

Reflection process on the future of forests

WOOD SUPPLY



© Gouvernement du Québec
Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts
Legal deposit - Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2024
ISBN (PDF): 978-2-550-96869-6

Table of Contents

Theme 2. Wood Supply.....	4
Sub-theme 1. Forest Planning	4
Assessment	4
Additional Discussion Documents	5
Sub-theme 2. Contribution of Private Forests	6
Assessment	6
Additional Discussion Documents	6
Sub-theme 3. Open Market Timber.....	7
Assessment	7
Additional Discussion Documents	7
Sub-theme 4. Granted Forest Rights	8
Assessment	8
Additional Discussion Documents	9

Theme 2. Wood Supply

Sub-theme 1. Forest Planning

Assessment

In Québec, under the Sustainable Forest Development Act (SFDA), the MRNF is responsible for planning of forest management activities in public forests. This is done on the scale of Management Units, which represent the basic territorial unit of public forest management. Planning involves two types of plans, the Tactical Integrated Forest Management Plan (PAFIT) and the Operational Integrated Forest Management Plan (PAFIO), both prepared in collaboration with the Local Integrated Land and Resource Management Panels (TLGIRT). The Integrated Forest Management Plans are the subject of a public consultation and a separate consultation of the Indigenous communities.

The Tactical Integrated Forest Management Plan (PAFIT) contains the sustainable forest management objectives, the management strategies adopted to ensure the achievement of these objectives in compliance with the allowable cuts, and the places where the main infrastructures are located. It is produced for a five-year period.

The Operational Integrated Forest Management Plan (PAFIO) contains the operation zones where timber harvesting and performance of other forest management activities (e.g. road construction, reforestation, clearing, etc.) are planned. It is updated continuously.

The annual harvesting program is prepared by the timber rights holders based on the Operational Integrated Forest Management Plan and approved by the MRNF. It contains the harvesting sectors projected for the current year. An annual program of non-commercial silvicultural work, including reforestation and precommercial thinning, is prepared by the MRNF.

When large forest areas are affected by a natural disturbance, including a fire, an insect epidemic or windthrow, a special forest management plan is prepared by the MRNF. Harvesting of the affected sectors is then prioritized to limit timber degradation occasioned, in particular, by insects (e.g. longhorn beetle). Harvesting of distressed trees has benefits, such as acceleration of the return of the forest to a healthy condition and reduction of the risks of occurrence of other natural disturbances, including fire. Special plans are prepared to ensure the participation of the Local Integrated Land and Resource Management Panels (TLGIRT) and consultation of the Indigenous communities. This plan may deviate from the Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State (RSDF) and considered necessary to limit the loss of timber volumes.

In the context of the work of the Local Integrated Land and Resource Management Panel (TLGIRT) and following public consultations and consultations with the Indigenous communities, harmonization measures may be agreed with the different forest users. The harmonization measures are special adaptations or operation criteria adopted by the MRNF in view of reconciling forest management with the other activities carried on in the forest. For example, the type of cutting initially projected in an outfitting establishment can

be reviewed to respond to the concerns related to the landscape, or the contour of a cutting sector can be modified to avoid a hiking trail.

Additional Discussion Documents

- Sustainable Forest Development Act Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/document/lc/A-18.1/20120530].
- Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State. Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/RADF/guide/].
- Planification forestière. (Forest Planning) Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/planification-forestiere].
- Possibilité forestière. (Allowable Cut) Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/possibilites-forestieres/].
- Bureau de mise en marché des bois. (Timber Marketing Board) Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [bmmb.gouv.qc.ca/].

Sub-theme 2. Contribution of Private Forests

Assessment

Québec private forests cover a territory of 70,000 km² belonging to nearly 134,000 owners. These forests, which benefit from the more favourable climate and fertile soils of southern Québec, are productive, accessible and located near processing plants and labour pools.

In 2023, the government invested over \$80 million in various assistance to add value to private forests by contributing to the performance of silvicultural work, the deployment of various tax measures and the production of forest seedlings. In particular, the annual budget granted by the MRNF by means of the Assistance program for the management of private forests (PAMVFP) is \$28.9 million in addition to the financial support from other ad hoc programs.

