

# Comparing B.C. to the World: Forest Regulation and Certification



## Study Shows Forest Certification Complements Laws

British Columbia's (B.C.) world-leading sustainable forest management is backed by rigorous laws and independent third-party forest certification.

This leadership was confirmed in a 2016 study by Indufor, an international forestry consulting company that examined forest legislation and certification standards in 14 jurisdictions around the world. *International Comparison of Forest Management Legal Frameworks and Certification Standards* expanded and updated an earlier study by the company.

---

COMPARING B.C.  
TO THE WORLD:  
FOREST REGULATION  
AND CERTIFICATION



## About the Study

Forestry Innovation Investment co-funded a 2016 study by Indufor that updated a 2009 report examining how legislation and forest certification achieve sustainable forest management. This *naturally:wood* publication summarizes the findings from Indufor's 2016 research report.

The new study addressed changes in laws and regulations, examined five additional jurisdictions with a significant amount of certified forest, and included an assessment of legal framework effectiveness. The study's objectives were to:

- present an up-to-date assessment of how forest management legal frameworks in 14 jurisdictions treat the 16 elements of sustainable forest management;
- evaluate the stringency of the legal frameworks relative to the certification standards present in each jurisdiction; and
- highlight the performance of the legal frameworks or certification standards in achieving the aims of sustainable forest management.

Indufor Group ([www.indufor.fi](http://www.indufor.fi)) is one of the world's leading forest consulting service providers. It helps both public and private sector organizations add value when they are reshaping and defining their strategies, forest policies and governance issues at the international, national and local level. Its work related to forest certification has included global data on certified forests, conformity analyses on certification systems against international requirements, and training and capacity building.



*B.C. plants seedlings in areas best suited to the species in anticipation of a changing climate.*

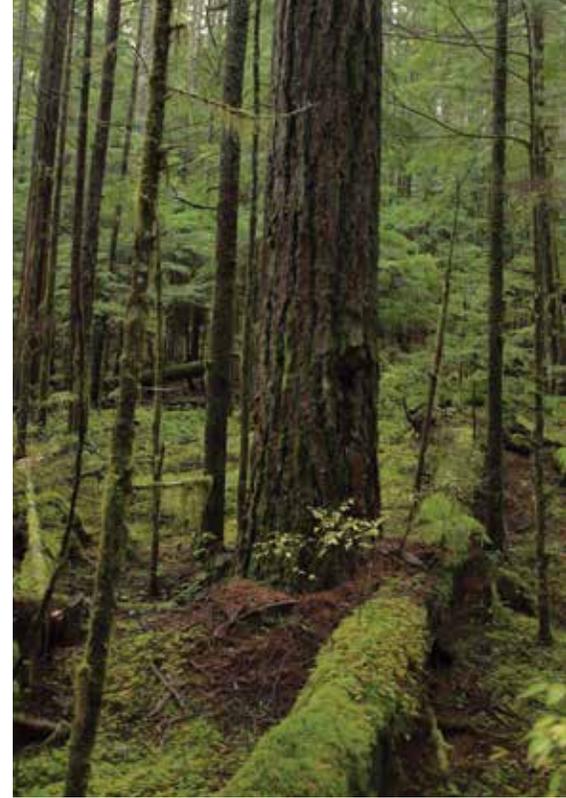
*Photo: Brudder*

---

*“The Canadian jurisdictions in this study present robust legal frameworks covering the 16 elements of sustainable forest management that are generally supported by voluntary certification standards.”*



Photo: Moresby Creative



B.C.'s Forest and Range Practices Act governs the activities of forest and range licensees and legislates on-the-ground results. Photo: naturally:wood

## Overview of Findings

The *International Comparison of Forest Management Legal Frameworks and Certification Standards* study, found that forest management legal frameworks in many of the world's productive forests are complemented by voluntary forest certification standards. The findings show that jurisdictions such as B.C. with significant forest areas under public ownership presented some of the most stringent forest management legal frameworks. In jurisdictions where forest legislation is weak or poorly enforced, certification standards provide robust guidance to forest managers. The presence of a legal framework does not necessarily mean forests are managed sustainably so the study included a brief review of the effectiveness of these frameworks.

The study found that forest certification standards reflect local and regional challenges, and are compatible when

endorsed by either of the international certification programs – the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The research team also reported challenges related to classifying requirements as discretionary or non-discretionary, especially with the certification standards. Sometimes allowing flexibility leads to better on-the-ground results because practices can be adapted to local conditions.

