



La Table des partenaires

Chaire de leadership en enseignement (cle) en foresterie autochtone
Educational Leadership Chair (elc) in Indigenous Forestry

Management of Nitaskinan forests that respects the Atikamekw way of life

In partnership with the Atikamekw community of Wemotaci

Project in progress

Marie-Laure Lusignan

Directors: Jean-Michel Beaudoin, Alison D. Munson

Collaborators: Samuel Roturier, Yvan Croteau



June 2nd, 2021

Setting the context – Forest management

- Sustainable management of forests
 - Getting closer to the "natural" forest => Management issues
 - Addressing the concerns of forest users => Consultations and harmonization agreements

But...

- Dissatisfaction with the state of the forest
- Dissatisfaction with the implementation of harmonization agreements

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A solution: better integrate ecological issues and the real needs of **aboriginal communities** (Wyatt, 2004; Stevenson, 2006; St-Arnaud, 2009; Booth et Skelton, 2011; Lasnier, 2017; Bellefleur, 2019)

- Consider the forest as a forest that is inhabited

The master project

- Question:

How can the values, interests and needs of the Wemotaci Atikamekw be taken into consideration in sustainable forest management?

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Understanding their perspective and their interactions with the forest

Methodology

Stays in Wemotaci

Participant observation (19 weeks)
+
Meetings with an Atikamekw family

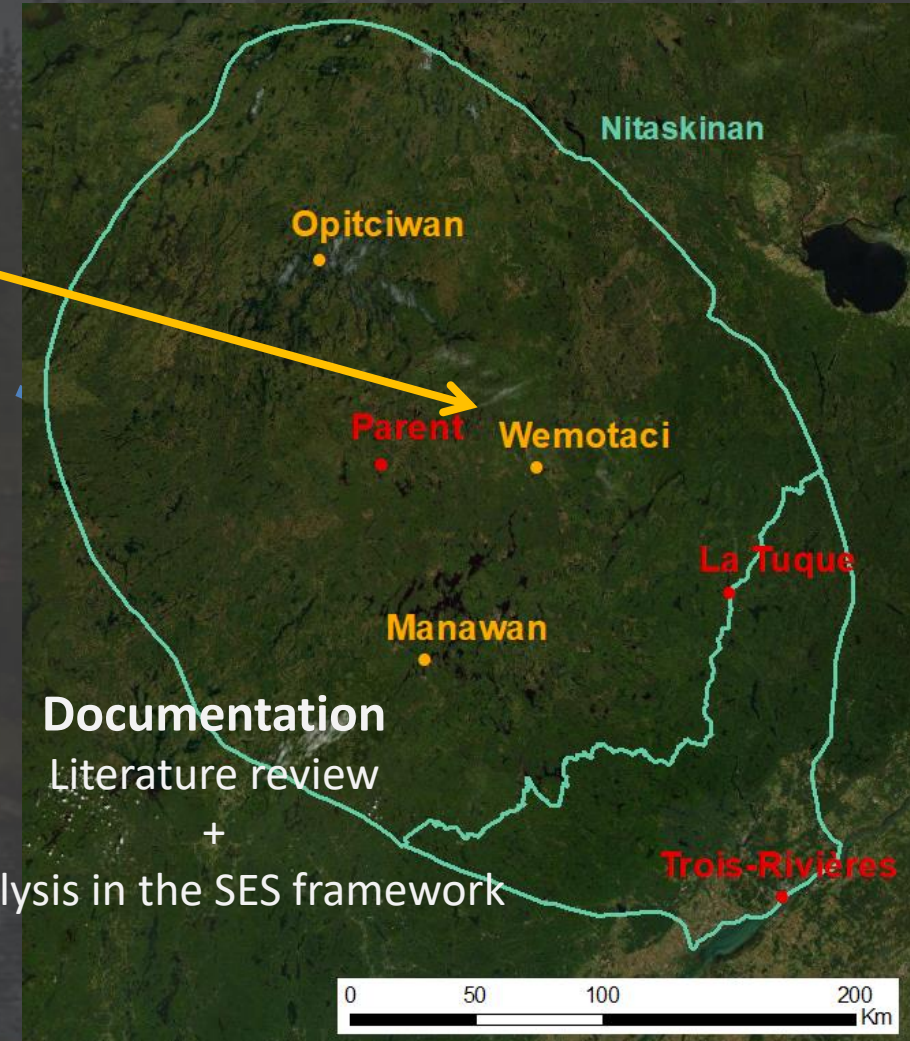
Restitution of knowledge
In the community

