



Investing in Nunavut's Blue Conservation Economy

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What is the Blue Conservation Economy?



Income is generated from activities that protect and repair rather than deplete natural resources.

To promote this type of development, land-based activities need to be supported, which include:

- Tourism and recreation
- Country food harvesting
- Inuit Guardians programs
- Arts and culture
- Research and monitoring programs
- Integrated marine spatial planning

Conservation Economies in Nunavut



Credit: Erin Keenan

Inuit have practiced conservation economies for thousands of years

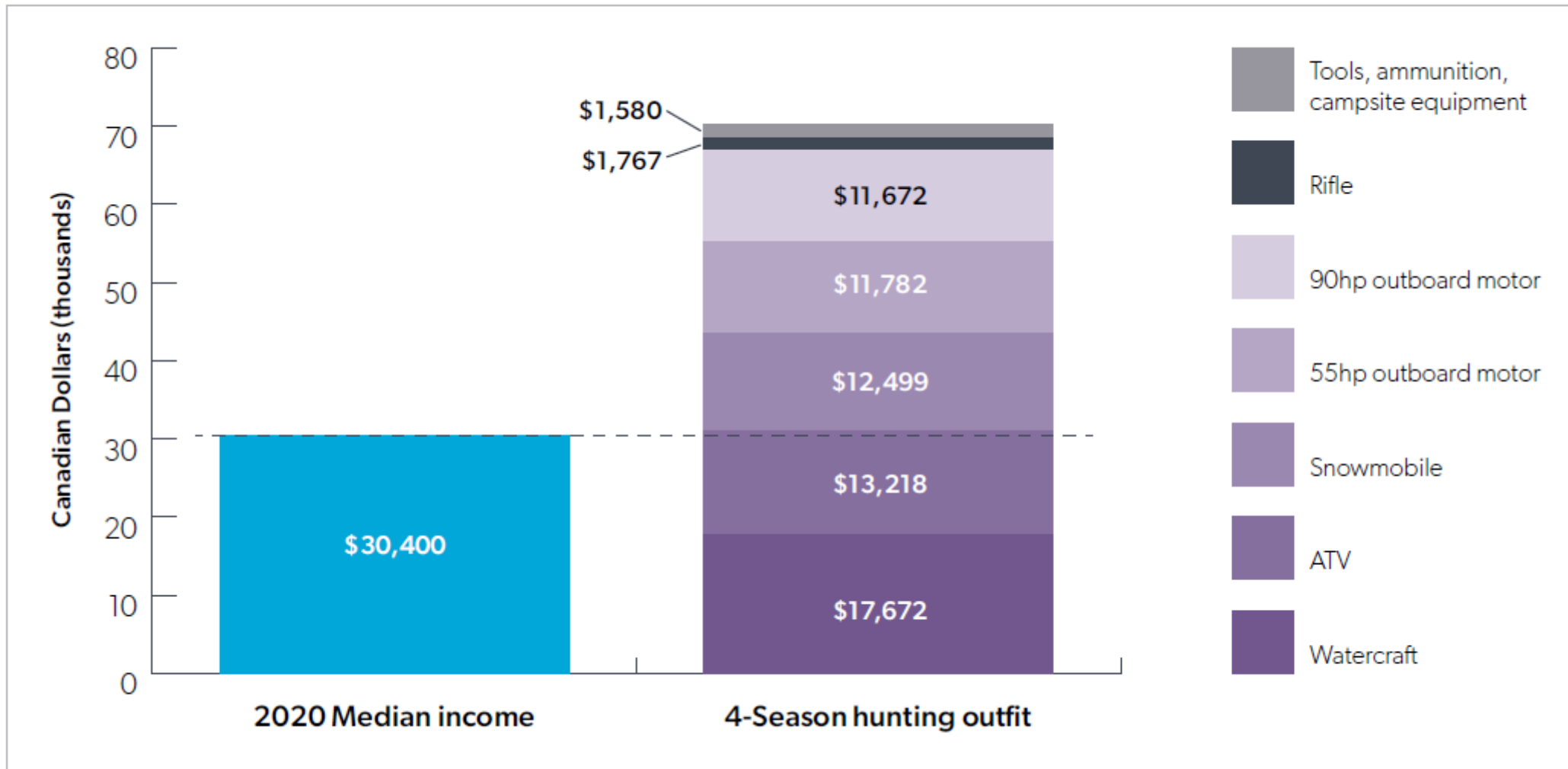
Land based and traditional activities are key to Inuit livelihoods

A natural resource extraction-based economy does not present the same co-benefits as conservation, land-based economies

Cost breakdown for year-round hunting in Nunavut



Figure 1: Cost breakdown of a four-season hunting kit in Nunavut



Source: StatsCan & Action Canada Foundation

A blue conservation economy and area-based conservation



- Since 2018, the Canadian government has committed \$1.35 billion in Indigenous-led conservation efforts in Canada
- Nunavut's country food economy is valued at more than \$200 million a year
- Guardians programs in Taloyoak and in communities around Tallurutiup Imanga are already estimated to have generated a return on investment of \$27 million.



