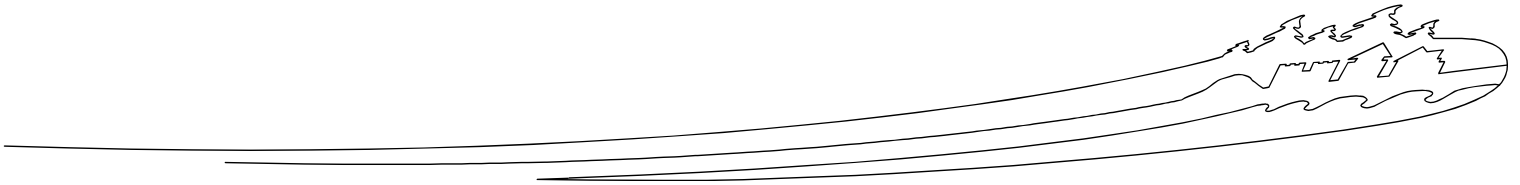




Parks
Canada

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Canada



Aulavik National Park of Canada


Draft Management Plan
for Consultation

May 2011

Help us review and refine the vision, strategies, objectives and actions that will guide us to protect this great park, connect visitors and Canadians with nature and our history, and engage Inuvialuit, the public, stakeholders and partners wherever they might be. Consultation begins June 6, 2011. Please submit your comments before *July 11, 2011*, so that they can be considered to complete the management plan and submit it for approval. For your convenience, we have provided a comment form (available on request or from the website – see next page) that you can use to share your views and opinions with us.

Canada

Where are we now in the Aulavik planning process?

Stage	Focus	Status
STAGE 1 Fall 2010 - Winter 2011	Consultation on the building blocks for the new plan	COMPLETED <i>January 31, 2011</i>
STAGE 2 Winter- Summer 2011	Incorporate what we heard and draft the management plan. Consultation on the draft plan starting in summer 2011	WE ARE HERE NOW 
STAGE 3 Summer - Fall+ 2011	Incorporate what we heard and finalize management plan over the summer. Starting in the fall, the final plan will be submitted for recommendation by the Inuvialuit and Parks Canada's Chief Executive Officer. Then it will be sent to the Federal Minister of the Environment responsible for Parks Canada for approval prior to being tabled in Parliament.	

For more Information

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Aussi disponible en français.

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1.0 Introduction

“The National Parks of Canada are hereby dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment and shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for future generations” (*Canada National Parks Act*).

Parks Canada is responsible to the people and Parliament of Canada for administering a world-renowned system of national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas. Canada’s national parks are established to protect, for all time, special places representative of Canada’s natural regions, and to connect Canadians with the enduring natural and cultural legacy of these places. The *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998), *Canada National Parks Act* (2000) and Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies (1994) set the context for this responsibility.

Under the *Canada National Parks Act*, management plans are required for national parks. A management plan is a strategic document that guides Parks Canada decisions and actions in protecting, managing and operating a particular national park. A plan is developed with the involvement of the Canadian public and is reviewed within five years to ensure it remains relevant and effective.

This is the second management plan for Aulavik National Park of Canada (hereafter Aulavik). Located on Banks Island, Northwest Territories, Aulavik was established in 1992 through the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984) and the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claim Settlement Act* (1984) (Figure 1). The park is cooperatively managed by Parks Canada and Inuvialuit as per the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and An Agreement for the Establishment of a National Park on Banks Island (1992).

This plan builds on Aulavik’s 2002 management plan and aims to fulfill Parks Canada’s vision for all national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas, “Canada’s treasured natural and historic places will be a living legacy, connecting hearts and minds to a stronger, deeper understanding of the very essence of Canada”.



CAMPING BY THE THOMSEN RIVER, AULAVIK / J-F. BISAILLON (PARKS CANADA)

Developed in consultation with Inuvialuit, stakeholders, the Canadian public and park staff, this management plan provides a clear identity and management direction for Aulavik through the park vision, focussed strategies, measurable objectives and achievable actions. All three mandate elements of Parks Canada – conserving heritage resources, facilitating visitor experiences, and fostering public appreciation and understanding, are represented in this plan.

The focus of the management plan is to:

- Enhance visitor opportunities in Aulavik and link them to potential visitor opportunities on Banks Island, contributing to a broader tourism offer on the island to the benefit of Sachs Harbour;
- Manage and monitor for the maintenance of ecological integrity of Aulavik and the care of its cultural and palaeontological resources; and
- Significantly enhance the connection of Inuvialuit and all Canadians to the natural and cultural heritage of Aulavik.



FIGURE 1. REGIONAL SETTING, AULAVIK NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

2.0 The Significance of Aulavik to Canada and Inuvialuit Settlement Region

2.1 National Significance - Protecting and Presenting One of Canada's Natural Regions

Canada has thirty-nine distinct National Park Natural Regions based on land characteristics and vegetation (Parks Canada National Park System Plan 2004). The main principle of the national park system plan is to protect a representative sample of each of Canada's landscapes. In this system, Aulavik was created to protect more than 12,000 km² of the Western Arctic Lowlands and to encourage public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the park along with continued subsistence usage and trapping by Inuvialuit.

In Inuvialuktun Aulavik means “place where people travel”. More than twice the size of Prince Edward Island, Aulavik includes fertile river valleys, deserts, buttes and badlands, rolling hills, and a high Arctic seacoast. Aulavik and Banks Island are home to the endangered Peary caribou and the world's largest population of muskoxen. Arctic hare, fox, wolf, and lemming are common. Polar bear, ringed and bearded seal, beluga and bowhead whales are frequent along the coast. Colonies of Lesser Snow Geese and Black Brant nest here, as too do peregrine falcons and sandhill cranes. More than 150 species of flowering plants grow here during the brief, but intense summers of twenty-four hour sunlight. The Thomsen River, the northernmost navigable river in the world, is one of the most northerly, if not the most northerly, example of a multi-species fresh water fish community. This land and wildlife have supported Aboriginal peoples for more than 3400 years, from Pre-Dorset times to Inuvialuit today. Archaeological sites are numerous and easily spotted on the open treeless landscape.

Some of the oldest rock formations in Aulavik are 350 million years old. They represent a marine reef thought to have formed offshore of an ancient seacoast. Fossil life forms, such as gastropods, brachiopods, corals and crinoids are found in this ancient reef east of the Thomsen River.

Banks Island Bird Sanctuary #2 (Thomsen River) is located in Aulavik. It covers the Thomsen River from Castel Bay to a point sixty kilometres upstream. The sanctuary was established in 1961 under the administration of the Canadian Wildlife Service to protect the moulting grounds of Black Brant and Lesser Snow Geese. The Important Bird Area Program of Birdlife International categorizes the Thomsen River sanctuary as globally significant for its congregation of waterfowl species.

Aulavik offers exceptional opportunities for those who search for wilderness and an Arctic experience. Paddlers can take the long trip down the pristine, gentle flowing Thomsen River and explore the gentle rolling terrain of the Thomsen valley, where hiking is possible almost anywhere and at almost any time during the twenty-four hours of summer sun. Wildlife is a constant presence.

Aulavik is a very much a wilderness park. There are no facilities, campgrounds or developed trails. Chartering an aircraft from Inuvik is the most practical means of getting to and from the park. Because of the cost and physical challenges to visit Aulavik, visitation is low. In the eight summers from 1999 through 2009, 450 people visited Aulavik. Most came to paddle the Thomsen River. Visitors also hike, view wildlife, fish, and visit archaeological sites. Inuvialuit hunters and trappers, researchers and park staff are not counted as visitors.



AULAVIK / L. CARY (PARKS CANADA)

2.2 Importance to Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Aulavik is in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, which was established in 1984 through the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. The region spans 906,430 km² and takes in several sub-regions, one of which is the western Canadian Arctic Islands that includes Banks Island and Aulavik.

