

Global Perspectives on Indigenous Peoples' Forestry

Linking Communities,
Commerce and
Conservation

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
June 4-6, 2002

National Aboriginal Forestry Association



Topics of Discussion

- Background
- What NAFA does
- Aboriginal forestry in Canada
- The opportunities
- Outstanding issues
- Looking ahead; NAFA activities, new developments and upcoming events

Background

- NAFA was created in 1989 at the National Native Forestry Symposium
- It was incorporated in November of 1991 as a non-profit, non-political and non-governmental organization
- NAFA is Aboriginal-controlled (10 member board of directors)

Background

- 400 members – First Nations, tribal councils, enterprises, management boards, educational institutions
- Its objective is to encourage and support increased Aboriginal involvement in forestry
- Its focus is to build a policy framework for Aboriginal participation in forestry

Background

NAFA Objectives

- To assist Aboriginal communities – a standard of land care which is balanced, sustainable and reflective of the traditional knowledge and forest values of Aboriginal peoples
- To facilitate capacity-building, human resource strategies, and models for resource decision-making

Background

NAFA Objectives

- Forest land rehabilitation, Aboriginal control over forest resources, and the development of appropriate policy and programming
- To obtain the highest value possible from forest resources on Reserve and tenures in traditional territories

Background

NAFA Objectives

- To support self-government, the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights, the link to natural resource management
- To provide a network for information sharing and to act in an advocacy role

What NAFA Does

A. Research and Advocacy

1. National Forest Strategy

- Consultations in the fall of 2002
- Evaluation of previous strategy
- New approach – NFS in May of 2003
- National Forestry Congress

2. CCFM Criteria and Indicators

- NAFA position is a separate Criterion on Aboriginal Issues
- Working Groups

What NAFA Does

A. Research & Advocacy

3. World Forest Congress (Sept 2003)

- NAFA on organizing committee
- Coordination of an Indigenous People's sanctioned process

4. Forest Stewardship Council's Certification

- A process to address Indigenous Issues
- Principle #3 interpretation – a “primer” joint project with Ecotrust

What NAFA Does

A. Research & Advocacy

5. Other Certification Systems
6. National Advisory Board of Forest Research
7. FORCAST – S&T Initiatives
8. Forest 2020
9. Joint Initiatives with other Forestry Associations - Presentations

What NAFA Does

B. Support To First Nations

1. Aboriginal issues in boreal forest management – a study and consultation process
2. Organizational, technical and advisory support to First Nation organizations
3. Parks and protected areas – a discussion paper

What NAFTA Does

B. Support To First Nations

4. Softwood lumber trade – impact on First Nations
5. Marketing and trade initiatives
6. Business development support
7. Joint projects, e.g. Ontario Study Process on T&C 77
8. NAFTA conferences and workshops on issues

What NAFA Does

C. Aboriginal Forest Research Agenda

1. Sustainable Forest Management Network
 - NAFA on Board
 - Aboriginal sub-committee – \$720,000 budget
2. Science, technology and innovation
3. Other research in partnership with research institutions

What NAFA Does

D. Professional Development in Forest Sector

1. First Nation Ranger Program
2. Education kit, poster, brochures
3. Aboriginal forestry video (upcoming)
4. Joint work with education institutions
5. Capacity-building initiatives

What NAFA Does

E. Policy, Programming in Support of Forest Management

1. FNFP support – NMC and PTMC
2. Development of management tools
3. Program linkages

What NAFA Does

F. International Forest Policy

1. United Nations Forum on Forests and other policy fora
2. Indigenous peoples' partnerships and development support

What NAFA Does

G. Communications

1. Newsletters
2. Articles – Aboriginal and forestry publications
3. Web site
www.nafaforestry.org

What NAFA Does

H. Administration & Organization Development

1. Operational review
2. Strategic planning for NAFA
3. New directions – Foundation (?)

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

A. Summary of Aboriginal Forest Issues

- Rights policy, management
 - Recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights
 - Participation in management and decision-making processes
- Access
 - Access for traditional activities
 - Access to harvest resources

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

A. Summary of Aboriginal Forest Issues

- Traditional forest-related knowledge (TFRK)
 - Application of TFRK to SFM
 - Protection and recovery of TFRK
- Sharing the benefits
 - Gaining benefits from the modern forest sector
 - Capacity-building

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

B. Aboriginal Tenure and Access to Forest Resources

- Indian Reserve Lands
 - Federal jurisdiction through Indian Act
 - 2300 reserves, 240 > 1000 ha
 - 1.4 million ha of forested land

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

B. Aboriginal Tenure and Access to Forest Resources

- Historic Treaties (1-11)
 - Signed nation-to-nation, provincial governments bound to uphold
 - Covers NW Ontario, Prairies, parts of BC, Yukon and NWT

