

High Conservation Value Forests

Experience from
North America

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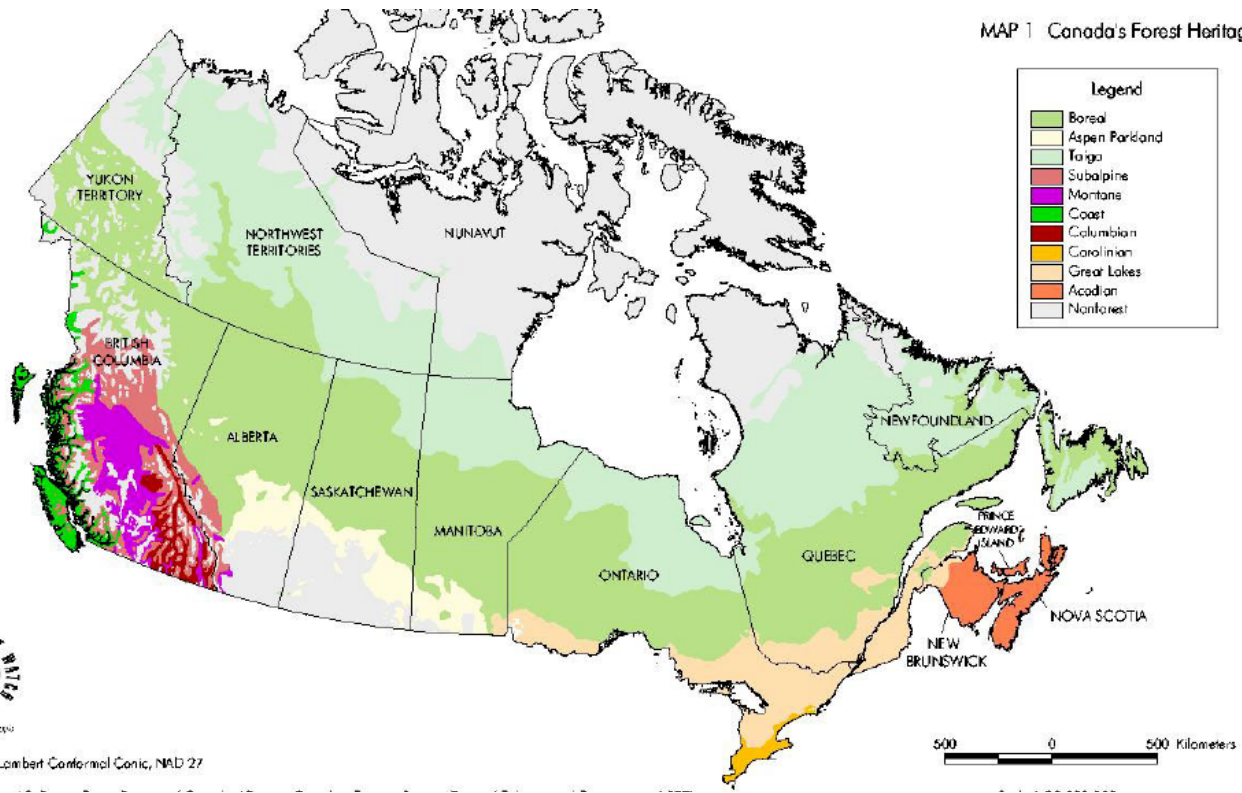
Responsible Forestry Solutions

High Conservation Value Forests

Experience from North America

- HCVF and FSC Standards:
 - The Canadian Experience: The Development of a National HCVF Assessment Framework.
- Study Commissioned by WWF-Canada: Evaluation of Potential Conservation Gains in North America as a result of the Implementation of the HCVF Concept

Canada's Forests



Canada's Forests

- Total Land Area: 882.1 M. has
- Total Forest Area: 402.1 M. has
- Forest Area Available for FM 294.8 M. has
- Forest Area Subjected to FM 143.7 M. has
- Forest Area harvested Annually 0.9 M. has
- Percentage of Forest under Public Tenure 93%

HCVF Assessment Framework

- The framework covers 6 categories derived from the definition of HCVF attributes:
 - Category 1: biodiversity values;
 - Category 2: large landscape level forests;
 - Category 3: rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems;
 - Category 4: services of nature in critical situations;
 - Category 5: needs of local communities;
 - Category 6: traditional cultural identity

