



# SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CANADA

Canada has 9% of the world's forests with 362 million hectares (ha). Of this, 158 million ha of forest is certified to third-party standards of sustainable forest management. This represents 35% of the world's certified forest area. (2021)

*Forests are part of the fabric and beauty of our nation. With a diversity of landscapes, our forests provide unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities, and important wildlife habitat. Canada is committed to protecting these values for future generations by sustainably managing our forests.*

## Sustainable forest management: More than just trees

Sustainable forest management is the guiding framework that ensures Canada's priorities for our forests are met and the highest levels of sustainability are achieved. Canada committed to sustainable forest management in 1994 as a founding signatory of Montreal Process [1] has been building on this commitment ever since. The Montreal Process focused on developing and implementing internationally agreed-upon ways to assess and improve the conservation of temperate and boreal forests.

But what does sustainable forest management mean in practice? It means that the harvesting of Canada's forests is carefully planned over the next 100 to 200 years. It means that, by law, all harvested areas are regenerated back to productive forests— and many harvested areas are replanted within one year. It also means that harvesting levels are regulated, and illegal logging is carefully monitored. But sustainable forest management is about more than just trees. Our long-term planning process carefully considers biodiversity, habitats for key wildlife species and the protection of our natural water sources.

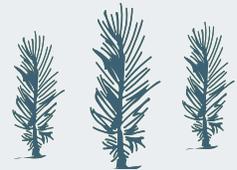
Canada's Indigenous peoples are also recognized as having a critical voice in the management of our forests. Governments and forest companies continue to build collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities to ensure our forests are sustainably managed.

*Our long-term planning conserves and protects biodiversity, habitats for key wildlife species and our natural water sources.*

## How are Canadian forests managed?



Harvests are planned over the next 100–200 years



All forests are regenerated



Illegal logging is carefully monitored



Indigenous communities have a critical voice



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### Canada: Measuring and reporting for transparency

Sustainable forest management is more than a goal for Canada—it is the framework we use to manage our resources and a core component of the philosophy that guides the sector's actions. With 94 per cent of Canada's forests on public land, the government is committed to having transparent and open conversations about our forest practices.

To demonstrate this commitment to transparency, Canada regularly measures and publicly reports on its sustainability commitments. The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers has developed a criteria and indicators framework to assess forestry activities and whether sustainability goals are met. This framework has affected forest management policies and regulations in most provinces and territories within Canada.

The federal government also measures and tracks the management of Canada's forests, and publicly reports its findings in the annual State of Canada's Forests report[2]. The report shows current rates of disturbance, regeneration, and illegal logging in a transparent way.

Finally, certification provides an unbiased third-party[3] assessment of sustainable forest management implementation. Canada has the largest area of certified forest out of any nation. Canada's world-leading sustainable forest management practices are further backed by rigorous laws and a strong regulatory framework, as confirmed by third-party studies[4].

### A part of the global solution to climate change

Canada's approach to sustainable forest management ensures that forests and forest products are part of the global solution to climate change. Our forests store carbon as they grow and provide alternatives to fossil fuel-intensive building products like concrete. Choosing a Canadian forest product means making a responsible choice for your business and the climate.



### Sustainable forest management – benefiting Canadians, benefiting you

Our forests provide jobs in thousands of communities across Canada.

Buying products that come from our sustainably managed forests means you are choosing to support both Canadian families and a renewable industry that is backed by stringent policies and regulations, and that is committed to transparency.



Want to learn more about Canada's approach to sustainable forest management? Scan the QR Code or visit [www.ccfm.org](http://www.ccfm.org)

1 <https://www.montrealprocess.org>

2 Natural Resources Canada, The 2022 State of Canada's Forests: [https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/nrcan/files/forest/sof2022/SoF\\_Annual2022\\_EN\\_access\\_\(4\).pdf](https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/nrcan/files/forest/sof2022/SoF_Annual2022_EN_access_(4).pdf)

3 The State of Canada's Forests: A Global Comparison, published in Forest Policy and Economics <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1389934119304964>

4 Cashore, B. and C.L. McDermott, 2004, "Global Environmental Forest Policies: Canada as a constant case comparison of select forest practice regulations"; Indufor Oy, 2009, "Comparison of selected forest certification standards"; Indufor, 2016, "International Comparison of Forest Management Legal Frameworks and Certification Standards"