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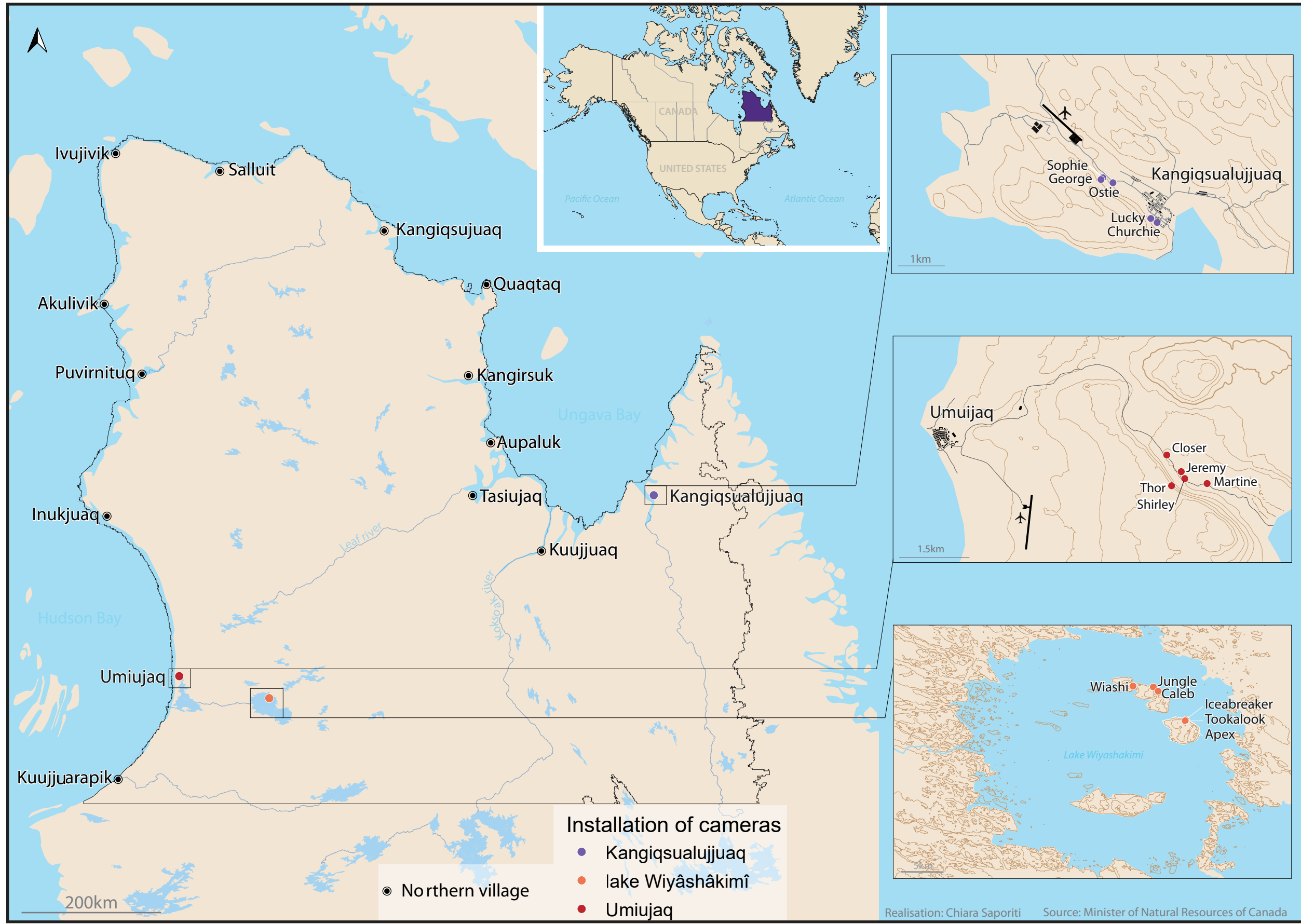
# Towards a portrait of avalanche hazard in Nunavik

