

Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Forest Management in the Canadian Forest Sector

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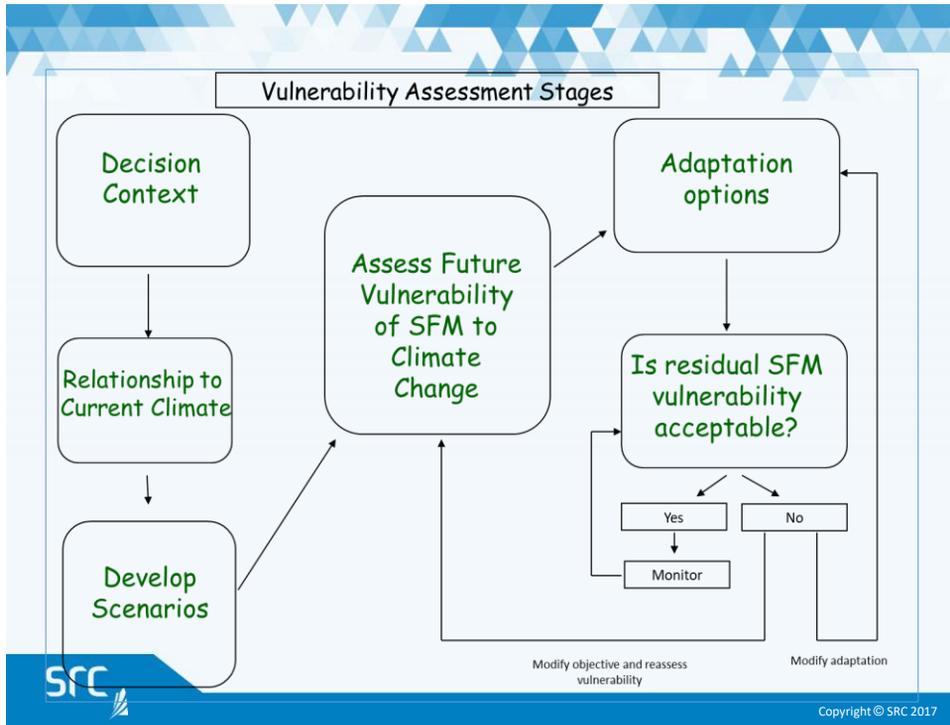
Background

- Canadian Council of Forest Ministers in 2008 brought together forest practitioners and policy makers from all jurisdictions to assess vulnerability of the Canadian forest sector
- Developed a toolbox to assist practitioners in vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning
- Included step-by-step guidebook and supporting documents: technical (e.g., how to use scenarios) and organizational (determining readiness for undertaking assessments)
- Toolbox has now been applied by both government and forest industry



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State-of-Play

- Natural Resources Canada established the national Adaptation Platform and the Forestry Adaptation Working Group in 2012
- Guidebook completed in 2015
- Applications include VA for companies in SK and MB, governments in MB and NWT, ongoing in BC
- Need more examples!
- A review of jurisdictions' VA activities included:

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Summary (1)

- Climate Change Strategies and Action Plans
- Reports and Information Resources
- Online Communities of Practice: CCACoP and FACoP
- CC-sensitive Policy: BC seed transfer regulations, other jurisdictions moving in that direction
- Research: Provenance tests, landscape modeling, climate modeling/downscaling



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Summary (2)

- Tools: Climate-sensitive species selection tool (BC); user-friendly downscaled climate data
- Communications: Websites, newsletters
- Implementation: FireSmart, seed transfer guidelines, climate-based stocking standards
- Practitioner Workshops: Many jurisdictions or NGOs (e.g., the Canadian Institute of Forestry) have on-going workshops/webinars for government staff or for forestry practitioners.



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However

- Much of the resource material is 'passive' in that managers need to seek it out
- They have little time, too few staff and too many other priorities
- Need to search for **mainstreaming** opportunities, i.e., incorporating climate change considerations into day-to-day decision making = climate change part of business-as-usual
- What are the elements of Canadian SFM that provide these opportunities?

Planning Exercises

- Many jurisdictions require some form of long-term forest management planning
- Managers typically have resources for planning (budget, staff)
- They tend to be thinking strategically
- May be done by government or industry
- Experience has shown FMP to be one of the best vehicles for mainstreaming ('embedded science')

Forest Certification

- Canada has one of the highest amounts of certified forest land in the world
- 164 Mha spread among FSC, CSA and SFI as of 2019
- All certification bodies are working toward incorporating climate change impacts and adaptation into their standards
- SFI included guidance for vulnerability assessment in the most recent SFM standard (2020)

CCFM Criteria and Indicators

- C&I came out of the Montreal Process in mid-1990s
- Includes Biological Diversity; Ecosystem Condition and Productivity; Soil and Water; Role in Global Ecological Cycles; Economic and Social Benefits; and Society's Responsibility
- Can be used as a framework to systematically assess vulnerability and adaptation options
- CSA and some jurisdictions' planning guidelines use C&I



Further Information

- CCACoP and FACoP:
<https://www.ccadaptation.ca/en/landing>
- CCFM Toolbox: <https://www.ccfm.org/releases/climate-change-and-sustainable-forest-management-in-canada-a-guidebook-for-assessing-vulnerability-and-mainstreaming-adaptation-into-decision-making-full-report/>



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Questions?

