



Conseil Cris-Québec sur la foresterie  
*Cree-Québec Forestry Board*



2015-2020

Sustainable Development Action Plan

*Promote consistent, coherent sustainable development-related actions*

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## ***Chairman's message***

The Cree-Québec Forestry Board is an organization whose very calling is closely linked to sustainable forest development on the territory governed by the *Agreement concerning a new relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec* (Paix des Braves). This Agreement describes an Adapted Forestry Regime, which provides for protecting forest ecosystems to ensure their sustainability, better take into account the Cree traditional way of life, favour greater autonomy on the part of the communities and promote more economically viable use of forest resources.

The Board, whose primary role is to advise the Agreement's signatories on implementation of the Adapted Forestry Regime's provisions, is adopting its second sustainable development action plan in order to contribute actively to the Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2015-2020. Among other things, the Board's action plan seeks to implement analysis and decision-making methods ensuring that sustainable development principles are taken into account in all operations under the Board's responsibility. Board members and staff pledge to incorporate rules and means allowing this goal to be met into their everyday practices and activities.

To promote consistent, coherent sustainable development-related actions, in this second action plan, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board defines its contribution to this vast societal project in which forest-sector resources will continue to be viable and constitute a collective asset for the future.



Hervé Deschênes, Forest Engineer  
Chairman of the Board

*Promote consistent, coherent sustainable development-related actions*

**The Cree-Québec Forestry Board and sustainable development**

In February 2002, the Québec government and the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) signed a historic nation-to-nation agreement. Commonly known as the “Paix des Braves”, the *Agreement concerning a new relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec (ANRQC)* aims at strengthening political, economic and social relations between Québec and the Crees of Québec. It is based on the mutual will to pursue the development of Northern Québec, while respecting the Cree way of life and giving the Crees greater control over their own development.

The Agreement includes an entire chapter on forestry, whose provisions target implementation of the Adapted Forestry Regime (AFR). This regime sets out specific rules and procedures, applicable on the Agreement’s territory, which provide for better taking into account the traditional Cree way of life, greater integration of sustainable development concerns and increased Cree participation in planning and managing forest resource management activities.

Created in September 2003 under the ANRQC, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB) is mandated to enable close consultation of the Crees at the various forest activity planning and management stages involved in implementing the Adapted Forestry Regime. The Board’s responsibilities include monitoring, reporting on and assessing implementation of the Agreement’s forestry-related provisions and, if need be, recommending adjustments or modifications to these provisions to the parties. The Board must also inform the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks of its comments, concerns and proposals related to the forestry sector on Agreement territory.

In January 2007, the Québec government adopted the *Sustainable Development Act*. The main object of this Act is “to establish a new management framework within the Administration to ensure that powers and responsibilities are exercised in the pursuit of sustainable development” (CQLR, chapter D-8.1.1). All Québec government departments, agencies and enterprises governed by the *Public Administration Act* (CQLR, chapter A-6.01) must comply with the *Sustainable Development Act*.

The Cree-Québec Forestry Board is an organization composed of 5 members designated by the Cree Regional Authority, 5 members designated by the Québec government and a Chairman appointed by the Québec government after consultation with the Cree Regional Authority. A Secretariat supports the Board in carrying out its mandate.

Since the majority of Board members are appointed by the Québec government and half of the Board’s expenses are paid directly out of the Québec government’s Consolidated Revenue Fund, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board is governed by the *Public Administration Act* (CQLR, Chapter A-6.01) and thus the *Sustainable Development Act*. Consequently, the Board must comply with the obligations set out in the Act.

In keeping with the *Sustainable Development Act*, the Board, in the context of its various actions, must take all of the sustainable development principles set out in the Act into consideration and develop a

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Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) that specifies how it will contribute to the objectives defined in the Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2015-2020.

### **Sustainable development central to the Board's mandate from the outset**

Since the Board's creation, its mandate has fallen under an agreement between the Québec government and the Cree Nation Government whose application must allow for greater integration of sustainable development concerns. When it was set up in 2003, the Board adopted a strategic plan defining its vision in which "in the long term, forestry activity in the territory covered by Chapter 3 of the Agreement will continue to be developed in a sustainable manner to ensure respect for the Cree traditional way of life and to continue to assure the Crees of substantial participation in the different procedures regarding planning of multiple uses of the forest and different forest management activities". The Agreement's provisions also allow the Crees to participate in economic development related to use of the forest and its resources.

