

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

A Continued Commitment in Canada

INTRODUCTION

This monograph provides a brief overview of the importance of forests to Canada's economy, environment, and communities, including Aboriginal peoples. Canada's efforts in sustaining its forests for current and future generations are described, and key national, provincial, and local-level initiatives are highlighted to demonstrate Canada's continued commitment to sustainable forest management. As a steward of 10 percent of the world's forests, Canada continues to play a key role in promoting and discussing the merits of legally binding mechanisms for the sustainability of forests worldwide.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CANADA

Forests are crucial to future generations of Canadians for the environmental, social, and economic values they represent. Canada's recognition of the multiple values of forests has raised a number of challenges and has ushered in a new era of forest management — one in which the knowledge of forest ecosystems is shared and consensus building is seen as the basis for decision making. The approach to forest management in Canada has evolved in response to unique conditions and to growth in knowledge and changes in public values.

Through the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM), established in 1985, the 14 federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for forests cooperate closely in national and international matters. The CCFM stimulates the development of policies and initiatives for the sustainable management of Canada's forests and the strengthening of the nation's forest sector.

The federal government's direct or shared roles in forestry focus on science and technology, international relations, trade and investment, industrial and regional development, national statistics, Aboriginal affairs, environmental regulations, and the management of federal lands.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING FRAMEWORK IN CANADA