A significant share of the supply of timber processing plants comes from private forests. Since 2002, they supply 14% to 21% of the timber volumes harvested in Québec. In 2022, 6 Mm³ of timber was delivered to the wood processing plants out of an allowable cut of nearly 17 Mm³. Production of firewood and maple products also constitutes significant activities in private forests, just like hunting, fishing and recreational activities.

The annual timber volumes purchased by the timber supply guarantee holders coming from public forests, are residual volumes of the other sources of supply available, such as timber from forests. Indeed, during attribution of forest rights, the Sustainable Forest Development Act (section 91) provides for a mechanism to account for the timber volumes coming from private forests that can be marketed in each region. To do this, the MRNF consults the syndicates and boards of Québec forest producers.

The municipalities exercise a major influence on management of Québec private forests, considering that the Act respecting land use planning and development confers the municipalities with the power to regulate or restrict the planting or felling of trees.

Additional Discussion Documents

- Sustainable Forest Development Act Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/document/lc/A-18.1/20120530].
- Gestion des forêts privées (Management of Private Forests) [Online], [quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/proprietaires-forets-privees/gestion-foret-privee].
- Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec (2023). La forêt privée chiffrée. (Revised in June 2023) 36 p. [Online], [foretprivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/La-foret-privee-chiffree-2023-MaJ-Juin.pdf].
- Belley, Michel (2014). Rapport final : Chantier sur l'efficacité des mesures en forêt privée. 70 p. [Online], [mffp.gouv.qc.ca/documents/forets/rendezvousdelaforet/Chantier-efficacite-mesures-foret-privee.pdf].
- Stratégie nationale de production de bois. (Québec Timber Production Strategy) Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/gestion-forets-publiques/amenagement-durable-forets/strategies-nationales-amenagement/strategie-production-bois].

Sub-theme 3. Open Market Timber

Assessment

The establishment of an open market for timber in Québec public forests is one of the major changes introduced by the Sustainable Forest Development Act (SFDA) (section 119) adopted in 2010. Since 2013, 25% of the timber volumes of public forests available for harvesting is marketed by the Bureau de mise en marché des bois (BMMB - Timber Marketing Board). The auction mechanism used ensures a fair price is obtained for timber sales. To do this, any person or any agency may purchase timber by participating in the sales announced on the BMMB website.

The objectives of open market timber are to:

- open access to timber from public forests;
- encourage the optimum performance and use of the resource;
- obtain a solid reference base to set the value of timber from public forests covered by supply guarantees;
- contribute to the defence of Québec in the context of trade disputes affecting the forest sector.

The BMMB also has the mandate to determine the scaling standard for timber harvested in Québec public forests. It then ensures that the harvested volumes are scaled and invoiced equitably, in their entirety and at their fair market value.

In addition to serving for timber pricing, the volumes scaled and compiled serve to monitor many MRNF indicators, such as compliance with the granted rights and allowable cuts.

Additional Discussion Documents

- Sustainable Forest Development Act Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/document/lc/A-18.1/20120530].
- Bureau de mise en marché des bois [Online], [bmmb.gouv.qc.ca/].
- Manuel de mise en marché des bois. (Timber Marketing Manual) Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [bmmb.gouv.qc.ca/media/73032/manuel_mise_marche_avril2023.pdf].
- Révision ciblée du régime forestier [Online], [cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/forets/documents/gestion/PL_mesures_detaillees_revision_regime_forestier_MRNF.pdf].
- Bilan quinquennal du Bureau de mise en marché des bois (Quinquennial report of the Timber Marketing Board)[bmmb.gouv.qc.ca/nouvelles/bilan-quinquennal-2018-2023/].
- Guide explicatif du modèle de transposition des prix de marché (Explanatory guide to the market price transposition model) [Online], [bmmb.gouv.qc.ca/media/74112/guide_sep_2023.pdf].
- La forêt démystifiée : mieux comprendre le mesurage des bois (The forest demystified: better understanding of timber scaling) [Online], [quebec.ca/nouvelles/actualites/details/foret-demystifiee-mesurage-bois].