As Aulavik is co-operatively managed with Inuvialuit, Parks Canada works closely with the community of Sachs Harbour and the broader Inuvialuit community in the management of the park. Sachs Harbour is located on the southwestern shore of Banks Island, and is the closest community to the park and the only community on the island. As part of the co-operative management agreement, Inuvialuit retain the right to subsistence harvest within Aulavik. Travel to the north end of Banks Island is not frequent and this part of the island, including Aulavik, has been long regarded as a reservoir for sustaining regional wildlife populations.

Aulavik is within an area that the Sachs Harbour Community Conservation Plan (2008) has categorized as “lands and water where cultural or renewable resources are of extreme significance and sensitivity. There shall be no development on these areas. These lands and waters shall be managed to eliminate, to the greatest extent possible, potential damage and disruption”. The community of Sachs Harbour values the land and waters of Aulavik for:

- Peary caribou in their seasonal range;
- Concentration of muskoxen year-round;
- Spawning, nursing and overwintering habitat of the Thomsen and Muskox rivers for char and cisco;
- Subsistence fishing of trout, char and cisco in the summer and fall;
- Denning of arctic wolf;
- Numerous archaeological and cultural sites along the Thomsen River;
- Moulting area for Lesser Snow Geese; and
- Tourism on the Thomsen River.

“My great great grandparents lived there so I have lots of stories. Aulavik is a place of stories ... rivers, lakes, the coast, animals and birds ... everything you need to live.”
(Jean Harry, Inuvialuit Elder, Sachs Harbour)

3.0 Planning Context

3.1 Park Management History

Aulavik was established within the legislative framework of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984) and the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claim Settlement Act* (1984). Land for the park was identified in 1994 with An Agreement for the Establishment of a National Park on Banks Island (1992) between Inuvialuit, Government of the Northwest Territories and Government of Canada.

Initial management of Aulavik was directed by management guidelines prepared in 1995 (Parks Canada 1995). The first park management plan, approved in 2002, replaced these guidelines (Parks Canada 2002). That plan set out a strategy for the care and management of Aulavik as a wild, unspoiled Arctic wilderness with outstanding natural and cultural values. The plan also recognized the right of Inuvialuit for continued subsistence usage in the park, reflecting the importance of traditional users who value the land, and ensuring that the park remained an oasis of beauty as well as a model of conservation practices.

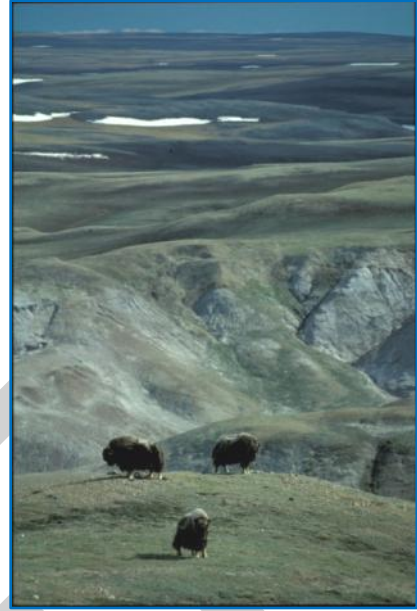
3.2 State of Aulavik National Park

The 2010 state of the park report for Aulavik (Parks Canada 2010) describes the condition of the park's ecological integrity, cultural resources and park visitor experiences, and reports on the completion of actions from the 2002 management plan. The 2010 report is a benchmark for evaluating the state of Aulavik in five years time. Summarized below are key points of the 2010 report.

Ecological Integrity

Ecological integrity for a national park is a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components, the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change, and processes. The condition is determined using indicators and measures that include information gained from monitoring and traditional knowledge.

Ecological monitoring in Aulavik has focused on the tundra and freshwater. The tundra ecosystem encompasses the majority of Aulavik and supports many species, including muskoxen and Peary caribou, which are important for subsistence harvesting. The freshwater ecosystem is an important ecological indicator to monitor because climate condition, potential mineral exploration and development, and the transport of contaminants can have a range of effects on this environment. Due to insufficient data to define thresholds for their respective measures, these indicators were not rated as to condition in the report. Nonetheless, the ecological health of Aulavik is seen as healthy at this time in its pristine Arctic wilderness state.



MUSKOX / J. MCCORMICK (PARKS CANADA)

Species at Risk

In February 2011, Peary caribou was added as an endangered species to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (2002). Endangered species face imminent extirpation or extinction. The Peary caribou population associated with Aulavik declined sharply between 1981 and 1991, but appears to have stabilized, at a low population level, between 1991 and 2005. Under the land claim agreements, Aboriginal people will continue subsistence hunting on lands under the authority of the federal Minister and Parks Canada Agency. Inuvialuit have been mindful of conservation challenges and applied restrictions on harvesting. Subsistence hunting activities in Aulavik are minimal. Parks Canada will participate in the development of a recovery strategy and action plan for the Peary caribou as required by the *Species at Risk Act*.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are human works or places that show human activity or have spiritual or cultural meaning and have historic value.

The state of cultural resources in Aulavik is good. A cultural resource inventory is completed and a monitoring program is in place to track the condition of certain cultural sites within the park. These archaeological sites and cultural landscape features are in stable condition. Parks Canada cares for and stores collected artifacts according to a Memorandum of



NASOGALUAK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE /
G. KISOUN (PARKS CANADA)

Understanding between the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Parks Canada. Co-operative management partners are involved with cultural resource management decisions.

Visitor Experience

Visitor experience means a visitor's personal interaction with a park and its people that awakens the senses, affects emotions, stimulates the mind and leaves the visitor with a sense of connection to place.

The state of visitor experience for Aulavik is good. The average ten-day length of a visit to the park, the stunning views, the remoteness and solitude of the park, and the personal sense of challenge and discovery make for transformative experiences. Based on comments provided to Parks Canada following their visit to Aulavik, a majority of visitors experience a strong sense of personal connection to Aulavik.

Public Appreciation and Understanding

Public appreciation and understanding is about reaching Canadians at home, at school and in their communities through effective and relevant learning opportunities. These learning opportunities are designed to increase understanding and appreciation of the natural and historical heritage of national parks and historic sites, and about encouraging people to support and be engaged in their protection and presentation.

The state of public awareness and understanding for Aulavik is not rated as no analysis has been done of this aspect of the park mandate. The Parks Canada Agency is working on how to measure public awareness and understanding of individual parks and sites.

Inuvialuit Relations

Aulavik is cooperatively managed with Inuvialuit through the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North West Territories), the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, the environmental assessment process of the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. Parks Canada also works closely with the Inuvialuit Game Council and the community of Sachs Harbour in the planning and management of the park.

Beyond affirming Inuvialuit subsistence rights established in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and setting out the broad parameters for the co-operative management of Aulavik, the park establishment agreement also identifies specific economic goals for Inuvialuit. Since the establishment of Aulavik, Parks Canada has annually employed three to five staff based in Sachs Harbour. Third-party researchers working in Aulavik are encouraged to buy supplies locally, and hire local people as assistants and bear monitors. Parks Canada purchases many hundreds of thousands of dollars in goods and services annually from Inuvialuit-owned businesses. However, low visitation limits the potential for tourism as a strong economic activity on the island. Community expectations for significant tourism-related economic benefits associated with the establishment of Aulavik have not been realized.

The Aulavik Visitor Centre in Sachs Harbour is a link between that community and the park. Community members use the centre for meetings and activities. With its exhibits photographic displays and maps, Elders are encouraged to tell stories and their remembrances of the park and their people.



