Final Report: L" LJra"A1.Ac

April 2020 σ'bλ' 2020

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The James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) has the mandate to review and comment on forest management plans for the territory covered by Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), before they are approved by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP). Accordingly, the JBACE was called on to review the tactical plans for integrated forest development (PAFIT) for the period 2018-2023 and retained the services of *Le groupe CAF* to assist it in this mandate.

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Le groupe CAF's review of the plans takes into account the adapted forestry regime under the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec (also referred to as the *Paix des Braves*) as well as the forestry provisions of the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Gouvernement du Québec.

The review focuses on two parameters, namely, the protection of wildlife resources and access to such resources.

EXAMINATION PARAMETER 1 σος η Δι βαιά<"Cba.Δς

Ensure that Cree hunting, fishing and trapping rights and activities are respected and maintained by safeguarding the Territory's faunal resources and the habitats that support them. Namely, the maintenance of culturally important species (e.g. moose) and the recovery of the woodland caribou herds extant in the Territory, in a manner that does not jeopardize the continued availability of habitats required by other species reserved exclusively for the Cree per section 24 of the JBNQA (e.g. beaver, black bear, all mustelids, whitefish, sturgeon and other reserved fish species).

EXAMINATION PARAMETER 2 το Γάς βα·ά<"Cbo·Δ°

Ensure the implementation of a planning process that accounts for and supports the Crees' continued access to and use of the Territory.

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Summary of Recommendations

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This section outlines all of the recommendations and opportunities for improvement identified in Section 3. Numbers are sequential and in no way reflect an order of importance.

Main recommendations

General observations $\dot{\Box}$ \dot{b} $\dot{\Delta}$ $\dot{\Delta}$ $\dot{\Box}$ \dot

RECOMMENDATION #1 – PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION OF PAFITs

·∇4λ"CJ·Δ° #1 ∇·Δ΄Γ"Δ·Θ΄ Ο Δ4'Θ΄ Δ΄ Δ΄ Θ΄ Ο PAFITs

The drawing up of PAFITs is an important benchmark for forest planning, as all subsequent activities flow from the plan. It is at this stage that the main orientations for the given management unit are decided. In our view, it is important that the people most directly affected by the planned operations have some degree of understanding of the process. The concept of strategic planning is obviously more abstract, but it can still be put into layperson's terms.

We recommend that greater attention be given to the involvement of JWG Cree members in the tactical planning process by, for example:

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- clarifying the objectives of the PAFIT;
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- explaining the management strategy and its impact on the operational plans and the Territory;
- clearly stating the activities that are an input to the PAFIT (e.g. wildlife workshop);
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- clarifying the role and potential contribution of the Cree to TLGIRT/TGIRs;
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- giving feedback on the use of elements drawn from different consultation activities and whether or not they will be incorporated into the PAFIT;
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- developing visual aids for illustrating tactical planning; for example, by mapping moose habitat quality and any changes in quality anticipated by the strategy.
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Consideration of culturally important species

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Consideration of the insights, observations, concerns and harmonization measures formulated by tallymen, Cree land users and coordination bodies

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RECOMMENDATION #2 – CONSULTATION ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE TERRITORY

Consult tallymen before allocating areas where the harvest of firewood is permitted.

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Consideration of wildlife habitat management norms and strategies

RECOMMENDATION #3 - MONITORING PROCESS

In consultation with the Cree, establish a process for communicating the results of monitoring initiatives by:

- explaining all monitoring activities: how they are conducted and the indicators monitored;
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- determining what monitoring activities or indicators are of interest for the Cree;

- determining when, how and to whom monitoring results should be communicated;
- jointly developing the communication format (for example, monitoring results must be communicated to tallymen in such a way as to be easy to understand).

RECOMMENDATION #4 - ACCESS ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

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The access road management plan is the only thing in a PAFIT that deals with access to the Territory. Since preparation of the former plan has been suspended, it is appropriate to determine interim measures that can be implemented as soon as possible.