Validation of the results of the analysis

With the community

Validation focus group
(family + local committee)

Documentation
Literature review
+
Analysis in the SES framework



Theoretical foundations

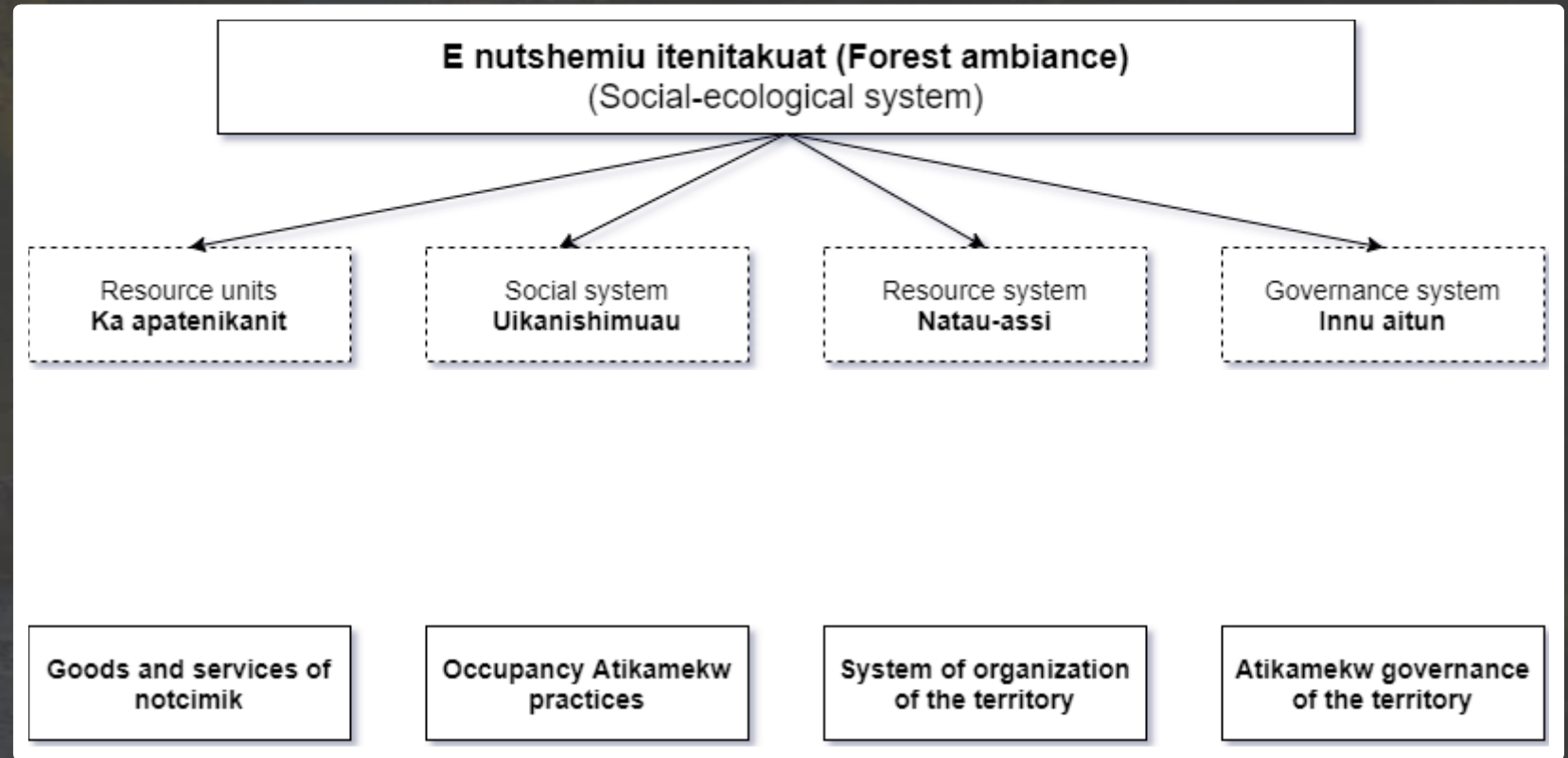
- ⇒ To approach the territory from an Atikamekw perspective
 - ⇒ Do not limit their relationship to the territory to the use of resources
 - ⇒ Consider the Atikamekw as an integral part of the territory
 - ⇒ See the ecosystems with all they include
(tangible and non-tangible elements)

