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 Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
 Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

August 30, 2024

Marc-André Bouchard  
 Acting Senior Director of the Conservation Development Department  
 Ministère de l'Environnement, de la  
 Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs  
 Marie-Guyart Building, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Box 21  
 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est  
 Québec City, QC  
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**Subject: Response to the draft guidelines on other effective conservation measures**

Dear Mr. Bouchard,

The Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) is the official forum for the responsible governments of Nunavik who participate in the development of laws and regulations pertaining to the environmental and social protection regime set out in Section 23 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement and within the region located north of the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel. Below are the KEAC's recommendations on the draft guidelines for other effective conservation measures (OECM), received by e-mail on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The draft guidelines state that, since management of public land is the responsibility of the government, it will be more difficult to manage OECM projects on public land, and that conservation project proponents will not be able to ensure "effective management measures" to prevent negative impacts on biodiversity in the long term. In Nunavik, most of the territory is considered public, and several areas are subject to various conservation or protection measures that should be adequately recognized. The KEAC recommends that the government find mechanisms to enable the various ministries to adequately recognize and protect OECMs on public lands.

Considering that:

- Conservation in the North, and in areas under modern treaties, entails challenges that are specific to these contexts, and for which particular expertise is required;
- The land management regime in Nunavik is different from that of southern Quebec, and important biodiversity values are distinct;
- The expertise of the Kativik Regional Government, Makivvik and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach on the creation of protected areas in Nunavik;
- The invaluable contributions of these interlocutors when steps are taken to increase or recognize conservation initiatives in northern environments;

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The KEAC recommends that the interim conservation development team contact and consider the recommendations of these bodies to determine the best way to adapt OECMs to the realities of Nunavik, for both land and marine environments. The KEAC also recommends that the specificities of Nunavik, and proper consideration of OECM protection in public lands, should be adequately included in the guidelines before their final publication.

Best regards,



Marie-Noël Fournier  
Vice-Chairperson, KEAC