



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

TOGETHER FOR NATURE AND COMMUNITIES

**16 544 hectares
PROTECTED IN PERPETUITY**

MISSION

To consolidate and leave in perpetuity a vast corridor of protected natural areas.

VISION

In response to the climate and ecological crises, to promote global awareness of biodiversity and increase the number of protected areas, setting the standard for conservation and ecological land-use planning.



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A WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We couldn't look back on the year 2022-2023 without mentioning COP15¹ and its implications for all those involved in nature conservation. Rarely have we witnessed and actively participated in such a crucial moment for the future of the planet, right here in Montreal.

This international conference not only ratified ambitious new targets for reversing the loss of the Earth's biodiversity, but also provided a fantastic opportunity to bring conservation organizations to the forefront as key players in the implementation of these goals. The impressive media coverage that ensued also raised public awareness of the urgent need to act as never before.

Meetings with elected and appointed officials, participation in a China-Quebec summit, co-organization of "Accelerating Conservation in Southern Quebec" Day (« Accélérer la conservation de la conservation dans le

Sud du Québec »), a conference on carbon credits in conservation, etc. were all opportunities to position the know-how of Appalachian Corridor and its partners, as well as our capacity to take concrete action on the territory.

Once the excitement of this great gathering has subsided, a fundamental question remains: how will we achieve these goals, especially here in the Green Mountains, what's more on private lands?

Of course, there will be no single, simple answer to this complex question. It will undoubtedly require a vast mobilization of all the players involved, coupled with great political courage and vigorous financial support from governments.

This question will undoubtedly guide our actions and reflections over the coming years, and we will deploy the necessary energy to unite the community in a vision where nature and man coexist harmoniously.

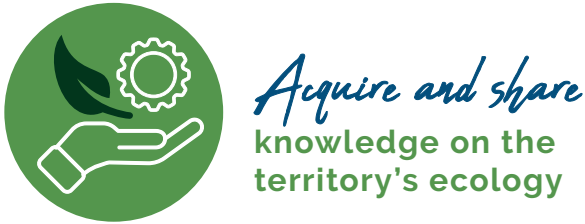
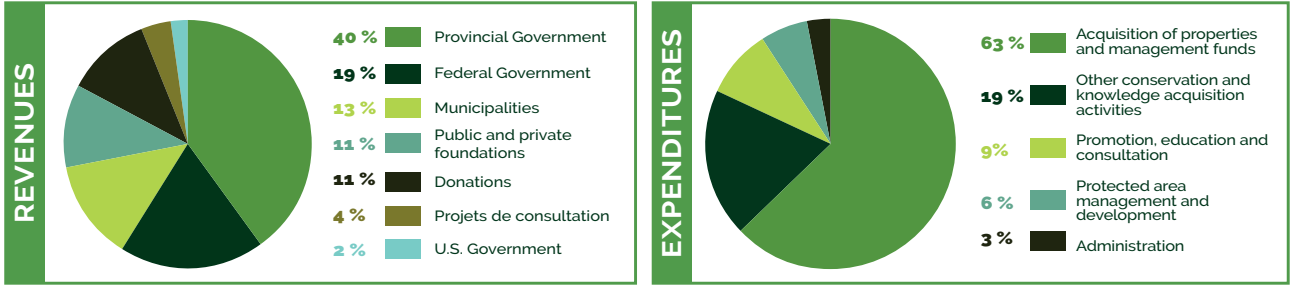
Marie-Josée Anclair
Board Chair
(right in photo)

Mélanie Lelièvre
Executive Director
(left in photo)

¹ The 15th United Nations Conference of the Parties, held in Montreal from December 7 to 19, 2022, brought together governments from around the world and led to the adoption of a new Global Framework for Biodiversity.

