



Northern Arctic Ecozone

The Northern Arctic ecozone encompasses most of Nunavut and a portion of both the Northwest Territories and northern Quebec. Physically, the western portion consists mostly of lowland plains covered with glacial moraine. East of a longitudinal line which runs between Prince of Wales and Somerset islands, the terrain tends to be uplands consisting of plateaux and rocky hills.

The climate is very dry and cold. The annual precipitation ranges from 100 mm to 200 mm. Mean daily January temperatures ranges from -30°C to -35°C in the long winters and the daily July temperatures are between 5°C and 10°C in the short summers.

Herb and lichen dominated communities constitute the main vegetation cover.

Mammals of the Northern Arctic Ecozone include Peary and barren-ground caribou, muskox, wolf, arctic fox, polar bear, arctic hare, and brown and collared lemmings.

Some representative birds include red-throated loon, brant, oldsquaw, gyrfalcon, willow and rock ptarmigan, and snowy owl.

In the marine environment, typical species include walrus, bearded, harp and harbour seals, beluga and narwhal.

This ecozone includes:

- [Aulavik National Park of Canada](#)
- [Auyuittuq National Park of Canada](#)
- [Sirmilik National Park of Canada](#)
- [Quttinirpaaq National Park of Canada](#)
- [Ukkusiksalik National Park of Canada](#)

Reference: Lands Directorate, *Terrestrial Ecozones Of Canada*, Ecological Land Classification No. 19, 1986, p. 26.