Theoretical foundations

– Atikamekw Nehirowisiw social-ecological system [SES]

Pessamiulnuat SES

(Bellefleur 2019, inspired by Ostrom 2009)



Atikamekw Nehirowisiw SES

(inspired by Bellefleur et Ostrom
St-Arnaud, 2009; Wyatt et Chilton, 2014;
Camirand-Lemyre, 2020; Éthier, 2020)

Preliminary results

Atikamekw Nehirowisiw social-ecological system

Goods and services of notcimik

Plant resources
Wildlife resources
spiritual resources

Atikamekw occupancy practices

Cultural practices *
Spiritual practices
Economic practices *

* Consideration of traditional and non traditional practices

Organization of land

Territory with stable boundaries

- Atikamekw ancestral territory
- Family territories

Territory with dynamic boundaries

- Camp sites
- Subsistence hunting territories
- Fishing zones
- Movement patterns
- Places of memory

Atikamekw territorial governance

Atikamekw customary right

Code of practice et ethics

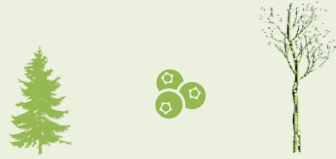
Territorial Agreements

Governance actors

- Families
- Territory chief
- Band Councils
- Council of the Nation

Goods and services of notcimik

Plant resources



Wildlife resources



Spiritual resources



Notcimi pimatisiwin

Atikamekw occupancy practices

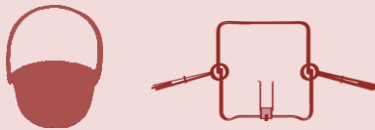
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Organization of land

