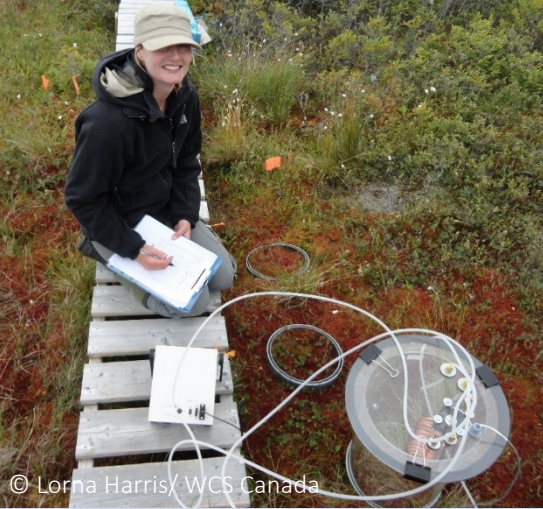


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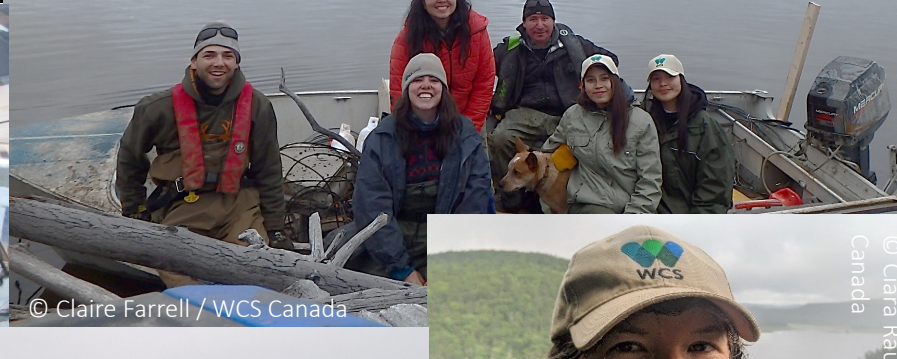
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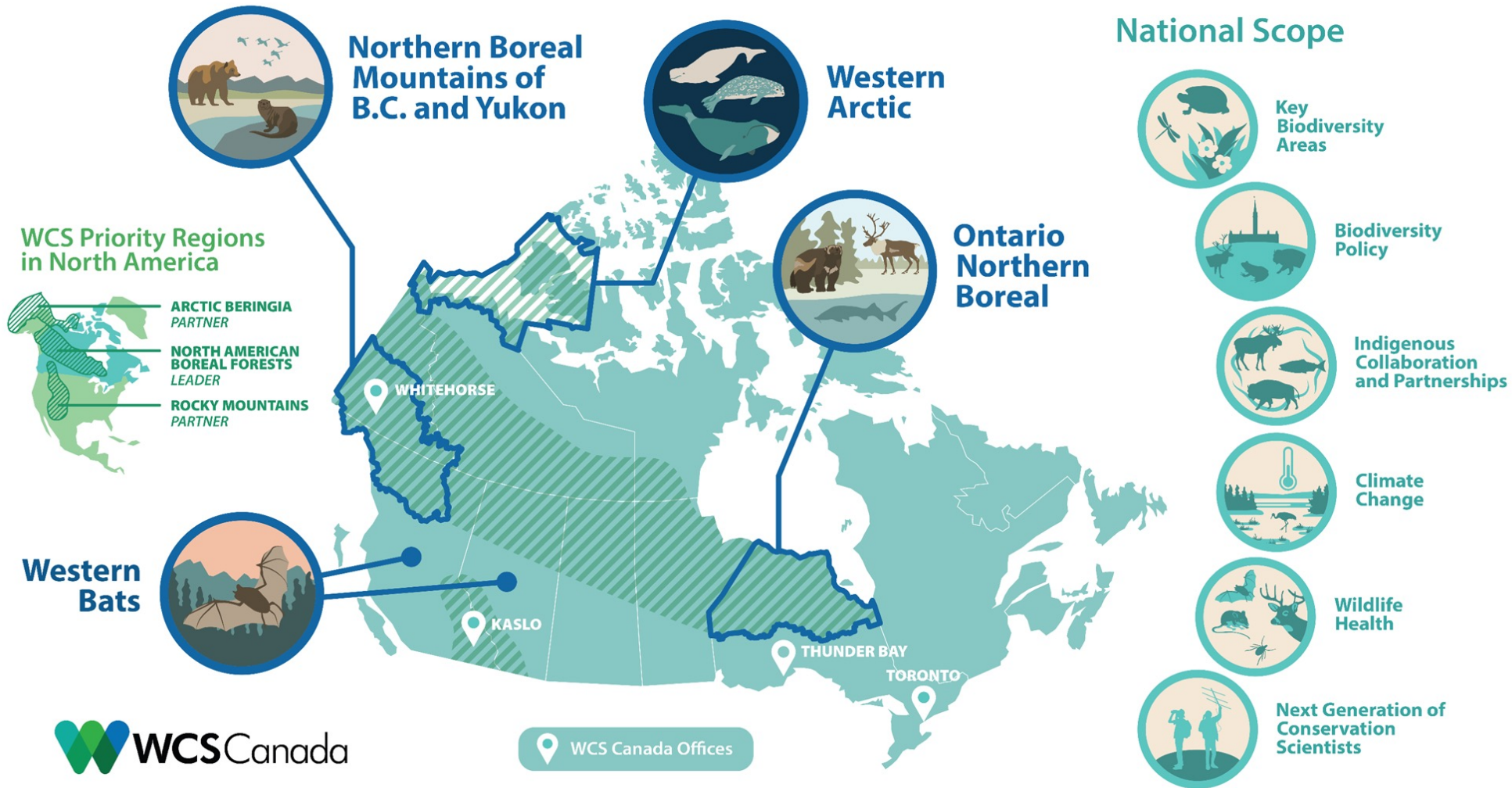


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Where do we work?



