



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada



FORESTS FOR PEOPLE

Celebrating Canada's
forests in 2011

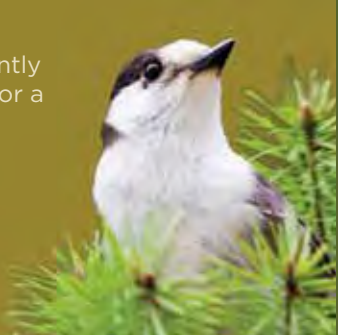


Canada

Canada's forests rank significantly on a global scale, accounting for a

tenth of the
world's forests

and about a quarter of its
boreal and temperate forests.



Rich, rugged, resilient and magnificent – Canada's forests are a national treasure

Increasingly, Canada's forests are valued not just for one purpose but many – the benefits derived can be practical and enjoyable.

Forests are fundamental to our economy, culture, traditions and history – and to our future. Communities, families and individuals depend on forests for their livelihood and way of life.

The United Nations declared 2011 the **International Year of Forests**. This year-long celebration is an opportunity for Canadians to join the international community in raising awareness about how forests contribute to a healthy environment and to the quality of life.

It is also an occasion to showcase forest-related events and activities and to demonstrate Canada's global leadership in sustainable management of the resource.

Canada has maintained nearly all of its original forest cover and has the

largest area of independently certified forest in the world.

Forest management plans and laws are in place to ensure harvested areas are regenerated and that multiple forest values are respected.



Celebrate!

Activities around the globe will celebrate the world's forests and promote sustainable management of all types of forests, including those in rural and urban communities.

In Canada, one notable event is **National Forest Week** (September 18 to 24) – a time to rediscover Canada's forests and to reflect on their importance.

Celebrate forests by participating in an event in your community or by taking the time to appreciate the trees in your neighbourhood.

To learn about the celebrations in your area, to publicize an event you are organizing, or to find more information on sustainable forest management in Canada, visit:

www.internationalyearforests.nrcan.gc.ca

Less than 1 percent of Canada's forests is harvested each year.

Nearly 93 percent of Canada's forests is publicly owned and the remaining 7 percent is privately owned.



International Year of Forests

The overarching theme for the year, **Forests for People**, promotes the wise use and conservation of forests. The theme reminds us that forests and people are connected. It conveys the central role of people in sustainable forest management and the many benefits forests provide.

In Canada, forests provide the economic backbone for many communities across the country. Likewise, community involvement in forest management ensures that innovative approaches, technologies and tools are used for forest conservation and for the creation of sustainable industries.

The International Year of Forests focuses on three converging ideas for which Canada demonstrates a strong commitment:

Sustainable forest management

Canada takes pride in its reputation as a leader in sustainable forest management and works closely with the international community to help raise forest management standards. As a global forest steward, Canada is maintaining and enhancing the long-term health of its forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits now and in the future.

The forest industry now uses bioenergy

to meet more than 60 percent of its total energy requirements. This reduces consumption of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions.

Multiple forest values

Canada's forests provide rich economic benefits and are the largest geographical feature of the country. The forests are dotted with cottages and parks for recreation, a growing array of ecological reserves for animal habitat and scientific study, and a vast diversity of flora and fauna enjoyed by students, hikers, nature enthusiasts, hunters, anglers and many others. Canada's forest policies are based on sustainable forest management. The goal is to maintain the delicate balance among meeting society's need for forest products and other benefits, respecting the range of values people attach to forests, and preserving forest health and diversity.

Forests in everyday life

Canada's forests are a source of life. They play many ecological roles: biodiversity storehouse, carbon reservoir, oxygen producer, air and water filter, climate moderator and protector against soil erosion. The forests are also home to a wealth of plants, animals and micro-organisms. Across Canada, actions are underway to sequester carbon; fight and control exotic and invasive species; protect soil, air and water quality; and uphold biodiversity values.

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Cat. No. Fo4-39/2011 (Print)
ISBN 978-1-100-53172-4

Cat. No. Fo4-39/2011E-PDF (On-line)
ISBN 978-1-100-18456-2

Printed using vegetable-based inks
Processed chlorine free