² The objectives include protecting 30% of land and oceans by 2030.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW | Operating budget of \$5.4 millions



✓ Twenty ecological surveys

📝 Seven knowledge acquisition projects

- Finalization of the project about monitoring of the Sutton River wood turtle by telemetry;
- Validation of ecological corridors in the Highway 10 area, located in the in the municipality of Eastman;
- Monitoring of turtle mortality on Route 108 in Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley;
- Inventory of bats at Mont-Bellevue, Sherbrooke, as part of the ecological integrity monitoring program for the new nature reserve;
- Establishment of permanent monitoring of the purple salamander population with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Université de Sherbrooke;
- Validation of potential bat hibernaculum;
- Installation of heated bat dormitories.

 **Monitoring and recovery activities for various species at risk:**
Peregrine Falcon, Golden-Winged Warbler, Bicknell's Thrush, wood turtle, bats, Chimney Swift.



🌱 **Affiliate members and volunteers**
4 training sessions: stewardship support, conservation options and guiding landowners towards a conservation project, which reached over 60 participants among our affiliate members and volunteers.



CONNECTIVITY PLAN -
AUTOROUTE 10
After nearly 10 years of work,
the plan is officially launched.

It targets the optimal wildlife developments to be planned for improving wildlife permeability and restoring ecological connectivity on both sides of autoroute 10 (between Bromont and Magog).

Official plan presentation to the medias in the company of 12 mayors.

Public videoconferencing and presentation of the plan with a joint declaration of support by the 12 mayors in attendance.

Participation in the Interregional Forum on the connectivity of natural environments.

Meetings on actions and regulatory provisions with MRCs, municipalities (elected officials and administration), and several other partners.

The project was officially supported by 13 partners.



