

Integrating Biodiversity in EIA in Quebec

Lessons from experience

by

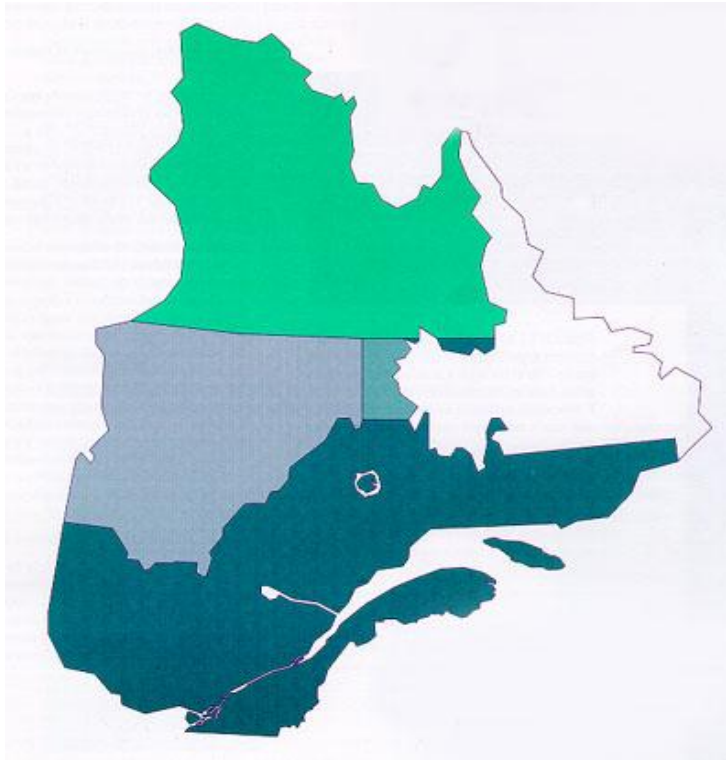
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Workshop on economy, society and biodiversity – From dependence to opportunities. *Strategies and tools for the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services. December 7, 2011.*

Environmental Protection Regimes in Quebec



-  Territoire soumis à la CBJNQ (nord du 55° parallèle)
-  Territoire soumis à la CBJNQ (sud du 55° parallèle)
-  Région de Moinier
-  Territoire régi par le ch. I de la Loi sur la qualité de l'environnement