The study found that B.C. continues to be recognized as having very demanding legislation and enforcement related to elements of sustainable forest management, including requirements for wildlife habitat, water quality and public and First Nations involvement.

*“Canadian forest management frameworks for public forests exceed certification standards in the promotion of sustainable productivity of natural forests (with a strong emphasis on sustainable harvest levels, prevention of forest conversion, and protecting forests from fires and pests) and protecting the ecological and conservation values of forests.”*



Third-party forest certification provides added assurance that B.C. forest products come from legal, sustainable sources. Photo: Brudder

---

COMPARING B.C.  
TO THE WORLD:  
FOREST REGULATION  
AND CERTIFICATION

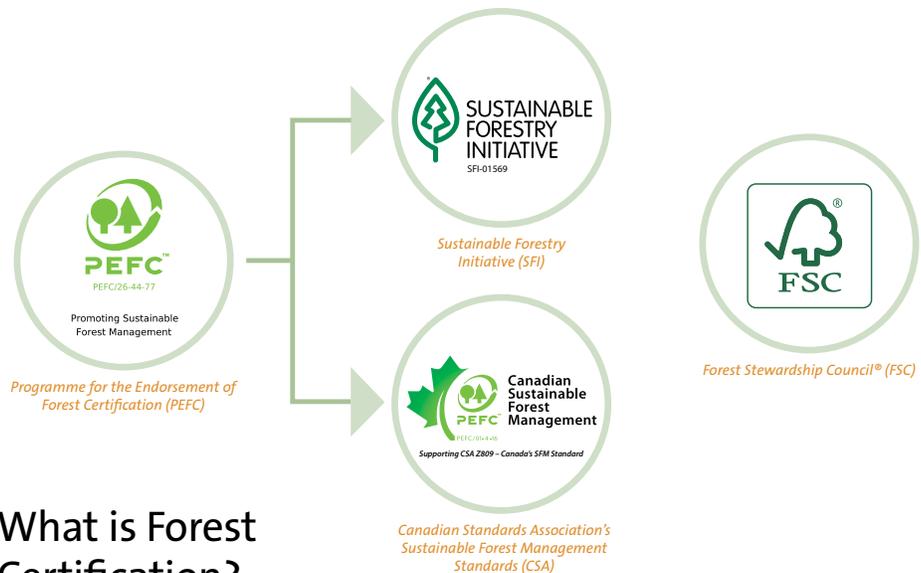


# HOW THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED

Researchers began by analyzing relevant laws, policies, regulations, best management practices and certification standards guiding 16 commonly used elements of sustainable forest management: harvesting, reforestation, clearcutting, forest conversion, plantations, forest risk and productivity, illegal logging, wildlife habitat, species management, water quality, old growth and special sites, restrictions on the use of genetically modified organisms, chemical use, climate change and carbon management, community involvement,

and training and outreach. Jurisdictional profiles were constructed, comparing the legal framework to the certification standard to determine which imposed the more stringent rules.

Note: The CSA standard and the implications of the new FSC International Generic Indicators on Canadian FSC Standards were both under review at the time of the study so it is based on existing standards, and includes commentary about the impact of the proposed changes to both.



## What is Forest Certification?

Third-party forest certification is a voluntary process where independent, accredited audit teams measure the planning, procedures, systems and performance of on-the-ground forest operations against a predetermined standard. A certificate is issued if forest management is found to be in conformance with the standard. PEFC and FSC are independent non-profit global programs. PEFC endorses national standards that meet its detailed requirements, and FSC endorses national and regional standards developed to its principles and criteria for forest management.

Canada is a world leader in third-party forest certification, with a total of 168 million hectares (more than 415 million acres) certified to one or more of six certification standards:

- Two endorsed by PEFC – the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and
- Four regional FSC standards – National Boreal, Maritimes, British Columbia and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence (field-tested draft).

---

*At the end of 2016, B.C. had 52 million hectares (more than 128.5 million acres) of certified lands. Canada is the international leader in forest certification with B.C. contributing more than any other province.*



Photo: Brudder



B.C. ensures public lands provide a mix of benefits such as timber, recreational opportunities, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

Photo: Brudder

# Certification Standards Reviewed

International Comparison of Forest Management Legal Frameworks and Certification Standards reviewed the following jurisdictions and national/regional certification standards.