HCVF Assessment Framework

- The Assessment Framework was developed to assist applicants for FSC certification to assess whether the forest area under their management was a High Conservation Value Forest
- The Framework was based on the work WWF-Canada conducted with Tembec when the company applied for FSC certification
- The framework was presented to the FSC Canada Board and was annexed to all Canadian standards

HCVF Assessment Framework

- The framework is organized as a series of questions to guide the applicant in making the assessment
- The checklist suggests a hierarchical approach to defining HCVs that starts with a broad scale and works down to a finer scale assessment
- The questions are structured for Yes/No responses
- The significance of the question in determining HCV status is indicated as **DEFINITIVE** or **GUIDANCE**
- A positive response to any question considered **DEFINITIVE** means that the elements under consideration are HCVs

HCVF Assessment Framework

- If a number of questions considered as GUIDANCE are answered positively, it strengthens the potential for the presence of HCVs
- The framework is not intended to be prescriptive. It provides guidance in interpreting the six attributes of the HCVF definition, in order to make a better informed HCVF designation
- Whether or not an HCV designation is determined, the applicant should provide a rationale for the decision

HCVF Implementation

- Project: Evaluating Conservation Gains in North America through HCVF Assessments
- Not intended as an in-depth study, but rather as a general review of the results of FSC certification activity across North America
- Review of Certification Public Summaries in Canada, Mexico and the United States
- Case Studies to confirm overall findings

HCVF Implementation: P9

- Results stratified by following variables:
 - Standards/Region
 - Size of Operation
 - Type of Tenure (public/private/communal)
 - Certification Body
 - Date of Certification (more significant than expected)

HCVF Implementation: P9

- Standards tend to require more effort in terms of HCVs from large and public enterprises than from small operators. This finding is consistent across three countries
- Standards tend to focus more on identification of HCVs than on management

HCVF Implementation: P9

- Size/Tenure type:
 - The percentage of large operations (larger than 1,000 hectares) is very high. In North America, 87.7% of all certified operations fall in the large category
 - In terms of tenure, 18.7% of certified operations are on public lands, 56.7% are on private land and 24.6% are on communal lands

HCVF Implementation: P9

- CBs:
 - Implementation consistent with expectations set in standard – more significant than national context
- Date of Certification:
 - Links to the evolution of the concept
 - Related to how it is expressed in the standard
 - Lag in roll-out greater than anticipated

HCVF Implementation

Principle 9	Criterion 9.1	Criterion 9.2	Criterion 9.3	Criterion 9.4
Addressed	57	45	44	34
Addressed - CAR	1	0	0	0
N/A	17	17	17	19
Partially Addressed	5	31	23	23
Partially Addressed – CAR	65	38	57	59
Not Addressed	4	17	9	12
Not Addressed - CAR	22	23	21	24

HCVF Implementation

- Results:
 - The identification of HCVs has been the key activity both in terms of standards and in terms of effort from forest managers.
 - About 75% of the operations certified have fully addressed the standard or have initiated work as a result of Corrective Action Requests
 - The date of the original certification assessment provided some variation in terms of the integration of HCVF analysis with management planning.

HCVF Implementation: HCVs

HCVFs	HCV 1	HCV 2	HCV 3	HCV 4	HCV 5	HCV 6
Identified - Addressed	47	8	26	17	1	5
Identified – Not/Partially Addressed	61	8	36	25	3	14
N/A	16	20	16	18	17	18
NSI	47	135	93	111	150	134

Challenges & Future Direction

- Need to focus on management strategies
- Need to advance other HCVs (HCV2 & HCV5) beyond what managers are more familiar with and present in the regulatory framework (RTE Spp and ecosystems (HCV1 & HCV3))
- The issue of scale continues to be a key debating point in the practical implementation of the HCV concept

Challenges & Future Direction

- There is a need to pay attention to the standards development process in the context of FSC certification
- Guidance material is crucial to bring clarity to applicants as well as consistency and a baseline to measure progress
- Relationship between P9 and 6.4 should be explored (overlap in approach taken)