate delimitation of management units (MUs), use of timber from the private forests, timber shipments, use of unharvested volumes (2008-2013) to mitigate the impacts, and so on.

Part 3 – Comparative study (benchmarking) and collaboration with other affected provinces

An examination of the strategies implemented elsewhere in Canada for different aspects, including those relating to depredation, will help Québec to adjust its approach and harmonize it with efforts in other provinces.

Part 4 – Long-term strategy for woodland caribou habitat stewardship

The Government will adopt a long-term strategy for woodland caribou habitat stewardship based on the above analyses and optimization initiatives. Particular attention will be paid to population monitoring, and sufficient resources will be made available for inventories, some of which could be carried out with the First Nations.

CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS

Given the numerous issues at stake, the stance taken must emanate from the highest Government authorities.

Ultimately, it is clear that, if the woodland caribou population is to be maintained, logging within its habitat will have to be reduced. This will have negative impacts on the supplies of mills in the affected regions. Measures will be introduced to mitigate these impacts, but input will be required from many different stakeholders. The effort devoted to the caribou will, however, help the Government to fulfill its commitments in respect of protected areas, especially under the Plan Nord.

Because the Government's approach is based mainly on habitat maintenance, population status monitoring will have to be intensified in order to ensure, first, that protection efforts are in line with caribou behaviour, and second, that the measures applied are in fact effective.

