



Forest Communities Program Newsletter

Global Forum 2011 Special Edition: Showcasing a selection of FCP's international initiatives

Canada & USA collaborating on short rotation forestry

Northern New York State and eastern Ontario have much in common. This includes a growing interest in short rotation woody crops. Information exchange began in earnest in 1993 when the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) at the State University of New York joined the [Eastern Ontario Model Forest \(EOMF\)](#) Forest Science Committee as one of its original members. Through this committee, the EOMF and the ESF took part in ongoing exchanges of ideas and expertise.

One endeavour under the partnership is directly linked to one of the EOMF's most important projects, the Ontario East Wood Centre (OEWEC). Short rotation forestry is considered a promising option for supplying feedstocks, expected to be in demand by emerging bio-based economies. Interest to rebuild capacity for short rotation forestry in eastern Ontario has led the OEWEC's current bioproducts strategy.

The ESF agreed to share its short rotation willow technology. A first workshop on short rotation forestry was held in March 2009 bringing together partners from both sides of the border. The strong expressions of collaboration that emerged at the workshop enabled the strategy to move forward, with field tours of willow and hybrid poplar sites in eastern Ontario and northern New York State in 2009 and again in 2010.

Collaboration now extends beyond addressing feedstock, with the ESF sitting on the OEWEC's newly formed board of Directors. Discussions have been underway to see some ESF cutting-edge biorefinery technologies put to use at the OEWEC. The active involvement of chemical engineering faculty and students from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario is helping advance that process and strengthening the collaboration.



Fast growing willow plantation in northern New York State

By seizing opportunities in the evolving bioeconomy, the EOMF is advancing collaboration and partnerships that support the development of commodity and niche markets for short rotation wood.

For more information contact Mark Richardson at the [Eastern Ontario Model Forest](#) website.



Adaptation to Climate Change in Circumboreal Forests

Circumboreal forests extend across Russia, Canada and Scandinavia, encircling the Arctic. The Circumboreal Initiative was launched by the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) to provide a means of effective and continuous transfer of knowledge among the various countries sharing this biome.

As part of this Initiative, the [Le Bourdon Project](#) became the host for a research project studying vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The climate change phenomenon is a new factor, whose repercussions are difficult to predict, but which is certain to have an impact on forest communities. The work carried out by researchers at the University of Quebec in Outaouais and at the Institut québécois d'Aménagement de la Forêt feuillue involves modelling changes in forest vegetation affected by climate change in order to identify the possible impact on communities and determine the vulnerability of stakeholders and various activity sectors.

The project is being undertaken in cooperation with the Bergslagen Model Forest (BMF) in Sweden. "The Le Bourdon Project team of researchers approached the BMF because of the characteristics that the two sites had in common, particularly in terms of diversity and the locations of forest biomes in their respective areas and the influence of climate change on distribution of these biomes," explained Raymond Barrette, General Manager of the Le Bourdon Project. The research done at the BMF by researchers associated with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences is an important contribution to knowledge transfer. Comparisons between the two sites will help to identify commonalities and develop appropriate adaptation strategies for the two communities. The developed models will then be used to assess the mitigating effects of the adaptation strategies identified by the partners.



Boreal forests cover 11% of the Earth's surface and account for one third of the World's forested areas.

As the project enters the second of three phases, there is potential for expanding the collaborative activities of the project to include a Model Forest in Russia. By identifying forest products at risk, communities and proponents of socio-economic development will be able to identify adjustment measures that may mitigate the impacts of climate change. According to Raymond Barrette, "By understanding the impacts of climate change, we will be able to transform the identified risks into opportunities that will benefit our communities."

For additional information, contact Raymond Barrette at the [Le Bourdon Project](#) website.



South America taps into Canadian sustainable forest management expertise

In 2000, Canadian Model Forests engaged in a national initiative defining local level indicators (LLIs) for sustainable forest management. When Argentina wanted to learn more about Criteria and Indicators (C&I) and LLIs it came to the Canadian Model Forest Network (CMFN) to draw on this internationally recognized expertise. The request was considered a compliment and a challenge, says Sean Dolter, General Manager with the [Model Forest of Newfoundland & Labrador](#) (MFNL).

“There was a language barrier and a financial challenge,” Sean says. “Measures of poverty, income, governance, and other indicators of their socio-political environment needed to be redefined in comparison to Canadian standards. But before long, Argentineans were taking our framework and showing us how specific indicators could be measured with limited resources.”

Since 2007, the CMFN has partnered with Natural Resources Canada, the MFNL, the Ibero-American Model Forest Network (IAMFN), the government of Argentina and the Argentina Model Forest Network (AMFN) to develop LLIs for best forestry practices applicable to Argentinean circumstances. Through annual workshops involving six Argentinean Model Forests, and a total of 200 participants, a set of indicators was developed that are now being field tested by the AMFN.



Participants of the Esquel Workshop on LLI, hosted by the Futaleufù Model Forest, Argentina

The project is now expanding, with an agreement reached in February 2011 between Canada, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and the IAMFN. A working group will be established to develop an approach on harmonizing C&I that integrates the Principles and Attributes of the IMFN. The working group will be supported by participating countries who will report back in a series of sub-regional workshops on indicator development.

“The CMFN sees this initiative as a significant contribution for internationalizing the Model Forest (MF) concept and demonstrates our commitment to knowledge sharing, capacity building and networking – one of the key principles of MFs,” Sean says. “Through this work, they are demonstrating to the international community their stewardship over their natural resources”.

