Modernizing Ontario's Forest Tenure and Pricing System

Ontario is modernizing the system that governs who manages Crown forests, including how companies get wood and how it is priced in the province. A modernized system would help create more flexibility to enable response to today's fast-changing economic environment. The plan to modernize the forest tenure and pricing system will shape the future of forestry in Ontario. The government intends to take "a careful and measured approach" that will benefit established and emerging forest industry, as well as Aboriginal and local communities. See: "Strengthening Forestry's Future – Forest Tenure Modernization in Ontario" www.mndmf.gov.ca/forestry/tenure_and_pricing_review/documents/modernization_plan_e.pdf.

Recently, the Ontario Legislature passed Bill 151, to enact the Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act, 2011 and to amend the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994. This Bill will sup-

port changes required to implement tenure modernization. Legislature of Ontario, Bill 151, The Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act, 2011. www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?

Over the next five to seven years Ontario will implement a new generation of forest tenure.

- Local Forest Management Corporations (LFMCs)—Crown agencies governed by a predominantly local board of directors responsible for managing Crown forests and overseeing the marketing and sale of timber in a given area; and,
- Enhanced Sustainable Forest Licences (ESFLs)—Companies that may be owned by the consuming mills and/or harvesters, or a not-for-profit corporation, and operate in a manner that will achieve the objectives of tenure modernization.

On May 25, Ontario announced that it is working with First Nations, local communities and forest industry part-

ners to design and establish the first LFMC to be called Nawinginokima Forest Management Corporation, which means "working together". This new LFMC would sustainably manage Crown forests in the Big Pic, Nagagami and White River forests in the Marathon area. It would also sell and market timber and negotiate the price of wood. The new models should help make the allocation of Ontario's wood and prices more responsive to market demand, create new opportunities for entrepreneurs, and facilitate greater Aboriginal and local involvement in the forest sector.

"We've worked hard on this legislation to address concerns about change, as well as the desire for change. Now it's time for action to balance private interests with the overriding public interest in putting Ontario's wood and people back to work."
—Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry.

Government Extends FPInnovations' Forest Sector Transformation Program

Canada's forestry innovation hub, FPInnovations, welcomed Federal Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver's announcement in mid-July of \$25.5-million towards the 2011–2012 Transformative Technologies Research Program (TTP). This program focuses on the development, adaptation, and deployment of emerging and breakthrough technologies relating to forest biomass utilization, forest biotechnology, nanotechnology, green chemistry, bio-materials, innovative wood-based building systems as well as information and communications technologies.

"This announcement extends a unique industry/government partnership that is transforming the forest sector through innovation. This financial support will help build and strengthen an innovative and diversified forest products sector in Canada. That is good

news for job growth and new economic opportunities for hard-hit forestry communities," stated Alan Potter, Vice-President of FPInnovations.

FPInnovations TTP research is currently shaping the future forest industry by:

- Researching new technologies
- Creating new production processes
- Developing new forest products and markets
- Making the industry more efficient and innovative.

"There is a growing appreciation and global demand for wood fibre-based products due to their environmental attributes (water and air recycling, and carbon sequestration). With the right business conditions, such as strong partnerships and FPInnovations' transformative technologies, the sector can be prosperous, providing a

more diverse basket of traditional and new products to the market and becoming a leader in an emerging bio-economy," concluded Potter.

FPInnovations is a not-for-profit world leader that specializes in the creation of scientific solutions in support of the Canadian forest sector's global competitiveness and responds to the priority needs of its industrial and government members. It is ideally positioned to perform research, innovate and deliver state-of-the-art solutions for every area of the sector's value chain, from forestry operations to consumer and industrial products. FPInnovations' staff numbers more than 500. Its research laboratories are located in Québec City, Montréal, Thunder Bay and Vancouver, and it has technology transfer offices across Canada. For more information, see: www.fpinnovations.ca.

New Articles from REDD+

The United Nations' REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Program and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) Facility Management Team, housed at the World Bank, have announced the publication of three jointly commissioned papers on multi-stakeholder participation, benefit-sharing and safeguards initiatives for REDD+.

