

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF FOREST MINISTERS'
CRITERIA AND INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST
MANAGEMENT INDICATOR REVIEW



[DRAFT]

**RESULTS OF DISCUSSION MEETING WITH
POTENTIAL USERS**

May 2, 2003

Ottawa, Ontario

RESULTS OF DISCUSSION MEETING WITH POTENTIAL USERS

INTRODUCTION

The C&I Task Force hosted a two-hour discussion meeting with potential users of the C&I framework from the non-government community on May 2, 2003 in Ottawa, Ontario. The goal of the meeting was to help assess whether or not the revised indicators adequately address the values, issues and concerns of Canadians with regard to the sustainable use of their forests.

About 35 participants from non-government organizations interested and involved in the forest sector were invited to the session. Participants were given the list of revised indicators developed by the Technical Working Groups and a short presentation on the revised indicators prior to commencing their facilitated discussion. Mr. Jacques Carette, C&I Task Force Co-chair, and Ms. Ivy Chan, from the C&I Secretariat, chaired the session.

In addition to verbal comments made at the session, all invitees were asked to submit any written comments to the C&I Secretariat by May 9, 2003. At the participants' request, all invitees were also provided with the complete Technical Working Group submission, including the detailed indicator descriptions and the descriptions of the links between the revised indicators and the original CCFM C&I and the Montréal Process C&I.

This document provides a synthesis of verbal and written comments received.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

- The Task Force should consider adding an indicator that measures the area of intact forest in Canada. This indicator is becoming more widely accepted and other groups, like Global Forest Watch, will report on it. It may be better for the CCFM to include it in their list, perhaps working with these other groups to report, rather than risk other groups reporting and interpreting this indicator independently.
- The revised indicators could do a better job of recognizing the role wetlands play in Canada's forests. Wetlands, including peatlands, swamps, marshes and shallow open water, make up 20% of the boreal forest. They are critical to moderating runoff and flood events, are effective at trapping sediments, important to recharging ground water, contribute to biodiversity, and play a significant role in the carbon cycle. The following suggested changes would help improve the revised indicators
 - Track the area represented by wetlands along with the area of forest types and age classes under criterion 1;
 - Include species that are oriented to water and wetlands when tracking the status of forest-associated species at risk under criterion 1;
 - Consider tracking additions and deletions of wetland area under criterion 2, in addition to additions and deletions of forest area;
 - Consider tracking the carbon stored in wetlands under criterion 4;
 - For indicators under criterion 3, consider reporting based on ecological boundaries rather than jurisdictional boundaries; and,
 - Under indicator 6.5.3, recognize the importance of soil and water research.
- The C&I Task Force should try to improve their understanding of who uses the C&I framework and how they use the C&I. This will be helpful in designing future reports and when undertaking any future indicator revisions.
- In future reporting, the C&I Task Force might consider making the detailed data available in a neutral format to allow others to make interpretations. For example, the data could be placed on a web site in a database that would allow users to drill down into the data and get detailed regional reports. This

would help increase the transparency and credibility of the C&I. However, some also noted that caution must be applied when making data available to ensure that it is used appropriately, particularly where data quality may vary across the country.

- If data are made available, limitations and deficiencies should be properly described. Data will never be perfect, but users need to know what assumptions have been made.
- Many agreed that the revised indicators are an improvement on the original C&I, being more focused on the issues and more practical to implement. Some felt that there is probably more concordance between the revised indicators and the Local Level Indicators (LLI) used by the Model Forests because the LLI tend to be very practical with respect to data availability.
- Some felt that there was a disconnect between input given at the three Technical Working Group meetings and the final submission made by the Technical Working Groups to the C&I Task Force.
- Some of the Aboriginal indicators appear to deal with the extent to which the government complies with its own laws and regulations. The Task Force should consider rewording these indicators.
- Indicator 6.2.2 may not be a reasonable indicator. It makes it sound as though Aboriginal knowledge is for sale.
- While the intent behind indicator 6.5.4 may be good, it may give only limited improvement to our understanding of progress towards sustainability.

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF INVITEES

Name	Organisation
Katie Atloff	Canadian Standards Association
Mike Apsey	FORCAST
Diana Blenkhorn	Maritime Lumber Bureau
Brian Bonnel	Model Forest Network
Dirk Brickman	Canadian Silvicultural Association
Robin Brinks	Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario
Denis Brière	Laval University
Cliff Buettner	Prince Albert Grand Council
Roxanne Comeau	Canadian Institute of Forestry
Peter de Marsh	Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners
Bob Demulder	Alberta Forest Products Association
Andrew Deutz	IUCN – The World Conservation Union
Andrew deVries	Forest Products Association of Canada
Al Dokis	Union of Ontario Indians
Johanne Gauthier	Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec
Jacques Gauvin	Quebec Lumber Manufacturers Association
Julie Gelfand	Canadian Nature Federation
Stephen Hazell	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Tony Iacobelli	World Wildlife Fund Canada
Anne Koven	Ontario Forestry Association
Ginette Lajoie and	Cree Regional Authority
Henry Lickers	Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Dave MacLean	University of New Brunswick
Bruce Maclock	National Centres of Excellence in Sustainable Forest Management
Colin Maxwell	Canadian Wildlife Federation
Paul McFarlane	University of British Columbia
Laszlo Pinter	International Institute for Sustainable Development
Geoff Quaille	Cree Regional Authority
Marcel Quirion	La Fondation de la faune du Québec
Michael Rai-Lewis	Ontario Forest Industries Association
Lorraine Rekmans	National Aboriginal Forestry Association
John Riley	The Nature Conservancy of Canada
Chris Smith	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Patrick Stewart	Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists
Martin von Mirbach	Sierra Club of Canada
Barry Waito	Canadian Forestry Association
Wenda Watteyne	Métis National Council
Ed Wicken	Wildlife Habitat Canada