TALK ON THE HMS INVESTIGATOR AT THE AULAVIK VISITOR CENTRE, SACHS HARBOUR / L. CARY (PARKS CANADA)

2002 Management Plan Implementation

The 2002 Aulavik National Park of Canada Management Plan has been implemented. Since 2002, Parks Canada has:

- Informed and engaged Inuvialuit co-operative management and community partners in the protection of the park's natural and cultural resources through establishment of the Aulavik Advisory Board, newsletters and research and monitoring reports;
- Advanced long-term understanding of ecosystems and cultural resources in the park through partnerships with the Government of the Northwest Territories, Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing, Environment Canada, Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre, Aurora Research Institute and University of Western Ontario. Examples of research, monitoring and traditional knowledge inventory programs include: work on Peary caribou and muskoxen populations; plant productivity; water quality; Inuvialuit ethno-botany, and archaeological studies; and
- Promoted and encouraged education, training and development of Inuvialuit youth through an annual Environmental Stewardship course for Grade Four students in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and park camps for Sachs Harbour youth.

3.3 Park Challenges and Opportunities

Renewal within Parks Canada

Parks Canada is undergoing agency renewal to serve better the needs of Canadians today and into the future. There are many factors currently influencing Parks Canada: shifts in the cultural makeup of cities; an aging population; Canadians' changing connection to their environment; increasing threats to natural and cultural heritage; and changes in how Canadians spend their leisure time. For Parks Canada programs to continue to be relevant, the Agency is seeking ways to better connect Canadians to national parks such as Aulavik. This is a significant challenge, particularly since few Canadians will ever get the chance to visit this highly remote national park.

Challenges

Parks Canada and Inuvialuit co-operative management partners identified the main challenges for the updated management plan for Aulavik. These are described further in the 2010 State of the Park Report. They include:

- Declining numbers of Peary caribou on Banks Island;
- The high expectations of significant economic benefits for Inuvialuit and the community of Sachs Harbour resulting from the park have not been realized;
- The challenges of establishing a credible and affordable ecological integrity monitoring program in such a remote part of the world; and
- The low levels of awareness and understanding about Aulavik amongst residents of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Canadians at large, and the low levels of visitation to this remote Arctic national park. This challenge is not easily overcome. Increasing visitor numbers will be modest at best, and only over the long term. Connecting Aulavik to Canadians at large has a much greater potential for success in the short term.



ARCTIC WILLOW /
C. BUCHER (PARKS CANADA)

Opportunities

Parks Canada has a number of opportunities to improve the protection, presentation and management of Aulavik. These include:

- Increasing the Canadian and international profile of Aulavik by building on the publicity of the HMS Investigator's discovery;
- Maintaining successful partnering in ecological and archaeological research and monitoring with other government and non-government agencies;
- Involving local residents in supporting park-related research and park visits; and
- Using new Parks Canada capacity in Visitor Experience and External Relations to develop park products, services and communications for visitors and Canadians.

3.4 Current Park Audiences

Current park audiences include visitors, Sachs Harbour residents, researchers, and virtual visitors.

Park Visitors

Wilderness seekers come to Aulavik mostly to canoe the Thomsen River, discover history and wildlife, and hike the land. This is a place for hardy visitors who desire an experience of open high Arctic landscapes with abundant wildlife viewing opportunities and unlimited hiking in almost any direction. In general, traveling across this landscape is not physically demanding and visits averages about ten days. The visiting season is short (mid-June to mid-August). Visitor levels are low; annual visitation has ranged from five to sixty-six in the last five years. Visitors must be self-sufficient and be able to handle medical or weather-related emergencies on their own. Encountering other people during a trip in the park is rare.

The few cruise ships that travel near the north coast of Banks Island may land passengers in or near to Aulavik, such as at Providence Point on Mercy Bay. The very few of these types of visits have been short, a couple of hours, and limited to the landing area on the coast.

Sachs Harbour Residents

Inuvialuit audiences include local residents who use, visit and work in the park. Few Inuvialuit hunt or trap in Aulavik. Visits are often part of youth camps hosted in the park by Parks Canada. Local residents are sometimes hired as guides and to work on park research and monitoring programs.

Researchers

Each year a number of research and monitoring programs are carried out in Aulavik, some by Parks Canada and some by other government or non-government agencies. Researchers are an important park audience as they can be in the park for relatively long periods, lend their knowledge and expertise to the protection and presentation of Aulavik, and can be ambassadors to promoting the park and its vision to others.



YOUTH CAMP AT GREEN CABIN, AULAVIK / PARKS CANADA

Virtual Visitors

Virtual visitors are those individuals who discover and learn about Aulavik through print, radio, television and other media, such as the Parks Canada website.

3.5 Management Planning Process

The park management planning process involves a cycle of activities. This includes consultation with Aboriginal people, visitors, public, partners and stakeholders, and park staff. The process ensures that a range of perspectives is considered on important issues and concerns.

With the condition of Aulavik assessed in the 2010 state of the park report and key planning needs identified, the 2011 Aulavik management plan is being developed in three stages:

- Stage 1 - fall 2010/winter 2011. Introduce the management planning process and invite Inuvialuit, stakeholder and public input on the draft elements of the new plan (for example, the vision for the park, challenges and opportunities, strategies to address them);
- Stage 2 – spring/summer 2011. Develop a draft management plan based on input and then invite comment on draft plan from Inuvialuit, stakeholders and public;
- Stage 3 – summer/fall 2011. Consider and incorporate input to finalize the management plan. Submit the plan for recommendation by Inuvialuit co-operative management organizations and Parks Canada's Chief Executive Officer, followed by approval by the Minister of Environment responsible for Parks Canada and tabling in Parliament.

Parks Canada staff involved at Aulavik and the Aulavik Management Planning Working Group are developing the management plan. The Aulavik Management Planning Working Group is an informal group set up by Parks Canada to give the community of Sachs Harbour (Hunters and Trappers Committee, Community Corporation), Inuvialuit & co-operative management boards (Inuvialuit Game Council, Wildlife Management Advisory Council-NWT, Fisheries Joint Management Committee) and other government departments with an interest in Aulavik National Park and Banks Island (Government of the Northwest Territories, Canadian Wildlife Service), the opportunity to work together and play a more direct role in the Aulavik management planning process.



STAGE 1 OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY MEETING IN SACHS HARBOUR / J. LUCAS (PARKS CANADA)

4.0 **Park Purpose and Vision Statement**

The park purpose and vision statement provide a focus for park management, helping guide decisions and actions, whether strategic or operational. The vision statement articulates the special character of Aulavik, and paints a picture of its desired future. While achievement of the vision statement will be challenging, it helps foster common understanding and cooperation among those who use, care for, work in and live near the park. It also conveys a sense of place to Canadians who may never be able to visit Aulavik.

4.1 **Park Purpose**

The purpose of Aulavik is to protect for all time a representative portion of the Western Arctic Lowlands Natural Region, and to encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the area so as to leave it unimpaired for future generations while permitting subsistence usage and trapping by Inuvialuit (*An Agreement for the Establishment of a National Park on Banks Island, 1992*).

4.2 **Vision Statement**

Vision

Aulavik National Park is unspoiled wilderness - an escape for paddlers and hikers, a sanctuary for wildlife, and a special place for Inuvialuit for preserving their culture and traditional ways. It is shared by Inuvialuit with all Canadians to better protect, understand, enjoy and value the environment, history and culture of the high western Arctic.

What Aulavik Looks Like in 2021

Aulavik helps protect wildlife and lands on which Inuvialuit depend, helps preserve Inuvialuit cultural identity and values in a changing northern society, and enables Inuvialuit to benefit from its management. These goals are possible through continued effective co-operative management.

