The resilience of (non)community forests in Northern Ontario:
Insights & experiences

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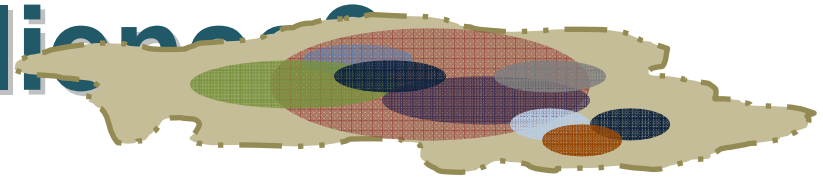
Canada

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Guiding Questions

a) Lessons from experience with community forest groups in Ontario (& Canada)?
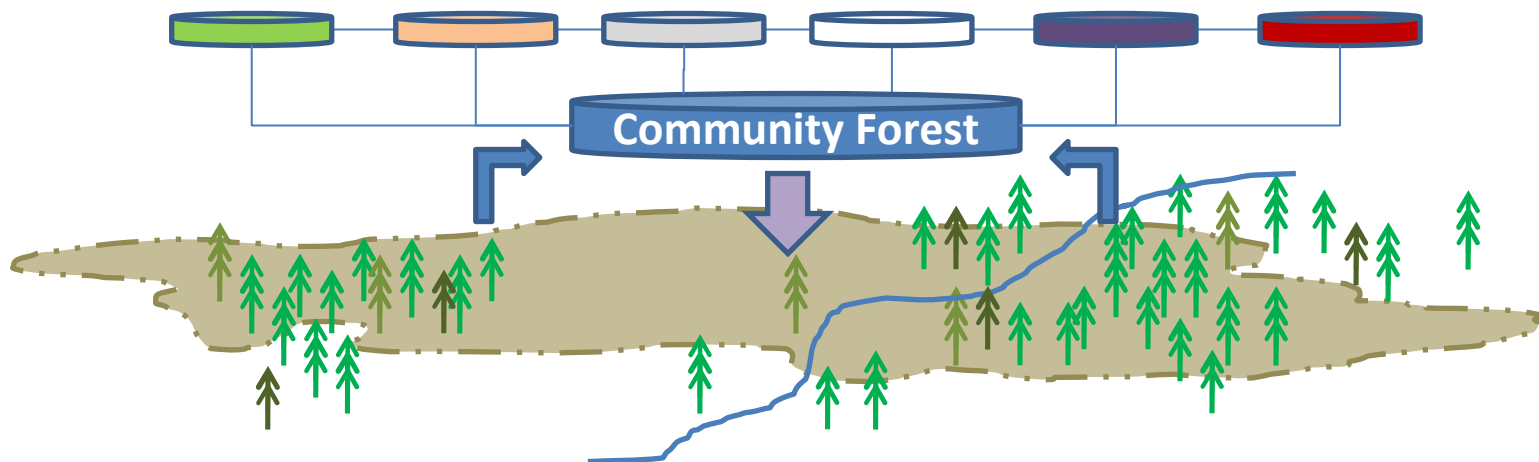
b) How can forest communities become more resilient?

Community Resilience?

- "existence, development, and engagement of community resources by community members to thrive in an environment characterised by change, uncertainty, unpredictability, and surprise" (Magis 2010)

  a) Learn & endure amidst changing conditions (*experiment, reflection*)

  b) Maintain/recreate identity (system structure & function) without ongoing external inputs (*sense of community, placed-based decision making & dev*)

  c) Intent & wherewithal to affect change (*commitment, vision, empowered*)

Community Forest?

- "A public forest area managed by the community as a working forest for the benefit of the community" (Teitelbaum et al 2006)

    a) public forest access and use

    b) managed locally by residents & representatives for multiple uses

    c) return most benefits to geographic constituents & partners

E.g. Community Forests in Ontario

Name	Mean* or total[+] land holdings (Ha)	Land ownership	Enabling legislation /agreement	Governance Model	Primary Funding Sources
Agreement Forests	2000*	Private land	RA 1922; CFSA 1996	Mun-prov partnership; staff manager, local steering committee	Provincial funds
Conservation Authorities	143 000[+]	Private land	CAA 1946	Mun-prov partnership; incorporated body with appointed board	Prov & fed transfers; municipal levy; fees
Algonquin Forest Authority	288 886[+]	Crown (park)	AFAA 1974; CFSA 1996	Crown corporation with appointed board	Logging revenues
Wendaban Management Authority	130 000[+]	Crown & park	MOU with Crown 1990	Shared stewardship board of provincial (2/3) and First Nation (1/3) appointees	Various licences, permits, fees from land/resource use
Westwind Stewardship Inc.	360 000[+]	Crown land	CFSA 1996	Non-profit corporation with board of elected at-large community and interest group members	Charity, forest industry, logging and services
Ontario Pilot Projects	323 500*	Crown land, unceded reserve lands	CFSA 1996	Mixed: partnerships and non-profit corps; appointed & elected interest group representation; land & resource committee accountable to Chief & Council	Provincial funds; logging; programs/services

Bullock & Hanna in review, 2011

Perceptions of Power & Benefit Distribution

Benefits

- ↑ benefits to local residents

- Industry = local government

Bullock 2010

Perceptions of Power & Benefit Distribution

Power

- **province to remain lead**

- **↑role for local governments**

- **↓ enviros, tourism operators, rec. groups, feds**

Bullock 2010

Perceptions of Power & Benefit Distribution

Power Source	Actor
Authority/Position	*Province/OMNR* – landlord, *CFSA* *Industry* – licensed timber rights *First Nations* – Treaty and Aboriginal rights
Expertise	*Industry* – certified professionals in forest business, economics, science, engineering, biology, GIS
Resources	*Industry* – capital, equipment, personnel, info

Bullock 2010

Framing Conventional Identities

- *resource/mill towns*   resource dependent; industrial; extractive

- *forest workers*   practically skilled; uneducated; illiterate; dependent; options limited

- *forestry professionals*   forest experts; manager of forest for the Crown; professionals; tough decision maker; provider

- *First Nations*   unorganized; withdrawn; dependent

Bullock 2010

Framing Conventional Identities

- **resource/mill town**

"We are here because of our sawmill. We are here because of our rail. Our town would not exist without those things."
EDO Intern, Kate

"...this is an industrial land base that we're living on for the most part because logging is pervasive. It's everywhere."
Municipal, Lee

Bullock 2010

Fostering Resilience in Community Forest Groups

1. Define clear vision and objectives early

2. Formalize "the group" early (e.g. corp., society, co-op)

3. Foster & demonstrate positive relationships with other social groups

4. Prioritize resource/info needs & partner for exchanges (e.g. other local groups, NGO, universities, private)

5. Create/customize social-ecological info on forests & communities (e.g. land use, resource inventories, socio-demographic, infrastructure, local histories)

6. Maintain active communication/engagement with policy networks

7. Create local forums for public engagement (e.g. accountability, ideas, support)

8. Seek professional consultation (e.g. expertise & accreditation ↑ legitimacy)

Bullock et al 2009; 2010

Fostering Resilience Across Community Forest Groups

Coordination

- **Formalize regional coordinating body for community group networking, info exchange, service/product support, advocacy**

- **Online data sharing portal**

- **Foster postsecondary-community-NGO action research agenda**

Research

a) **Survey attitudes/awareness of CF & related themes**

b) **Identify cost-sharing & service alliances for CF organizations**

c) **Regional quantitative analyses of social-ecological factors known to support/hinder CF performance**

Bullock et al 2011; Bullock et al 2009; Bullock & Watelet 2006