<b>CANADA BRITISH COLUMBIA</b>	FSC	FSC British Columbia Standard (2005) FSC National Boreal Standard (2004)
	SFI PEFC	Sustainable Forestry Initiative Forest Management Standard 2015-2019
	CSA PEFC	Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Z809:08 SFM: Requirements and Guidance SFM Standard (2008) <sup>1</sup>
<b>CANADA ONTARIO</b>	FSC	FSC National Boreal Standard (2004)
	SFI PEFC	Sustainable Forestry Initiative Forest Management Standard 2015-2019
	CSA PEFC	CSA Z809:08 Sustainable Forest Management. Requirements and Guidance SFM Standard (2008)
<b>CANADA QUEBEC</b>	FSC	FSC National Boreal Standard (2004)
	SFI PEFC	Sustainable Forestry Initiative Forest Management Standard 2015-2019
	CSA PEFC	CSA Z809:08 Sustainable Forest Management. Requirements and Guidance SFM Standard (2008)
<b>CANADA NEW BRUNSWICK</b>	SFI PEFC	Sustainable Forestry Initiative Forest Management Standard 2015-2019
	CSA PEFC	CSA Z809:08 Sustainable Forest Management. Requirements and Guidance SFM Standard (2008)
<b>CHILE</b>	FSC	Chile Natural and SLIMF Standard (2005)
	PEFC	CERTFOR Sustainable Forest Management Standard for Native Forests (2007)
<b>AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH WALES</b>	PEFC	The Australian Standard Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708:2013)
<b>BRAZIL</b>	FSC	Brazilian Standard for Forest Management Certification in the Brazilian Amazon (2001)
<b>FINLAND</b>	PEFC	Finnish Forest Certification Scheme 2010 (2010)
<b>RUSSIA</b>	FSC	Russian FSC Standard 2012
	PEFC	German Natural and Plantations (2012) PEFC Deutschland Forestry Standard (2010)
<b>GERMANY BAVARIA</b>	FSC	Sweden Natural, Plantations and SLIMF Standard 2010
	PEFC	PEFC Sweden Forestry Standard (2011)
<b>SWEDEN</b>	FSC	USA Natural and Plantation Standard (2010)
	SFI PEFC	Sustainable Forestry Initiative Forest Management Standard 2015-2019
<b>UNITED STATES ALABAMA</b>	FSC	USA Natural and Plantation Standard (2010)
	SFI PEFC	Sustainable Forestry Initiative Forest Management Standard 2015-2019
<b>UNITED STATES CALIFORNIA</b>	FSC	USA Natural and Plantation Standard (2010)
	SFI PEFC	Sustainable Forestry Initiative Forest Management Standard 2015-2019
<b>UNITED STATES OREGON</b>	FSC	USA Natural and Plantation Standard (2010)
	SFI PEFC	Sustainable Forestry Initiative Forest Management Standard 2015-2019

## LEGEND

### FSC

Forest Stewardship Council

### SFI

Sustainable Forestry Initiative

### CSA

Canadian Standards Association

### PEFC

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification



# WHAT THE STUDY FOUND

## 1.

### Harvest Level

Most of the jurisdictions studied regulate harvest levels to a certain degree to ensure sustainability in the long term. In half of them, including the Canadian provinces, Russia and Oregon, legislative requirements are more stringent than or equal to certification standards. The strong role of government in forest management planning is common in jurisdictions like Canada, Brazil and Russia with large publicly owned forests. Jurisdictions with large areas of natural forests have more stringent frameworks in place governing forest levels, with the exception of Brazil. British Columbia, Ontario and Germany pay particularly close attention to harvest levels, leaving less room for forest managers to make autonomous decisions. Certification standards surpass legal frameworks where there is no government approval for harvest plans, or a lack of specific ecological or forest health criteria.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

About 95 per cent of forest lands are publicly owned, and the province's Chief Forester independently determines the allowable annual cut for provincial lands through a transparent process. Certification standards rely mainly on legislative requirements.

## 2.

### Reforestation

In general, rules around reforestation are quite strict in both legislation and certification. Jurisdictions where the legal frameworks surpass certification standards – including all the Canadian provinces – generally require replanting with native species within a certain time after harvest, set restrictions on minimum re-stocking levels, and include on-the-ground performance related to soil and water protection. Most certification standards are in line with legislation, and surpass it in Chile, Bavaria and Alabama.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Legislation sets defined timelines to regenerate harvested areas with ecologically suited native species, and all certification standards rely on the legislation.