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## GENERAL CONTEXT



Jungle - Lac Wiyâshâkimî



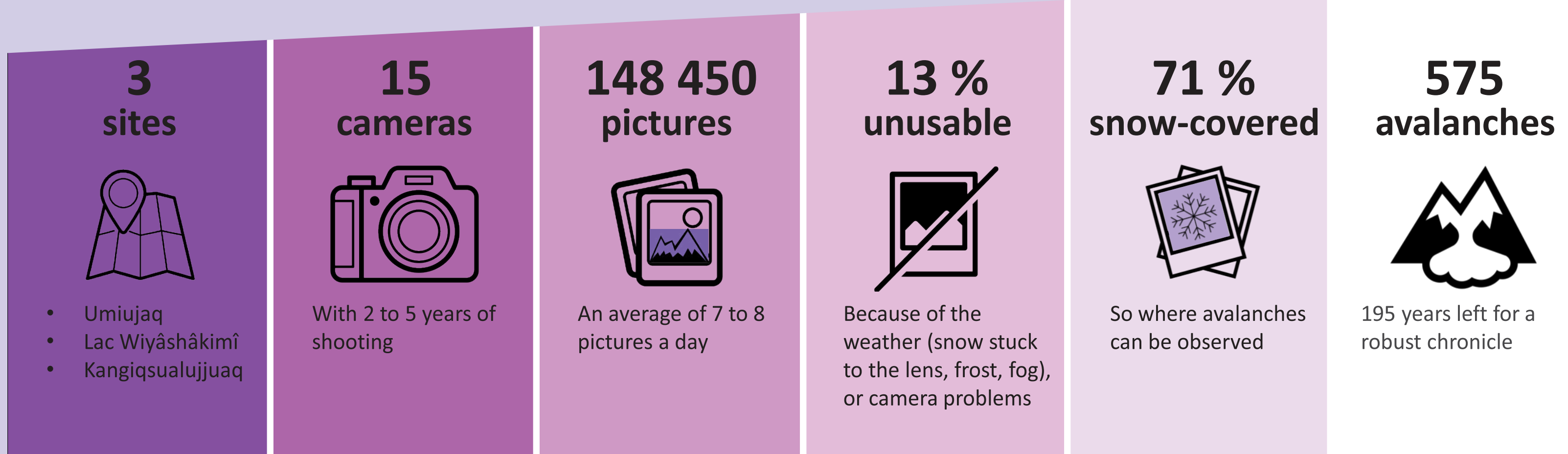
Shirley - Umiujaq



Thor - Umiujaq



## DATA IN FIGURES



**January 1999**, a deadly avalanche occurred in the village of Kangiqsualujuaq (northern east Nunavik): 9 people killed (including 5 children), 25 injured. This tragic event led to the gradual awareness of local population and scientific community on the avalanche risk in the northern Quebec region.

Since 2015, a team from OHMI-Nunavik is interested in studying slope dynamics at different sites.

3 sites were chosen and were equipped in 2017 with automatic time-lapse cameras (type Reconyx™ Hyper Fire2):

- Umiujaq,
- Wiyâshâkimî meteorite crater lake,
- Kangiqsualujuaq.

Operating year-round and recording pictures every hour, for an average of 7 hours per day, these cameras have helped to identify avalanche paths and avalanche occurrences.