The Board's obligation to adopt an initial sustainable development plan for 2008-2013 offered an ideal opportunity for the organization to go further in carrying out its mandate in keeping with the 16 sustainable development principles established by the Government. The first sustainable development action plan implemented in 2008 enabled the Board to meet three of the objectives of the Government Sustainable Development Action Plan 2008-2013, namely: develop knowledge, promote responsible action and foster commitment. In 2013, the Board extended its action plan until 2015. Regularly, in its annual report, the Board has reported on the actions taken and the objectives achieved, in keeping with the four main directions targeted:

### **A second sustainable development plan**

The Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2015-2020 defines 8 strategic directions, 27 objectives and 5 priority activities. To develop its 2015-2020 Sustainable Development Action Plan, the Board must choose, among all the directions, those in keeping with its mission to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Government strategy. Then, the Board must define its own organizational objectives, the actions it will carry out, and targets to be achieved.

The CQFB plan is structured around charts reflecting the directions and objectives of the government strategy that were chosen, and, for each one, the Board's objectives, actions, indicators and targets. An appendix to the action plan presents the directions and objectives of the Government strategy that were not included in the Board's current action plan.

Application of the sustainable development principles goes hand-in-hand with the Board's activities. Reconciling environmental protection, compliance with social values and economic development are at the very heart of the Board's mission. The organization will pursue its commitments in this regard in 2015-2020.

The parties to the Agreement decided that the forestry regime applicable in Agreement territory should evolve to meet the needs of present generations without jeopardizing future generations' ability to meet theirs. Each year, the Board will report on the implementation of its Sustainable Development Action Plan by devoting a section of its annual report to its achievements.



**Government direction 1:**

**Strengthen sustainable development governance throughout the civil service**

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<b>Government objective 1.1: Strengthen the use of ecoresponsible management practices in the public administration</b>			
<b>CQFB objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>
➤ Implement ecoresponsible practices and activities in keeping with the organization's environmental management framework	➤ Include conditions linked to the use of ecoresponsible goods and services in our procurement and call for tender policies	➤ % of relevant documents updated	➤ 100%
	➤ Procure electronic equipment recognized as less harmful to the environment	➤ Goods are procured by integrating environmental criteria defined by reliable organizations	➤ 100%
	➤ Use 100% post-consumer recycled paper	➤ % of employees who apply the practice	➤ 100%
	➤ Define a printing practice with staff members		
	➤ Recover residual materials and dispose of hazardous waste, e.g. batteries, in designated recovery sites	➤ % of employees who use the appropriate locations to dispose of hazardous waste ➤ % of employees who are aware of the preferred practices	➤ 100%
	➤ Encourage and favour holding meetings using a minimum of paper documents	➤ Mention in notice convening meeting	➤ 100%
	➤ Apply electronic document management	➤ Number of documents	➤ 100%
	➤ Minimize the amount of waste produced during meetings	➤ % of ecoresponsible events	➤ 90%
	➤ Optimize participants' travel to Board and other meetings (location and mode of transport)	➤ % of travel	➤ 100%

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<b>Government objective 1.2:</b> Strengthen use of the principles of sustainable development by government ministries and public bodies			
<b>CQFB objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>
➤ Throughout the organization, continue efforts to include sustainable development principles	➤ Develop and implement an Adapted Forestry Regime (AFR) monitoring framework	➤ Report on achievements in annual report	➤ One status report per year
	➤ Develop and implement a forest plan analysis framework that takes sustainable development concerns into account	➤ % of Board advice letters that take sustainable development principles into account	➤ 100%
<b>Government objective 1.3:</b> Foster the adoption of a public participation approach when setting and implementing government policies and measures			
<b>CQFB objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>
➤ Promote close consultation with the Crees during forest activity planning and management based on sustainable development on Adapted Forestry Regime territory	➤ Support implementation of participation processes under the harmonized AFR and ensure monitoring	➤ Report on actual Cree participation	➤ One status report per year
		➤ Number of meetings between the CQFB and the Joint Working Groups (JWG) coordinators to discuss and circulate information	➤ At least two meetings per year
<b>Government objective 1.4:</b> Continue to develop sustainable development knowledge and skills throughout the public administration			
<b>CQFB objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>
➤ Pursue development of Cree knowledge and skills	➤ Promote information-sharing and knowledge-sharing linked to Cree use of the territory (CLUM) and protection of sites of interest for Cree users in this territory	➤ Contribute to developing a method or tool for optimizing Cree land use map (CLUM) use by regional Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs planners and JWGs	➤ One status report per year
	➤ Ensure active participation of JWG coordinators in Board meetings	➤ % of Board meetings in which JWG coordinators participated	➤ 100%