Supporting Indigenous communities and conservation: WCS Canada's commitments



Transform WCS Canada's conservation practice with Indigenous Peoples with a focus on knowledge sharing and knowledge co-production.

- WCS Canada shares science and knowledge with Indigenous Peoples
- WCS Canada engages with Indigenous individuals and communities to co-create and co-produce research, treating Indigenous science and Western science as complementary.
- WCS Canada staff understand the rights, history, and socio-political context of the Indigenous Peoples in the regions where we work and live and this informs our research and conservation practice.

Enabling knowledge sharing and knowledge co-production & working with youth and Elders



- Learning from *namew*: Community-based research with Moose Cree First Nation
- Tracking Change in the Winisk: Community-based Monitoring with Weenusk First Nation
- Working with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff to collect scientific and Indigenous Knowledge as part of the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning process
- Early support for Inninewuk-led approach, KITASKEENAN KaweeKanawaynichikatek IPCA, initiated by York Factory First Nation
- Working with Inuvialuit communities to address climate change and shipping impacts on marine mammals and fish in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region
- Advisor and partner on Canada Nature Fund Target 1 Challenge grant with Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug for the Fawn River IPA
- Supporting Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff in the development of IPCA proposals
- Contributing scientific information on underwater noise and seal and whale ecology to Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam and Tarium Niryutait Marine Protected Areas



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Understanding the history, rights, and socio-political context for conservation

Towards reconciliation: 10 Calls to Action to natural scientists working in Canada

Carmen Wong^a, Kate Ballegoyen^b, Lawrence Ignace^c, Mary Jane (Gúdia) Johnson^d, and Heidi Swanson^e

^aKluane National Park and Reserve, Parks Canada, 205 300 Main Street, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2B5, Canada; ^bKluane First Nation, P.O. Box 20, Burwash Landing, YT Y0B 1Y0, Canada; ^cLac des Mille Lacs First Nation, 14 Boswell Crescent, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4T3, Canada; ^dDepartment of Biology, University of Waterloo, 200 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, Canada

- Take course and learn more about Indigenous history and rights across Canada
- Research Ethics or how we conduct research and conservation
- Learn about and operationalize OCAP[®], FPIC, and UNDRIP to address research priorities held by communities
- Work with funders to support research with and by Indigenous Peoples
- Member of the Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership
<https://conservation-reconciliation.ca/>





Key Biodiversity Areas in Canada – recognition of places with remarkable natural values

CIER Indigenous KBA workshop, April 17 and 18, 2023



Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Sites that contribute
significantly to the
persistence of biodiversity

How can the identification of KBAs be useful?

- **KBAs are sites where there is a risk of plants, animals and whole ecosystems being lost forever if something happened to the place**
- International recognition of these places can help draw attention to how special they are, can attract funding, new stewardship ideas, recognition of ongoing care for land and waters
- Can be used to strengthen Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) proposals or be added to management plans for lands and waters
- Could feed into plans for monitoring lands, e.g. through Guardians programs



Some facts about KBAs

- An information layer: no management prescription, no impact on access to land; can feed into any conservation or planning decisions
- Not negotiated, site meets scientific criteria or it doesn't
- Process of identifying KBAs is regionally focused
- KBA data and information will be publicly available on KBA website. Social and cultural information will not be made public (unless there is a desire to make it)
- Collaborative process used to identify KBAs – everyone is welcome to participate and contribute information



Potential relevance to Indigenous conservation goals

- KBA information can be used in any way that is useful
- All forms of knowledge are appropriate for KBA assessments
- KBAs may or may not align with other values that communities hold about their environment
 - KBAs are just one indicator of biodiversity, and conservation decisions need to be made with the knowledge of multiple values associated with landscapes.



Key Biodiversity Area Standard(s)




A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas

Version 1.0

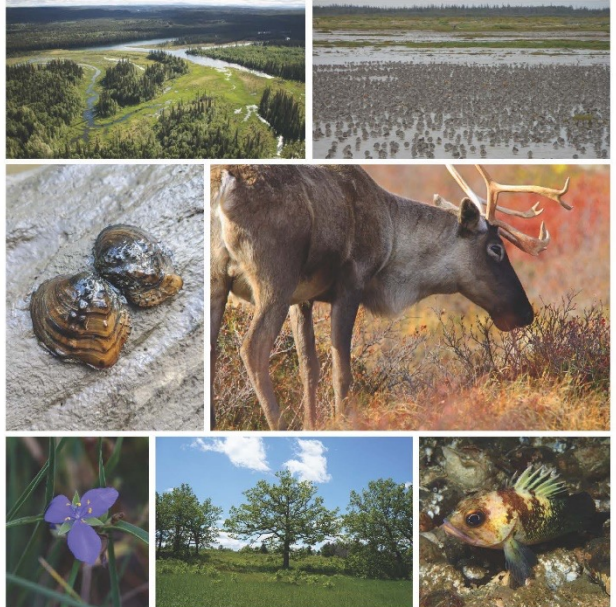


A collage of five images representing global biodiversity: a vibrant coral reef, a rhinoceros, a mountain valley, a bird perched on a rock, and a butterfly on a leaf.