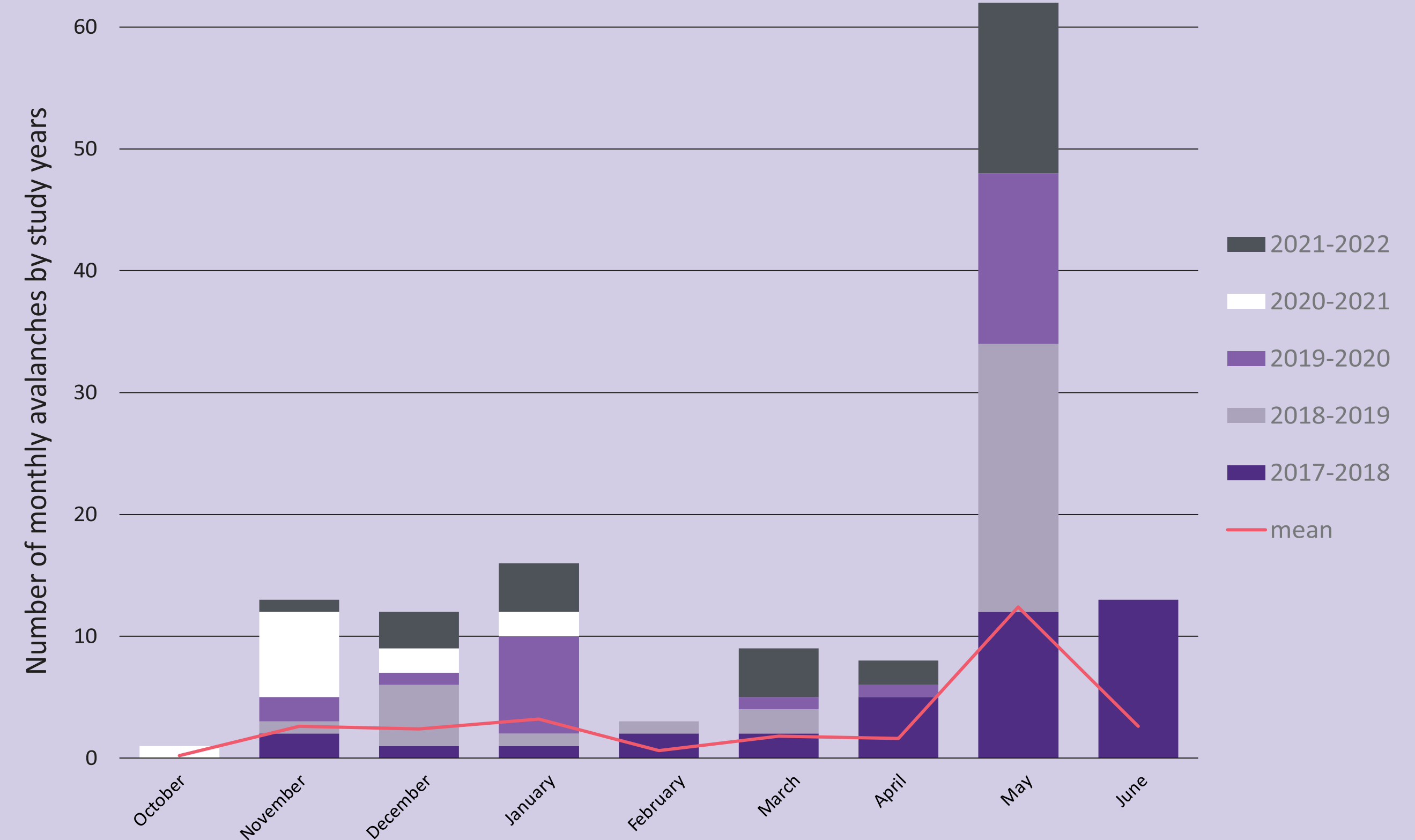
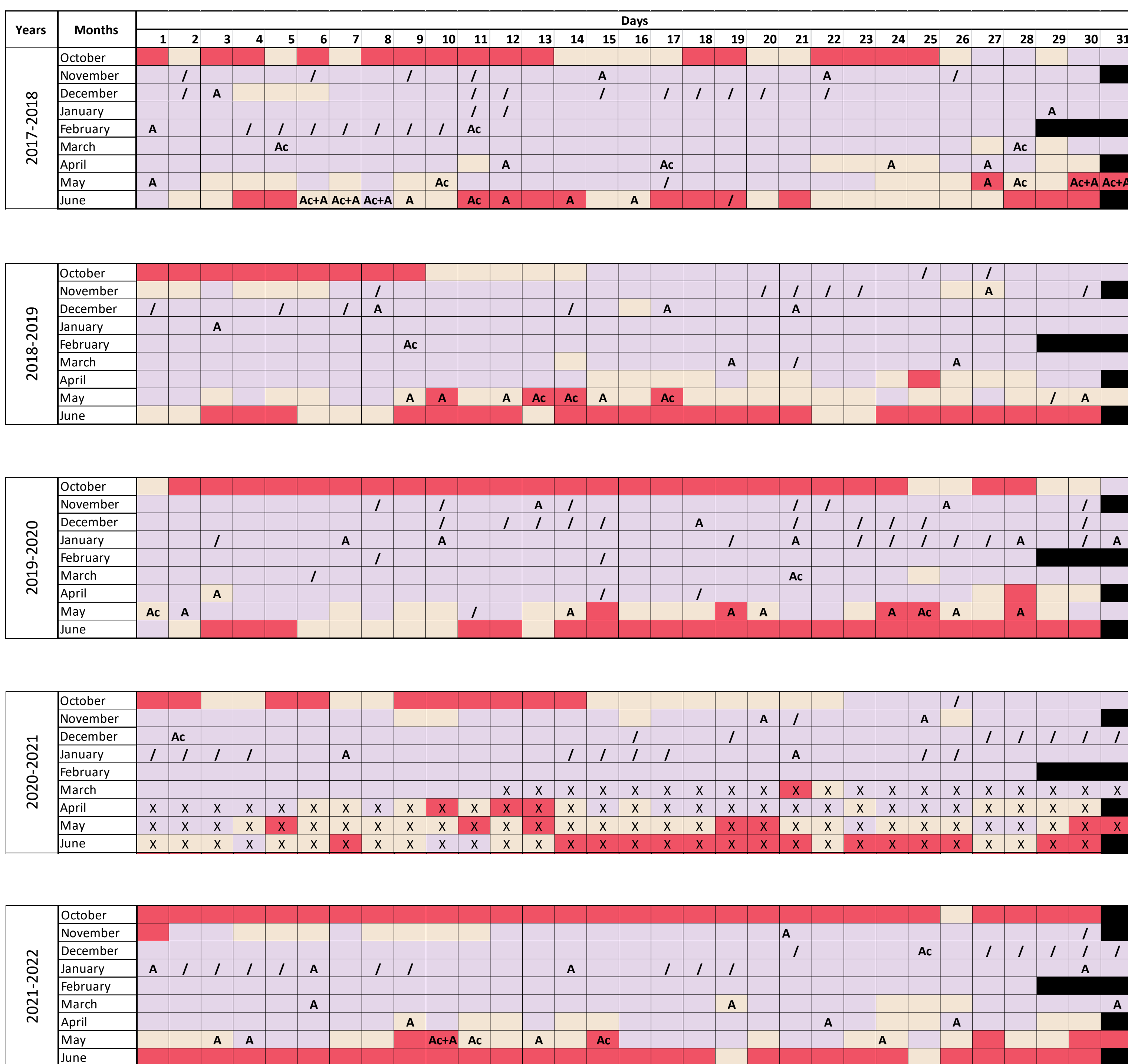
These sites were chosen because of the presence of the avalanche hazard and its potential impact on the local population.

For Umiujaq and the Wiyâshâkimî lake, recent development of tourist activities in the national park Tursujuq, established in 2013, led to more traffic on local roads, especially during spring, season of high frequency avalanches with potential important runoff.

The avalanche deposits visible on the pictures enable to establish:

- a winter and spring calendar of occurrence,
- an estimate of runoff distances,
- the delimitation of the contours of avalanches,
- weather conditions during the triggering phase.

## ZOOM ON CAMERA SHIRLEY OPERATING SINCE 2017



Shirley camera, located in the site of Umiujaq, captured the most active avalanche paths since 2017, recording a total of 137 avalanches in 5 years.

The travel distance is used to estimate whether the avalanche hazard represents a risk to human activities. On Shirley, more than 50 % of the observed avalanche deposits extended to distal slope, at the foot of the slope, beyond the 10 % inflection point.

Winter and spring calendars enable a first correlation of temperature variations and occurrence of avalanches:

- avalanches are mostly triggered following an increase in temperature in previous days. It explains the monthly occurrence in May, as the daily temperature becomes mostly positive.
- daily temperature variations also trigger avalanche events as they occurred during day time, the time during which the population is more likely to frequent these areas

