

Edwards, J.E.; Pearce, C.; Ogden, A.E.; Williamson, T.B. 2015. *Climate change and sustainable forest management in Canada: a guidebook for assessing vulnerability and mainstreaming adaptation into decision making*. Can. Counc. For. Minist., Ottawa, ON.

Summary

The potential effects of climate change on forests will likely have important implications for Canada's ability to achieve sustainable forest management (SFM) objectives and goals as currently defined. Consequently, climate change was identified as one of two strategic issues of national importance for Canadian forest management, and the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) has recommended that consideration of both climate change and future climatic variability is needed in all aspects of SFM (CCFM 2008).

Proactive adaptation offers a path forward for forestry practitioners to meet the demands of the forest sector within the context of complex socioecological systems and a rapidly changing climate. Adaptation seeks to ensure that the breadth of ecosystem services provided by forests and underpinning the competitiveness of Canada's forest sector is maintained under future climates. In other words, the purpose of adaptation is to identify and implement the measures necessary to reduce vulnerability to climate change and thus to increase the likelihood that SFM objectives will be achieved.

The need for adaptation within forest management varies across ecosystems and is related to the vulnerability of SFM systems relative to their ability to achieve SFM objectives under a changing climate. Tools and knowledge that allow forest resource professionals operating at various scales to understand climate change and to effectively and efficiently adapt to potential impacts are required. The CCFM has addressed this need, in part, through its "Adapting Sustainable Forest Management to Climate Change" report series, which outlines a comprehensive approach to understanding vulnerability of SFM to climate change and mainstreaming adaptation into SFM practices and policies.

This guidebook - the final report in the series - provides a "how to" tool to aid forest practitioners in applying the CCFM approach to vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for SFM. It provides step-by-step details about how to complete vulnerability and adaptation assessments and includes easy-to-follow worksheets and numerous examples from SFM adaptation assessments already underway in Canada.