A National Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas in Canada

Version 1.0



A collage of seven images representing Canadian biodiversity: a river landscape, a wetland, oysters, a moose, a purple flower, a forest, and a fish.

Threatened species



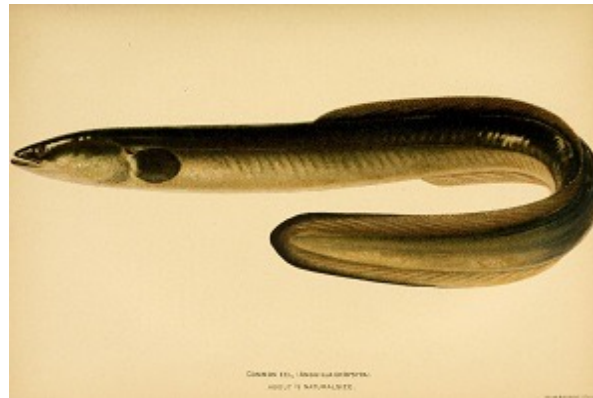
Polar bear
Vulnerable (IUCN)



American ginseng
Endangered (COSEWIC)



Northern fur seal
Vulnerable (IUCN)



American eel
Endangered (IUCN)

Threatened ecosystems



Rare and unique species and ecosystems



Draba bruce-bennettii

Photo credit: Bruce Bennett



Alvar near Singing Sands Beach, Bruce County, Ontario

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Places with animals & plants that exist nowhere else



Haida Gwaii

Creative commons global license



Sable Island

Photo credit: Robert Short, CBC

Places where species gather in enormous numbers



spawning

Places where species gather in enormous numbers



migration, feeding

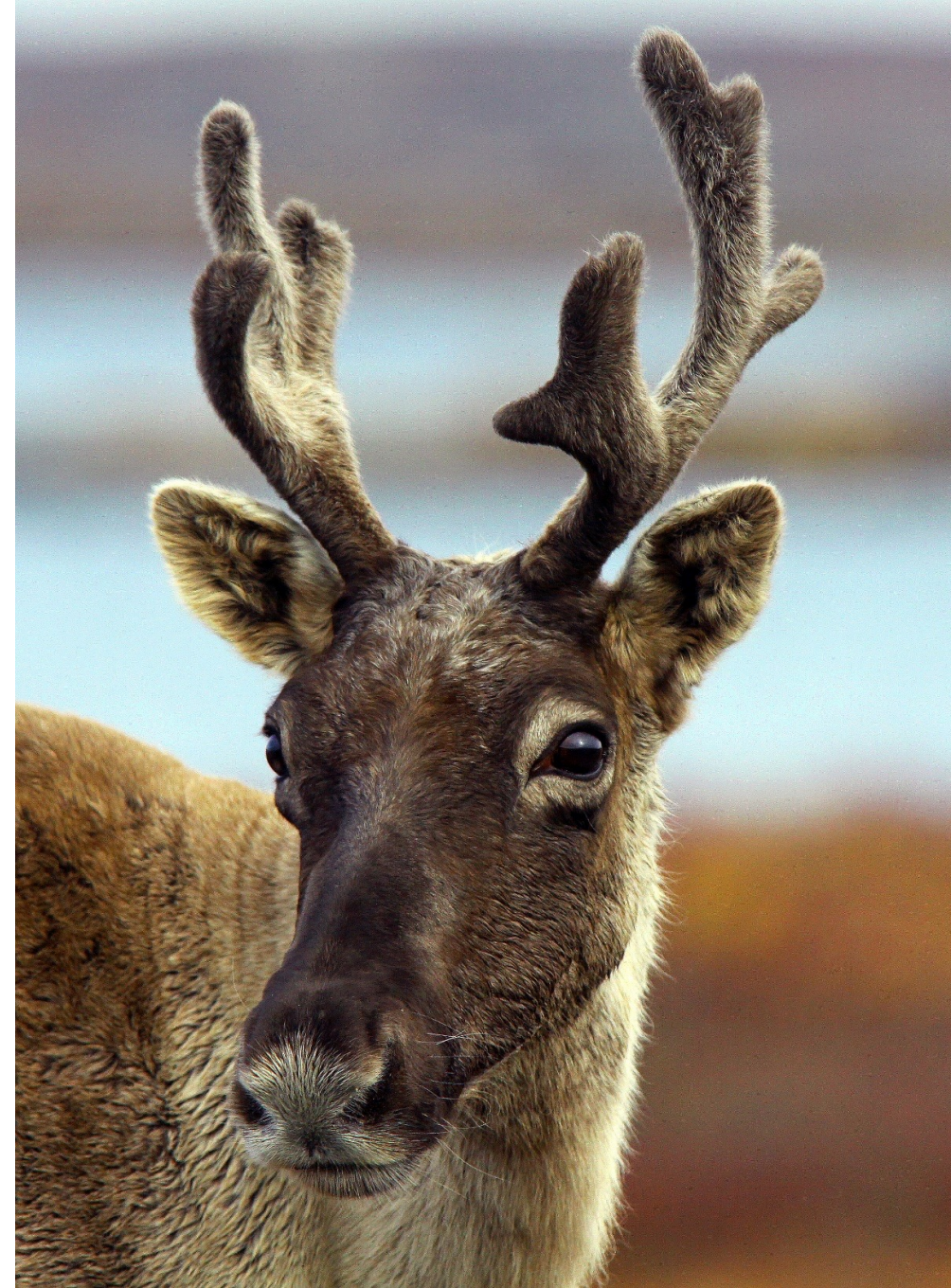
Snow Geese, Baie-du-Febvre, Québec

Photo: Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne

Why Identify KBAs?

