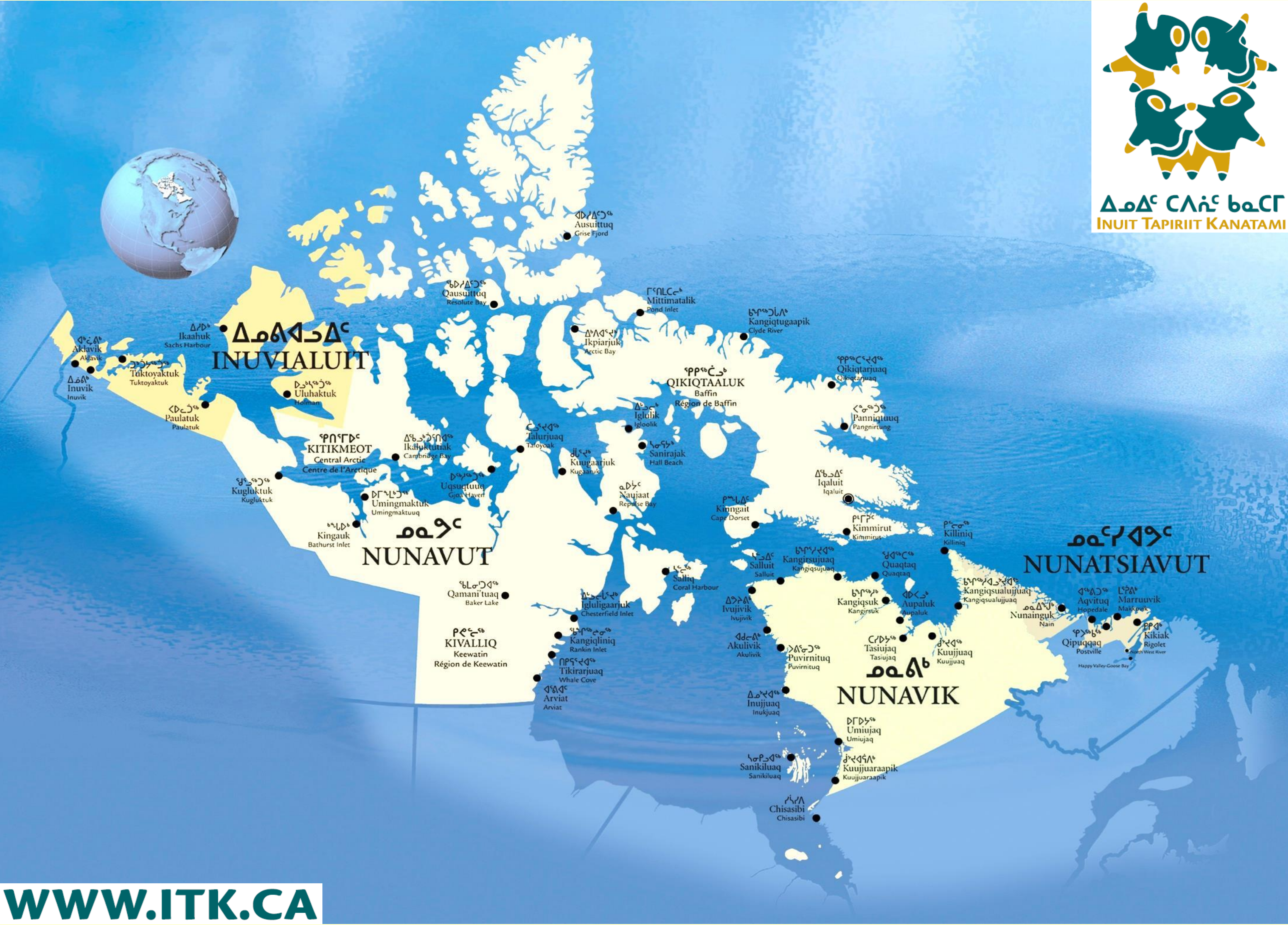


# CANADIAN POLAR BEAR INFORMATION TOOL

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- ‘PBIT’ is a web-based information tool under development by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Canada’s national Inuit organization, and designed to provide up-to-date information on Canada’s 13 polar bear subpopulations
- ‘PBIT’ will highlight the ties between Inuit communities and the multi-jurisdictional management of polar bears in each of Canada’s four Inuit regional land claims territories: the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut