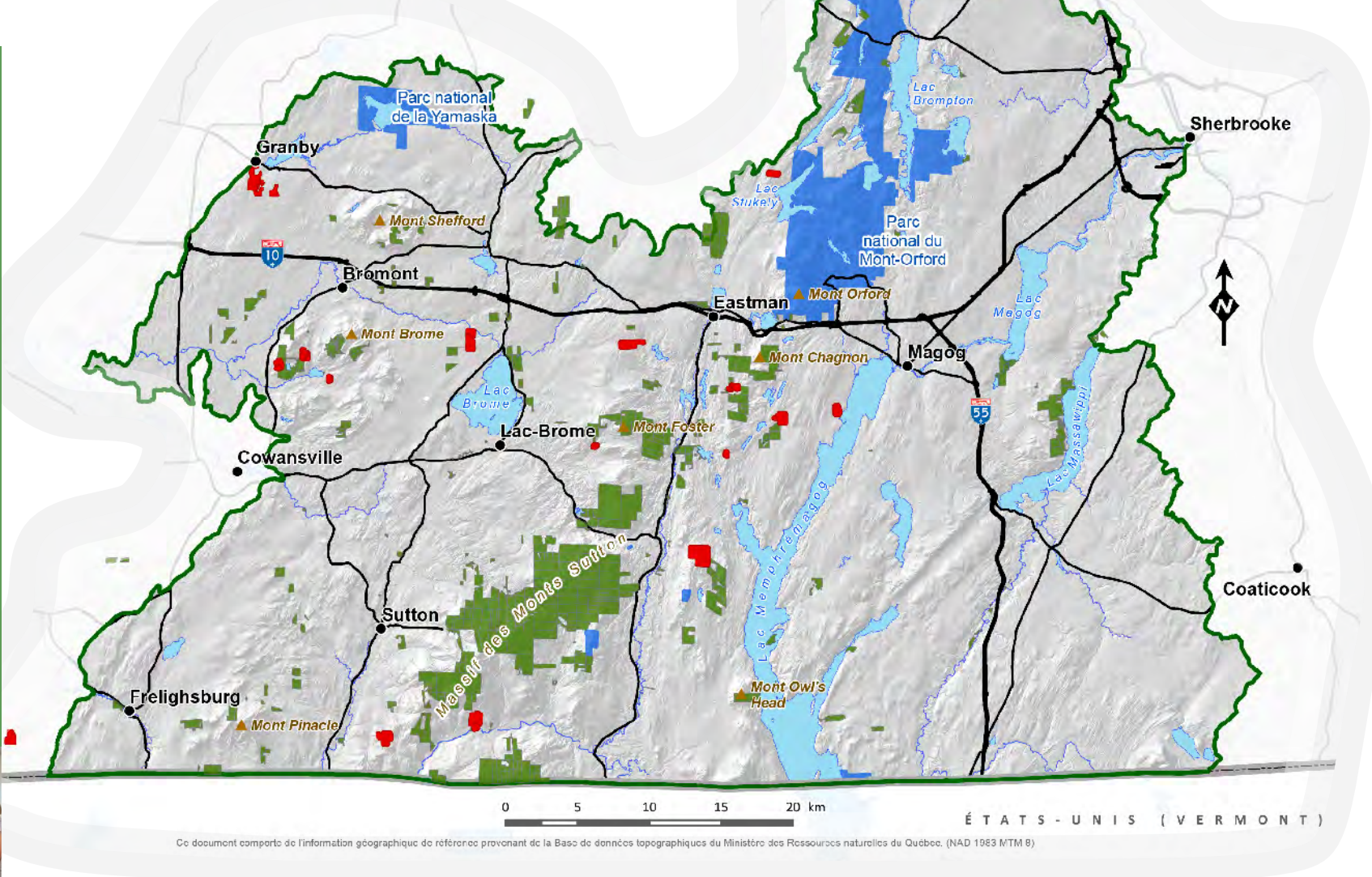
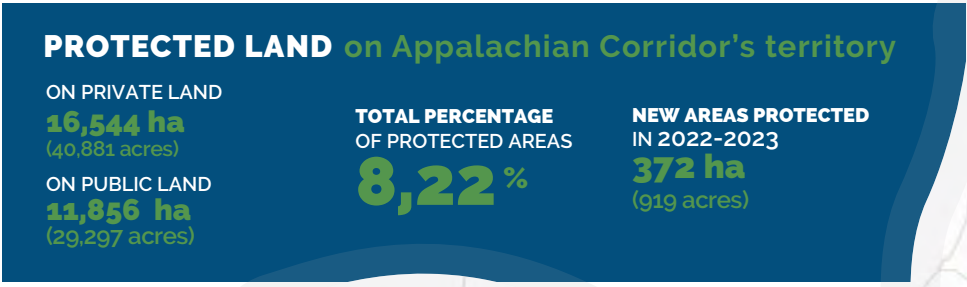
Collaborative project "Ecological corridors: a strategy for adapting to climate change", financed by *Action Climat Québec*

Aims to conserve important ecological corridors in southern Quebec, while mobilizing the population to safeguard them;

Participation in meetings with prime contractors and participation in the interregional forum on connectivity.

Partnership project "Northern Green Mountains: towards land use planning for the protection and recovery of species at risk", which integrates seven regional partners, experts in their respective fields (4th year).

The main objectives of the project: protection of threatened and vulnerable species, implementation of specific action plans for each species and consideration of ecological connectivity by the municipal environment.




Enhance
selected protected areas

★ Management and monitoring of our 21 protected properties.

Monitoring of 49 protected areas belonging to 10 of our affiliate members.

 **Green Mountains Nature Reserve (RNMV):** Management and monitoring of over 74 km² on 18 properties owned by Nature Conservancy of Canada.

 **Mount Singer:** Management and maintenance of our 19.5 km trail network. Restoration of the Pond Trail and a pedestrian bridge.

 **Mount Foster:** Finalization of the Tower trail and official opening of this new 4.5 km network.

5132 hectares (12,681 acres) patrolled by summer 2022, on 88 different properties.


 65% of the territory's private protected areas are monitored by Appalachian Corridor.

