**Decision Support Tool – Screening Criteria**

All criteria in Tables 1 and 2 of the Decision Support Tool are intended to help practitioners determine whether an area meets the Pan-Canadian standards and is therefore eligible to be reported as a Protected Area or an “Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure" (OECM) under the pan-Canadian standards. Criteria in Table 1 apply similarly to both Protected Areas and OECMs. Criteria in Table 2 help to both define and distinguish between Protected Areas and OECMs. All criteria in Table 2 must be met at the PA level for an area to be reported as protected, or at the OECM level or combination of OECM and PA levels for an area to be reported as an OECM. **This template is intended to be used in conjunction with the decision support tool and detailed interpretation guide.**

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| **BASIC INFORMATION** |
| **Name of Site** | **Nicolet Migratory Bird Sanctuary**  |
| **Designation** | Designated as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary  |
| **Province/Territory** | Quebec |
| **Year of Establishment / Securement** | 1982 |
| **Area (ha)** | 2937 ha |
| **Management Authority** | The terrestrial portion of the MBS is managed by ECCC and National Defense. The marine part is managed by ECCC and the government of Quebec |
| **Explanation of Management Authority** *(optional)* | The Nicolet migratory bird sanctuary has two portions: one freshwater & one terrestrial.The terrestrial portion is found on the National Defense property and is therefore managed by the federal government (ECCC & DnD). The aquatic portion is on Lac Saint-Pierre and managed by the government of Quebec. |
| **Governance Type *(CPCAD type*)** | Government - federal |
| **Legal Basis / mechanism(s)** | Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations (*Migratory Birds Sanctuary Regulations C.R.C., c. 1036)* & Aire de Concentration d’oiseaux aquatiques (*Règlement sur les habitats faunique RLRQ, Chapitre C-61.1, r.18*)  |
| **Explanation of legal basis / mechanism(s)** *(optional)* | * The terrestrial portion is protected under the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations and habitat management falls under ECCC responsibilities due to federal jurisdiction on DnD property.
* The aquatic portion is protected under the same Act but is also protected under provincial jurisdiction as a waterfowl gathering area (Quebec)
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| **Summary of Essential / Relevant natural, social and cultural values** | The area is widely recognized as very important for wildlife conservation. It is characterized by a series of different habitats, changing from wet grasslands to swamps and marshes as the land nears the water. Consisting primarily of river bulrush, the marsh near the lake remains submerged at all times. The Nicolet MBS is an important staging area for waterbirds and also a prime location for waterfowl nesting along the St. Lawrence. In the spring, the entire flooded area attracts an impressive number of geese, as well as a large number and a great diversity of dabbling ducks. During fall migration, over 8000 dabbling ducks use the sanctuary as a staging area, as do Canada Geese and several other species of waterbirds\*The area is recognized under the Ramsar Convention & is within the Lac Saint-Pierre UNESCO biosphere Reserve. It is also recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA)  |

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| **TABLE 1: STANDARDS COMMON TO PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS** |
| **CRITERIA:** | **INTENDED EFFECT OF THE CRITERION** | **SCREENING CHOICE** | **EVIDENCE-BASED RATIONALE Rationale/evaluation of how area meets or does not meet the intended effect of the criterion** | **MEETS INTENDED EFFECT?** |
| **GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE** | Demarcates the area to facilitate the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | A. The geographical space has clearly defined and agreed-upon borders. | The Nicolet Migratory Bird Sanctuary has clearly defined and agreed upon borders described in the *Migratory Birds Sanctuary Regulations C.R.C., c. 1036.*  | Yes |
| **EFFECTIVE MEANS – 1** | Activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity do not occur and compatible activities are effectively managed. | B. The mechanism(s) provide(s) the ability to prevent, control and/or manage activities within the area such that the in-situ conservation of biodiversity can be achieved. | The *Migratory Birds Sanctuary Regulations C.R.C., c. 1036* is the primary mechanism that provides the ability to prevent any activities that might disturb and destroy the nests of migratory bird species. The regulations is also preventing individuals from hunting in the migratory bird sanctuary. Given the habitat is mostly wetlands with little development potential, the provisions in place should ensure the conservation of biodiversity. The terrestrial portion of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary is on the National Defense Property, providing Environment climate change Canada with the ability to manage the habitat of species. Subsurface rights are not withheld but the likeliness of extraction is negligible given the property is owned by DnD. The aquatic portion of the migratory bird sanctuary is also protected under the *Migratory Birds Sanctuary Regulations C.R.C., c. 1036* in addition to a provincial mechanism (*Règlement sur les habitats faunique RLRQ, Chapitre C-61.1, r.18*) aimed at protecting important waterfowl gathering areas. | Yes |