## BACKGROUND

- 155,000 Inuit live in Canada, Russia, Greenland and Alaska
- Canada is home to one-third of the circumpolar Inuit population who reside in 53 communities across Canada’s Arctic
- Canadian Inuit, like their circumpolar neighbours, have co-existed with polar bears for millennia and continue to depend on this important species for food, clothing and their livelihoods
- Inuit are fully committed to the conservation, management, and sustainable use of polar bear for present and future generations
- PBIT will provide the most current information about the trends and status of Canada’s polar bear subpopulations
- PBIT will also highlight the cooperative (co-management) approach of the varied wildlife management bodies, jurisdictions and governments involved in the management of polar bear in Canada
- PBIT will illustrate how Inuit are key to regional, national and international agreements in place to ensure that all subpopulations are sustainably managed

## OBJECTIVE

The key objective of PBIT is to raise the public’s awareness and understanding of the extensive management structures in place to conserve and manage polar bears in Canada and the long-standing commitment and involvement of Inuit in these structures.

## PLATFORM

PBIT uses a platform called *Nunaliit*, featuring a map interface on which geographical polar bear subpopulation units are layered and used as a method to organize and present information.

Information on this platform can be organized in accordance to its relevance internationally, nationally, regionally and locally.

## USERS

PBIT is a visually navigable tool designed to be easy to use and understand by individual users.

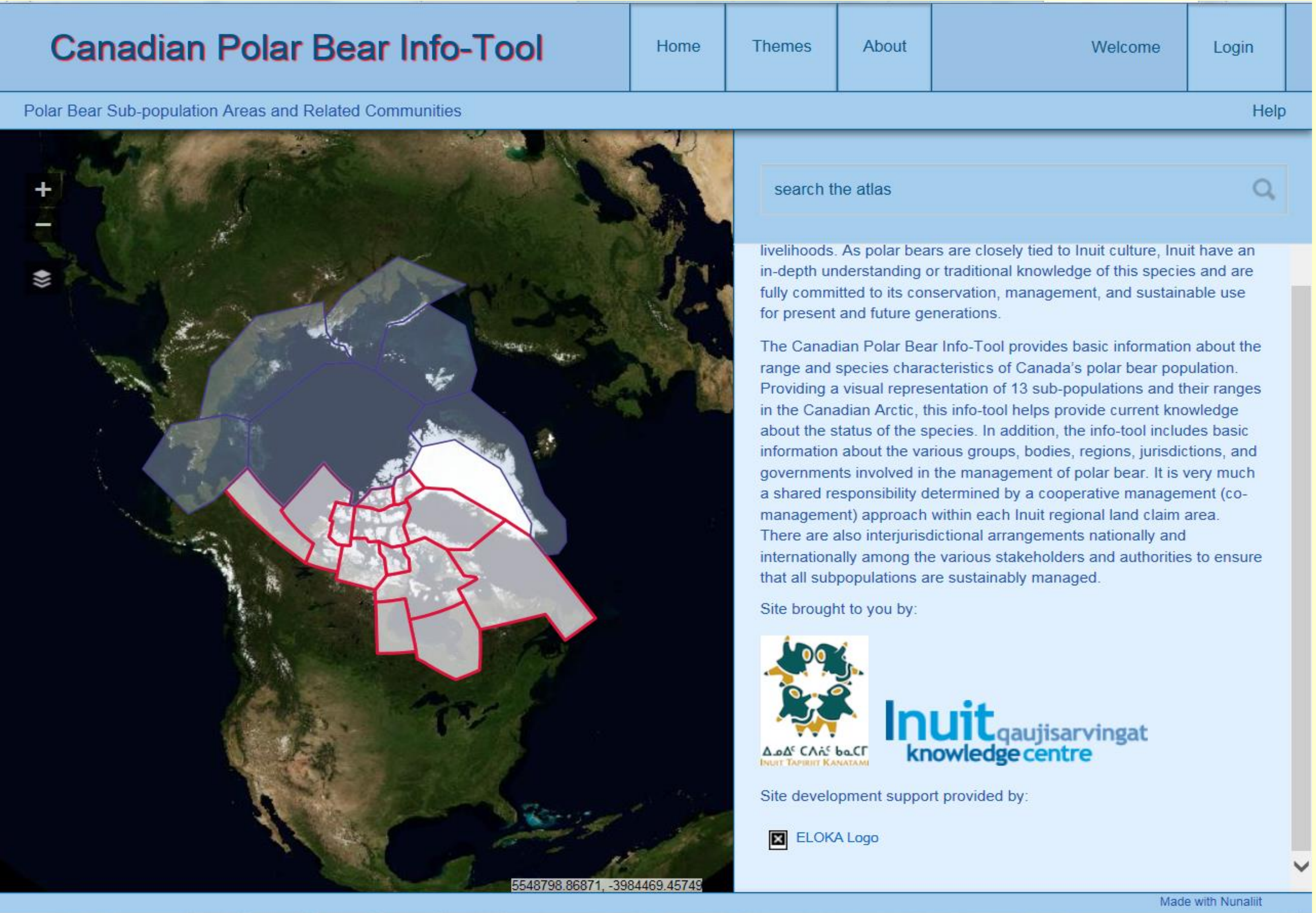
PBIT is also designed to be used as an outreach and education tool for use in a variety of settings including wildlife management meetings, academic conferences, community workshops and in classrooms.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