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

B. Aboriginal Tenure and Access to Forest Resources

- Land Claims/Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE)
 - Federal Real Properties Act
 - Conversion to Reserve status
 - Fee simple title
 - 1.8 million ha in MB, SK & AB under TLE
 - > 100 claims in process

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

B. Aboriginal Tenure and Access to Forest Resources

- Modern Day Treaties
 - Terms of treaty subject to provincial management standards
 - Co-management on adjacent Crown Land
 - James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement
 - Nisga'a
 - Yukon First Nations

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

B. Aboriginal Tenure and Access to Forest Resources

- Traditional Territories
 - Provincial Crown Land legislation
 - Co-management, interim measures, Aboriginal title and rights
 - Defined by First Nation, subject to negotiation

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

B. Aboriginal Tenure and Access to Forest Resources

- Provincial Tenures
 - Provincial forest management legislation
 - Forest management plans
 - > 120 First Nations with some form of tenure
 - Tanizul Timber (BC), Meadow Lake (SK), Waswanapi (QC)

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

C. Current Initiatives

- Partnerships
 - Joint Ventures
 - Nabakatuk, Waswanapi QC
 - West Chilcotin FP, Anahim Lake BC
 - Kyahwood, Morricetown BC
 - Wapawekka, Prince Albert SK

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

C. Current Initiatives

- Partnerships
 - Co-operative Business Arrangements
 - Naicatchewenin – alliance with Abitibi Consolidated
 - Wabigoon tree nursery – Weyerhaeuser and Bowater
 - Forest Services Contracting
 - Woodland Cree Resources, SK
 - Moose Lake Loggers, MB

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

C. Current Initiatives

- Partnerships
 - Socio-Economic
 - Ginoogaming, ON
 - Constance Lake, ON
 - Forest Management Planning
 - Mistik Management, Meadow Lake
 - Innu Nation of Labrador

Aboriginal Forestry in Canada

C. Current Initiatives

- Government-to-Government Agreements (Co-management?)
 - Nisga'a Treaty
 - Grand Council of the Crees
 - Forestry compatible with Cree traditions (trap-line basis)
 - Cree-Quebec Forestry Board
 - \$70 million for 48 years
 - Algonquins of Barriere Lake Trilateral Agreement

Opportunities

- **Factors contributing to increased First Nation involvement in the forest industry**
 1. Sustainable forest management and Aboriginal treaty rights will translate into a larger share in forestry
 2. The forest industry is moving North into First Nations territories
 3. Land claims are being settled, meaning larger areas controlled by First Nations

Opportunities

- **Other challenges might include**
 1. Obtaining recognition of tribal sovereignty in conducting Canada-US trade
 2. Establishing marketing alliances between US tribes, other indigenous peoples, and Canadian First Nations
 3. Establishing a niche in the marketplace for Aboriginal-produced forest products based on SFM practices

Opportunities

- **Other challenges might include**
 4. Linking Aboriginal and treaty rights to trade policy to ensure consideration of unique development needs of First Nation communities
 5. Acceptable models for sustainable forest management which will address the need for economic benefits

Outstanding Issues

- Non-recognition of the value of TEK to forest management
- No policy framework for Aboriginal and treaty rights
- Tenure systems geared toward big business/industrial forestry
- Access to resources – no community-based or other tenure arrangements appropriate to Aboriginal communities
- Lack of Aboriginal capital, community capacity

Looking Ahead

- **National Forest Strategy
2003-2008 Process**
 - Evaluation of 1998-2003
 - Committees
 - Experts panel
 - Consultation (October 2003)
 - National Forum (Winnipeg)
 - Writing of NFS
 - National Forest Congress
(May 1-2, 2003)

Looking Ahead

- **National Forest Strategy
2003-2008 Outputs**
 - “A new and bolder National Forest Strategy”
 - Canada Forest Accord

Looking Ahead

- **World Forest Congress
September 2003**
 - 5000 people from 150 countries
 - Aboriginal involvement
 - Policy forum to be sanctioned as a side event
 - Pavilion at exhibition
 - Call for papers on Aboriginal forest issues
 - Visits to Aboriginal communities/forest operations
 - Workshops at congress to address Indigenous peoples' issues

Looking Ahead

- **CCFM – Criteria & Indicators Review**
 - Aboriginal indicators included in Criterion 6, “Accepting Society’s Responsibility for Sustainable Development” (1995)
 - NAFA has proposed “An Aboriginal Criterion for SFM”
- **Forest Certification**
 - FSC National Boreal Standards
 - Aboriginal Boreal Forest Council

Looking Ahead

- **Forest Certification**
 - FSC National Boreal Standards
 - Aboriginal Boreal Forest Council