



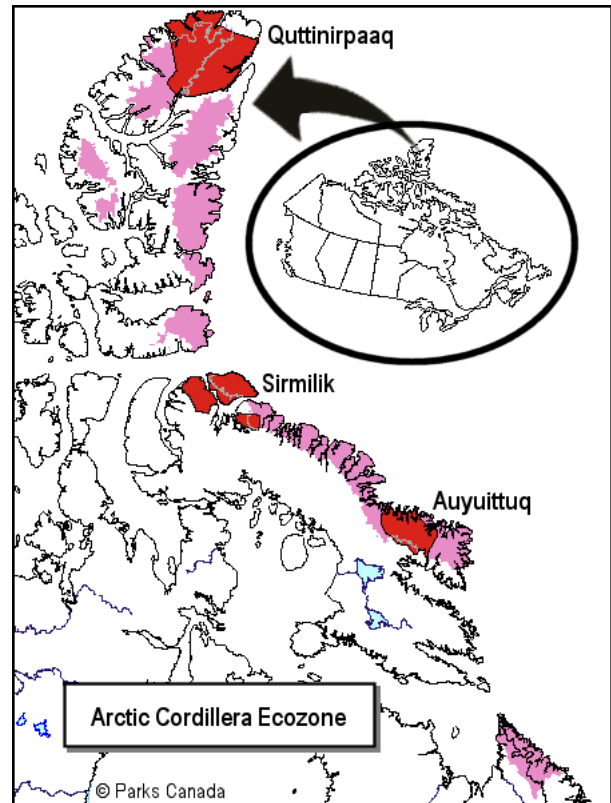
Arctic Cordillera Ecozone

The Arctic Cordillera contains the only major mountainous environment other than the Rocky Mountain system. It occupies eastern Baffin and Devon islands and most of Ellesmere and Bylot islands. The highest parts are strikingly crowned by ice caps and multiple glaciers.

The climate is very cold and arid. Mean daily January temperatures range from -25.5°C in the south to -35°C in the north and mean daily July temperatures are about 5°C. Precipitation amounts to 200 mm to 300 mm generally with higher totals on exposed eastern slopes and at lower latitudes.

Vegetation at upper elevations is largely absent due to the permanent ice and snow.

The Arctic Cordillera Ecozone is largely devoid of terrestrial mammals, although polar bears are common in coastal areas.



Representative birds in the warmer coastal margins include northern fulmar, ringed plover, hoary redpoll and snow bunting.

The marine environment is typified by walrus, bearded, harbour, ringed and harp seals, narwhal, and beluga and killer whales.

This ecozone includes:

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

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

Autumn 2003