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| **EFFECTIVE MEANS – 2** |  | A. The mechanism(s) compel(s) the authority(ies) to prohibit activities that are incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity.  | The *Migratory Birds Convention Act S.C. 1994 c. 22* compels the Minister of the Environment to ensure that no person shall be in possession of a migratory bird or nest. In order to carry out the prohibitions laid out in the Act, the migratory bird sanctuary regulations were put in place to prohibit activities incompatible with conservation of migratory bird, which in this case also protects biodiversity as a whole. *Migratory Birds Sanctuary Regulations C.R.C., c. 1036 – Section 10*  : *10 (1) No person shall, in a migratory bird sanctuary,**carry on any activity that is harmful to migratory birds or**the eggs, nests or habitat of migratory birds, except under**authority of a permit.*Environment Climate Change Canada is therefore compelled by the regulations to prohibit incompatible activities and/or otherwise issue permits under Section 9 (3) of the same regulations. | Yes |
| **LONG TERM** | The area is permanently protected or conserved and not easily reversed. | B. The mechanism(s) is/are expected to be in effect for the long term and not easily reversed.  | The terrestrial area is permanently protected under the *Migratory Birds Sanctuary Regulations C.R.C., c. 1036* while the marine is protected under both the federal and provincial regulations.  | Yes |
| **TIMING** | Biodiversity is protected or conserved year-round. | A. The mechanism(s) is/are in effect year-round | The provisions of the regulations are in place year round.  | Yes |

| **TABLE 2: STANDARDS THAT FURTHER DEFINE AND DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS** |
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| **CRITERIA:** | **INTENDED EFFECT OF THE CRITERION** | **SCREENING CHOICE** | **EVIDENCE-BASED RATIONALE:****Rationale/evaluation of how area meets or does not meet the intended effect of the criterion** | **OUTCOME** |
| **SCOPE OF OBJECTIVES** | Objectives have sufficient scope to result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | B. The objectives are for the in-situ conservation of a subset of biodiversity or indigenous values, such as particular species or habitats, accomplished through the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | The objectives of the regulations in place are for the conservation of a subset of biodiversity (migratory birds) but accomplishes the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. Management for the conservation of migratory bird leads to the *in situ* conservation of other species found on the area. These management actions have a sufficient scope for the protection of all species found in the area.  | Yes - PA |
| **PRIMACY OF OBJECTIVES** | Objectives are such that they result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | A. Conservation objectives are stated as primary and overriding of other objectives. | Objectives of the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are for the conservation of migratory birds. However, the national defense does carry out activities on the site that are not for the conservation of biodiversity.  | Yes - PA |
| **GOVERNING AUTHORITIES** | The in-situ conservation of biodiversity is not jeopardized by relevant governing authorities. | A. All relevant governing authorities acknowledge and abide by the conservation objectives of the area.  | Governing authorities in and around Nicolet Migratory Bird Sanctuary are many: * National Defense
* Environment Climate Change Canada
* Quebec government.

All three governing authority recognize the importance of the habitat for wildlife and abide by the conservation objectives for the area. National Defense is the only GA that could jeopardize the in-situ conservation | Yes - PA |
| **BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OUTCOMES** | Biodiversity is conserved in-situ. | A. The area is achieving the conservation objectives. | During nesting season, several species of ducks, including Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal and Ruddy Duck all share the sanctuary. Other bird species seen in the summer season are Killdeer, Least Bittern, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Black Tern, American Bittern, Swamp Sparrow, Sora, Common Yellowthroat and Wilson's Phalarope. | Yes - PA |

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| **SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT**  |
| **OUTCOME / EVALUATION** | **Screening Outcome:** Protected Area (meets all criteria) Is this an Interim Target 1 area: yesIs this a candidate Target 1 area: yes**Currently reported to CPCAD/CARTS?** Yes, as Protected Area**Total Area (ha) to be reported to CPCAD/CARTS:** 2937ha  |
| Identify deficiencies that could be overcome in order to report as PA or OECM | The regulations in place in Nicolet Migratory Bird Sanctuary focus on the protection of migratory birds. Given the tendency of the area to flood each spring, it is unlikely that any other land use would be best fit. However, activities carried out by the national defense are in conflict with the Act itself and could jeopardize some of the biodiversity outcomes for species sensitive to ballistic testing.  |
| Lead evaluator / assessor | Simon Paquin, Environment Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service |
| Communications / Engagement | *Names of governing authorities and others consulted, including names and positions of contact people and dates*  |
| Approvals  | *Names of governing authorities (including landowners, right holders and the responsible jurisdiction) that have approved the content and results of this screening as being accurate and complete to the best of their knowledge and agree to reporting of data.* |

Tags: Quebec, QC, Federal, Protected Area, PA, IUCN Ia, Strict Nature Reserve, Government of Canada, ECCC, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, DND, National defense, CWS, Wetland, Grassland, Swamp, Marsh, Riparian, Migratory Bird Sanctuary, MBS, Ramsar, Important Bird Area, IBA, Biosphere reserve, 2019.