---

*“In some jurisdictions, the voluntary certification standards added stringency to the forest management framework . . . whereas in others (including British Columbia), the legal framework is generally in line with the standards.”*





### 3. Clearcutting

All the jurisdictions studied recognize clearcutting as a legitimate silvicultural practice where biologically appropriate. There are size restrictions on clearcuts in some jurisdictions, including British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario, Oregon, and in state forests in Sweden and Finland. Brazil, Chile and Australia only allow clearcutting in plantation forestry. Although it is not specifically addressed in forest laws in Finland, Sweden, Russia and New Brunswick, it is prohibited in specific areas or special sites. All certification standards allow for clearcutting. The standards are more demanding than legislation in Brazil, New Brunswick, Chile and the three U.S. states.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Legislation limits cutblock size to 40 hectares in coastal regions and 60 hectares in interior regions, except under special circumstances. Regulations manage the visual impact of the harvest if it is in a scenic area. All of the certification standards allow clearcutting, and rely mostly on legislation for detailed conditions.

*British Columbia has roughly the same amount of forested area as it did before European settlement – less than three per cent of its land has been permanently converted to other uses such as farming, ranching and urban development.<sup>2</sup>*

### 4. Forest Conversion

Most jurisdictions regulate the permanent conversion of forest land to other uses such as agriculture or urban development. In many, forest managers must assess the impact on nature and seek permission to convert forest to non-forest uses. Offsetting schemes are common if the conversion may destroy forest habitats – including in Brazil and the U.S. states. Certification standards add to the legislation in Brazil, Chile and the U.S. states.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Government can convert land to other uses where it is deemed to be in the best social, economic and environmental interest. Forest tenure holders have no authorization or ability to convert forest land to other uses. Certification standards allow conversion under defined conditions, and are compatible with legal requirements.

### 5. Plantations

Plantation<sup>3</sup> forestry based on exotic species is only relevant in Brazil, Chile and Australia, and native species in Alabama. Plantation forestry is regulated through forest legislation in all countries except for Australia, which has a separate act that sets out technical and environmental provisions for plantations. In Europe and Canada, provisions related to reforestation of native species and biodiversity protection restrict plantations. Among the PEFC standards studied, SFI and CSA do not address plantation management specifically, thus the general requirements for SFM would apply. Some jurisdictions (Brazil, Chile) have separate FSC standard for certifying plantations. FSC-US treats plantations the same as natural forests.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia does not allow industrial plantations with exotic species or have any area that meets the Food and Agriculture Organization definition of plantation<sup>3</sup> so this is not addressed in forest legislation.



Harvesting a cutblock.

*Above right: B.C.'s skilled forest professionals protect the public's interest in the province's forests.*



## 6. Forest Health and Productivity Management

Forest health is of great concern in all jurisdictions, and legal regulations give significant authority to government agencies to take action to prevent natural disturbances such as wildfire, pests and disease. Jurisdictions where wildfire is a major risk, including Canada, often have separate fire protection legislation. Canada, Finland, Sweden, Germany, the United States and Australia give government agencies the power to order the felling or spraying of trees in the event of a pest epidemic, as long as chemicals/biocides comply with relevant registration requirements. In general, certification standards are aligned with legislative requirements or make recommended actions mandatory, and some exceed the normative level, such as Finland where foresters must act to prevent root rot in a harvested area.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Legislation sets strict provisions for ecosystem health management, with extensive preventative measures to reduce the risk of forest fires. The certification standards do not set additional requirements.

---

*“Canada has a strong regulatory framework to prevent the importation and trade of illegal logs. Likewise, the compliance and enforcement systems in Canada limit illegal harvesting within Canada.”*

## 7. Illegal Logging Avoidance

Illegal logging is not a concern in most of the studied jurisdictions, including Canada, where there are strict regulations and enforcement. The European Timber Regulation in the EU, the Lacey Act in the United States and the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act in Australia require that operators who place timber into the market perform due diligence on its legal origin. All certification standards complement legislation and require legal compliance, and the regular monitoring and audits reduce the risk of illegal logging on certified lands.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Trained officials monitor forest activities to prevent illegal logging, and wood must be conspicuously marked before it is removed from the harvest site. Legislation sets mandatory provisions that prohibit illegal logging. The certification standards add a requirement to monitor legal compliance through a management system (CSA).



