Case Study : Saguenay (Quebec)

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Study Area Localisation
Description

- **Ecoregions:**
  - Eastern Canadian Forests
  - Eastern Forest / Boreal Transition

- **Vegetation**
  - Boreal Forest
  - Mixed Forest

Description (continued)

- Road Network
  - Low Road Density up North
    (with Few Intact Forests)
  - High Road Density down South
Biodiversity Values

- More Biodiversity Values up North
- Roadless Areas up North
- Caribou Habitat
- Old Growth Forests
- Endangered Species
- Connectivity with Monts-Valin and Saguenay National Parks

Woodland Caribou
Nature Image.net
Conservation in Quebec
Identification of Protected Areas

• Gap Analysis
• Coarse Filter / Fine Filter

• Conservation Issues:
  ▪ Loss and Fragmentation of Natural Habitats (i.e. Loss of Large Unfragmented Areas and Intact Forests)
  ▪ Depletion of Old Growth Forests
  ▪ Damage on Endangered Species’ Critical Habitat

• Essential Values:
  ▪ Ecological Representativity (Heterogeneity, Rarity)
  ▪ Integrity, Connectivity, Minimal Size
  ▪ Biological Values (Endangered Species, Old Growth Forests), Cultural and Social Values (First Nations, Recreational Tourism)
Methodology

• Gap Analysis
• Reference Ecological Framework (Natural Region)
• Enduring Features (Geographic Units for Ecological Characteristics)
• Identification (P.A. Size Area) Based on Accountability Level for the Company (or FMU)
• Representativity, Integrity, Connectivity, High Biological Values, etc.
Saguenay: Gap Analysis and Protected Areas

Based Upon Existing Protected Areas Network Only

Enduring Feature Representation

Natural Region Representation

- D3 and D7: Little or Not Represented
- C10: Partially Represented
Saguenay:
Gap analysis and Protected Areas (cont.)

Including Candidates Protected Areas

Enduring Feature Representation

Natural Region Representation

• D3 and D7: Became Partially Represented

• C10: Partially Represented (but Border Line to Moderate)
Protected Areas

- **Caribou** (44,613 ha)
  - Caribou Habitat, High Integrity
  - Old Growth Forest

- **Onatchiway** (34,247 ha)
  - Mostly Unfragmented
  - Endangered Species

- **Lamothe** (3,194 ha)
  - Old Growth Forest

- **Ste-Marguerite** (22,062 ha)
  - High Integrity, Old Growth Forests
  - Connectivity with National Parks

- **Kénogami** (10,165 ha)
  - High Heterogeneity
High Conservation Value Forests

• HCVF Concept Enhances:
  ▪ Environmental Values
  ▪ Social and/or Cultural Values
  which give a Unique Interest to a Given Forest

• Principle n° 9 Implies that We Need to Manage these Forests in Order to Maintain or Strengthen their High Conservation Values
HCVF’s Categories

- **Cat. 1**: Significant Concentration of Biodiversity Values
- **Cat. 2**: Very Large and Unfragmented Forests Maintaining Viable Populations
- **Cat. 3**: Rare, Threatened or Endangered Ecosystems
- **Cat. 4**: Provide Basic Services of Nature in Critical Situations
- **Cat. 5**: Forests Areas Fundamental to Meeting Basic Needs of Local Communities
- **Cat. 6**: Forests Areas Critical to Local Communities’ Traditional Cultural Identity
HCVF Identification in Saguenay

Main Issues

• Conserve Intact Forests
• Protect Caribou Habitat
• Protect Old Growth Forests
• Protect Endangered Species

HCVF: Mostly Unfragmented Forests
HCVF Identification in Saguenay

Main Issues

• Conserve Intact Forests
• **Protect Caribou Habitat**
• Protect Old Growth Forests
• Protect Endangered Species

HCVF: Caribou Habitat
HCVF Identification in Saguenay

Main Issues

- Conserve Intact Forests
- Protect Caribou Habitat
- **Protect Old Forests**
- Protect Endangered Species

HCVF: Old Growth Forests
HCVF Identification in Saguenay

Main Issues

• Conserve Intact Forests
• Protect Caribou Habitat
• Protect Old Forests
• Protect Endangered Species

HCVF: Endangered Species
Endangered species

Southern Bog Lemming

Wolverine

Linear-Leaved Sundew

Photo: Goldie Image

Least Weasel

Photo: Lasse Olsson
HCVF
Identification in Saguenay

Main Issues
- Conserve Intact Forests
- Protect Caribou Habitat
- Protect Old Forests
- Protect Endangered Species

HCVF: Final (Including Some Cultural Values)
Projet pilote / UAF 23-52
HCVF et Aires protégées

Protected Areas and HCVFs

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Obstacles to FSC Certification

• Sharing of Management Accountability
• Lack of Autonomy for Companies
• Lack of Flexibility within the Law
• Gaps between Government’s Standards and FSC
• Difficult Relations with First Nations
• Low Government Interest for FSC
Coulombe Report on Forest Management in Quebec

- Coulombe Commission (2004); 81 Recommendations, including:
  - Reduce by 20 % the Annual Allowable Cut (Conifers)
  - New Positions : Chief Forester and Forest Auditor
  - Ecosystem Based Management, Zoning (Triad) and Results-Oriented Management
  - Protection : 8 % in Québec (2006), and 12 % in the Boreal Forest (2010)
  - Restore Deciduous Forests
  - Review the Harvest Level Calculation and ask the BAPE to Review the PGAF
  - Decentralize Forest Management and Diversify Tenure Systems
  - Adopt a Proactive Approach Regarding the Certification
Current Efforts

- **Government**
  - Implementation of Coulombe Commission’s Recommendations
  - Québec Protected Areas Strategy

- **WWF-Industries**
  - Pursue HCVF Identification and Candidate Protected Areas Work
  - Government Lobbying to Help the Implementation of FSC Certification and the Implementation the Main Coulombe Commission’s Recommendations
Conclusion

- Québec’s Forest Management is at an Historic Turning Point
- WWF is Working on Finding Viable Solutions and is Staying Alert
- Partnerships with Forest Industries are a Driving Force
- Social Pressure Must Grow
Thank You for your Attention

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