

**CANADA**

**National Report to the Ninth Session of the  
United Nations Forum on Forests**

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## I. Key Contacts

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CANADA:

## Key Forest Facts

### Society

- Most of Canada's forest land (93%) is publicly owned.
- The remaining is on private property belonging to more than 450 000 private landowners.
- The provinces and territories have legislative authority over the conservation and management of the forest resources on provincial /

### Environment



## Global Objective 1

Canada is continuing its work both internationally and nationally to promote sustainable forest management practices, ensure no net loss of forest cover and prevent forest degradation. While Canada has been active in this area for many years, more recent efforts have focused on the development of phytosanitary standards to reduce movement of forest pests in traded products, promotion of a landscape level approach to sustainable forest management through Model Forests, and the implementation of enhanced forest and landuse planning guidelines. Canada has also been active in supporting other countries in their efforts to promote sustainable forest management and prevent forest

achieve the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity in a mutually supportive way.

- **Assistance to other countries.** For the period 2008–10 Canada spent an average of approximately \$8.2 million per year on an average of 55 forestry related development initiatives to help reduce forest degradation and in support of sustainable forest management.

Canada recently committed institutional, financial and technical support to the Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) and its Convergence Plan (\$7.8 million from 2010–16), including facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership for 2010–12. Canada is also contributing \$4.8 million between 2008–13 to build the capacities of colleges and universities in natural resources management studies in the Congo Basin, through Quebec's Laval University.

Led by the Government of Ethiopia with the support of Canada and other donors, the goal of the Productive Safety Net Program is to reduce the vulnerability of chronically food insecure people and enable them to progress towards more resilient livelihoods. Projects include activities such as the establishment of more transparent and accountable systems for sustainable natural resource management, terracing and afforestation to improve soil conservation and restore degraded watersheds, and water harvesting schemes.

From 2006–12, Canada's \$16.5 million contribution to Indonesia's National Program for Community Empowerment in Rural Areas (PNPM) project helps communities

understand the negative and long term impact of their actions on the surrounding environment and natural resources. The project introduced natural resource and environmental management practices into the

complemented on a national level through import regulations and policies to protect Canada's forests. Policies are built in response to plant health emergencies as well as well as in anticipation of pests that could enter Canada and damage forests. As well, a National Forest Pest Strategy provides a risk based decision making framework for dealing with native and alien forest pests in Canada. It allows governments, research institutes, industry and other concerned groups to coordinate response activities against native and alien pests and mitigate their impacts.

- **Forest certification.** Canada has the largest area of certified forest in the world, with more than half of the world's PEFC endorsed certifications and over one quarter of FSC certifications. As of December 2009, Canada had 142.8 million hectares of forest certified to one or more of the three certification systems. These systems are the Canadian Standards Association Sustainable Forest Management Standard, the Forest Stewardship Council, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Governments in Canada accept that these market led systems demonstrate and promote the sustainability of forest management practices in Canada.

- **New provincial and territorial forest codes and land use planning frameworks.** In 2008, the province of Nova Scotia introduced an interim guideline for public lands for implementing a Code of Forest Practice: A Framework for the Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management. The direction provided by the guidelines is mandatory on public lands that are administered by the province's Department of Natural Resources, and will be implemented in the planning and design process for the Integrated Resource

Management (IRM) plans for each of the Eco districts in Nova Scotia. Private landowners are also encouraged to follow the guidelines on their own properties. The Code of Forest Practice principles are based on the concept of sustainable forest management, greatly expanding the range of priorities for forest use across the province while at the same time considering the long term well being of the forest environment.

In 2009, the province of New Brunswick announced a new long term management approach to public forests that balances







control methods continues for the Emerald Ash Borer and Sirex Woodwasp. Canadian researchers, industry experts and policy makers work to minimize pest prevalence in forest exports through the Canadian Forest Phytosanitary Working Group. Internationally, Canadian scientists coordinate several International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) working groups and lead the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group.

- **Assistance to other countries.** In Honduras, Canada is supporting the Sustainable Management and Production of Forestry Resources project (\$8.9 million from 2009–16). This six year project will significantly increase the income of rural Honduran families working in the forestry sector by strengthening Honduran forestry co-operatives and establishing sustainable forestry practices. The key activities that will take place under this project are: i) training groups and co-operatives working in the forestry sector in administrative management, accounting and strategic planning, ii) delivering workshops on the production and

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Adjustment Fund, the federal government aims to help mitigate the short term impacts of restructuring in communities. The objective of the Fund is to provide support to communities hit by the economic downturn by creating employment opportunities through activities such as community transition plans that foster economic development, science and technology initiatives and the promotion of economic diversification.