- ❖ Biodiversity is in decline
- ❖ Site-scale conservation shown to be effective in conserving nature

→ KBAs seen as a **scientifically robust, credible** tool that include **all species and ecosystems** and could inform range of **conservation decisions and actions**



Governance & Participation



Canadian KBA Coalition



Canadian KBA Community

- ❖ Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Indigenous governments
- ❖ Experts (knowledge holders, academic partners, etc.)
- ❖ Users of information

Steering Committee

KBA Secretariat for Canada



Process

- Exploratory work by regional coordinators to see where KBAs might be, based on available data and advice
- Where KBA are identified as likely, coordinators reach out to knowledge holders for information to delineate sites, provide evidence for criteria being met
- KBA proposals are then reviewed by additional knowledge holders, rights holders and stakeholders
- Work is slow and detailed, everyone is invited to participate, although we don't always know who to reach out to for input

Indigenous involvement to date

- Letters, phone calls, outreach sessions, to communities and Indigenous Nations to build awareness of KBA work
- For each KBA:
 - Invitation to learn about KBA work, how info could be used, and participate in proposal development
 - Sharing knowledge/advice can include:
 - where animals or plants are
 - Where sites should begin and end
 - Whether sites should include or avoid special places
 - Describing what's important about the place
 - Reviewing KBA proposals
- National or regional advice is also important to shape the initiative

Indigenous involvement to date



- Participation in developing Terms of Reference for national KBA initiative
- Consultation on the risks and opportunities of criteria-based identification of areas important for biodiversity from Indigenous point of view
- Exploration of relationship between KBAs and Biocultural values, with Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership
- Presentation to First Nations Advisory Committee on Species at Risk
- Expert advice from communities where KBAs are located (e.g. Yukon)
- Two national workshops in spring 2022 for Indigenous communities, and regional MB/SK workshop in 2023 (co-hosted with CIER)

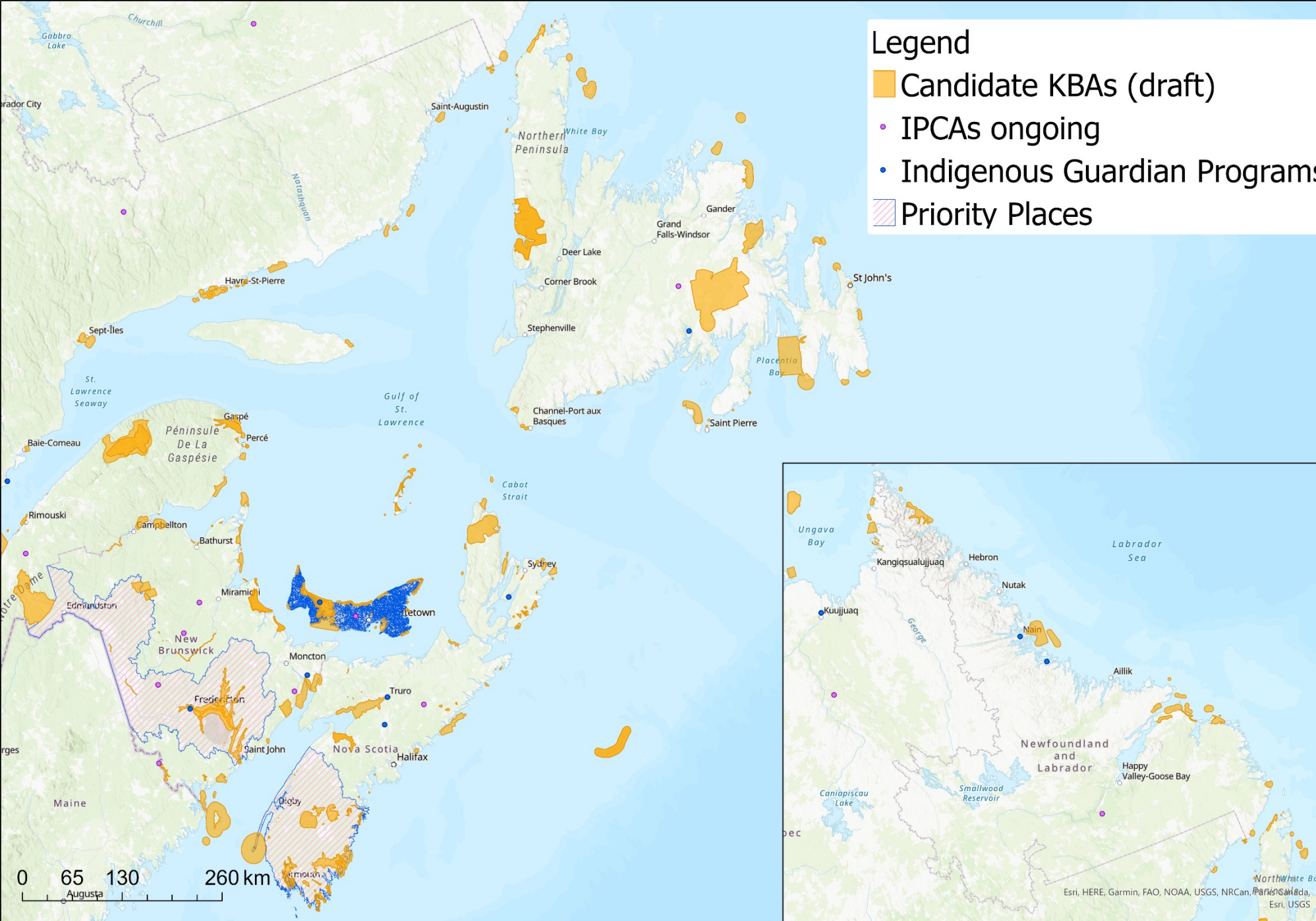
Lessons learned and models for collaboration