Through coordinated research, monitoring, and the application of traditional and local knowledge, the ecological integrity and cultural heritage of Aulavik is well understood. This strength of information and knowledge attracts other research and monitoring interests to this part of Canada's Arctic, which further contributes to understanding the park's health and history in the face of a changing world.

In Inuvialuktun Aulavik means "*place where people travel*". The park is a highly prized destination for experienced travellers eager to discover Canada's far north. The Thomsen River allows visitors to travel a thread through time of this magnificent, ancient landscape. Whether with a professional guide or on their own, travel along this river corridor offers rich opportunities to experience and learn about the fascinating history of Canada's Arctic and the animals, plants and landscapes unique to Aulavik and Banks Island.

Aulavik is a beacon for Banks Island. It draws travellers eager for an authentic Arctic experience to the community of Sachs Harbour. Sachs Harbour serves as an excellent base: to experience the breathtaking landscapes and rich diversity of wildlife of the island that Aulavik is a part of; to visit archaeological sites that tell remarkable stories of endurance and ingenuity of the island's inhabitants; to hear stories about life of Banks Island over a cup of tea with an Elder; and to buy local crafts.

Aulavik inspires youth in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and from the rest of Canada to be stewards of Canada's changing Arctic environment through youth camps, dynamic web sites, documentaries, innovative school programs and other forms of outreach.

Aulavik instils a sense of pride amongst all Canadians for the wisdom and generosity of those people who have worked together to protect Aulavik and tell its stories for the benefit and enjoyment of generations to come.

5.0 Key Strategies

Key strategies are paths to realizing a park vision. Each strategy focuses efforts and resources on a clear set of thematically related objectives, needs and opportunities that can influence achieving the vision. Each key strategy integrates the delivery of one or more of Parks Canada's three mandate elements:

- Protecting heritage resources, which includes all those activities related to the protection of natural and cultural resources and natural processes;
- Facilitating opportunities for visitor experiences, which includes products, services and facilities to enable a visitor's personal interaction with the park and heighten his or her sense of connection to place; and
- Providing public education, which includes a wide range of activities from in-park interpretation to outreach education initiatives reaching Canadians at home, at leisure, at school, and in their communities.

No one key strategy takes precedence over another; each set of objectives, targets and actions clearly establishes park management priorities for the next five to ten years. There are four key strategies to this management plan:

- Maintaining and Enhancing Visitor Opportunities for Aulavik, Sachs Harbour and Banks Island;
- Keeping Aulavik Healthy and Enduring;
- Engaging Inuvialuit Settlement Region Communities; and,
- Bringing Canadians Closer to Canada's Northern Heritage.

5.1 Maintaining and Enhancing Visitor Opportunities for Aulavik, Sachs Harbour and Banks Island

Parks Canada provides visitor opportunities that are attractive to people wanting to experience the natural and cultural wonders of a national park in ways that achieve peoples' connection to and respect for the park.

This strategy focuses mainly on facilitating visitor experiences and has two aspects:

- Maintaining and, where possible, enhancing visitor opportunities in Aulavik; and
- Exploring tourism-related opportunities for Sachs Harbour and Banks Island that can benefit from marketing of and visits to Aulavik.

Aulavik is extremely remote. It is one of the more expensive national parks in Canada to visit. Visitors, the majority of them paddlers, experience the park on their own or as part of outfitted, guided trips. One outfitter is licensed to run trips and offers at least one guided Thomsen River paddling trip each summer. Because of its remoteness, the risks associated with travel there, and the high cost of that travel, Aulavik will not experience substantial increases in visitor numbers in the coming years. Low visitation limits the potential for tourism as a strong economic activity on the island.

Visitors to Aulavik receive comprehensive pre-trip planning information, in-person orientation, a detailed visitor information package, and guidance from expert staff and others. Park-specific messages on protection of natural and cultural



CANOEING THE THOMSEN RIVER / J. MCCORMICK (PARKS CANADA)

resources and visitor safety are the focus of the visitor orientation.

There are no visitor facilities in Aulavik. Visitors are expected to be self-sufficient. The only buildings in the park are Green and Polar Bear cabins, neither of which are owned by Parks Canada, but are used by Parks Canada to support park research and monitoring, and youth camps. The public in the event of an emergency can use them. The landing area at Green Cabin is used for aircraft dropping off park visitors.

A number of opportunities are explored in this strategy to enhance the visitor experience to the park, and to possibly make the park more economically accessible for visitors. Paddling the most northerly navigable river in the world continues to be the main draw for Aulavik. Ensuring the continued sense of remoteness and the pristine nature of Aulavik as part of the paddling experience is a major objective. Some increased use will not undermine this goal. The Thomsen River is rated Class 1; there are no rapids and obstructions and it can be paddled easily by canoe or kayak. Although Aulavik will still be a wilderness experience, it can be a paddling destination for a range of people eager for an adventure, whatever their paddling skills. Visitor activities in the park are required to be “leave no trace”, including the packing out of garbage.

Aulavik is also known for its hiking opportunities, with its gentle, but varied landscape, long summer days making for general ease of travel. Hiking can be done as part of a paddling expedition or on its own. There are no designated routes or trails, although hiking opportunities to particular archaeological, geological and wildlife-viewing sites are identified to visitors.

Cruise ship tourism in the western Arctic is minimal, but may grow with the possibility of increased ice-free access through the Northwest Passage and growth in public interest in this form of tourism. Of the few cruise ships that have travelled through M’Clure Strait in the last twenty years, only a couple have landed passengers at or near Aulavik. There is, however, the opportunity to include the stories of Aulavik on-board these cruise ships as part of Parks Canada’s objective to communicate better the story of our national parks and national historic sites to Canadians and international travellers.



HIKING IN AULAVIK WITH IT WILDLIFE AND LANDSCAPE VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES / J. MCCORMICK (PARKS CANADA)

With a focus on research (See Keeping Aulavik Healthy and Enduring), Aulavik also has potential for engaging the citizen scientist. Citizen science involves professional researchers and everyday people engaged in activities such as biological and archaeological inventories, long-term monitoring, and scientific research. The goals of citizen science projects are to generate meaningful, useful data that contributes to scientific understanding about various facets of a park. That understanding is then applied to park management. One of the most important components of citizen science is building a base of public support and stewardship for Aulavik. It allows everyday people the chance to gain in-depth knowledge about the park.

Addressing the low visitation to Aulavik and Banks Island will require a broader perspective that recognises the potential for Sachs Harbour and Banks Island to be tourism draws in their own right. Eventually, this approach could not only benefit the community and the region, but also increase opportunities to connect Canadians to Aulavik, and possibly generate modest increases in park visits.

In this strategy, the community of Sachs Harbour is an alternative ‘Aulavik’ destination for travellers who do not make it into the park because of the cost and potential risk of an Arctic wilderness experience. Such an offer would provide visitors the opportunity to connect to the landscape that Aulavik is part of, and the fascinating history and culture that Aulavik presents, while also providing economic opportunities for Sachs Harbour residents. Through the Aulavik Visitor Centre in Sachs Harbour, Parks Canada can

connect visitors to the park. Beyond this, the development of a local viable and sustainable tourism offer in Sachs Harbour could contribute ultimately to a viable community-based, year-round licensed outfitter(s) providing services in Aulavik.

The *Maintaining and Enhancing Visitor Opportunities for Aulavik, Sachs Harbour and Banks Island* strategy has four objectives. The targets and actions for these objectives are in [Chapter 9](#).

Objective 1: Aulavik is a first-rate Arctic paddling destination. Canoeing the Thomsen River is considered a “must do” trip for canoeists and kayakers.

Objective 2: Visitor opportunities beyond paddling appeal to new park audiences of hikers, citizen scientists and cruise ship passengers.

Objective 3: Sachs Harbour benefits from Aulavik as a draw for visitors to Canada’s western Arctic.