Protect
natural areas in perpetuity

 12 conservation projects piloted by Appalachian Corridor have been finalized, including:

4 conservation easements;
3 nature reserves;
5 in title acquisition.

Collaboration with the municipalities of Austin, Eastman, Bromont, Bolton-Est and Granby to implement conservation projects.

 Discussions and negotiations are underway with nearly 40 other landowners for the protection of their properties.



Inform and educate
about the importance
of the natural heritage

Two printed newsletters distributed to **11 200 homes**.
Seven electronic newsletters sent to **2500 recipients**.

PARTICIPATION IN COP15

Member of civil society;
Co-organizer of the « Accélération de la conservation dans le sud du Québec » Day;
Video conference: Carbon credits as a lever for conserving natural environments;
Participation in the China-Quebec Forum on Biodiversity.

Successful citizen **FUNDRAISING** for Mount Gale conservation project (Bromont) **\$375K**.

MEDIA | **9 press releases**; Mention in **over 50 articles** in print media; **Over 30 interviews** on TV and radio programs; **Media requests for comment on environmental news**: COP15, opening of BAPE hearings on the proposed expansion of *Parc national du Mont Orford*, land-use planning, consideration of natural environments by municipalities, etc.

CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS | **7 conferences on bat conservation** in Quebec; **8 conferences on connectivity** for a variety of audiences (university, college, general public); **1 conference for homeowners** explaining conservation options;

A total of **300 people** in attendance.

SOCIAL MEDIA | **Regular publications** on our Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram pages with a growing community of readers: over **3000 fans**.

Constant audience growth.



Promote
the conservation of
natural areas and influence
land-use planning

Launch of the Municipal Toolbox, designed to inspire and accelerate consideration of ecological connectivity;

Held **8 conferences** on connectivity for a variety of audiences (university, college, general public);

Participation in a citizen science activity (Agricultural Bioblitz) joining over 100 persons.

URBAN PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTATIONS

Meetings with several MRCs and municipalities to present some of the issues and recommendations relating to the protection of the ecological network, as well as to initiate conservation projects on municipal land;

Consultation for the regional wetlands and water plans and the regional natural environment plan;

Submission of a brief to the BAPE concerning the proposed expansion of *Parc national du Mont Orford*;

Submitted a brief on Bill 16 (amending the law on urban planning);

Participation in the drafting of a brief concerning consultations on new government orientations in land use planning (OGAT).



BOARD of directors

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Affiliate Members
Françoise BRICAULT, Delegate for Eastern
Affiliate Members

NETWORK of affiliate members

- Association de conservation de la nature de Stukely-Sud
- Conservation Espace Nature Shefford
- Fiducie foncière du mont Pinacle
- Conservation Massawippi Trust-Fiducie
- Ruiter Valley Land Trust
- Parc d'environnement naturel de Sutton (PENS)
- Association de conservation du mont Écho (MECA)
- Société de protection foncière du Lac Montjoie
- Memphremagog Conservation Inc.
- Marais Alderbrooke Marsh
- Fondation Marécages Memphremagog Wetlands Foundation
- Société de conservation du Mont Brome
- La Société de conservation du corridor naturel de la rivière au Saumon
- Fondation des terres du Lac Brome
- Conservation Lac Brome
- Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine
- Les Sentiers de l'Estrie Inc.

NATIONAL partner



FUNDING PARTNERS

- Government of Canada • Government of Quebec
- Nature Conservancy of Canada • Ducks Unlimited Canada
- NMBCA / U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service • Fondation de la faune du Québec
- MapleCross Foundation • The Echo Foundation • Eco Canada
- Rando Québec • Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec (CDPQ)
- New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC)
- Quebec Bat Recovery Team
- Hydro-Québec • Bird Protection Quebec (POQ)
- Lake Champlain Basin Program • MRC Brome-Missisquoi
- Ville de Bromont • Municipalities of Bolton Est, West Bolton, Potton, Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton, Austin and Eastman
- And many private donors



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