- **Keys for approaching collaborations:**
 - Reach out around every site, as early as possible
 - Proper outreach requires appropriate capacity
 - Need to keep timelines and processes flexible
 - Providing honoraria to compensate participation
 - Align with existing processes where possible
 - Work with regional groups and liaisons to ensure that collaboration is being approached in the most appropriate way in every region
- **Model examples of collaboration:**
 - Engaging Yaq̓it ᑭa·knuq̓i'it (Tobacco Plains) First Nation while identifying a new KBA in their territory
 - Supporting First Nations monitoring and surveying of birds and other species in coastal B.C. and Ontario



Legend

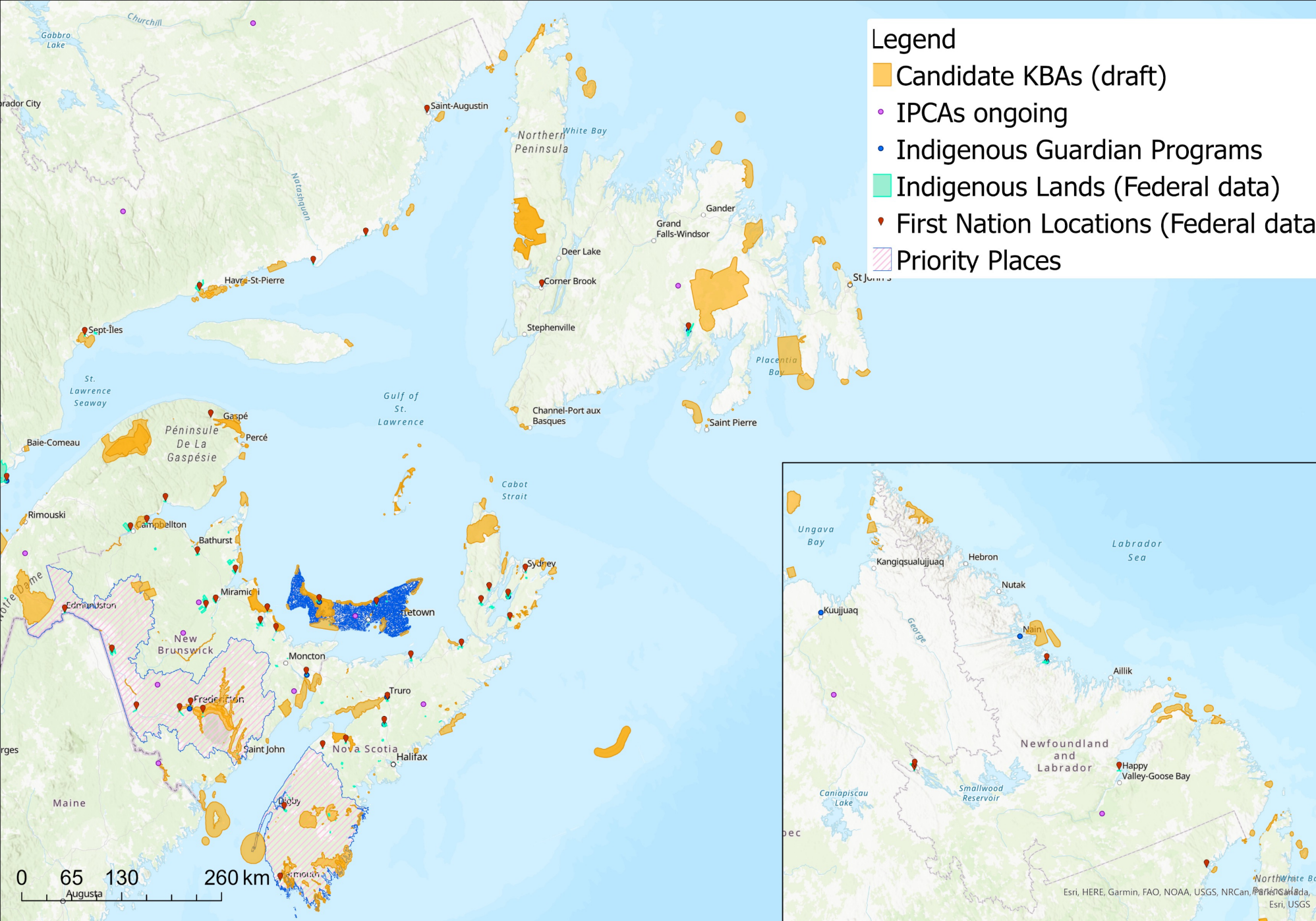
- Candidate KBAs (draft)
- IPCAs ongoing
- Indigenous Guardian Programs
- Priority Places



KBA boundaries are all drafts and subject to change. Contact psoroye@wcs.org with any questions.