*To prevent illegal logging, legislation requires timber to be marked before transport.  
Photo: naturally:wood*



## 8.

### Wildlife Habitat Management

Legislation related to wildlife includes habitat protection, species management and hunting regulations, with emphasis on protecting endangered or threatened species. Forest laws define habitats that should be protected or are under restricted use in Canada, Brazil, Finland, Sweden and the United States. Australia imposes formal wildlife-related obligations on anyone authorized to establish a plantation. Forest management plans in Canada must include wildlife habitat management. In most jurisdictions, certification standards either match or exceed legal requirements.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Comprehensive legislation establishes and protects wildlife areas and conserves biodiversity, including species at risk. Both the legislation and certification standards provide for the management of critical habitat for at-risk species and a coarse filter approach for other species through stand-level habitat management.

Above left: Photo: Brudder  
Above right: B.C.'s laws conserve water quality and fish habitat. Photo: Moresby Creative

## 9.

### Endangered Species Management

All of the jurisdictions studied have national or provincial lists of endangered species, and set strict requirements to protect them. The certification standards imply that management plans must consider and protect endangered species, and some go beyond legislation by requiring set-aside targets, up-to-date inventories and monitoring.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia law requires conservation of habitat for all species at risk listed in Canadian law as well as other species of regional importance, including invasive plant species. The standards imply that the identification and protection of endangered species must be considered in management plans.



Forest professionals identify the silvicultural system that best meets the unique needs of each site. Photo: Moresby Creative

## 10.

### Water Quality Management

All the jurisdictions studied have legal requirements to maintain water quality and quantity, and prohibit actions that might have adverse impacts on water resources. Some jurisdictions, including most Canadian provinces, Germany, Finland, Sweden and Australia, require that forest management planning consider water resources. Some certification standards require broader buffer zones or compliance with best practices that are more stringent than legislation.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Provincial legislation conserves water quality, fish habitat, wildlife habitat and biodiversity associated with riparian areas, and federal legislation addresses fish habitat protection. Certification standards accept legal requirements as a baseline.

## 11. Old-Growth Management and Special Sites

While old-growth is rarely addressed in legislation, it is governed by regulations related to protected areas and biodiversity. The United States and Canada have regulations to protect biologically valuable sites in public forests, and the United States, Germany and Finland have voluntary programs for private lands. Certification standards often go beyond legal requirements.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Old-Growth Management Areas are established under legislation, and are required to be addressed in forest management plans. Legislation sets the baseline for the performance level used by all certification standards in the province.

## 12. Restrictions on the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms

In all of the jurisdictions studied, the deliberate release of genetically modified material is subject to environmental impact and risk assessment, and licensing procedures. National legislation in Canada, the United States and Australia applies to the use of genetically modified seeds or plants. In the European Union (EU), genetically modified forest trees can be released only for research purposes and for a specific time period. Due to the strict legislations on release of genetically modified organisms (GMO) within the EU, certification standards do not add to legal requirements. In Canada, the United States, Brazil, Australia and Chile, the standards are more stringent because they explicitly ban commercial use of genetically modified trees.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Legislation regulates all tree seeds used for reforestation in the province, and the registration and use of genetically modified seed is prohibited. The FSC and CSA standards forbid the use of GMOs in line with legislative prohibitions.

## 13. Management of Chemical Use in Forestry

Environmental protection often requires minimal use of chemicals in forestry to combat pests, except in cases of epidemics and to fertilize stands. In EU countries, Canada and Brazil, lists of chemicals are approved for specific use in forestry. Chemicals approved for forest use in Chile, Brazil and the United States may be more toxic than those approved by the EU. Aerial spraying is restricted in EU countries, and allowed where feasible in Canada and the United States. The standards support legislative requirements, and the Chilean and Brazilian FSC standards go beyond legislative requirements.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Federal legislation regulates the approval of pesticides for sale in Canada, and provincial law regulates the use in British Columbia. Laws require using an integrated approach to managing pests including the use of chemicals only where necessary. Certification standards rely mainly on legislation in British Columbia; the SFI and FSC programs require minimization of chemical use.