- **A Draft Framework for Sharing Approaches for Better Multi-Stakeholder Participation Practices:**

Many countries are beginning to engage stakeholders in domestic REDD+ decision-making processes, often with support from bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental initiatives. This publication seeks to support the effectiveness of such processes by identifying emerging lessons on stakeholder participation practices. The publication focuses on four topics: a) Common terms relating to stakeholder participation; b) A framework for categorizing different types of stakeholder engagement processes; c) Information most relevant for practitioners to share; and d) Next steps for developing a comprehensive and sustained approach to sharing information and experiences

among partners, and identifying good practices.

- **REDD+ Benefit Sharing: A Comparative Assessment of Three National Policy Approaches:**

This publication outlines national benefit-sharing approaches from three areas of forest management policy with respect to REDD+, including: payments for ecosystem services (PES), participatory forest management (PFM) and forest concession revenue-sharing arrangements. It begins with a broad overview of each policy approach, incorporating examples of such approaches in practice from several countries, and reflecting on their relevance to REDD+ planning. The architectural traits of the policy approaches and their ability to address drivers of deforestation are assessed. Finally, the report summarizes the challenges and lessons learned from REDD+ benefit sharing planning to date.

- **A Review of Three REDD+ Safeguard Initiatives:**

Questions remain as to how the safeguards in the context of support for readiness and REDD+ will be interpreted and applied, the extent of the benefit that they can provide and the challenges in their implementation.

This publication seeks to contribute to the discussion on practical experiences regarding safeguards by outlining current approaches to the application of social and environmental standards and principles. It highlights the current REDD+ safeguard initiatives from the FCPF, the UN-REDD Program, and REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (SES), and the lessons learned and anticipated challenges to application of REDD+ safeguards.

The papers have been peer reviewed by international experts and UN-REDD Program and World Bank staff, and revised for publication by the authors. Drafts of the papers were originally presented at the REDD+ Partnership Workshop, "Enhancing Coordinated Delivery of REDD+: Emerging Lessons, Best Practices and Challenges," held 26 November 2010 in Cancun in conjunction with UNFCCC COP16.

If you are unable to access the papers through www.unredd.net please contact World Bank/Carbon Finance Unit, Tel: 1-202-473-8355 or Email: kan-drasko@worldbank.org.

Forest Stewardship Council Certification to Malaysian Forests

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) has certified two Malaysian forest reserves to the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) standard for responsible forestry, solidifying its place as the top certifier in Malaysia. The Ulu Segama-Malua Forest Reserve and Tangkulap-Pinangah Forest Reserve in the State of Sabah were certified as well-managed forests under the FSC.

SCS Senior Vice President Dr. Robert J. Hrubes presented Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) Director, Datuk Sam Mannan, with the certificates for the two forest reserves at the Gala Dinner of the FSC's recently concluded General Assembly in Kota Kinabalu. "The certification of these forest

reserves signifies Malaysia's continued leadership role in supporting responsible forestry and the FSC," said Hrubes. "Malaysia's forests are an incredibly valuable resource and SCS is proud to be associated with their responsible management."

The certifications for the Ulu Segama-Malua and Tangkulap-Pinangah reserves are unique because of their focus on conservation and restoration forestry. Surveys of the areas revealed important habitat for Orangutans and other endangered wildlife.

"By committing to sustainable ways of logging, Sabah has been able to safeguard the interests of local communities whose lives depend on the forest," said

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman in a speech at the FSC General Assembly Gala Dinner.

SCS is the leading FSC certification body for Forest Management in Malaysia, having assessed 687 709 of the 742 848 hectares of currently registered forests in Malaysia. SCS has been providing global leadership in third-party sustainability and environmental certification, auditing, testing and standards development for more than 25 years. SCS programs span a wide range of industries including green building, product manufacturing, food and agriculture, forestry, retailing and more. See: <http://www.scs-certified.com>