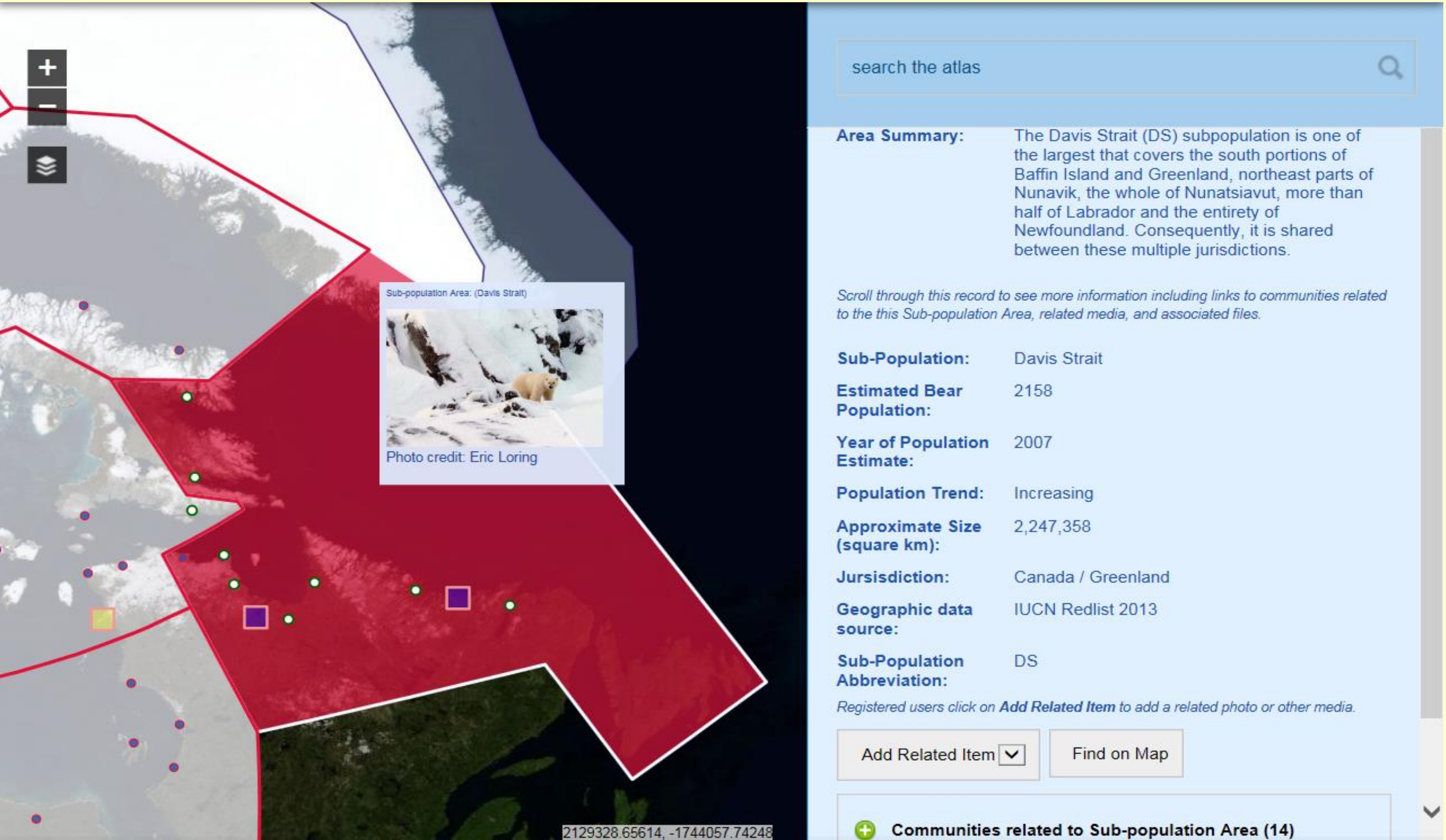
- Polar bear management in Canada is linked to a very complex set of processes that collectively involve multiple jurisdictions, agreements, wildlife management boards, committees, regional and local organizations, communities, research activities, cultural needs and legal rights.
- This complexity can confound efforts to educate the general public about Canadian polar bear management processes.
- It is hoped that PBIT will generate interest and a better understanding of polar bear populations and management decision-making in Canada and foster an appreciation of the important role polar bear management plays in Canada for polar bears, for Inuit, and for the world.