Legend

- Candidate KBAs (draft)
- IPCAs ongoing
- Indigenous Guardian Programs
- Indigenous Lands (Federal data)
- First Nation Locations (Federal data)
- Priority Places



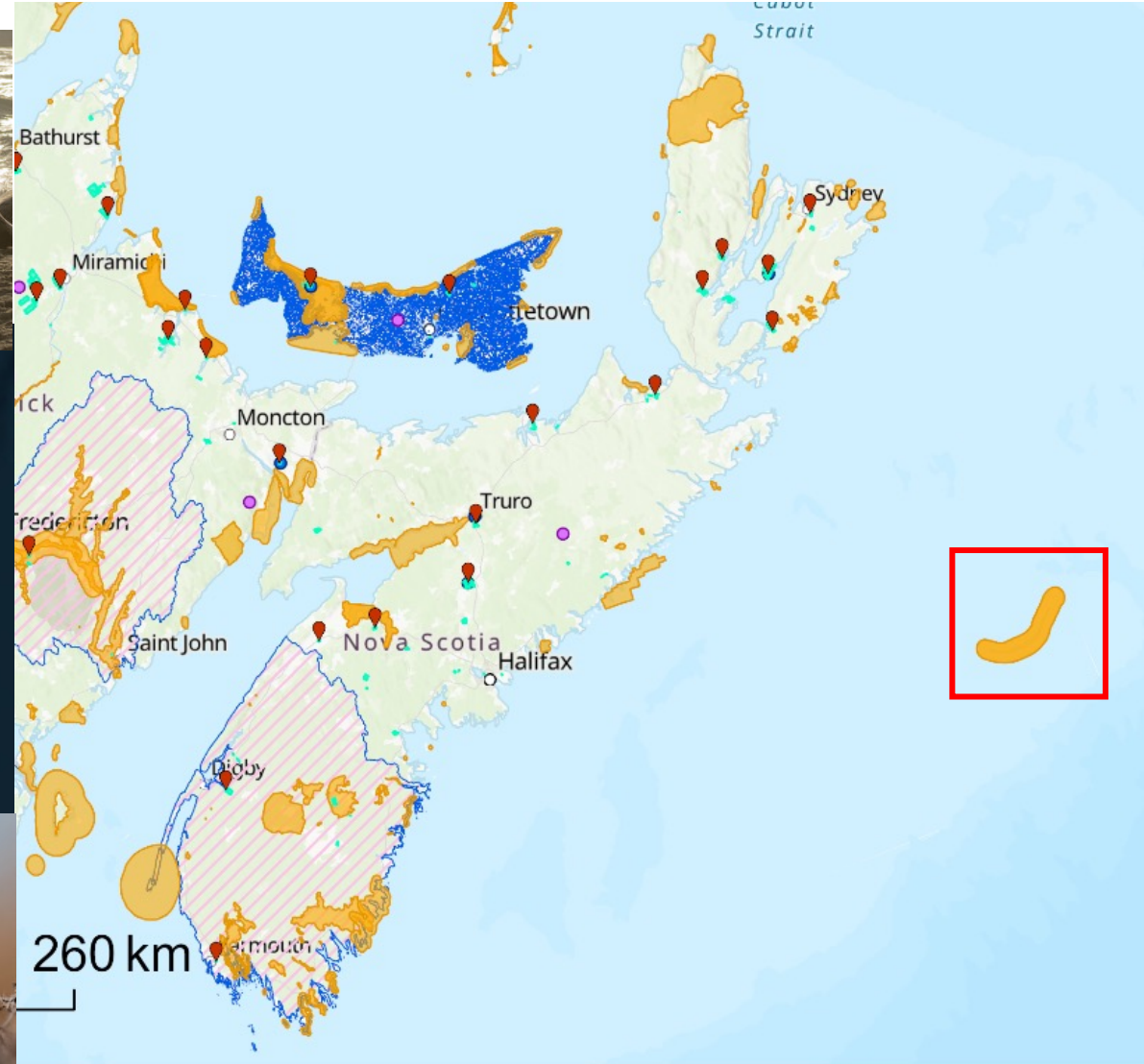
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Example of candidate KBAs: Nova Scotia

Sable Island National Park Reserve KBA



Sable Island National Park and Historic Site KBA (draft)

