

## Introduction

The consequences of long-term, command-and-control forest management in northern Ontario have manifested in a crisis in the forestry system with associated negative impacts for communities that depend on the system. Yet this crisis has also strengthened the movement for community-based forest management (CBFM); many communities are now attempting to gain control of their local forests to develop a new system based on resilience.

*Resilient systems are self-organizing, and involve diversity, multiple knowledge systems, and tight feedback loops for information exchange.*



Such a new, resilient system requires devolution of forest governance to enable the establishment of local CBFM institutions that take an adaptive, collaborative approach to forest management.

## Purpose & Objectives

This study explores several forest tenure institutions being developed in northern Ontario for implementation under Ontario's new forest tenure system as one of two tenure models: Local Forest Management Corporations (LFMCs) or Enhanced Shareholder Sustainable Forest Licences (ESFLs). The initiatives involve some level of cross-cultural collaboration among First Nations and municipalities.

The goal of this study is to help raise the voices of forest-dependent communities in northern Ontario regarding their visions for future management of their local forests.

The objectives of the study are to:

- 1) Assess community values for local forests & visions for the developing tenure institutions
- 2) Analyze the new tenure institutions based on a theoretical framework that considers the principles of CBFM and several additional elements



- 3) Formulate policy recommendations for a new forest tenure framework in northern Ontario that incorporates CBFM.