Territory with stable boundaries

Territory with dynamic boundaries

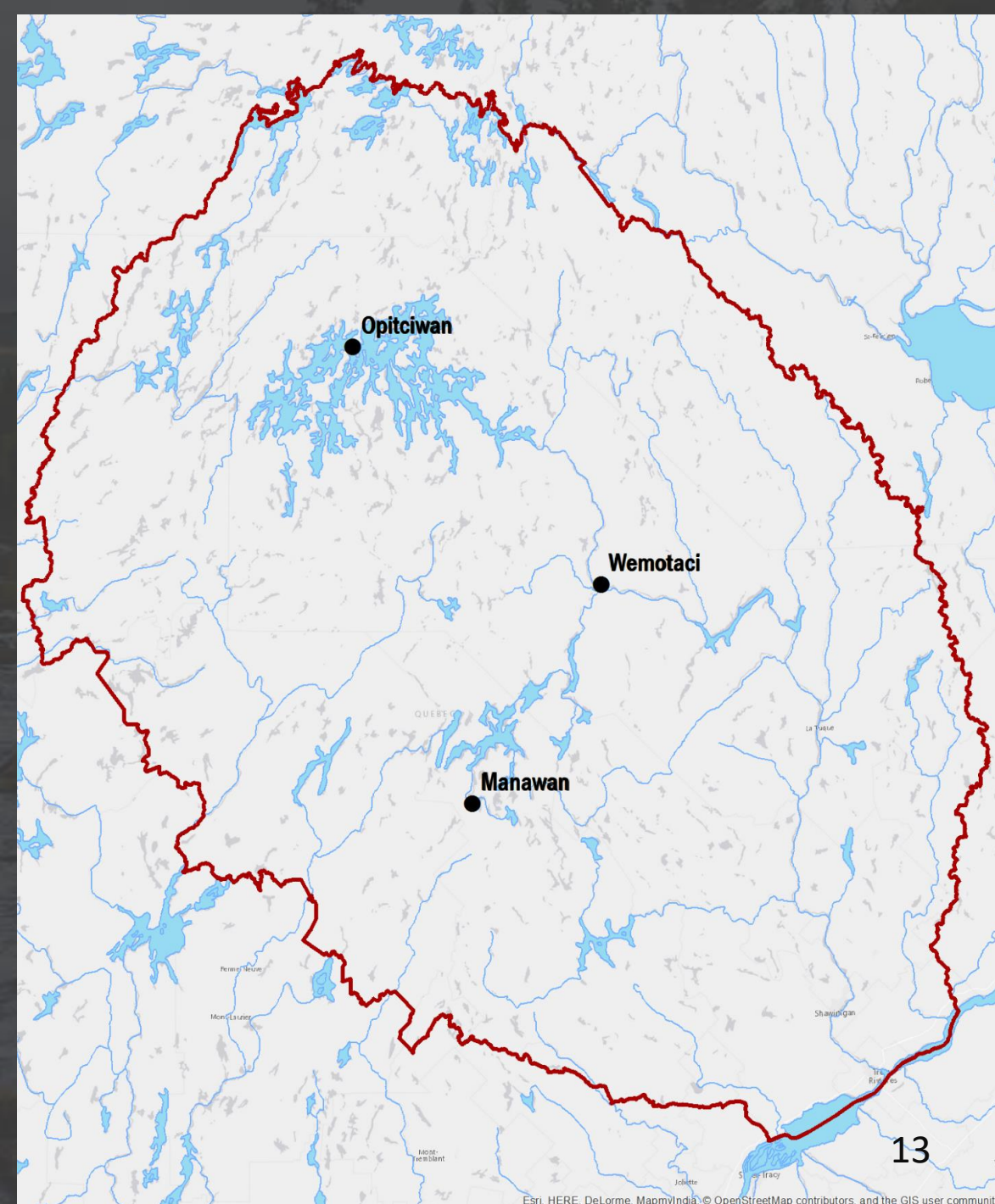


Organization of land

Territory with stable boundaries

- Nitaskinan – Atikamekw ancestral territory
- Nataho aski – Family territories

Territory with dynamic boundaries

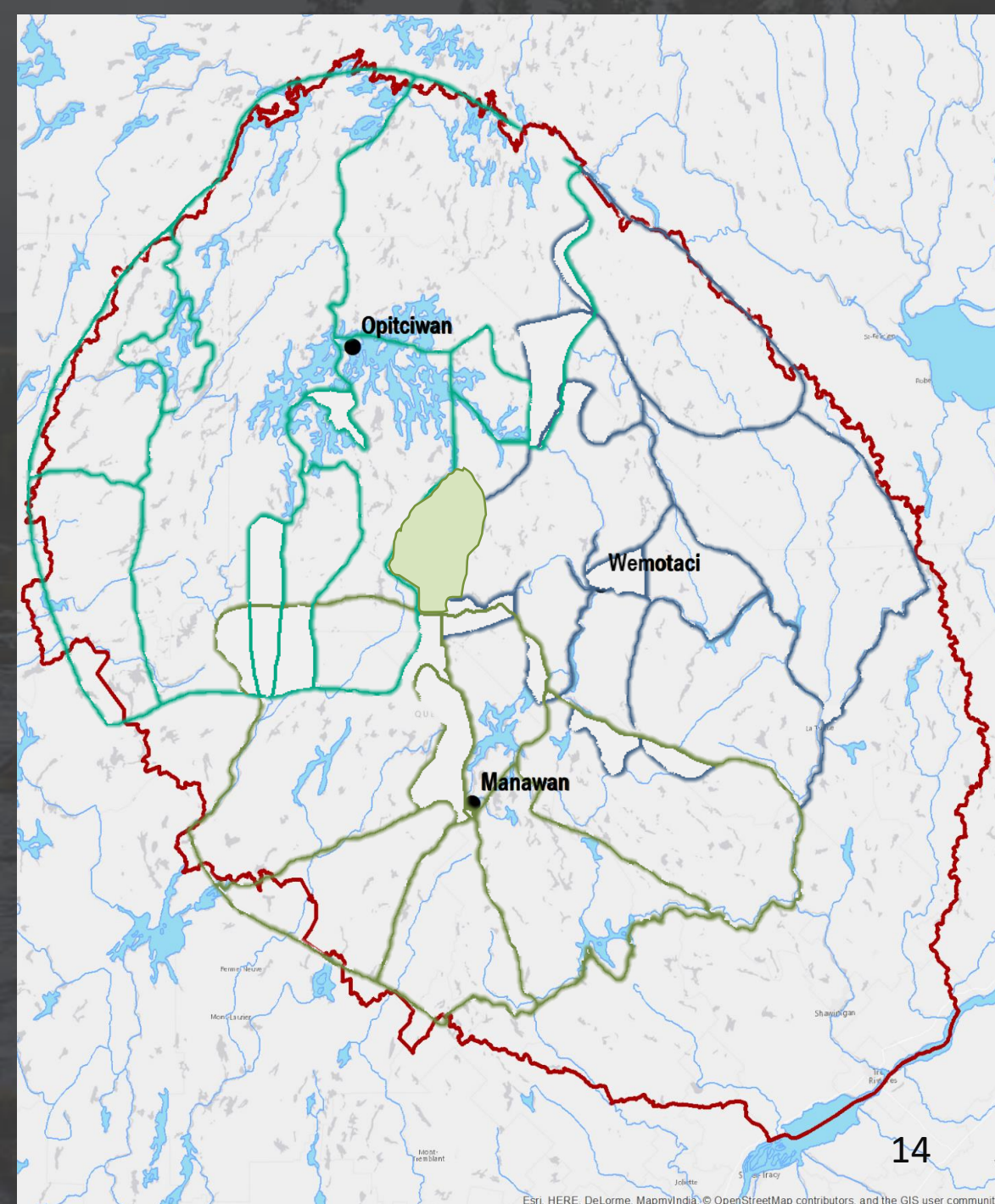


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Atikamekw Nehirowisiw Tipahiskan

Atikamekw territorial governance

Nehirowisiw customary right – Cultural values and principles system

Orowewin notcimik itatchowin – Code of practice and ethics

Wectatowin aski – Territorial agreements

Territorial governance responsibilities



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Territorial governance responsibilities