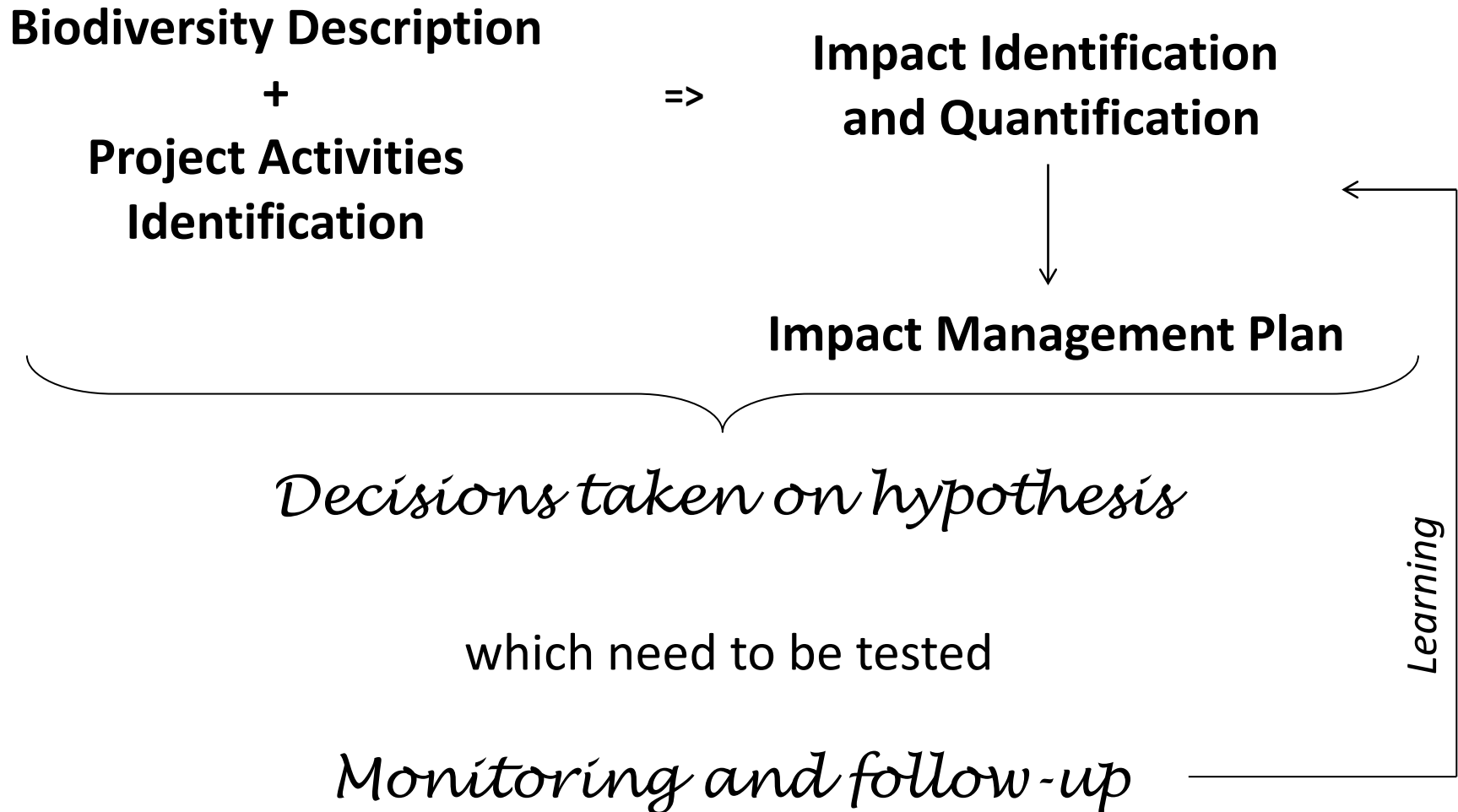
EIA – A scientific exercise within a socio-political context and a decision-taking process

Biodiversity, one of the issues

Biodiversity Assessment Process within EIA Procedure



EIA is a sum of hypothesis



Biodiversity in EIA

- Description of ecosystems and habitats
- List of taxa (plants and animals)
- Population estimations and other informations
 - Spatial and seasonal variability
- Behavioural studies
- Emphasis
 - Rare, fragile or protected ecosystems
 - Species at risk

Lessons from experience

- **Dispersion or loss of taxonomic information**
 - Lack of confidence on identifications
 - Loss of specimens and samplings for validation
 - Loss of data from surveys
 - *Need for a compulsory deposit of both specimens and data*
- Representativeness of the descriptions of populations, communities and ecosystems
- Ownership of knowledge

Lessons from experience

- Dispersion or loss of taxonomic information
- **Representativeness of the descriptions of populations, communities and ecosystems**
 - Relevant emphasis on species and ecosystems at risk
 - Sub-optimal allocation of resources
 - Sampling strategies frequently criticized
 - *Need more guidelines and more control from the administration*
- Ownership of knowledge

Lessons from experience

- Dispersion or loss of taxonomic information
- Representativeness of the descriptions of populations, communities and ecosystems
- **Ownership of knowledge**
 - Data and specimens collected owned by the project proponents
 - Monitoring and follow-up report are also owned by proponents and are confidential documents
 - *Need to require from developers to make public follow-up reports as well as data and specimens*

Conclusion

- Biodiversity is a real issue recognized by the Quebec Sustainable Development Law and considered in EIA.
- We have developed a good expertise after more than 30 years of conducting EIA.
- We need to improve the practice of EIA to best meet the requirements of science
 - the specimens and data should be available for taxonomic expertise
 - inventories should be representative in time and space within the limits of the resources available, and
 - information should be best managed, public and accessible.

We need to best manage knowledge to improve learning