

Subnational-Level Indicators

Several provinces have adopted provincial sets of C&I, and many are preparing to incorporate C&I into their forest management planning. In addition, some provinces have taken steps to integrate C&I into their forest legislation. Quebec, for example, amended its legislation to include the six criteria from the CCFM C&I framework and has developed a framework of 60 indicators (many of which are similar to those in the CCFM framework) and expects to implement it over a three-year period. Ontario also has drafted a comprehensive set of indicators for use at the provincial level in evaluating and reporting on forest sustainability. In both of these provinces, the C&I have been integrated into forest legislation and policies.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the government is drafting a 20-year forestry development plan that will contain specific references to a provincial set of C&I, and it is considering having the indicators integrated into legislation. Saskatchewan is developing indicators for forest ecosystem health, while New Brunswick has taken a slightly different approach. That province is developing a vision document for its forests that provides a framework for forest management and sets out policy goals, as well as explicit standards and objectives to be used in the development of forest management plans on Crown timber licences.

Canada will report on its progress toward sustainable forest management by releasing a C&I document in April 2000.

An Innovative Partnership to Define Local-Level Indicators

The Model Forest Program was established by Canada in 1992 to accelerate the implementation of new approaches to forest management through shared decision making. Each of Canada's 11 model forests is based on a partnership of groups and individuals possessing a broad range of forest values who collaborate in working toward their shared objective of sustainable forest management within the unique social, economic, and ecological conditions in their forest area. Together, the model forests cover more than 6 million hectares and represent the diverse ecologies of the major forest regions of Canada. As such, they serve as excellent field laboratories.

An important focus for each model forest in phase II of the program (1997–2002) was the establishment of processes for the development, testing, application, and monitoring of local-level indicators of sustainable forest management, based on the CCFM C&I framework. The guidelines for the indicators' development required that they be based on appropriate scientific attributes; be easily and readily

The Waswanipi Cree Model Forest, announced in September 1997, is a 209 000 hectare area northwest of Quebec City that will provide Aboriginal people with the opportunity to further develop approaches to sustainable forest management based on their values, beliefs, and traditions.