- **Families**
 - Monitoring and surveillance territory/resources
 - Let the territory rest
 - Sharing resources/experiences/observations



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- Ka nikaniwitic - Chef de territoire

- Guardian of territory and culture
- Do not deplete or waste resources
- Keep knowledge up to date
- Ensure respect for customary rules and practices



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- Council of the Atikamekw Nation

- Claim ancestral rights and sovereignty over Nitaskinan
- Document continuity of territorial occupation by families

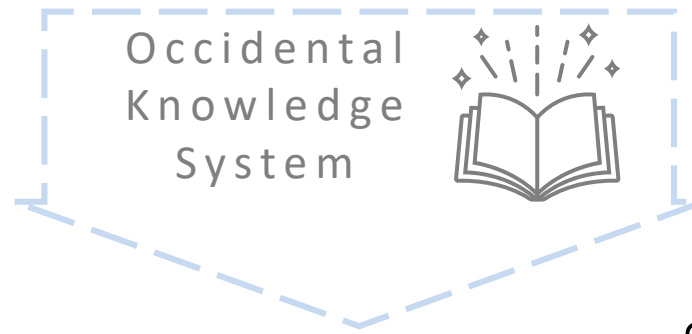


Forest governance in Québec

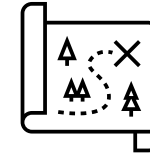
Forestry intervention (short term)