Such measures will be included in the next PAFITs if the access road management plan has yet to be drawn up.

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Opportunities for improvement

General observations

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #1 – WORK UNDER WAY

Where the PAFIT mentions work that is under way (for example, preparation of the access road management plan), the projected time frame should be specified.

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #2 - PROVINCIAL ORIENTATIONS

Include a section discussing the *Plan Nord* and *La Grande Alliance* in the provincial orientations.

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Consideration of culturally important species

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OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #3 – LAKE STURGEON

Assess the appropriateness of updating the management methods for sites of wildlife interest. The document entitled Sites fauniques d'intérêts (SFI) – Région du Nord-du-Québec (R10) (Sites of wildlife interest in the Nord-du-Québec region) dates back to 2012, before the lake sturgeon was listed as a species of special concern at the federal level. For example, the document includes no management methods relating to mining or gravel pit operations.

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #4 – STATE OF WOODLAND CARIBOU HABITAT

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Woodland caribou are at risk and the state of the species' habitat is a major issue in the Territory. It would therefore be appropriate to evaluate the state of woodland caribou habitat as part of the PAFIT, respecting the confidentiality of information where required.

PAFITs already contain maps showing the location of tracts of forest protected by the precautionary approach. Including information on habitat quality, using maps or charts showing the availability of preferred habitat (percentage area), would be both relevant and enlightening

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #5 – STATE OF MOOSE AND MARTEN HABITAT

In the 2023-2028 PAFITs, illustrate the quality of marten and moose habitat by trapline, based on the HQMs developed and respecting the confidentiality of information where required.

Consideration of the insights, observations, concerns and harmonization measures formulated by tallymen, Cree land users and coordination bodies

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OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #6 -FOLLOW-UP OF CONCERNS

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Demonstrate the consideration given to issues by documenting and compiling all needs and concerns expressed during the drawing up of PAFITs and explain if and how they were followed up on (fully considered, considered in part, considered at another level, not considered).

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #7 – TABLES IN APPENDIX C TO THE PAFIT

Clarify and complete the tables in Appendix C ("Local issues and objectives raised during TLGIRTs") to the PAFIT. The progress made on each problem could be stated. Where it is impossible to complete certain parts, the reason could be stated.

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Similarly, it would be interesting to make a connection between the concerns raised during the TLGIRT/TGIRs and the consideration given to them in the PAFIT, as was done in Table 1 ("Concerns expressed by the Cree and solutions implemented by the MFFP") in the Cree section.

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #8 – TABLE 1 IN THE CREE SECTION

In Table 1 ("Concerns expressed by the Cree and solutions implemented by the MFFP") in the Cree section of the PAFIT, indicate the degree of consideration given to each of the stated Cree concerns (none, partial or full), and justify the decision.

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #9 – ADDRESSING OF REQUESTS

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Better document cases where regulations and compliance with the modalities and specific management standards set out in the *Paix des Braves* take precedence over Cree requests and demands. The standards set out in the *Paix des Braves* are minimums to be met, rather than absolute obligations.

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #10 - STATISFACTION WITH THE CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO WILDLIFE

Assess Cree satisfaction with the consideration given to wildlife in land use planning when the mixed forest stands development strategy and the wildlife habitat development directives are unveiled.

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Consideration of wildlife habitat management norms and strategies

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OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #11 – STATISTICAL TABLE BY TRAPLINE

Make the statistical tables of traplines more accessible. These tables are helpful to tallymen, but they are currently too hard to understand.

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Opportunities for improvement #7 and #8 are also tied to access to the Territory.

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #12 - ACCESS ROADS

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Cree needs in terms of access roads to the Territory should be identified pending release of the access road management plan.

OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT #13 - ROAD CLOSURE

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Assess the road closure process to determine whether time can be saved at any point.

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