Co-benefits of conservation-based economies



Photo: Smart Prosperity Institute

Facilitating transmission of Inuit knowledge, culture, and language

Improving community cohesion and social infrastructure

Promoting youth participation and elder engagement

Improving physical health outcomes

Improving mental health outcomes

Where do we need to invest?



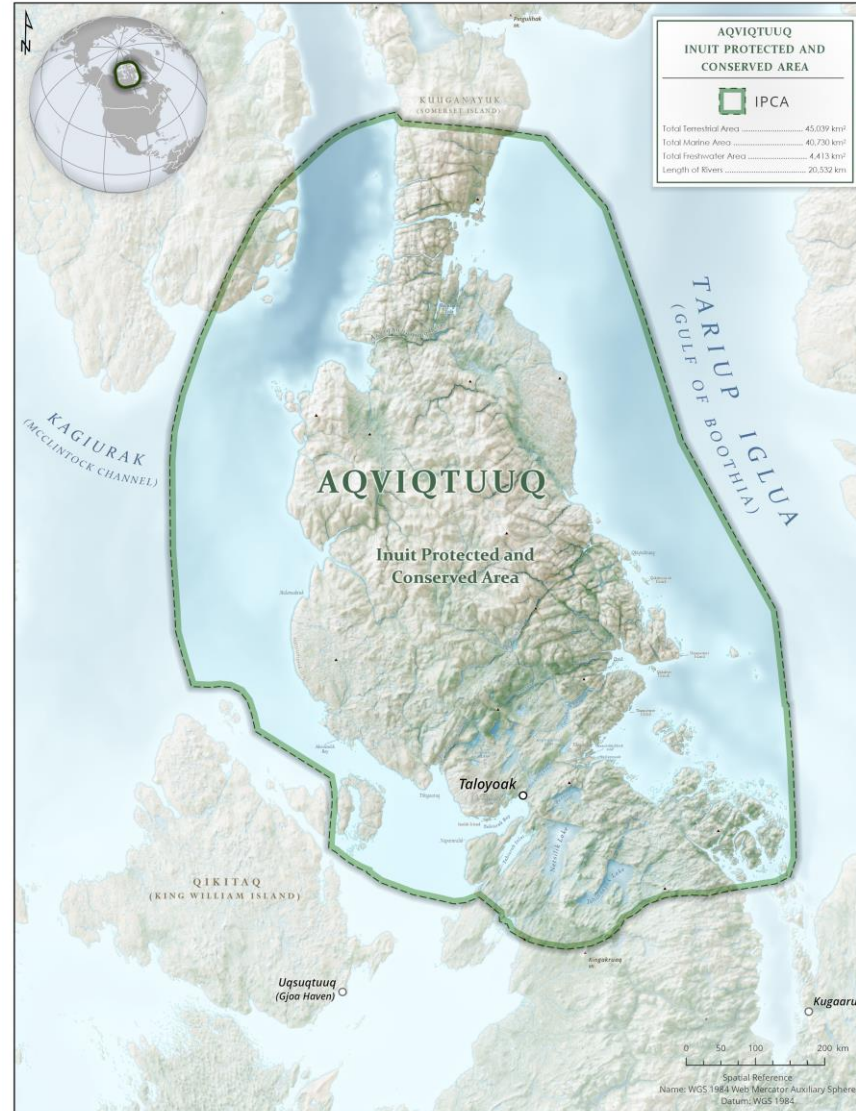
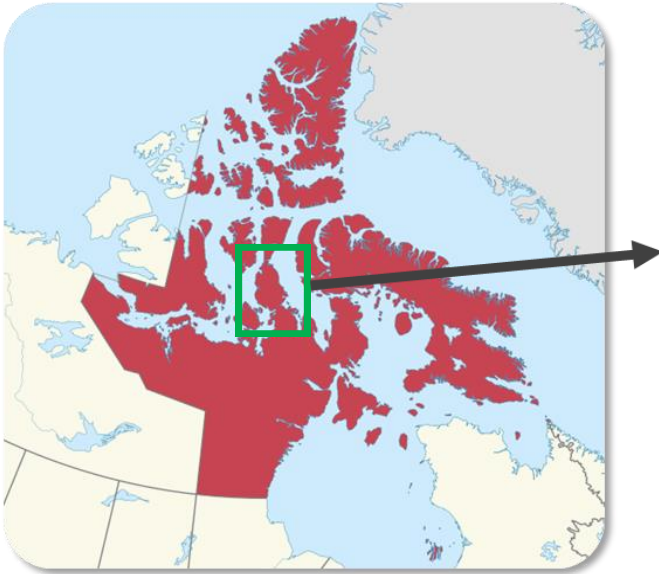
Conservation-based activity	Economic impact	Community benefits	Investment needs	Contribution to conservation economy*
Country food harvesting	\$200 million per year generated by Nunavut's country food system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New hunting, processing, and administrative job opportunities • Better access to nutritious food and reduced reliance on food subsidies • Positive impact on food sovereignty and community self-determination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More processing facilities to prepare and distribute country food • Improving capacities of local hunters through equipment and supplies • Adjusting government policies to promote hunting, harvesting, and exporting of country food 	
Inuit Guardians	\$29 million generated by Inuit Guardians in Aviqtuuq, Tallurutiup Imanga, and Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating jobs for local hunters • Enhancing community stewardship of key land water resources • Improving local food security through harvesting • Role models for youth to engage in hunting and stewardship of traditional land • Facilitating transmission of traditional knowledge from Elders to youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating programs for community members to gain training and education from more experienced individuals • Equipment such as snowmobiles, ATVs, and other tools needed for environmental monitoring • Indoor space such as garages to service equipment and hunting and fishing cabins to support stewardship activities • Training and tools to improve ecological data collection capacity 	
Tourism and recreation	\$96 million generated from Nunavut visitors travelling for holiday, leisure, or recreation (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating local job opportunities and diversifying the local economy • Reinforcing Inuit language and culture • Encouraging greater youth engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More training and certification programs (e.g., big game guide certification, wilderness first aid, cruise preparedness workshops) • Greater coordination with local Inuit communities looking to participate in regional tourism • More infrastructure and additional facilities (e.g., small marine vessel docks, hunting and fishing cabins, and tourism centres) 	