Forestry
Harmonization

Families and
ka nikaniwitc
consultations



By the Department

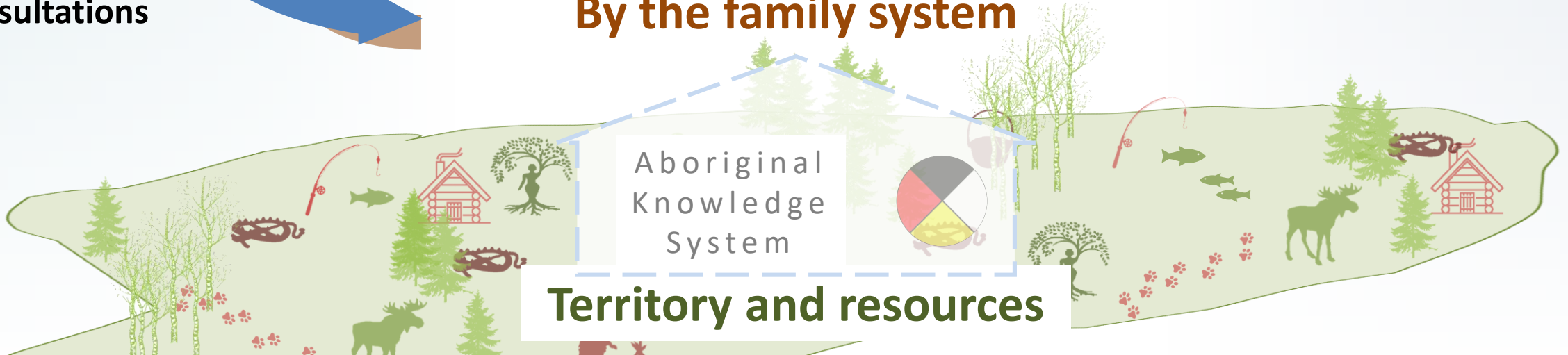


By the councils

By the family system



Forestry planning (long term)



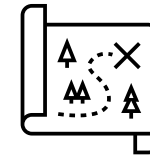
Forest governance in Québec

Forestry intervention
(short term)

Forestry planning
(long term)



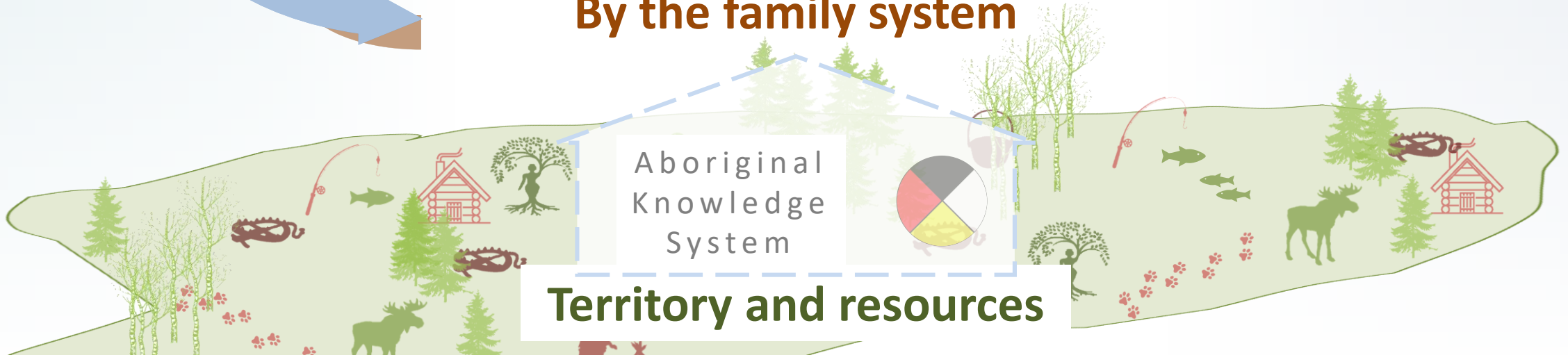
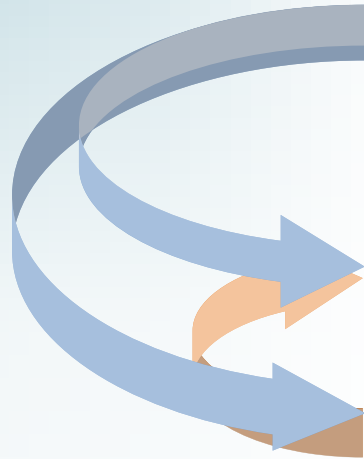
By the Department



Tables GIRT,
Distinct
consultation

By the councils

By the family system



Territory and resources

Forest governance in Québec

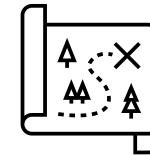
Forestry intervention
(short term)



Forestry planning
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What is missing ?