Objective 4: Sachs Harbour is a destination for a Banks Island experience that includes ‘discovering’ Aulavik.

5.2 Keeping Aulavik Healthy and Enduring

“Maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity, through the protection of natural resources and natural processes, shall be the first priority of the Minister when considering all aspects of the management of parks” (*Canada National Parks Act*).

This strategy focuses on maintaining a credible and affordable ecological integrity and cultural resource monitoring program, recognizing the logistical challenges and costs associated with undertaking this work in such a large and remote park. Keeping Aulavik healthy and enduring would seem simple given its pristine Arctic wilderness state. Yet Aulavik is a fragile landscape that can be scarred from activities originating from within and beyond the park’s boundaries. Monitoring over a long period of time, the ecological health and the cultural resources of Aulavik is therefore a necessary part of park planning and decision-making. Monitoring in Aulavik also serves to inform Canadians about the state of the park and can be used by youth and others by applying concepts and information in their learning and experiencing of science.

The effectiveness of this work is made possible by a wealth of Inuvialuit traditional and local knowledge used with information from well-defined ecological and cultural resource monitoring and management programs conducted by Parks Canada and third party partners, including other federal, territorial and Inuvialuit agencies. The collaboration of partners continues to be a successful strategy of sharing resources and information because of complementary objectives.

The strong foundation of knowledge and information about the ecology and history of Aulavik makes the park an ecological and historical benchmark for Banks Island and the Arctic Archipelago. This foundation, the capacity of Aulavik to support research activities, knowledgeable park staff, and its pristine state, are reasons that Aulavik and Banks Island are choice destination for researchers.

Documenting and managing Aulavik as a cultural landscape that includes past and current traditional land uses is also a features of this strategy. It recognizes cultural heritage of Aulavik is something of not

The Approach to Science in Aulavik

- Design robust monitoring programs.
- Build partnerships with universities, other agencies and Inuvialuit partners.
- Integrate science, Aboriginal traditional, and oral histories for co-operative management.

only the distant past, but also threads through time to the contemporary use and values of the land. Seeing the cultural landscape through this broad sweep of time is an important concept to public understanding of the subsistence usage of Aulavik by the Inuvialuit and to helping preserve Inuvialuit cultural identity.

The Keeping Aulavik Healthy and Enduring strategy has three objectives. The targets and actions for these objectives are in [Chapter 9](#).

Objective 1: Management to ensure the continued maintenance of ecological integrity of Aulavik is based on credible and affordable ecological monitoring and traditional knowledge.

Objective 2: The Aulavik ecological integrity monitoring program establishes a benchmark recognized by Arctic researchers, other federal and territorial government departments, drawing them to Aulavik and Banks Island as a place to do research and monitoring work. This, in turn, further enhances ecological understanding of the park.

Objective 3: Aulavik is valued for its cultural and natural heritage.

5.3 Engaging Inuvialuit Settlement Region Communities

Few people in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region are aware of Aulavik, its national significance and role it plays within the goals of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, including:

- To preserve Inuvialuit cultural identity and values within a changing northern society;
- To protect and preserve the Arctic wildlife, environment and biological diversity; and
- To enable Inuvialuit to be equal and meaningful participants in the northern and national economy and society.

This strategy intensifies Parks Canada's work in building the Inuvialuit Settlement Region's awareness of and engagement in Aulavik as a place of importance to Inuvialuit. Opportunities will be sought to increase visits to the park from people in the region, involvement in park management activities and research, and awareness and support for the park.

The *Engaging Inuvialuit Settlement Region Communities* strategy has three objectives. The targets and actions for these objectives are in [Chapter 9](#).

Objective 1: People from across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region have a meaningful connection with Aulavik.

Objective 2: Inuvialuit are equal and meaningful participants in the management of Aulavik and in the protection and preservation of its wildlife, environment and biological productivity.

Objective 3: Aulavik plays an important role in preserving Inuvialuit cultural identity and values within a changing northern society.



MAPPING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE,
2008 AULAVIK YOUTH CAMP /
PARKS CANADA

“Fishing at Green Cabin, life on the land, the hills, the wolves, hear the loons and Canada Geese ... listening to the birds so couldn't sleep at night; tenting ... it is so nice that I should like to live longer.”
(Geddes Wolki Sr., Inuvialuit Elder, Sachs Harbour)

5.4 Bringing Canadians Closer to Canada's Northern Heritage

Parks Canada aims to increase Canadians' understanding, appreciation, support and engagement with respect to the natural and cultural heritage of national parks. Parks Canada and partners reaching Canadians at home, at school and in their communities through relevant and effective communication and public outreach education initiatives accomplish this. Because very few Canadians have the means and opportunity to visit Aulavik, this aim of Parks Canada is also a major facet of the park vision and this management plan.

Media and public interest in the discovery of the HMS Investigator, the ongoing fascination with the North, and interest and concern about climate change and the Arctic environment, and Canadians perceptions of themselves as a northern nation, draw public attention to Aulavik. The focus of this strategy is to build on this interest.

Implementation of this strategy conforms to the park establishment agreement to promote public awareness, appreciation and understanding of all aspects of the land within and adjacent to Aulavik, its past and present use, and in particular, the related Inuvialuit cultural heritage.

The *Bringing Canadians Closer to Canada's Northern Heritage* strategy has two objectives. The targets and actions for these objectives are in [Chapter 9](#).

Objective 1: Canadians at home, at school and visiting southern Canadian attractions know, understand, and appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of Aulavik and the unique co-operative management relationship between Parks Canada and Inuvialuit.

Objective 2: Through information about Aulavik, Canadians are more aware of the expanse and diversity of Canada's Arctic and Parks Canada's involvement in the Arctic.



HMS INVESTIGATOR TRAPPED IN ICE IN MERCY BAY, 1851 / LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA. THE STORY OF THE 2010 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY OF THE SHIPWRECK REACHED OVER 1.99 BILLION PEOPLE BY WAY OF THE INTERNET, NEWSPAPERS, TELEVISION AND OTHER MEDIA.

6.0 Administration and Operation

Visitor centres and park administration for Aulavik are located in Sachs Harbour and Inuvik. Both centres provide up-to-date interpretive and visitor orientation services.

6.1 Banks Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary Number 2

Plans in 1961 for extensive oil exploration on Banks Island prompted the Canadian Government to establish two migratory bird sanctuaries on the island. One of them, Banks Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary Number 2, comprises the Thomsen River valley north of latitude 73° 36' North and all of Castel Bay south of the northerly extremity of Mahogany Point (Environment Canada 1992). It was established to protect the moulting habitat of several migratory waterfowl, notably Pacific Brant and Lesser Snow Geese. With the establishment of Aulavik in 1992, this sanctuary became part of the national park. Both Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service have responsibilities for Banks Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary Number 2. Both the *Canada National Parks Act* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (1994), and their respective regulations, apply to the sanctuary.

The vision, strategies and objectives of this management plan complement the purpose and management objectives of the bird sanctuary, which are:

- To manage and conserve migratory bird populations and their natural habitats in a manner consistent with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations;
- To manage the sanctuary according to sound ecological principles; and
- To encourage public awareness of and appreciation for the natural environment of the sanctuary (Environment Canada 1992).

Some responsibilities of Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service relating to the sanctuary require coordination including, for example, reviewing and granting permits for research in the sanctuary area, and permitting and monitoring recreational activities for potential impacts on bird habitat.

Actions to synchronize coordination of activities under the two regulated mandates are in [Chapter 9](#).