A blue economy and area-based conservation



Photo: Erin Keenan

Case Study: Aqviqtuuq Inuit Protected and Conserved Area



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Aqviqtuuq

Inuit Protected and Conserved Area

45,039 km² Terrestrial Area
0.44% of Canada's terrestrial area

Including
4,413 km² Freshwater Area

40,730 km² Marine Area
0.70% of Canada's marine area

Aqviqtuuq Conservation Economy: Inuit Guardians program (\$12 million in co-benefits)

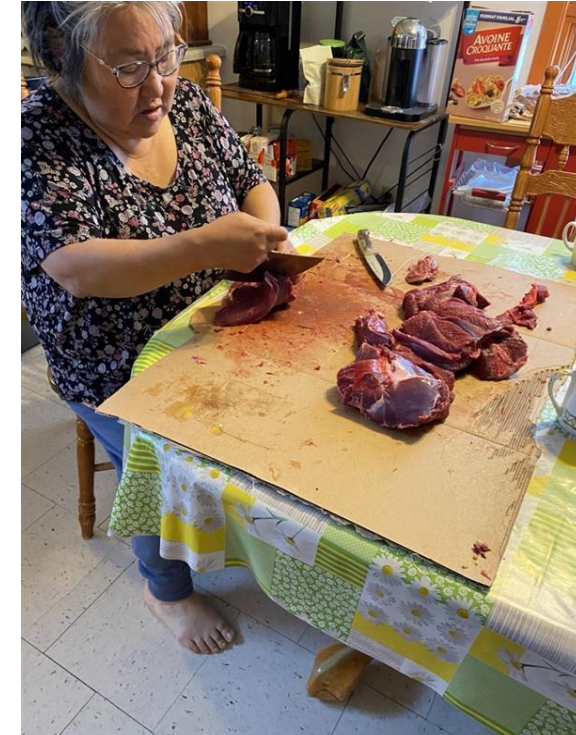


Photo: Emina Ida

Aqviqtuuq Conservation Economy: Niqahaqut (country food economy - \$6.6 million)



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Niqahaqut



Aqviqtuuq Conservation Economy: Textiles and clothing




“Traditional practice is that when you harvest something you use everything.”

Aqviqtuuq Conservation Economy: Tourism (potential value of \$382,000 locally)



Photo: Emina Ida

What's next?



SEPTMBER 2023

Inuit-led Economic Development

An Overview of Nunavut's Blue Conservation Economy



SEPTMBER 2023

Conservation Economies in Nunavut

Aviqtuuq Case Study



Thank you!



Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement
économique du Nord



**Smart Prosperity
Institute**

Taloyoak Umaluririgut Association



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