CONSERVING NATURAL AREAS ON PRIVATE LANDS: AN ESSENTIAL COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT

GENERATING SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS, EVERY DAY

$678.3 M

Value of ecosystem services produced annually by conserved natural areas on private land
→ **$7,953 per hectare per year**

85 285 ha

Number of hectares of natural habitats conserved to date by private-land conservation organizations in Quebec.

No human-made infrastructure can provide the same services as efficiently and at the same price

$22.6 B

Estimated value of these conserved areas, considered as an asset with perpetual income.

$26.4 B

Value of carbon stored in these natural areas.

SIGNIFICANT MULTIPLIER EFFECTS

70x

The value of carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services provided per protected hectare ($265,000) is 70 times the average acquisition cost per hectare ($3,783).

$2.40

in additional funding raised for every dollar of public funding in conservation.

CONSERVING NATURE BOOSTS THE ECONOMY OF QUEBEC AND ITS REGIONS

$12.7 M

in tax and quasi-tax revenue generated.

$48.4 M

in value added to the Quebec's economy.

78.7 %

of economic activity remains in Quebec.

1.92

Value-added ratio: conservation ranks third out of 10 secteurs compared, ahead of oil, mining, and forestry.

640.5

Number of jobs supported by private conservation organizations in 2025, both within the organizations themselves and throughout the supply chain.

THESE NUMBERS ONLY BEGIN TO TELL THE STORY.

These estimates are conservative and capture only part of the value. Lack of comparable data in scientific literature limited us from capturing the full range of benefits that conserved natural areas provide to the people of Quebec.

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES INCLUDED IN THE ANALYSIS

- Water supply
- Erosion control
- Air quality
- Conservation of habitats that support biodiversity
- Pollutant removal
- Nutrient cycling
- Flood prevention
- Regulation of local temperatures
- Recreational services
- Carbon sequestration and storage

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY NATURE THAT COULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE ESTIMATE

- Pollination and its contribution to Quebec's food resilience
- Municipal and community adaptation to climate change
- Multiple benefits for human health, both physical and mental
- Attractiveness of greener economic sectors
- Heritage value of landscapes
- Potential for future scientific discoveries and applications
- Cultural identity and the ability to exercise customary rights
- Legacy for future generations

CONSERVING NATURE, CULTIVATING PROSPERITY

↗ READ THE PRESS RELEASE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (FULL REPORT IN FRENCH ONLY)

INVESTING IN PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION ALSO MEANS...

INVESTING IN COLLECTIVE WEALTH

Protected natural areas on private land generate nearly $700 million a year in services provided to communities. This is tangible wealth that benefits the people of Quebec.

CREATING A HIGH ECONOMIC RIPPLE EFFECT

The value-added ratio shows that the private land conservation sector is comparable to the construction sector and even exceeds those of the mining and oil sectors.

STRENGTHENING OUR REGIONS AND OUR ECONOMY

Conservation efforts support jobs, local suppliers, and regional development.

Nearly 80% of the economic activity generated remains in Quebec. That's money working in our communities, for our communities.

LEVERAGING NATURAL ALLIES

Forests, wetlands, and other natural habitats help control flooding, filter water, and store carbon. By protecting them, we reduce the strain on infrastructure and better prepare our communities for climate change.

A coalition of eight organizations and groups of organizations working in the field of nature conservation on private lands has retained the firm Delorme Lajoie Consultation to:

- measure the sector's influence on the Quebec's economy;
- estimate the value of certain services provided by the collective of conserved lands;
- identify other social and economic outcomes that fall beyond traditional analyses.

ABOUT DELORME LAJOIE CONSULTATION

Delorme Lajoie Consultation (DLC) is a boutique economic consulting firm driven by deep-seated values focused on environmental protection and the reduction of socioeconomic inequalities. The firm was born out of a desire to transform consulting practices by aligning them with contemporary challenges: the ecological transition, social justice, public innovation, and collective well-being. It has grown through strategic projects and applied research, emphasizing scientific rigor, tangible impact, and human collaboration.

ABOUT NATURE CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LANDS

This is a form of biodiversity conservation carried out on properties that are not state-owned, through the voluntary commitment of landowners or other stakeholders, and aimed at maintaining, restoring, or managing natural functions, elements, and processes in the public interest. The ROCQ has 70 member organizations engaged in this type of nature conservation, primarily in southern Quebec—where biodiversity is greatest—and near the province's most densely populated areas.

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INVESTING IN PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION, IS A WIN FOR EVERYONE!

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS BEHIND THE STUDY

Nature-Action Québec, Héritage Saint-Bernard, Appalachian Corridor, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada, le Regroupement des organismes de conservation du Québec, la Fondation de la biodiversité et de la faune du Québec and the Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts are behind the mandate.