- **Community Development Trust.** In 2008, the Government of Canada established the Community Development Trust to help communities who are dependent on one employer or a sector under pressure, such as the forest sector. This initiative consists of \$1 billion distributed to the provinces and territories

economic activities that promote sustainable forest management, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance community economic development. As well, in 2010 the Government of the Northwest Territories released a Biomass Energy Strategy which promotes the use of biomass energy in the territory while ensuring the local harvest of wood remains sustainable. Working cooperatively with communities, the government will assess the technical feasibility of heat, electricity and local fuel wood supply projects, encourage fuel wood use, and enhance knowledge and management practices to sustainably harvest and burn wood.

• **Provincial and territorial support to community economic development.** After several mill closures in the province, the Government of New Brunswick provided an opportunity for forest industry restructuring that allowed public wood allocations to be assigned to remaining viable mills. The transferred allocation resulted in funds being collected by government and redirected to impacted communities to support new economic development.

In 2009, in response to mill closures and reduced production from other mills, the Government of Saskatchewan developed A Framework for Development of

Saskatchewan's Forest Industry. The framework identified key actions to assist the province's forest industry in moving from an industry based on commodity production to one delivering market driven, value added products. The framework also contains commitments to

## Global Objective 3

The number, extent and ecological integrity of protected areas in Canada continued to increase through national, provincial and territorial efforts. Canada also undertakes and facilitates other forest conservation efforts both domestically and internationally such as working on the Global Early Warning System for Wildlife Fire and the enhancement of knowledge for biodiversity conservation.

### INTERNATIONAL

- **Advancing forest management practices to conserve biodiversity.** Canada is facilitating collaboration between industry, academia, ENGOs, and provinces and territories on integrated research projects to develop and assess improved forest management practices for the conservation of biodiversity. As a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Canada supports the responsible development and use of its natural resources and the competitiveness of its natural resource products. Emphasis is placed on the protection of endangered woodland caribou populations and their habitat, conservation of forest birds and the boreal forest habitat that sustains their migratory populations, and the security of freshwater resources through sustainable forest watershed management. Scientific knowledge and on the ground experience is used to support development of forest management guidelines and regulations across the country. Information is also shared through

forums and publications, including a national report on the state of the boreal forest.

- **Preventing and mitigating wildland fire disasters.** Canada, as a member of a consortium of international fire agencies that includes Germany, the USA and Australia, is participating in the development of the Global Early Warning System for Wildland Fire project. The system is based on the Canadian Forest Fire Weather Index System and will provide a fire danger rating system for the many countries that do not have a national system helping to prevent and mitigate wildland fire disasters.

- **Circumboreal vegetation mapping.** Through the Circumboreal Vegetation Mapping project, Canada is helping to develop a global map of the circumboreal forest biome with a common legend. By recognizing the boreal region as a single geo ecosystem, the project, co led by Russian and North American experts, will be the first detailed vegetation map of the entire

historic sites and national marine conservation areas and these protected places are enjoyed in ways that leave them unimpaired for present and future generations.” Towards this, a number of relevant targets for national parks have been identified, including: increasing the number of represented terrestrial natural regions from 28 in 2007 to 29 of 39 by 2013; making demonstrable progress towards establishing national parks in three unrepresented regions by 2011; and twenty national parks are to improve one ecological integrity indicator between 2008 and 2014, among others. Canada has established national parks within many of the nation’s forest dominated natural regions, including 130 000 km<sup>2</sup> of land within Canada’s boreal region. In 2009, Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories was expanded by 25 000 km<sup>2</sup>. Recent efforts towards the establishment of national parks in Canada’s forested natural regions include the 2008 land withdrawals for the proposed Naats’ihch’oh National Park Reserve (7 600 km<sup>2</sup>) and a proposed national park on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake (27 000 km<sup>2</sup>) in the Northwest Territories, and the signing of an MOU for the establishment of the proposed Mealy Mountains National Park (10 700 km<sup>2</sup>) in Labrador.