6.2 Green Cabin

The Geological Survey of Canada may have built Green Cabin in the 1950s. The Survey transferred the cabin to the Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Committee about 1981. A fuel cache and landing area are nearby. The cabin is used by Inuvialuit hunters and trappers as a shelter, and by Parks Canada as a base camp for operational activities in the south end of the park. Elsewhere in the plan, it is proposed that Parks Canada, in consultation with and the support of the Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Committee, reconfigure the Green Cabin area to serve as a base camp for park operations, third party research, youth camps, and a canoe/kayak cache. See [Chapter 9](#) for additional actions regarding management, operation and use of this cabin.



SACHS HARBOUR ELDER, LENA WOLKI AT GREEN CABIN, EXPLAINING USE OF LICHEN AS DYE TO YOUTH CAMP / M. GILLIS (PARKS CANADA)

6.3 Polar Bear Cabin

The Government of the Northwest Territories built Polar Bear Cabin, at Nangmagvik Lake, in 1987 as a base camp for wildlife research. A landing area and weather station are nearby. The cabin is used by Inuvialuit hunters and trappers as a shelter, by Parks Canada as a base camp for operational activities in the north end of the park, and by Government of the Northwest Territories and third party researchers to support their work. See [Chapter 9](#) for additional actions regarding management, operation and use of this cabin.



RESEARCHERS AT POLAR BEAR CABIN, 2009 / M. KIRK (PARKS CANADA)

6.4 Environmental Stewardship

Environmental stewardship reduces the impact of daily activities on the environment. The idea of stewardship includes a range of issues from water quality and energy consumption, to chemical use and contaminated sites. It also includes a wide variety of activities from recycling and reducing consumption to restoring disturbed landscapes. While Parks Canada provides leadership in environmental stewardship for Aulavik, effective action requires support from its stakeholders, partners and visitors. See [Chapter 9](#) for Parks Canada actions that support environmental stewardship in Aulavik.

7.0 Zoning and Other Land and Feature Classifications

7.1 Zoning System

The national park zoning system classifies areas within a park according to their need for protection, with consideration given to areas suitable for visitor activities. The system's five zoning categories are described in Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies (1994).

An Agreement for the Establishment of a National Park on Banks Island (1992) states, Aulavik "...shall be operated and managed to protect the natural character of the Park and the Park's wildlife populations and their habitat, pursuant to the terms of the [*Canada*] *National Parks Act*. To this end, the Park shall contain a predominant proportion of Zone I – Special Preservation and Zone II – Wilderness." To date and for this management plan, Zone II is the only category used for Aulavik (Figure 2). The zoning does not preclude Inuvialuit rights to hunt, trap and fish in the park.

The Zone II category is for areas that are a good representation of a natural region conserved in a wilderness state. The perpetuation of ecosystems with minimal human interference is encouraged. Opportunities for outdoor recreation activities will be encouraged only when they do not conflict with maintaining the wilderness itself. The visitor offer of services and facilities will be minimal, primitive and appropriate to a wilderness experience. Motorized access and circulation are not permitted, although over-snow vehicle use in support of subsistence usage and trapping by Inuvialuit beneficiaries is.

Zone I is used for specific areas or features that contain or support unique, threatened or endangered natural or cultural features, or are among the best examples of the features that represent a natural region. Preservation is the key consideration. Motorized access and circulation are not permitted. No Zone I areas were identified in the 2002 management plan on the basis that cultural and natural resource inventories for the park were incomplete. No Zone I areas are proposed for Aulavik on the basis that adequate protection and management of natural and cultural resources are in place through Zone II designation of the park, and because of the park's remoteness and limited visitation.

The 2002 management plan introduced Zone III (Natural Environment) as a possible consideration for Aulavik. Zone III areas are managed as natural environments and provide opportunities for visitors to experience a park's natural and cultural heritage values through outdoor recreation activities requiring minimal services and facilities of a rustic nature. Motorized access, where allowed, is controlled. Zone III could be used in Aulavik for designated areas for commercially guided over-snow vehicle tours. To date, there has been no expression of interest to provide such tours in the park. Parks Canada has agreed Zone III could be used to designate areas for commercially guided over-snow vehicle tours provided by Inuvialuit beneficiaries. Any rezoning would involve an amendment to the management plan, an environmental assessment, public notice and consultation. It must be approved by the Minister of Environment responsible for Parks Canada, and tabled in Parliament.

7.2 Environmentally and Culturally Sensitive Sites

Parks Canada's policy provides for the designation of environmentally and culturally sensitive sites to complement the zoning system. This designation applies to small areas that contain significant and sensitive resources that require special protection or management without completely restricting other park uses in the vicinity.

There are no Environmentally Sensitive Sites for Aulavik. The 2002 management plan identified the Head Hill, Nasogaluak and HMS Investigator (land) sites as Culturally Sensitive Sites. It is proposed that the need for and identification of any Culturally Sensitive Sites will be determined as part of the cultural resource management strategy to be developed. It is not certain if specific management requirements are needed for these three sites that would be unique from other archaeological sites in the park (see Objective 2.3, Action 2).

7.3 Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Banks Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary Number 2 is entirely within Aulavik. The sanctuary includes all of Castel Bay and the Thomsen River upstream to about Falcon Bluff, an area of about 142 km². Castel Bay and the lower Thomsen River provide important habitat for moulting Pacific Brant and Lesser Snow Geese. The sanctuary is a part of the Thomsen River Important Bird Area in Canada (IBA Canada 2004). See Administration and Operation, section 6.1, regarding its management.



GEESE, JULY 2009 / M. KIRK (PARKS CANADA)

7.4 Designated Landing Areas

A designated landing area is a natural, unimproved area identified in the park management plan where, under a valid permit issued by the park superintendent, an aircraft (fixed or rotary wing) may land. No physical improvements have been, or will be made to designated landing areas. In the case of fixed-wing aircraft, a designated landing area allows access for short take-off and landing aircraft equipped with "tundra" tires. All landings are at the pilot's discretion.

Designated landing areas are not maintained in any way. Aulavik has four designated landing areas: Nangmagvik Lake (Polar Bear Cabin), Castel Bay, Green Cabin and South Boundary. These landing areas are used to support park operations, research projects, visitor access, and emergency responses.

All flights over the park must adhere to Transport Canada and guidelines of the Environmental Impact Screening Committee.

Floatplane access will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The designation of a permanent floatplane-landing site will be assessed based on level of demand, impacts, etc.

The storage of fuel of any kind shall not be permitted at the landing sites except as may be required for reasonable park management and operational purposes, for the conduct of research authorized by Parks Canada, or for the use of Inuvialuit in support of subsistence usage, trapping or guiding.



FIGURE 2. ZONING, AULAVIK NATIONAL PARK

7.5 Declared Wilderness

The *Canada National Parks Act* provides for the designation, by regulation, of wilderness areas of a national park. It guarantees the public will have the highest degree of assurance that development and uses inconsistent with wilderness character of a park will not occur. Boundaries of a declared wilderness area are defined in regulation and can be changed only through the formal process of regulation amendment (which requires an Order in Council). It is intended that the declared wilderness area boundaries will be consistent with Zone II boundaries.

Because a condition of Aulavik's establishment stipulates that the park shall contain a predominant proportion of Zone I – Special Preservation and Zone II – Wilderness, legislating declared wilderness is redundant and therefore not necessary (Parks Canada 2000).

8.0 Tracking Success: Monitoring and Reporting on the State of the Park

Every five years, Parks Canada completes an assessment of each national park, called a State of the Park Report. Aulavik's first State of the Park Report was done in 2010. The report is integral to Parks Canada's management process as it provides a measured understanding of the park's condition and trends in terms of its ecological integrity and cultural resources protection, public outreach education, and people's connection to place. It also documents the implementation and effectiveness of the park's management plan and identifies issues and challenges for the management plan review done every five years.

The information in the State of the Park Report is the best available description of the current state and trends of various aspects and activities of the park. The information comes primarily from monitoring and research undertaken by Parks Canada, other government agencies, partner organizations and universities.

