Driftwood and shrubs are the primary wood resources available in Nunavik today. Driftwood is available in coastal areas, while shrubs are available in inland areas. The local knowledge about the names of woods and driftwood has been passed down through generations and is an important part of the cultural identity of the Inuit. The study aims to document the traditional knowledge of the Inuit about the origin, availability, collection and use of wood resources in this region of sub-arctic. To that end, semi-structured interviews of approximately one hour were conducted with 27 Inuit aged between 60 and 89 years old in the villages of Ivujivik, Akulivik, Inukjuak and Umiujaq.

**Study regions and methods**

During the summer of 2011, semi-directed one-hour interviews were conducted with 27 Inuit aged between 60 and 89 years old in 4 villages. The study focused on the western coast of Hudson Bay (Ivujivik, Akulivik, Inukjuak and Umiujaq (Figure 1)). The topics discussed were mainly related to the characteristics of wood resources (i.e. availability, origin and collection) and the names given to driftwood was very accurate and diversified because of the significant exposure to driftwood in the southern villages.

The Inuit knowledge and perception on the availability and exploitation of wood resources results from a multitude of experiences and helps us to increase awareness of Inuit culture. The use and exploitation of driftwood and shrubs is well documented in the literature (e.g., Desrosiers and Desbiens 2004). A multidisciplinary approach combining the perspectives of Inuit and western scientists to develop a comprehensive understanding of the traditional knowledge of the Inuit about driftwood and shrubs will provide a better understanding of how Inuit and western researchers can work together in the future to protect and conserve the traditional knowledge of the Inuit about driftwood and shrubs.

**Conclusions and Prospects**

Even though driftwood and shrub woods are not regularly used today in Nunavik except as fuel for fires on the camps, these rare wood resources from this region were very important in the daily lives of Inuit ancestors who used them for warmth, for transportation (sleds, kayaks), and to build their homes (semi-subterranean dwellings, tents) or to make hunting tools and other everyday objects. This study contributes to the dissemination and maintenance of Inuit culture.

**Acknowledgements**

We wish to acknowledge and thank the participants from the communities of Ivujivik, Akulivik, Inukjuak and Umiujaq for sharing their knowledge. The presentation is extended to all our interpreters. Finally, thanks to the following participating organizations: the Avataq Cultural Institute; Centre d’Études Nordiques, Laval University and CRSSH and CRSNG for their financial support, cooperation and for their help in the logistical organization of the fieldwork.