In 2008, the province of New Brunswick designated 30 new protected natural areas on public land, adding 5 400 hectares to the existing system of Protected Natural Areas. New Brunswick currently has approximately 158 000 hectares of public land protected under the Protected Natural Areas Act. The new sites vary in size from 20 to 334 hectares. With one exception, the new sites have been designated as Class II, which allow for continued low impact recreational use—

including hunting, fishing and trapping—but prevent forestry, mining and other industrial or commercial activities. In addition to the new protected areas, the province and the Nature Conservancy of Canada have agreed to establish the first private land protected natural area in New Brunswick.

Also in 2008, five new nature reserves were established in the province of Nova Scotia. The new reserves will help protect 594 hectares of old forests, wetlands, rare species’ habitats and ecosystems. The new nature reserves have been





## Global Objective 4

Canada continues to provide development assistance for advancing sustainable forest management globally.

- **Support to the Copenhagen Accord.** In June 2010, Canada announced a \$400 million investment for fiscal year 2010–11 to deliver on the 2010 portion of its commitment to fast start financing under the Copenhagen Accord. As part of the package announced this year, \$40 million will be provided to support the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility which supports developing country efforts to implement actions related to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). REDD+ financing brings significant benefits to biodiversity and local communities and helps achieve the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity in a mutually supportive way.

- **African Model Forest Initiative.** Canada is providing \$15 million to the African Model Forest Initiative through its official development assistance funds. The initiative is a three year program (2009–12) which aims to improve the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources in the Congo Basin and Mediterranean (Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria) regions of Africa through Model Forests. By developing

Model Forests in Africa, the program leverages financial resources from other national and regional governments and engages stakeholders at the international and local level towards sustainable forest management.

- **Renewed Canadian support to the Congo Basin forest sector.** Canada recently committed institutional, financial and technical support to the Commission des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) and its Convergence Plan (\$7.8 million from 2010–16), including facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership for 2010–12. Canada is also contributing \$4.8 million between 2008–13 to build the capacities of colleges and universities in natural resources management studies in the Congo Basin, through



as other related reports and information and developed a **new strategy for the future management of the New Brunswick public land**. The strategy was released to the public in 2009 and will form the foundation for new management plans in 2012.

Ontario's policy and legal framework has continued to evolve to provide overall support to sustainable forest management by responding to public concerns and priorities and by balancing social, economic and environmental considerations. The Government of Ontario has been pursuing two key priority areas related to forest sector policy: 1) Forest Sector Competitiveness, including a Forest Tenure and Pricing Review (2009), Provincial Wood Supply Competitive Process (2009), and Open for Business (2009), and 2) Environmental Protection



include past greenhouse gas emissions and removals as well as the establishment of future baselines for the development of mitigation strategies in the forest sector. CBM-CSF3 is also being tested in Mexico to assist in national GHG inventory reporting as well as the enhancement of REDD+ capacity. The work involves testing of the model in several pilot sites as well as regional applications of the model to test the ability to develop REDD baseline scenarios.

Since 2008, Canada has been assisting the Argentine Model Forest Network to develop a process to select, refine and implement **local level indicators of sustainable forest management**. This culminated in a workshop co-led by Canada and Argentina at the 2009 World Forest Congress to present the results of the project. Canada has also provided technical assistance to the Mozambique Department of Lands and Forests in setting up a national C&I process. A three day



that will support the ecological integrity of the park. This involves building a strong network of partners and exploring a number of joint initiatives, such as integrated reporting and identification of habitat priorities in the region. Similarly, Kejimikujik National Park is a core area within the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve. Park staff are working with its biosphere reserve partners, including the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute Co-operative, to collaborate on research, monitoring and management projects to better understand the area's ecological health as well as best practices that can help maintain and improve its ecological integrity.

In Ontario, residents have rights and civic responsibilities to assist with the management of forest resources on public lands in Ontario. **Local Citizens' Committees** consist of local stakeholder representatives and provides a formal way to involve Ontarians in forest management decision making processes. From social surveys with Committee members in 2001, 2004 and 2010, there is general and increasing satisfaction with the forest management planning process and agreement that the process and outcomes are fair and that the Local Citizens' Committees are effective.