For more information contact Sean Dolter at the [Model Forest of Newfoundland & Labrador](#) website.



Manitoba Model Forest and ethno-cultural tourism in Costa Rica

The [Manitoba Model Forest](#) (MBMF) and Costa Rica's Reventazón Model Forest (RMF) share a common interest in indigenous ethno-tourism. The two Model Forests, in collaboration with Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (BON), recently completed a multiyear project with the indigenous Nairi Awari peoples of Costa Rica. The project began in 2007 and aimed to enhance ethno-tourism, develop a sustainable eco-tourism management plan, and address the Nairi Awari community needs related to capacity, infrastructure and technology.

The project, partially funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, also promoted shared learning between MBMF, BON and the Nairi Awari people. In July 2009, four youth traveled to the MBMF area where they "visited various First Nation communities to gain an understanding of First Nation culture and history in Canada, as well as observe some First Nation ethno-tourism operations," says MBMF's Dr. Brian Kotak.



A two storey rancho includes kitchen, eating and sleeping areas.

Over the course of the project, infrastructure including riverside cabins and tenting platforms, a cultural centre, hiking trails, solar power, cell phone tower and viewing platforms were either built or upgraded. These will accommodate the development of an eco-tourism site along the Pacuare River, renowned as one of the best white water rafting sites in the world. An eco-tourism training program for Nairi Awari community members was conducted and an eco-tourism management plan initiated.

To date, the project has focused on the Nairi Awari community of Jameikari. But Dr. Kotak hopes that, with its recent completion in December 2010, the project will expand to include the other seven Nairi Awari communities. "[This is] an example of an indigenous community taking a leadership role in charting its own economic and cultural future... and creating sustainable businesses based on their cultural values and knowledge."

For their part, MBMF and BON will continue to benefit from the knowledge and partnerships they've gained through the initiative. As Dr. Kotak points out, MBMF now has a new network of international contacts to draw on for future projects, and BON will be able to apply what they've learned about other indigenous cultures to further develop their own cultural programs and a sustainable economy.

For more information contact Dr. Brian Kotak at the [Manitoba Model Forest](#) website.



Learning from our Elders: collaborative learning on woodland caribou and reindeer habitat in Canada and Sweden

In 2004, the [Prince Albert Model Forest](#) (PAMF) and Sweden's Vilhelmina Model Forest (VMF) engaged in a collaborative learning partnership to support their communities in transition. The relationship between PAMF and VMF made a number of knowledge sharing opportunities possible, including an exchange between Saskatchewan Aboriginal youth and Swedish Sami youth, as well as a comparative analysis on adaptive governance in wildfire management.

In 2009, a three-year joint research project between the two Model Forests, the University of Saskatchewan and Umeå University in Sweden was initiated as part of the International Model Forest Network's (IMFN) Circumboreal Initiative.



Reindeer are an important species for many aboriginal communities.

The ongoing project, "Learning from Our Elders," aims to explore, collect and share Aboriginal perspectives on climate change with respect to woodland caribou and reindeer habitat in the circumboreal forest. "The two species are very similar..." says Brian Bonnell, Senior Program Specialist with IMFN. "The similarities in socio-economic and ecological contexts allow for a comparison of impacts, activities and community approaches to adaptation."

Indigenous peoples are already reporting the adverse effects that climate change has had on habitat characteristics and the health status of both reindeer in Sweden and woodland caribou in Saskatchewan. Their communities have already had to adapt their hunting, herding or rearing strategies to address changing conditions, or find alternative sources of food and fur.

Traditional local knowledge about changing trends affecting the two species is being gathered through interviews with community elders by an Aboriginal graduate student from each university. In the project's third year, the students will begin compiling data to develop teaching modules for use by colleges and universities worldwide. They will also conduct a video workshop to discuss their results with stakeholders in Sweden and Canada. The goal is to generate a better understanding of indigenous perspectives by sharing knowledge, which will enable adaptive strategies appropriate for regional circumstances and traditions.

For more information contact Susan Carr at the [Prince Albert Model Forest](#) website.



Upcoming Events in Canada

April 12-15, 2011

Rural Revitalization from our Forests

St-Paul's, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada

<http://www.wnmf.com/conference.html>

April 27-29, 2011

Forestry Leaders Summit:

Building partnerships in international forestry education and research

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

<http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/iyfsummit>

May 15-19, 2011

International Symposium on dynamics and ecological services of deadwood in forest ecosystems

Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, Canada

<http://deadwood2011.uqat.ca/>

June 26-29, 2011

People in Places: Engaging Together in Integrated Resource Management

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

<http://www.coastalcura.ca/peopleinplaces2011.html>

About the Forest Communities Program

The Forest Communities Program (FCP) is a \$25-million, five-year program that funds 11 forest community organizations across Canada, as well as national projects. The FCP community partnerships are located in defined geographic areas at a regional scale, and include a mix of urban, rural and Aboriginal communities. Typically, these community partnerships are diverse, with participants drawn from community groups, industry, Aboriginal organizations, and various levels of government, landowners, research groups and educational institutions. The FCP assists forest community organizations in developing and sharing new knowledge, practices and strategies to meet the challenges of forest sector transition and to develop new, forest-based economic opportunities.

FCP Contact Information

Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service

580 Booth Street

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E4

Tel: (613) 992-5874

Email: fcp-pcf@nrcan.gc.ca

Web: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/subsite/forest-communities>