Sub-theme 4. Granted Forest Rights

Assessment

The granted forest rights are legal documents (e.g. timber supply guarantees, timber sales contracts, agreements or permits) that give their holders the authorization to carry on forest management activities under certain conditions in public forests in Québec.

The timber supply guarantee, the most common forest right, is granted under the Sustainable Forest Development Act (SFDA) (section 88). It allows its holder to purchase annually a certain timber volume from public forest lands for the purpose of supplying a wood processing plant. It has a five-year term renewed on its expiration date if all the conditions are fulfilled and the allowable cuts permit it. The timber supply guarantee holder must pay an annual royalty based on the timber volume indicated in its guarantee.

In 2023, 122 timber supply guarantee holders represent 17 Mm³ of timber, including 13 Mm³ of softwood and 4 Mm³ of hardwood. The volumes granted are residual volumes accounting for the other sources of supply, including the volumes coming from public forests.

The timber harvesting permits for the purposes of supplying a wood processing plant (PRAU) is another type of forest right granted under the SFDA (section 86.1). It authorizes its holder to harvest a timber volume or a quantity of forest biomass from public forests. In 2023, 15 holders of timber harvesting permits for the purposes of supplying a wood processing plant (PRAU) represent 1.1 Mm³ of timber, including 1 Mm³ of softwood. Moreover, 16 holders of permits to harvest forest biomass from harvesting operations divide 0.5 M green metric tonnes for forest biomass.

The delegation of management agreements also allows the granting of forest rights to regional county municipalities (RCM), local municipalities, Indigenous communities and other bodies. This type of granted right is addressed in Theme 4 *Economic Development and Regional Benefits*.

The Minister may also grant, on an annual basis, a spot volume during a negotiated sale to a wood processing plant operator. This type of sale grants the holder the right to harvest, in the region identified in the contract, an available merchantable timber volume or quantity of forest biomass.

During the 2023-2028 quinquennial review of forest rights, a reduction of forest rights was observed for different reasons, i.e. 8% of the timber supply guarantee volumes, 1% of the PRAU merchantable timber volumes and 48% for PRAUs for forest biomass coming from harvesting operations. These decreases are caused, in particular, by addition of protected areas, consideration of new development constraints, granting of areas for maple production purposes and reduction of the needs of certain plants.

The MRNF may also issue various types of operation permits to authorize the holder to carry on forest management activities. Firewood harvesting permits for domestic or commercial purposes, maple production permits, permits for public utility work and permits for the activities of mining rights holders are the most common.

Currently, over 1,100 maple production permits in public forests covering more than 40,000 hectares are in force. This represents over 9.5 M taps under permits. Given the increase in global maple syrup consumption and the growth of the maple syrup industry, the demand to obtain maple production permits has increased over the past few years. In

this context, the MRNF adopted a Master Plan for Development of Maple Production in Public Forests, which has the objective of coherently governing the development of maple production in public forests.

Additional Discussion Documents

- Sustainable Forest Development Act Gouvernement du Québec [Online], [legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/document/lc/A-18.1/20120530].
- Droits forestiers consentis et délégation de gestion (Granted Forest Rights and Delegation of Management) [Online], [quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/gestion-forets-publiques/territoires-droits-forestiers/droits-consentis-delegation-gestion#c2250].
- Méthodologie de révision des droits forestiers en vigueur au 1^{er} avril 2023. (Methodology for review of forest rights in force on April 1, 2023) Gouvernement du Québec (2022). 18 p. [Online], [[quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/forets/documents/gestion/GM_revision_droits_forestiers_2023-2028.pdf](https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/forets/documents/gestion/GM_revision_droits_forestiers_2023-2028.pdf)].
- Plan directeur ministériel pour le développement de l'acériculture en forêt publique (MRNF Master Plan for Development of Maple Production in Public Forests) [Online], [https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/forets/documents/gestion/PL_directeur_acericulture_MRNF.pdf].



*Ressources naturelles
et Forêts*

Québec 