An ecological integrity monitoring plan was completed for Aulavik in 2009. It is being updated to identify measures and thresholds for ecological indicators identified in the Aulavik National Park of Canada 2010 State of the Park Report. This management plan identifies additional monitoring requirements for visitor use and cultural resources.

9.0 Management Plan Implementation with Five-Year Targets and Actions

This management plan provides long-term strategic direction and more immediate measures for Parks Canada managers of Aulavik. It is a framework for more detailed planning and decision-making, and a strategic reference for capital expenditure forecasts and future management and operations.

Implementation of the management plan is the responsibility of the Western Arctic Field Unit Superintendent. Implementation will be through the Western Arctic Field Unit business plan. Any changes to the five-year plan implementation are captured by the annual review and updating of the business plan. Implementation of the strategies and actions may be reconsidered in response to new circumstances or information, or changing national priorities and decisions.

Communication on management plan implementation will be through annual reporting and the next Aulavik National Park *State of the Park Report*. The management plan will also be subject to periodic review (at least every five years) and can be amended to reflect changing circumstances. The public will be consulted about proposed major changes.

The five-year targets and actions for the key strategies and objectives of this management plan follow.

Key Strategy 1: Maintaining and Enhancing Visitor Opportunities for Aulavik, Sachs Harbour and Banks Island

Objective 1.1: Aulavik is a first-rate Arctic paddling destination. Canoeing the Thomsen River is considered a “must do” trip for canoeists and kayakers.

Targets/Measures:

- Travel media coverage of Aulavik as a paddling destination increases within five years.
- The number and size of paddling trip parties increases within five years.

Actions:

1. Market Aulavik as a premier Arctic destination for canoeing and kayaking through a variety of channels (for example, widely distribute the Thomsen River guide to outfitters working in the region and to targeted audiences such as Paddle Canada; co-promote with other northern national parks that offer paddling experiences).
2. Identify and market the best periods to paddle the Thomsen River, based on water levels, and optimum times for wildlife viewing and plants flowering. Use these best windows to help coordinate the cost-share of paddlers' trips in and out of Aulavik.
3. Explore and, where practical, implement ways for visitors to reduce their costs of travelling into and out of Aulavik (for example, assist visitors in finding cost-share opportunities for aircraft charters).
4. Accommodate seasonal and/or year-round storage of licensed outfitters' canoes at Green Cabin or other suitable location, to allow space on aircrafts for more passengers (including a larger size canoe groups) than currently possible, so to help reduce individuals' trip costs into and out of the park.
5. Add visitor impact assessments to main camping locations and landing areas as part of the Thomsen River monitoring that assesses visitor impacts on ecological integrity, the migratory bird sanctuary, cultural resources and other visitors' experiences.
6. Should annual visitation increase significantly during the five-year plan implementation, determine and implement protocol for the number and separation of paddlers on the Thomsen Rivers, taking into consideration the maintenance of ecological integrity, the migratory bird sanctuary, and park qualities of remoteness and being pristine that park visitors expect.

Objective 1.2: Visitor opportunities beyond paddling appeal to new park audiences of hikers, citizen scientists and cruise ship passengers.

Targets/Measures:

- Pursuit of other activities besides paddling (for example, hiking, research volunteering, visiting features and sights on the land) increase during the five-year period of the plan.
- Cruise ship passengers respond positively to on board interpretive products.

Actions:

1. Market Aulavik as a premier Arctic destination for hiking through a variety of channels. This would include, for example, providing itineraries and interpretive products, and identifying best places for bird watching, wildlife viewing, visiting heritage and geological sites, and unique landscapes that are within and beyond the Thomsen River valley.

2. In consultation with the Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Committee, explore the need for emergency shelters and landing areas along the Thomsen River corridor for park users (canoeists, hikers, researchers).
3. Facilitate 3rd party interpretation of Aulavik on board cruise ships in the western Arctic, including, for example, developing interpretive products for use on cruise ships.
4. Develop guidelines with cruise ship operators that intend to land passengers in Aulavik that address protection of the park's natural, cultural and paleontological resources, visitor safety, and give messages about the parks significance.
5. Consider the viability of and, when possible, facilitate "citizen science" opportunities for monitoring and research projects in Aulavik led by Parks Canada and third parties.

Objective 1.3: Sachs Harbour benefits from Aulavik as a visitor draw to Canada's western Arctic.

Targets/Measures:

- More Aulavik visitors purchase/use products and services provided by Sachs Harbour residents.

Actions:

1. Promote to the tourism-related opportunities available in Sachs Harbour to prospective visitors planning their trip into and out of the park.
2. Include traditional art and crafts from Sachs Harbour in displays at Inuvik's Parks Canada office and at the Sachs Harbour Visitor Centre, and direct interested buyers to Inuvialuit Development Corporation or other local galleries for purchases.
3. Foster the development of guiding skills and certifications for Sachs Harbour residents, through youth camps, shared training with Parks Canada staff, and by building relationships between local youth, hunting and trapping committees, and outfitting companies.
4. As per the park establishment agreement, encourage the use of Inuvialuit guides licensed to operate within the park. If licensed guides are available in Sachs Harbour, Parks Canada will inform visitors of their availability as part of visitor trip planning.

Objective 1.4: Sachs Harbour is a destination for Banks Island experiences that include 'discovering' Aulavik.

Targets/Measures:

- In surveys, visitors of the region consider Sachs Harbour a destination.
- Visits to the Sachs Harbour Visitor Centre by non-residents increases over the five-year period of the plan.

Actions:

1. Update the Sachs Harbour Visitor Centre to include the recent discovery and story of the HMS Investigator.

2. With partners, develop an Aulavik interpretive display at the Sachs Harbour airport for passengers on the way to the park or to elsewhere in the region.
3. Contribute to work of the community of Sachs Harbour, Inuvialuit Development Corporation and Government of the Northwest Territories to develop and provide quality tourism services and products that are heritage-based, non-consumptive and based out of Sachs Harbour.

Key Strategy 2: Keeping Aulavik Healthy and Enduring

Objective 2.1: Management to ensure the continued maintenance of ecological integrity of Aulavik is based on credible and affordable ecological monitoring and traditional knowledge.

Targets/Measures:

- By 2016, monitoring is fully implemented for the park ecological indicators of tundra and freshwater, and their corresponding measures. Condition assessments for all indicators are reported in the next state of the park report.
- By 2016, ecological integrity reporting for Aulavik incorporates traditional knowledge from the Sachs Harbour community and co-operative management bodies.

Actions:

1. Continue field testing, implementing, and developing protocol for the measures of ecological integrity indicators for tundra and freshwater, including developing thresholds for ecological integrity in collaboration with the community and co-operative management partners.
2. Build on existing partnering with other federal, territorial and Inuvialuit agencies that contribute to ecological monitoring for Aulavik. For example, continue to work with the Government of the Northwest Territories and others in the monitoring of Peary caribou and muskox, and with the Canadian Wildlife Service on bird surveys.
3. Support third party monitoring or research that advances the park's ecological integrity monitoring program. Work with third party researchers to refine the ecological integrity monitoring program.
4. Work with the community of Sachs Harbour and relevant co-operative management bodies to ensure that traditional knowledge is integrated fully into the ecological integrity program providing information that benefits both park and community.

Objective 2.2: The Aulavik ecological integrity monitoring program establishes a benchmark recognized by Arctic researchers, other federal and territorial government departments, drawing them to Aulavik and Banks Island as a place to do research and monitoring work. This, in turn, further enhances ecological understanding of the park.

Targets/Measures:

- The number of third party research projects increases in the five-year period of the plan.

Actions:

1. Explore with Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Committee opportunities to enhance facilities at Green Cabin to support the park's ecological integrity monitoring work, third party research, high

school and university-level science camps, and 'citizen science' projects.