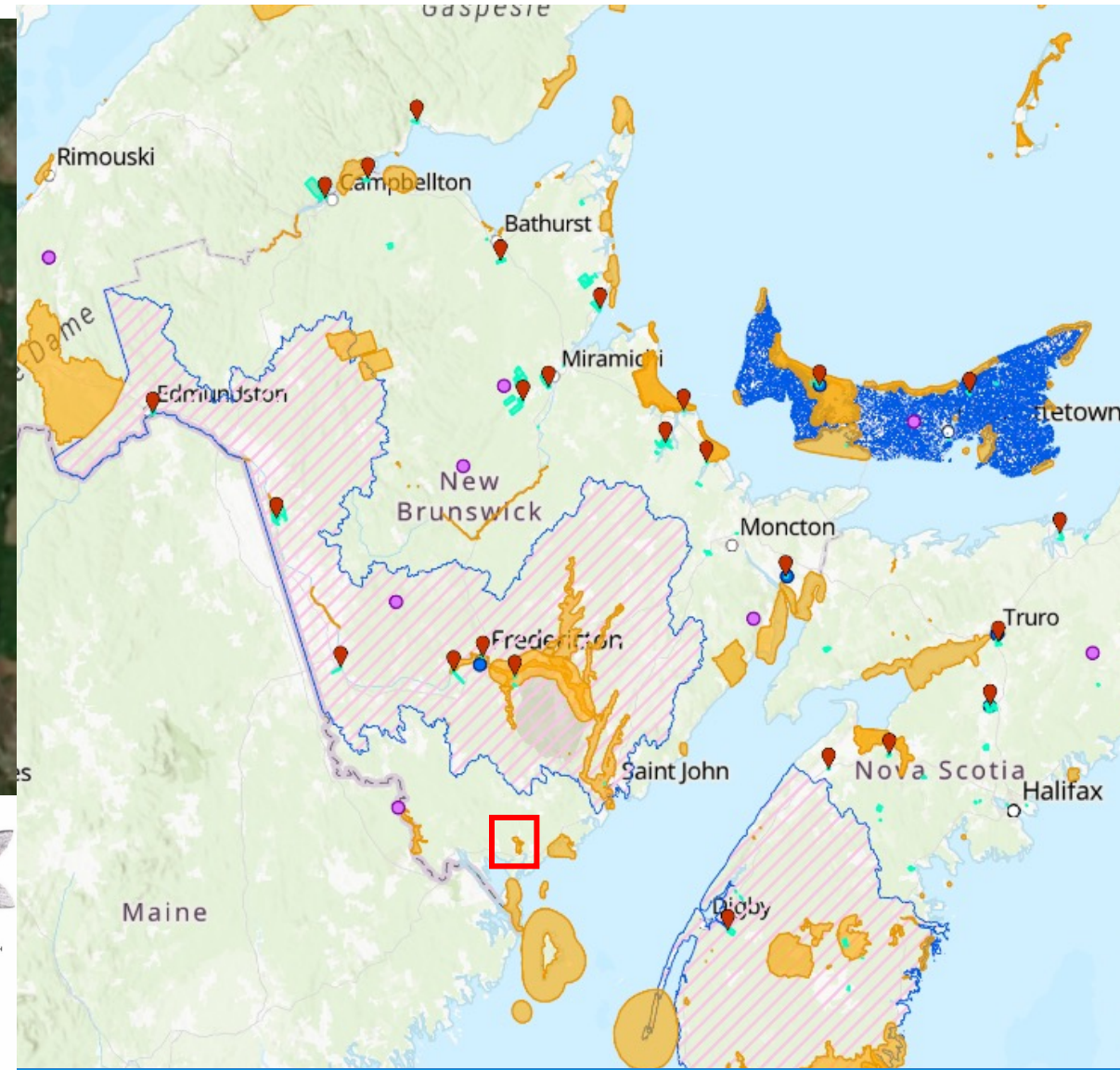
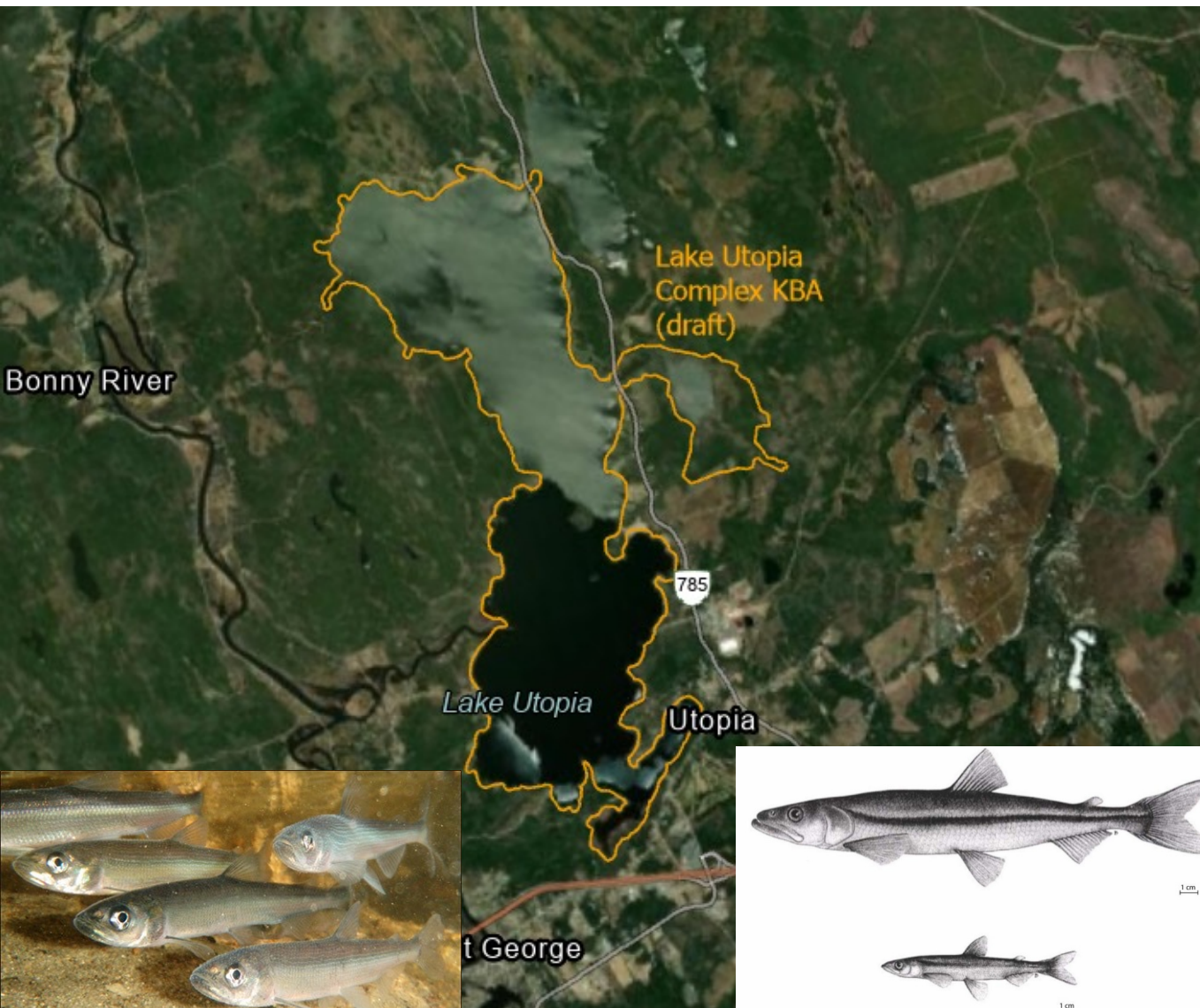