**Government direction 3:**

Manage natural resources in ways that are responsible and respectful of biodiversity

<b>Government objective 3.1:</b> Manage natural resources efficiently and concertedly to support economic vitality and maintain biodiversity			
<b>CQFB objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>
➤ Contribute to implementing principles arising from the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy within the AFR	➤ Promote implementation of initiatives aimed at increasing economic spinoffs for the Crees	➤ File discussed at Board meetings	➤ At least once a year
	➤ Promote development of wildlife directives protecting species of interest to the Cree and ensure that forest management takes these directives into account	➤ % of forest plan analysis that address that topic	➤ 100% of analyses
	➤ Contribute to the woodland caribou recovery file and monitor it closely	➤ File addressed at Board meetings	➤ At least twice a year
<b>Government objective 3.2:</b> Preserve and showcase biodiversity, ecosystems and ecological services by improving societal interventions and practices			
<b>CQFB objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>
➤ Promote best practices on Agreement territory to foster the traditional Cree way of life, based on hunting, fishing and trapping	➤ Promote development of solutions to the riparian buffers management issue	➤ Report on the file's progress	➤ At least once a year
	➤ Promote and contribute to developing popularization tools linked to AFR implementation	➤ Number of tools developed	➤ Two





**Government direction 6:**

Ensure sustainable land development and support community vitality

<b>Government objective 6.1:</b> Foster the implementation of best land development practices			
<b>CQFB objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Targets</b>
➤ Contribute to AFR evolution by analyzing issues and specific problems	➤ Monitor application and effectiveness of AFR provisions and evolution	➤ Report on evolution of the application of the provisions in the five-year assessment of the implementation of the AFR, as well as in the annual reports, and follow-up on chart containing issues and possible improvements at Board meetings	➤ In each annual and five-year reports
	➤ Monitor issues and possible improvements arising from the 2008-2013 status report on AFR implementation		➤ Every meeting
<b>Government objective 6.3:</b> Support public participation in community development			
<b>CQFB objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
➤ Support public participation of Cree users on Agreement territory	➤ Analyze application and effectiveness of the processes involving Cree participation in the various forest-related consultations	➤ At the plan analysis stage	➤ 100% of plans analysed



**Government framework for integrating Agenda 21 for culture into sustainable development**

<b>CQFB objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
➤ Recognize and respect the close relationship between culture and land for the Cree Nation. Promote preserving the Crees' traditional way of life	➤ Monitor application of the terms and conditions governing the Agreement and AFR implementation, notably those linked to preserving the Crees' traditional way of life	➤ Report on evolution of application of these terms and conditions in the Board's five-year assessment as well as in the annual reports and advice letters	➤ Every year

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### APPENDIX

The responsibilities linked to the Board's mandate do not allow it to contribute significantly to some Government strategy's objectives: Consequently, the following objectives that are not reflected in the Cree-Québec Forestry Board's 2015-2020 Sustainable Development Action Plan.

1.5 Strengthen access to and participation in cultural life as a lever for social, economic and land development
1.6 Cooperate on sustainable development at the national and international levels, in particular with the Francophonie
2.1 Support the development of green and responsible business practices and models
2.2 Support the development of green industries and Québec-made ecoresponsible goods and services
2.3 Foster investment and funding to support the transition to a green and responsible economy
2.4 Develop and showcase skills that support the transition to a green and responsible economy
2.5 Help consumers make responsible choices
4.1 Support skills recognition, development and conservation, particularly among society's most vulnerable
4.2 Support and showcase community group and social economy enterprise activities that contribute to social inclusion and the reduction of inequality
4.3 Support and promote the development of social and economic measures for the impoverished and the disadvantaged
5.1 Encourage healthy living habits
5.2 Act to ensure that living environments are healthy and safe
6.2 Strengthen community capabilities to support dynamic economic and social land development
6.4 Strengthen community resilience to climate change and natural disasters through prevention and adaptation
7.1 Use integrated land management and sustainable transportation practices to broaden access to services and jobs throughout Québec
7.2 Support the electrification of transportation and improve the sector's energy efficiency in order to develop the economy and reduce GHG emissions
8.1 Improve energy efficiency
8.2 Optimize the production of renewable energy for the benefit of all of Québec society
8.3 Encourage the use of energy that enables the reduction of GHG emissions

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