2. Work with other federal and territorial government departments (for example, Aurora Research Institute, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Wildlife Service and GNWT Environment and Natural Resources) to create a catalogue for all ecological integrity monitoring reports and data in Aulavik. This is to facilitate access to information for the park's ecological integrity monitoring purposes, as well as maximize third party research opportunities.
3. Explore opportunities for promoting research in and public learning about the park through speaker series, magazines and newspapers that profile Aulavik's ecological integrity monitoring work.
4. Explore opportunities to link archaeological information in the park to understand better ecology of the park in historic times (for example, historical interpretation about caribou and muskox populations).

Objective 2.3: Aulavik is valued for its cultural and natural heritage.

Targets/Measures:

- Within the five-year period of the plan, priority-archaeological site condition assessments are completed and mitigation plans developed, as required.

Actions:

1. Carry out site condition assessments for priority and threatened archaeological sites (for example, potential visitor impacts in the Thomsen River Valley, areas of permafrost degradation, north coast erosion).
2. Develop and implement a cultural resource management strategy for the park. Any Culturally Sensitive Sites will be identified as part of the strategy, if specific management requirements are needed for these sites.
3. Develop and carry out a monitoring program for sites that may be vulnerable.
4. Fully involve community members and co-operative management partners in cultural resource management decisions.
5. Involve community members in recording present-day Inuvialuit use of the park and include use as part of the cultural resource inventory of the park.

Key Strategy 3: Engaging Inuvialuit Settlement Region Communities

Objective 3.1: People from across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region have a meaningful connection with Aulavik.

Targets/Measures:

- All available places on youth camps will be used, for each youth camp, by five years of the plan.
- Public attendance at Aulavik-related events held in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region will increase over the five-year period of the plan.

Actions:

1. Plan and implement school exchange youth camp programs to give students from across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region a chance to experience Aulavik personally.
2. Produce educational media for Inuvialuit Settlement Region residents, in order to improve awareness and understanding of Aulavik.
3. Explore with partners the means to assess people's connection to Aulavik that works to the local realities (for example, jamborees).
4. Explore with the Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Committee ways and means to reconfigure Green Cabin facilities for youth camps from Sachs Harbour and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.
5. Work to hold a camp every other year based out of Green Cabin that has youth from Sachs Harbour and other communities of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.
6. Pursue partnering with Sachs Harbour to share summer youth camps near the community with other communities every other year.
7. Develop with the guidance and involvement of Elders from Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok edu-kits for schools and youth camps that include ecological integrity monitoring and cultural resource management work.

Objective 3.2: Inuvialuit are equal and meaningful participants in the management of Aulavik and in the protection and preservation of its wildlife, environment and biological productivity.

Targets/Measures:

- In agreement with co-operative management bodies, a park specific co-operative management process/structure is established within the five-year period of the plan.

Actions:

In addition to actions listed elsewhere in the plan regarding Inuvialuit participation in park management (for example, Objective 2.1, Action 4; Objective 2.3, Action 4):

1. Develop and implement with co-operative management bodies a formalized park co-operative management process/structure for Aulavik.
2. Continue to inform regularly communities and Inuvialuit agencies in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region about management of Aulavik.

3. Mentor/ train Inuvialuit youth in park management and involve them in park programs.
4. Consult the Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Sachs Harbour Community Corporation on information concerning Inuvialuit history or culture on Banks Island prepared by Parks Canada for public distribution and obtain consent of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

Objective 3.3: Aulavik has an important role in preserving Inuvialuit cultural identity and values within a changing northern society.

Targets/Measures:

- (to be developed)

Actions:

1. Continue to support and promote the passing of traditional knowledge between generations by providing Parks Canada facilities and staff time for classes, demonstrations, and use of traditions in park operations.
2. Maximize opportunities for community involvement in cultural resource management work.
3. Build on the success of previous youth camps linking young people to Aulavik and their heritage with the involvement of Elders as a core component for such camps.
4. Continue to protect, research, and present culturally significant sites and resources within Aulavik, with a stronger effort to communicate work to the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.
5. Use Inuvialuktum place names and Inuvialuit cultural history in developing visitor experience products (for example, guidebooks) and in public outreach education media (for example, website).
6. Explore with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre) the possibility of developing the oral history records from the park establishment for a public audience.
7. Work with territorial curriculum to incorporate Aulavik into school programs.

Key Strategy 4: Bringing Canadians Closer to Canada's Northern Heritage

Objective 4.1: Canadians at home, at school and at southern Canadian attractions know, understand, and appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of Aulavik and the unique co-operative management relationship between Parks Canada and Inuvialuit.

Targets/Measures:

- Inquiries regarding Aulavik, the 'Parks Canada in the Schools Program,' the island's natural environment and Inuvialuit cultural history to the field unit increase.
- The number of visitors to the Aulavik website increase.
- The number of southern Canadian venues where Aulavik is profiled increases.

Actions:

1. Develop and introduce an interpretation strategy (thematic framework) for Aulavik to be used for site interpretation and public education outreach.

2. Develop products about the natural and cultural heritage of Aulavik and about its co-operative management for the broader Canadian audience.
3. Enhance the Aulavik website to be more interactive, dynamic and can offer the sense of remoteness and exposure to Arctic nature and wildlife in real-time (for example, web cam, videos, audio, photos, maps, school curriculum programming, and special events) and relevant to a wide audience.
4. Pursue web links with other on-line sources and partners.
5. Pro-actively pursue opportunities with relevant media and other communication venues to profile the Park's heritage sites and history, and opportunities to experience them.
6. Work with museums, aquariums, and science centres on presentations (for example, speaker's series) and exhibits relating to Aulavik.
7. Work with Government of the Northwest Territories and land claim bodies to profile Aulavik and other northern national parks and national historic sites in airports across the territory.
8. Explore opportunities to highlight Aulavik at other national parks and national historic sites.

Objective 4.2: Through information about Aulavik, Canadians are more aware of the expanse and diversity of Canada's Arctic and Parks Canada's involvement in the Arctic.

Targets/Measures:

- Canadians' awareness about Parks Canada's involvement in Canada's Arctic increases over the five-year period of the plan.

Actions:

1. Interpret Aulavik in its larger Canadian Arctic, circumpolar, and national sovereignty context.
2. Communicate Aulavik's role in broader government objectives of contributing to Canada's northern strategy.
3. Communicate information on Aulavik in the broader context of Parks Canada initiatives in the North.

Administration and Operation

Actions:

1. Establish a new Memorandum of Understanding between Parks Canada and Canadian Wildlife Service, to replace the 1992 memorandum regarding the Banks Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary Number 2. The new memorandum will outline in specific terms the parameters that will guide their cooperation regarding the management of the bird sanctuary including, for example, shared monitoring and permitting processes.
2. Work with the Canadian Wildlife Service in its preparation of a management plan for the migratory bird sanctuary.
3. Work with the Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Committee on establishing guidelines for the use and management Green Cabin as part of the site's reconfiguration.
4. Work with the Government of the Northwest Territories on establishing guidelines for the use and management Polar Bear Cabin.

Environmental Stewardship

Actions:

1. Implement an environmental management system for Aulavik.
2. Continue assessments of sites for potential contaminants as part of the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan Program.
3. Continue working with partners in the application of the fuel cache protocol for Aulavik.
4. Update and implement the human waste and garbage management protocol as part of the “leave no trace” park use program.

10.0 Summary of Strategic Environmental Assessment

A strategic environmental assessment will be done of the 2011 Aulavik management plan, in accordance with The Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan, and Program Proposals (Canada, 2004).

11.0 References

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- 2000 Action Plan for the Declaration of Wilderness Areas in National Parks.
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