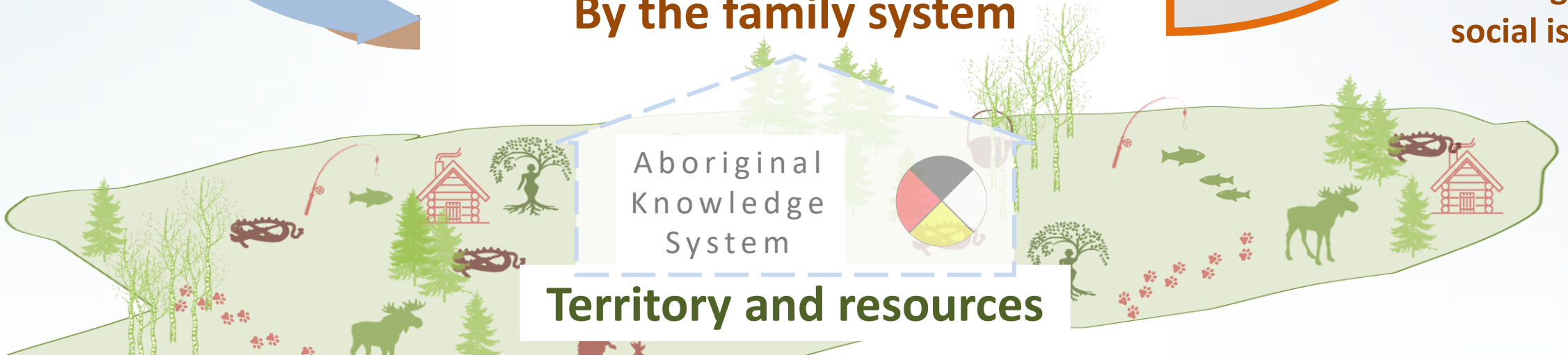
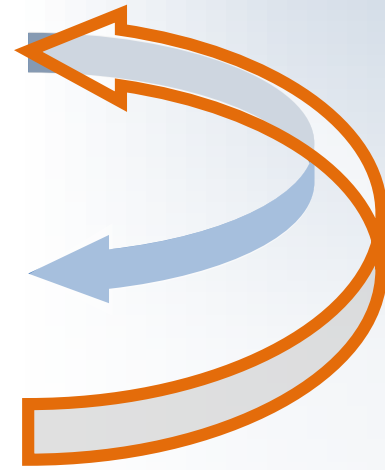
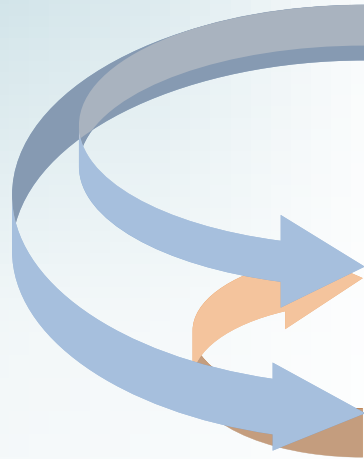
By the Department



By the councils

By the family system

Integration:
Aboriginal
territory
knowledge
&
Aboriginal
social issues



Benefits

- To facilitate the communication of the Atikamekw perspective of the territory and its occupation
- To highlight that...
 - The Atikamekw territorial reality is mainly situated on the scale of a territorial family;
 - The occupation of the territory within a family territory is dynamic and mobile, and therefore does not fit into a mapping system as currently used in forestry;
 - It is important and relevant to integrate the perspective of territory leaders and families during harmonization agreements, but the information currently sought does not correspond to the same knowledge system.

Time line

Complete validation of results with the community



Write and present the research report to the community



Submitting the Master's thesis



Summer 2021

Fall 2021

2019

2020

2021

Mikwetc! Thanks!

Thanks to :

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Pauline Suffice

Marie-Laure Lusignan

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Codirectrice: Alison D. Munson



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