*More than 40 per cent of British Columbia's forests are considered old-growth, over 140 years<sup>4</sup>. Old-growth forests tend to have more large trees and standing dead trees, multilayered canopies with gaps resulting from the deaths of individual trees, and coarse woody debris on the forest floor. Along British Columbia's Pacific Coast, scientists consider a stand old-growth when most of the larger trees are more than 250 years old. In the province's Interior, where trees typically have a shorter life span and wildfires are more common, old-growth is considered to be more than 120 to 140 years old.*



## 14. Climate Change and Carbon Management

Although all jurisdictions studied recognize the role healthy forests play in carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation, in general, forest laws do not yet address climate change. Many jurisdictions, including Finland, Sweden, Russia, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Oregon, Brazil, Australia and Chile have policies to combat climate change. These do not stipulate practical management objectives and methods. Only three of the forest standards endorsed by PEFC and FSC specifically address climate change.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia's 2008 Climate Action Plan addresses a specific strategy for the forestry sector, including adaptation and mitigation measures. Three of the certification standards used in British Columbia – SFI, CSA and FSC BC – specifically address climate change. In August 2016, subsequent to the release of the Indufor report, the Government of B.C. released its 2016 Climate Leadership Plan.<sup>5</sup>

*“In Canada, British Columbia has integrated policies on climate change into forest legislation requiring measures that improve adaptation (revised seed transfer rules), Ontario and Quebec also require that climate change shall be taken into consideration in forest management planning.”*

Above left: Photo: Moresby Creative  
Above right: Future forest professionals receiving training at Vancouver Island University. Photo: Brudder

## 15. Public Participation and First Nations Input

Some jurisdictions require public involvement for state and other public forests but not for private lands. In Finland, Sweden and Canada, the rights of indigenous peoples are defined in the constitution or comparable legislation. In Canada, provinces have the duty to consult with First Nations on issues related to the use of forest land and resources. Most jurisdictions involve local communities in forest management planning on public forests, and some carry out environmental assessments on major forestry activities. Many of the certification standards emphasize the importance of public participation and indigenous rights, and most go beyond legislation.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

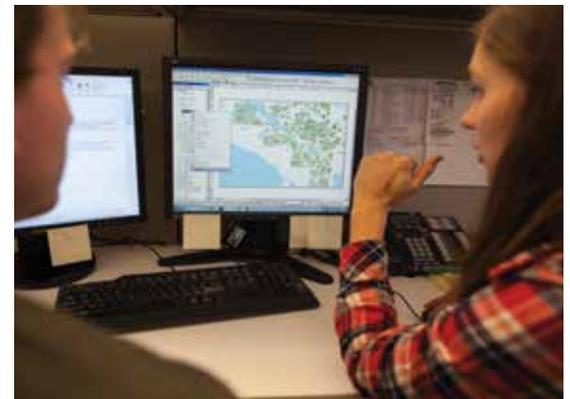
Legislation requires that harvesting plans for public land be advertised for public review and comment. Canadian law requires that Aboriginal title and rights be respected and accommodated. Certification standards require local community and First Nations involvement and consultation.

## 16. Training and Outreach

Sustainable forest management relies on skilled professionals. Many jurisdictions, including British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario, have legislation that requires appropriate training and sets competency requirements. Chile and Brazil also define competency requirements for government officials responsible for forest management policies and enforcement. Certification standards often expand the training, including safety-related issues such as dealing with chemicals and fire and awareness of legal updates.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Forester is a recognized profession under law, and forest professionals must be registered to practice forestry. They are guided by a code of ethics requiring professional competence and expertise. Certification standards require adequate training as a minimum, and some require training and outreach within the neighbouring communities.



Old Growth Management Areas are required to be addressed in forest management plans. Photo: Brudder

## Effectiveness of Forest Management Frameworks

Indufor conducted a review of literature and public data on forest management to determine the effectiveness of the legislative framework to achieve sustainable forest management outcomes.

The study identified a number of trends:

- Harvesting is reportedly below the sustainable yield in most jurisdictions.
- Western countries (Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Sweden and the United States) where domestic illegal logging is not a significant concern have put in place laws and regulations to prevent the importation and trade of illegally harvested wood with good results to date.
- In most jurisdictions, there is significant growth or stability in forest cover.
- The number of species at risk appears to be increasing in most jurisdictions. This may be a function of more thorough oversight and regulation than as a result of industrial activity.
- Areas protected for biodiversity has increased or remained stable.
- Since the early 2000s, more forest land is under ownership or management of indigenous peoples, especially in Canada, Australia and Brazil.