In 2004, a number of changes to the forest management planning process in Ontario were put in place aimed at **enhancing Aboriginal opportunities for involvement** in the forest management planning process. The 2004 Forest Management Planning Manual provided broader opportunities for consultation approaches, required that Aboriginal communities be offered opportunity to have representatives on planning teams, offered improved opportunities for Aboriginal representation

on local citizens committees and required preparation of a Report on Protection of Identified Aboriginal Values for affected communities. During the period from 2004-2008 the proportion of approved forest management plans with Individual Environmental Assessment requests initiated by Aboriginal people declined significantly to 11%, compared to 23% for the period from 1999-2003. The marked decrease in the proportion of forest management plans which attracted Aboriginal initiated Individual Environmental Assessment requests is taken as a very positive indication of Aboriginal participation in the forest management planning process. The observed reduction in such requests by Aboriginal people occurred during a period when changes aimed at enhancing Aboriginal peoples opportunities for involvement in the forest management planning process were put in place.



the pressing need for advancing sustainable

## Forest law enforcement and governance

As a key component of monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management, the use, conservation and protection of natural resources are monitored by governments to ensure compliance with approved plans and to measure progress towards achievement of stated goals, objectives, targets and desired planning outcomes. In Ontario for example, **independent forest audits** monitor licensee compliance with provincial forest management legislation, policies and guides. The independent audits must be conducted on all forest management units at least once every five years. As an indicator of success forty eight independent forest audits were conducted during the 2004-2008 period. The audits found a high level of compliance (95%) with provincial legislation and policies.

One of the key provisions in **Saskatchewan's Forest Resources Management Act** and regulations is the requirement for large forest companies to have periodic independent audits to assess how well they're achieving the objectives set out in their Forest Management Plans. These audits are intended to bring greater transparency and accountability to the management of our forests, for both government and industry, and to provide opportunities for continual improvement of our forest management practices. The Independent Sustainable Forest Management Audit Manual sets out the protocols for such audits. As they become available, audit results for each company are made public. Following the audit, the government and the company work together to prepare a

assist in better understanding and mitigating the caribou decline.

Ontario identifies and protects cultural heritage values as part of maintaining and enhancing recreation, tourism and other social and environmental values associated with the forest. Forest management planning teams in Ontario are required to identify and **protect cultural heritage values** in

discern the different attitudes of various target audiences towards protection efforts, which will be critical to the evaluation and redesign of the park's educational and communications programs, as well as the development of action plans for moving forward with species recovery efforts.

The **Ecosystem Management Emulating Natural Disturbance (EMEND) Project**, located in the boreal mixedwood forest near Peace River, Alberta, is a large scale variable retention harvest experiment designed to test effects of residual forest structure on ecosystem integrity and forest regeneration at the forest stand level. EMEND is a long term project that began in 1998 and is forecast to run for one stand rotation, or approximately 80-100 years. The project, centered at the University of Alberta, is a partnership between numerous research agencies, provincial and federal governments, and the forest companies operating in northwest Alberta.

The **Sustainable Forest Management Network** is a Centre for Excellence that plans, conducts, and develops applications for interdisciplinary, university based research on issues related to sustainable forest management. The Network's Knowledge Exchange and Technology Extension Program focuses on synthesis, integration and implementation of existing research results. The program also develops new tools and extension products for on going research projects. The Forest Futures project used scenarios to explore the multiple benefits provided by forested lands and makes this knowledge available to decision makers.

## Public awareness and education

**Citizen science programs** have become an important aspect of Canada's public engagement work in its national parks in recent years. These programs connect participants to nature, enhance their understanding of the natural world, help build a growing constituency of volunteers and supporters within the communities in and around national parks, and generate knowledge to support park management decisions. An example of citizen science in action is underway in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site in Nova Scotia (Keji). Keji has established strong participatory monitoring programs that generate important information while facilitating opportunities for hands on activities for both visitors and local residents. Long term monitoring forest plots have now been established through through



been integrated by including traditional

requirements of forest carbon stocks and net emissions and removals of CO<sub>2</sub> eq greenhouse gases from forests. This stand and landscape level modelling framework can simulate the dynamics of all forest carbon stocks required under international





the best available knowledge regarding the health of individual parks from across the national system. In the future, these reports will evolve with sections dedicated to providing the best available knowledge on the effectiveness of the provision of learning opportunities and the facilitation of visitor experience, and details on Aboriginal perspectives.

Ecosystem management and sustainability depends on knowledge of a region's ecosystems, their associated attributes and their interrelationships. To gain this knowledge, in 2010 the Government of Saskatchewan produced a **Field Guide to the**

**Ecosites of Saskatchewan's Provincial Forests**, a forest ecosystem classification framework that qualitatively and quantitatively describes the details best that