KBA boundaries are all draft

Example of candidate KBAs: New Brunswick



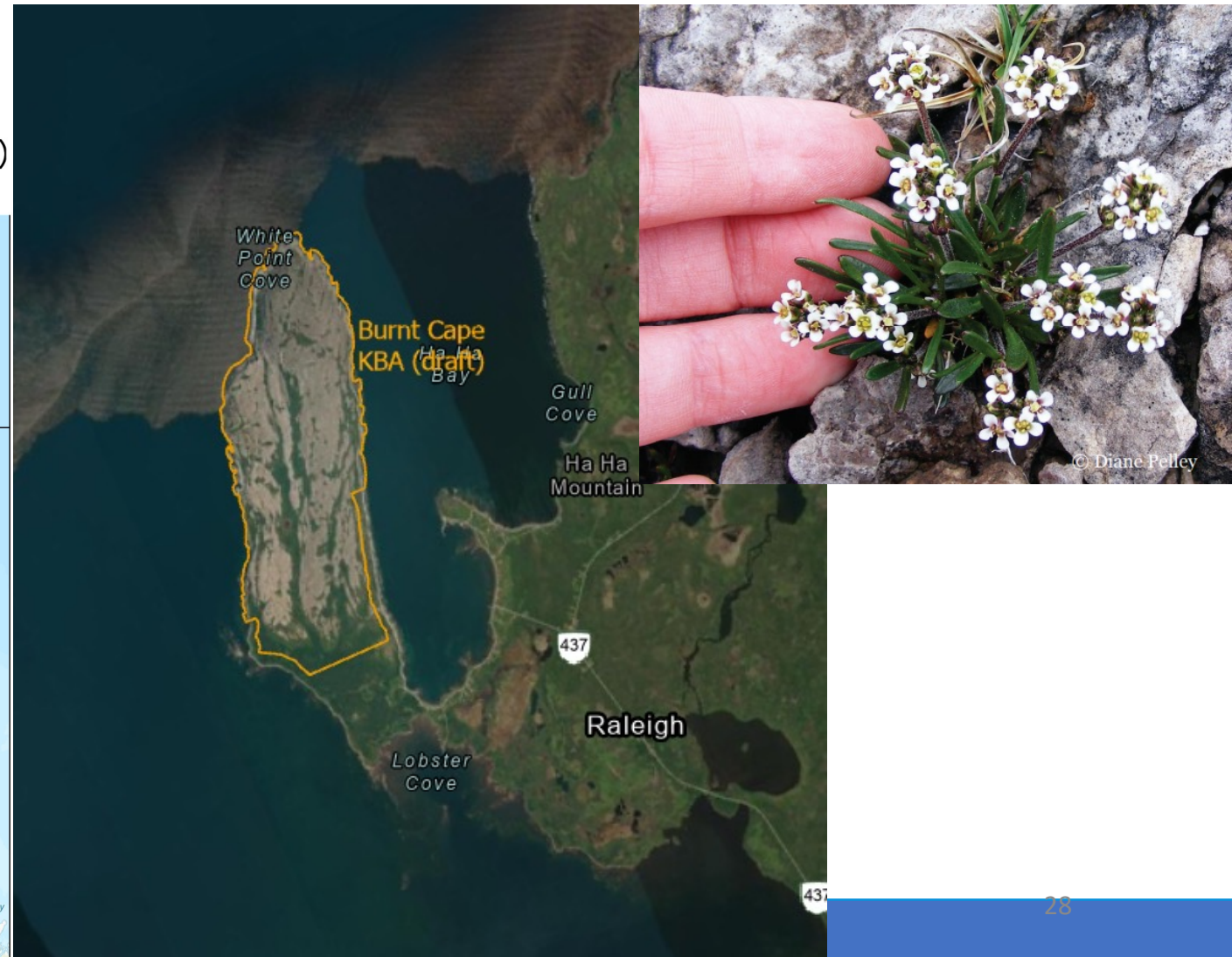
Lake Utopia Complex KBA



Example of candidate KBAs: Newfoundland and Labrador



Burnt Cape KBA



Visit our website for more information and to get
involved
KBACanada.org



@KBACanada



Q&A and open discussion

- Any questions about KBAs?
- What do you like about the KBA approach?
- What is challenging about the KBA approach?



Discussion Questions – Break out 1

- How do you think the plants, animals, places, and relationships you have across your homelands need to be taken care of? What are some of the ways that your community is doing this already thinking or about doing this?
- Looking at the draft KBA map, do you see any overlaps with KBAs and places that are important to your community or Nation?
- Are there places that you think are very important for the conservation of nature but that don't show up as KBAs on the map?

Discussion Questions – Break out 2

- What more would you like to know about KBAs?
- How might you like to be included in identifying KBAs across your homelands?
- What advice would you like to share with the KBA program leads about being involved?