SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT NETWORK | RÉSEAU DE GESTION DURABLE DES FORÊTS | Networks of Centres of Excellence / Réseaux de centres d'excellence

Media Release

Six Canadian researchers receive $784,500 to research both best practices and knowledge gaps in sustainable forest management

Results of research expected to impact future management and policy of Canadian forests

Edmonton, Alberta, April 25, 2007 – Six leading Canadian researchers have been awarded a total of $784,500 over two years to study both best practices and knowledge gaps in the management of Canada's forests, as well as the resulting effect on the forests' sustainability. The findings of the research are expected to have a major impact on the future of research, management and policy regarding forestry in Canada.

This award is part of a $3 million investment over two years made by the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Network. The following researchers will be conducting the studies:

Dr. Vic Adamowicz, Professor and Canada Research Chair (Environmental Economics), University of Alberta, will lead a team that will study natural capital – taking stock of natural resources and environmental assets, including water, soils, air, flora, fauna and minerals – and ecosystem valuation, with the goal of improving natural resource and environmental management of Canada's forests. Synthesizing the results of both published and unpublished literature, the team will consider the benefits gained from such factors as timber, fish, wildlife, pollination, and erosion and flood control. The project will also identify potential legal issues, such as, who has jurisdictional authority to implement ecological fiscal reform, and how this could be challenged under multilateral trade agreements. The research team will also assess a range of other administrative and political issues that will influence whether new approaches are adopted. The team will draw on the experiences of such countries as Costa Rica, Mexico and Australia, which have already begun applying ecosystem valuation in a forest context. Adamowicz's research team includes Nathalie Chalifour and Stewart Elgie of the University of Ottawa, Michael Howlett of Simon Fraser University, and Marian Weber of the Alberta Research Council.

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Dr. Irena Creed, Associate Professor, Biology, University of Western Ontario will lead a team that will review the implications of climate change for water resources in Canadian forests. Through documentation and consultation with forestry experts, the team will report on the relationships between various forest land uses, downstream water yield and water quality. With the goal of generating an increased understanding of scientific, social, economic and political factors influencing water resources in forested landscapes, the researchers will conduct a series of scenario experiments on climate change and disturbances, both natural and man-made – including the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Working on the project with Irena Creed will be Dan Shrubsole and Slobodan Simonovic of University of Western Ontario, Dan Moore of University of British Columbia, and Jim Buttle of Trent University.

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Dr. Alison Munson, Professor, Forest Ecology, Laval University, will lead a team that will deliver a report on the vulnerability of the Canadian forest sector to climate change, and provide "how-to" solutions to adapt to changes in climate. As part of the project, the team will review current literature and interview forest practitioners to address biophysical impacts, regional vulnerability, adaptation options, Canada's ability to implement these options, and the barriers that may prevent adaptation from being successful. Their report will include recommendations for forest planners to incorporate climate change considerations into long-term forest management plans, provide focused briefing materials for senior government and industry managers, and deliver tools for small group planning exercises on how to develop climate change scenarios. Working on the project with Dr. Munson will be Dr. Mark Johnston of University of Saskatchewan and Dr. Ben Rubin of University of Western Ontario; Tim Williamson, David Price and Martin Moroni, NRCAN–Canadian Forest Service; Amy Thompson, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, NWT; Elson Dzus, Alberta-Pacific Forest Products; John Stadt, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Aynslie Odgen, Yukon Government.

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Dr. Ellen Macdonald, Professor, Forest Ecology, University of Alberta, will lead a team that will study the ecological implications of altering the composition of mixedwood forests. The team's work will support ecologically-based management of boreal mixedwood forests, an approach that respects natural forest dynamics and successional development. To achieve this, the researchers will review the current state of knowledge concerning changes in composition of mixedwood forests in various landscapes, focusing on ecological characteristics. They will also review a range of processes of the forest, including biodiversity, forest productivity and ecosystem function. Dr. MacDonald's project team includes Drs. Hugo Asselin, Yves Bergeron and Suzanne Brais of the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, along with Han Chen from Lakehead University, Pierre Drapeau and Timothy Work of Université du Québec à Montréal, Drs.Phil Comeau, Vic Lieffers, Sylvie Quideau and John Spence of the University of Alberta.

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Dr. Stephen Wyatt, Professor, Forest Policy and Social Forestry, University of Moncton, Edmundston campus will lead a team that will study the effectiveness of collaboration between Aboriginal groups and the forest industry in Canada. Recent years have seen a wide variety of agreements, policies and case studies across Canada and the team will develop a series of reports examining incentives, practices, activities and policies that encourage or hinder relations between Aboriginal, industry and government groups. The reports will also consider the advantages and disadvantages of current consultation processes, governance arrangements, traditional land-use mapping, negotiated harmonization measures, tenure systems, rights, policy constraints, and institutional and economic arrangements. Wyatt's research team includes Adrian Tanner and David Natcher of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Luc Bouthillier and Martin Hébert of Laval University, John Innes and Ron Trosper of University of British Columbia, Shashi Kant of the University of Toronto, Naomi Krogman of the University of Alberta; Solange Nadeau of NRCAN-Canadian Forest Service at Fredericton, and Peggy Smith, Lakehead University.

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Yolanda Wiersma, Assistant Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland will lead a team that will produce a state of knowledge report on the role that protected areas can play in sustainable forest management. The project will examine best practices and innovative approaches in combining both conservation and economic goals in the boreal regions of Canada. The resulting report will synthesize findings from both existing key literature, and consultations with a range of representatives from key sustainable forest management groups, including industries such as Weyerhaeuser, Alberta-Pacific, Daishowa-Marubeni, as well as with Ducks Unlimited, a variety of government agencies (provincial, territorial and federal) and several First

Nations. Working with Wiersma on the project will be Wolfgang Haider of Simon Fraser University, Peter Duinker of Dalhousie University, Glen Hvenegaard of the University of Alberta, and Fiona Schmiegelow of the University of Alberta.

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About The Sustainable Forest Management Network

The Sustainable Forest Management Network facilitates collaborative, applied research partnerships among 32 industry, government, Aboriginal, and non-government partners in supporting the work of more than 190 researchers. Their research efforts are accomplished thanks to 300 highly qualified personnel working at 35 participating institutions across Canada. The SFM Network represents one of the few forums to bring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal forest resource managers and policy makers around one table to promote dialogue and the development of a common understanding in a non-confrontational environment.

- 30 -

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