

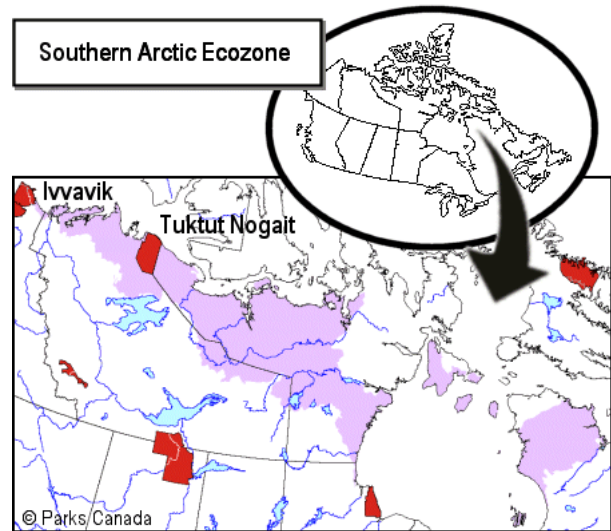


Southern Arctic Ecozone

The land portion of the Southern Arctic is split by Hudson Bay into east and west portions. The Bay is included within this area as a marine environment. The larger land portion covers the mainland of Nunavut and a small section of the Northwest Territories. The smaller eastern segment bridges northern Quebec and Labrador. The terrain consists largely of strongly rolling lowland plains. Much of it is mantled by glacial moraines.

The climate is typically arctic with long, cold winters and short, cool summers. Mean daily July temperatures tend to be cool (about 10°C). Winter temperatures are highly variable, but the mean daily January temperature tends to be about -30°C. Mean precipitation north-south ranges between 200 mm and 400 mm.

This ecozone represents a major area of vegetation transition and contains the major shrublands in the tundra. Typical shrubs include dwarf birch, willows and heath species; these are commonly mixed with various herbs and lichens.



Characteristic mammals of the Southern Arctic Ecozone include moose, muskox, wolf, arctic fox, grizzly and polar bears, and arctic hare. The area also includes the major summer and calving grounds of two of the largest caribou herds.

The area is also a major breeding and nesting ground for a variety of birds. Representative species include yellow-billed, arctic and red-throated loon, whistling swan, snow goose, oldsquaw, gyrfalcon, willow and rock ptarmigan, northern phalarope, parasitic jaeger, snowy owl, hoary redpoll and snow bunting.

The marine environment include different species of seal and whale.

This ecozone includes:

- [Ivvavik National Park of Canada](#)
- [Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada](#)

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