What is it?

Community forestry is widely interpreted by different people in different contexts. In general, it is used to describe initiatives where local people and groups play a key role in decision-making processes concerning regional forests.

Community forestry involves the three pillars of sustainable development: social, ecological, and economic sustainability. At its core, community forestry is about local control over and enjoyment of the benefits offered by local forest resources.

Benefits

- Capacity building for increased resilience of rural communities
- Conserve watersheds and viewscapes valued by local citizens
- Provide training and employment opportunities
- Promote youth outdoor education





CURRENT STATUS IN CANADA

- 348 million hectares of Canada is covered in forest, representing about 47% of its total land surface
- There are currently over 100 active community forests on public land
- Most community forests are located in the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership: http://noscp.ca/

British Columbia Community Forest Association: http://www.bccfa.ca/

Community Forests International: http://forestsinternational.org/

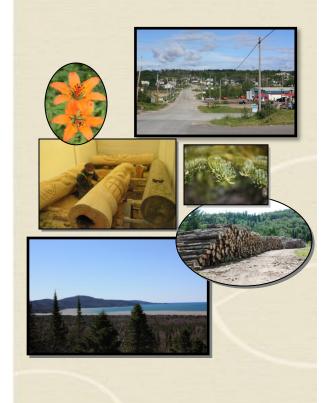
UBC Community & Aboriginal Forestry Program: http://web.forestry.ubc.ca/firstfor/program.html

Canadian Model Forest Network http://modelforest.net/

Aboriginal Forestry: http://www.canadianforests.com/aboriginal_forestry.html

Created by Emily Thorne - 2013

COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN CANADA





Non-timber forest products can be harvested from community forests and redistributed locally, as value-added products.

Community forestry is about fostering local control over not only the decisions affecting use of nearby forests, but also how and where forest-derived benefits and products are distributed.

Forest-derived benefits and products come in many forms, often called "environmental services" and "non-timber forest products" (NTFPs). Environmental services include clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, and carbon storage that provides a buffer against climate change. NTFPs are anything taken from a forest that does not include the harvesting of trees. Mushrooms, medicinal plants, fur-bearing animals, and essential oils are examples of the resources that can be used to provide local livelihoods, or be sold to provide income.

When a product is harvested and modified before sale or use, it becomes a value-added product.

Manufactured wood products, maple syrup, woven baskets and the greenery in floral bouquets are just some of the value-added products.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Community forestry, as it currently exists in Canada, is a practice that has been advocated over the past few decades as an innovative approach to forest management and community development. Typically, community forests share 3 primary objectives:

TO ENHANCE LOCAL CONTROL OVER DECISIONS

Community forestry enables participatory decision-making processes where citizens can express opinions and have more influence than typically occurs through industrial forestry that operates under a centralized, command-and-control system. Achieving the best possible representation of local values and interests, and easing land ownership issues are important to multi-party collaboration.



Partnerships and mixed ownership models can ease land ownership and tenure issues



Some communities elect community shareholder boards to represent the values of various local groups

TO ENHANCE LOCAL ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Community forest initiatives create employment within the forestry and tourism industries, in addition to creating opportunities for harvesting a considerable number of non-timber forest products. This ensures recirculation of resources within communities and keeping more benefits at the local level.



Emphasis is placed on economic value and best-end use, rather than volume



Modes of production are labour-intensive as opposed to capital-intensive

TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Community forests can be sustainably managed through ecologically sensitive forestry practices that recognize and place value on all ecosystem components that comprise the local forest.





Respecting whole ecosystems including air, water, soil, wildlife, and plants within a forest can ensure conservation and enable sustained use for generations to come