Companies and forest professionals in B.C. are held accountable for their practices. Photo: Brudder

## Summary

The Indufor study reaffirms the fact that Canada continues to be a world leader in practising sustainable forest management – and that certification makes a positive contribution, even in jurisdictions like Canada with tough laws. Despite the fact that only 10.9 per cent<sup>6</sup> of the world's forests are certified, there continues to be an increase in chain-of-custody certification, which shows that businesses and buyers recognize the benefits of third-party certification.

A recent United Nations report says: "The transition towards a green economy depends heavily on policies and market-based instruments. The EU Forest Strategy, international trade agreements and timber regulations have significant influence, along with non-regulatory systems such as voluntary certification programs, markets for ecosystem services, and green building innovations."<sup>7</sup>

With more third-party certified lands than any other country and three credible certification schemes, Canada is well positioned to meet this growing demand.

In a statement, Canada's forest ministers said governments in Canada accept that CSA, FSC and SFI "demonstrate, and promote the sustainability of forest management practices in Canada"<sup>8</sup>.

In *Environmental claims: A guide for industry and advertisers PLUS 14021*, the Canadian Standards Association, in partnership with the Competition Bureau of Canada, said the preferred approach for claims of sustainability of forest products is to identify them as coming from a forest certified to a sustainable forest management standard such as CSA, FSC and SFI.<sup>9</sup>

British Columbia's inclusive approach to forest certification, combined with tough and ever-evolving forest regulations, makes the province a preferred supplier of forest products from sustainably managed forests. The recent research from Indufor provides added assurance to customers that the products they purchase from British Columbia come from some of the best managed forests in the world.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

CANADIAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION (CSA)  
[www.csagroup.org](http://www.csagroup.org)

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)  
 FSC International [www.ic.fsc.org](http://www.ic.fsc.org)  
 FSC Canada [www.ca.fsc.org](http://www.ca.fsc.org)

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE (SFI)  
[www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org)

PROGRAMME FOR THE ENDORSEMENT OF FOREST CERTIFICATION (PEFC)  
 PEFC International [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)  
 PEFC Canada [www.pefccanada.org](http://www.pefccanada.org)

About 50% of wood products exported from Canada come from British Columbia's sustainably-managed forests. This publication is part of the 'Forest Facts' series, published by Forestry Innovation Investment, the Government of British Columbia's market development agency for forest products.

To learn more about other British Columbia forest facts, visit:

[naturallywood.com](http://naturallywood.com)

Cover photo: Forestry workers manage B.C.'s forests near 100 Mile House. Photo: Bednar

Endnote: <sup>1</sup>CSA Z809-08 SFM Standard (2008) was in effect at the time of the study, and a revised version was published in March 2016. The study analyzed the implications of the changes to the CSA standard in a separate chapter. <sup>2</sup>The State of British Columbia's Forests, 2010, Page 43 [www.for.gov.bc.ca](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca) <sup>3</sup>The Food and Agriculture Organization defines plantations as either introduced species (all planted stands), or intensely managed stands of indigenous species used primarily for production of specific goods or services, which meet all the following criteria: one or two species at planting, even-age class, regular spacing. [www.fao.org/docrep/004/Y1997E/y1997e1m.htm#bm58](http://www.fao.org/docrep/004/Y1997E/y1997e1m.htm#bm58) <sup>4</sup>The State of British Columbia's Forests, 2010, Page 8 [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/sof/2010/SOF\\_2010\\_Web.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/sof/2010/SOF_2010_Web.pdf) <sup>5</sup>The plan includes actions to enhance the carbon storage potential of B.C.'s forests and increasing the use of wood products that store carbon and reduce emissions in the built environment. <http://climate.gov.bc.ca/> <sup>6</sup>2014-2015 UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review, Page 16 [www.uncece.org/forests/fpamr2015.html](http://www.uncece.org/forests/fpamr2015.html) <sup>7</sup>2014-2015 UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review, Page 1 [www.uncece.org/forests/fpamr2015.html](http://www.uncece.org/forests/fpamr2015.html) <sup>8</sup>Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' Statement on Forest Certification Standards in Canada [www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publications/EN/CCFM\\_StatementCertif\\_EN.pdf](http://www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publications/EN/CCFM_StatementCertif_EN.pdf) <sup>9</sup>Environmental Claims: A Guide for Industry and Advertisers [www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/02701.html](http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/02701.html)