

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICIES IN CANADA

Forest policies in Canada centre on the concept of sustainable forest management. Their underlying goal is to achieve a balance between the demands placed on our forests for products and benefits, and the maintenance of forest health and diversity.

Canada is the world's second-largest country, with ten provinces and three northern territories stretching from the Pacific to the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. Its 979.1 million hectares (2419.4 million acres) of land includes 347 million hectares (857 million acres) of forest and other wooded land.

Ninety-two per cent of Canada's forests are publicly owned—90 per cent by the governments of the provinces and territories and 2 per cent by the federal government. The remainder is held by some 450,000 private landowners. In some parts of the country an increasing amount of forest is coming under Indigenous jurisdiction (2 per cent) as land issues are settled.

Roles of Provincial, Territorial and Federal Governments

Canada's provinces and territories are responsible for the management of natural resources, including forests.. They have exclusive powers to develop and enforce their legislation, standards and programs to ensure the development, conservation and management of forest resources. These laws, regulations and policies govern various themes: planning land use, forest management, public

consultations, Aboriginal participation, protected areas, licensing, allocation of wood, etc.. While their laws may differ, the outcome is the same—sustainable forest management which takes into account the economic, social and environmental values.

The provincial and territorial governments enter into agreements with logging companies to enable them to operate in the territory in exchange for certain obligations. For example, they define strict requirements with regard to forest regeneration of harvested stands incumbent upon logging companies.

The federal government is responsible for its international trade in forest products and the management of federal lands and federal parks. They are also responsible for Indigenous Affairs. The majority of federal forest lands are not subject to harvesting.

Canada's Forest Vision

In 2008, the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) released a long-term strategic vision for Canada's forests that reaffirms the country's commitment to sustainable forest management. *A Vision for Canada's Forests: 2008*

and Beyond continues the leadership Canada has demonstrated for over 20 years through its previous forest strategies.

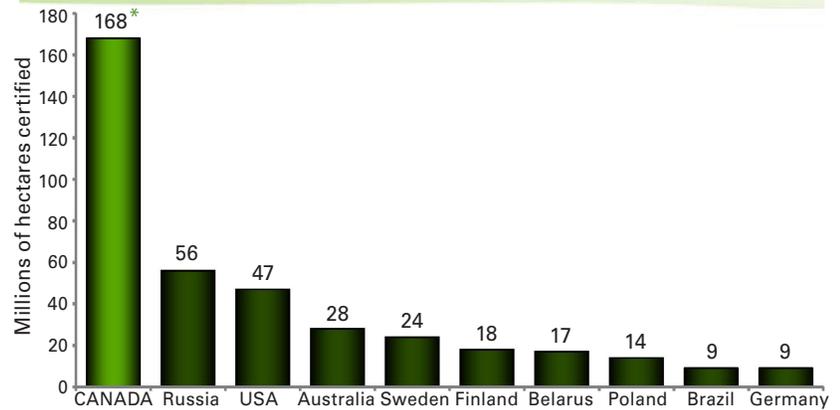
In addition to confirming CCFM's commitment to sustainable forest management, *A Vision for Canada's Forests: 2008 and Beyond* addresses two issues of emerging national importance—forest sector transformation and climate change. These two issues represent a challenge to the sector and will require new and innovative approaches.

The Vision, posted at www.ccfm.org, allows for unique and innovative means of achieving the ultimate goal: to make Canada a global leader in sustainable forest management and innovation.

Tracking Progress

Criteria and indicators provide a framework for describing and measuring the state of Canada's forests, forest management practices and progress in sustainability. They are used to track changes and are a valuable tool for targeting research and developing sustainable forest management policies. The six criteria are biological diversity, ecosystem condition and productivity,

Canadian Certification in the Global Context 2016 Year-end



*Double counting of areas certified to more than one standard has been removed from this figure.
Source: www.certificationcanada.org as of Dec 31/16

FACT SHEET

soil and water, global ecological cycles, economic and social benefits, and society's responsibility.

Canada is a founding member of the Montréal Process, created in 1994 to develop and implement internationally agreed-upon criteria and indicators to assess and improve the conservation of temperate and boreal forests—values that Canadians wish to uphold. They go beyond traditional timber values to include wildlife habitat, water quality, biodiversity, Aboriginal involvement, recreation and community stability. The indicators are scientific and use other factors to assess progress in achieving the criteria.

Involving Canadians

Each of Canada's provinces and territories has implemented broad scale strategic land use planning that identifies conservation and community objectives prior to development. Before any harvesting, regeneration or other forestry interventions are approved by the forests ministries, forest companies operating on public land must demonstrate through forest management plans that they have invited and addressed public views.

Innovative partnerships in every region of Canada—from temperate rainforests on the Pacific Coast to the northern boreal region—have turned conflicts regarding forest development and preservation into dialogues involving communities, governments, industry and a range of interest groups.

Together, divergent interests are exploring issues ranging from biodiversity to climate change, finding consensus-based solutions by recognizing differences in needs and values.

Conclusion

Sustainable forest management is a clear priority and central policy focus of Canada's governments. As the concept of sustainable forest management shifts and adjusts to address changing circumstances and conditions, so, too, do the forest policies and other initiatives designed to achieve it.

Cooperative Forestry Leadership

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM), made up of the 14 Ministers responsible for forests, is an important forum for the federal, provincial and territorial governments responsible for forests to work cooperatively to address major areas of common interest. The Council provides leadership on national and international issues and sets direction for the stewardship and sustainable management of Canada's forests.