## Acknowledgements

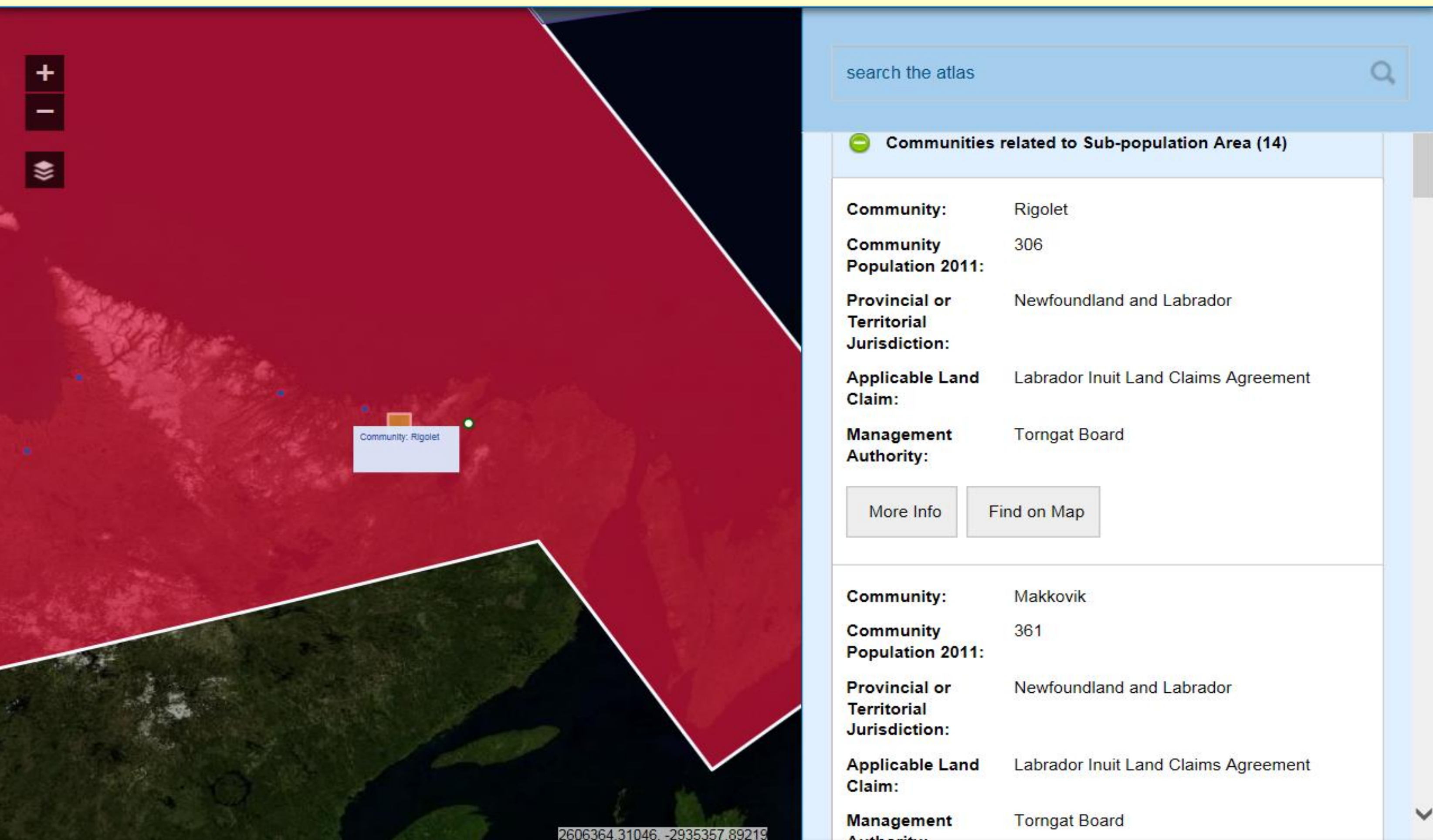
- Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic
- Inuit Qaujisarvingat: Inuit Knowledge Centre
- Environment Canada



(Screen Shot of PBIT prototype: Canadian Sub-populations highlighted in red.)



(Screen Shot of PBIT prototype: Example of a Subpopulation Area Profile.)



(Screen Shot of PBIT prototype: Example of Community/ Management Authorities associated with a Sub-population Area.)