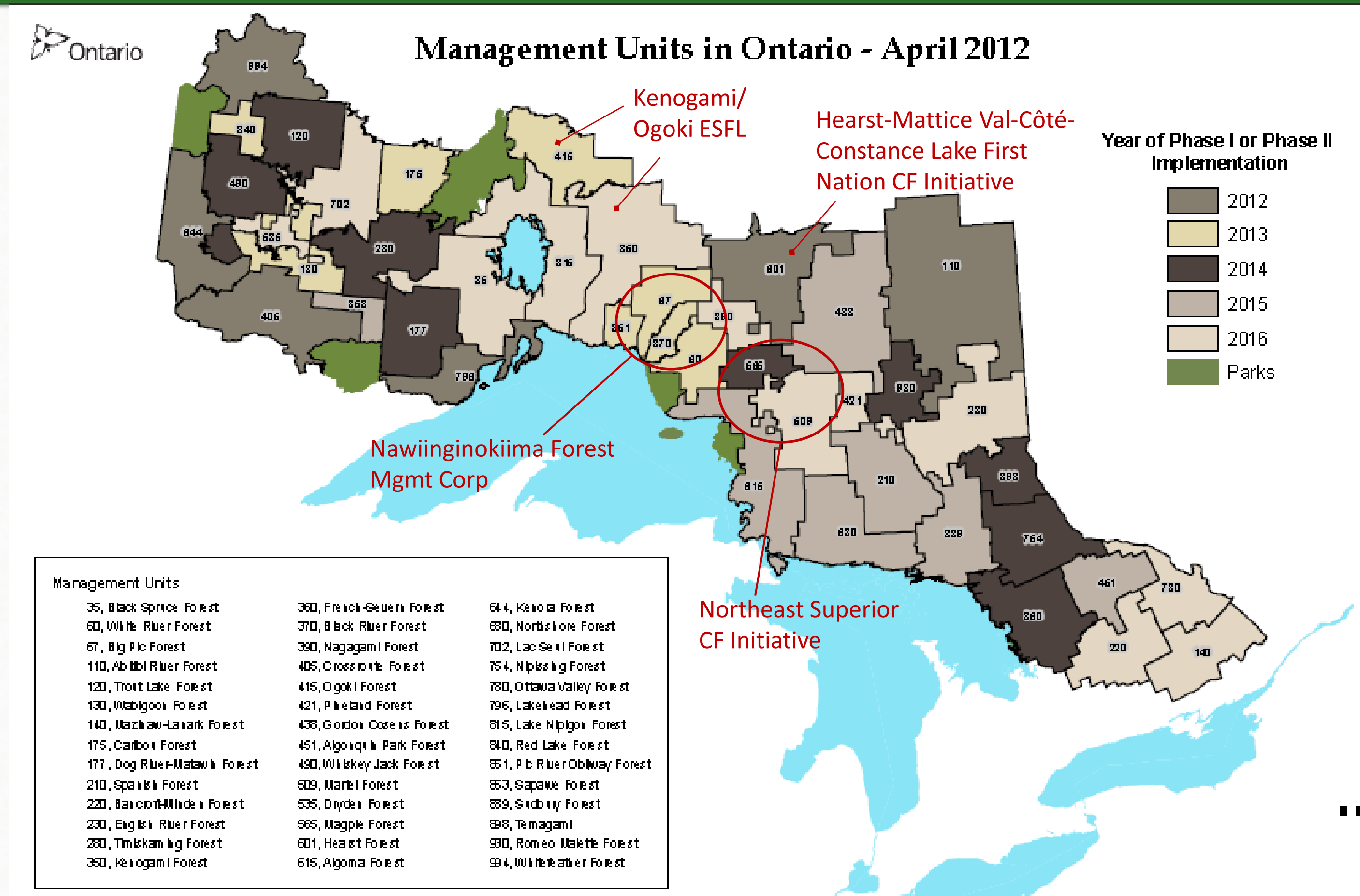


## Methodology

The study uses a qualitative, multiple case study approach. It includes collaborative research—Participatory Action Research. With this approach, the co-generation of knowledge results from a two-way information and knowledge exchange between the community participants and the researchers.

DATA COLLECTION	TIMEFRAME
Semi-structured interviews with key informants from communities, government, industry; audio-recorded	August 2011– May 2013
SSHRC Workshop: Building resilient northern Ontario communities through CBFM	May 2011
SSHRC Public Outreach Conference: Building resilient communities through CBFM	January 2013
Participant Observation	May 2011 – May 2013
Document Review	September 2009 – May 2013

## Case Studies



**Kenogami/Ogoki ESFL** A process has begun for the establishment of an ESFL on these two forests. The initiative was originally proposed for the new forest tenure system as a limited partnership by Matawa Tribal Council for First Nations with traditional territories in these forests. A separate proposal was submitted by Greenstone based on the historic Geraldton Community Forest. While no community-based process was originally undertaken by the First Nations and municipalities with interests in these forests, the Ontario government has begun a process for all communities to work on the development of an ESFL. In addition to the First Nations with traditional rights to these forests, the new tenure model is to include participation by the municipalities of Greenstone and Terrace Bay. Matawa communities are interested in a modified commodity-value added-based market system that is open both to new and old markets, with a new focus on value-added production from currently underutilized species.



### Community Based Forest Management Model – Hearst, Constance Lake & Mattice-Val Côté



A comprehensive community-based process among the three participating communities was undertaken in 2010 that resulted in a shared vision among participants for a community forest management model. The model is a not-for-profit community-based forest management company that would hold a sustainable forest licence for the Hearst Forest. The model proposes to operate under eight principles which were agreed to in the community-based process. These relate to the well-being of citizens in the region through the creation of local and regional self-sufficiency while respecting Aboriginal rights. Neither of the new Ontario tenure models fits with the vision of this initiative. While the model could operate as an ESFL, communities are dissatisfied that it would not allow the revenue generated to be reinvested in the community forest management corporation.

### Northeast Superior Community Forest Initiative

The Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum has taken the lead on a community forest model to promote resilience of the communities and forest ecosystems in the region that encompasses the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve (CCGP). A deliberative process has begun for the development of a shared vision for a conservation economy model based on multiple forest use and shared decision-making for the management of several local forests as an ESFL. Three municipalities that are members of the federal Northeast Superior Forest Community program have expressed interest, as has Tembec, the forest company that holds forest licences for most of the CCGP.



**Nawiinginiima Forest Management Corporation** Ontario has established this first Local Forest Management Corporation under the new tenure system. It is a Crown corporation that is to manage five existing forest management units—the Nagagami, White River, Big Pic, Black River and Pic River Ojibway forests beginning in the spring of 2013. The corporation includes five municipalities, three First Nations, and two industry partners. The new model arose out of the long-time vision for a community-driven management model by the communities of Marathon, Pic River First Nation and Manitouwadge. The additional communities were designated by the province to be involved; there was no initial broad, community-based process among all participating communities.

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