

October 2005

Report on forest certification

At Abitibi-Consolidated, we know that the long-term health of forests is dependent on the sustainability of this precious natural resource.

In the same way that we are dedicated to the protection and enhancement of natural resources, we are also committed to addressing the concerns of our customers, shareholders, employees and the communities in which we operate. Our proactive approach to sustainability issues is based on transparency, trust and effective two-way communication with our stakeholders. By having our forest practices independently evaluated and certified, we are demonstrating our commitment to the sustainability of the forests entrusted to us.

Our commitment

Abitibi-Consolidated continues to build on its third-party certification accomplishments through the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certification standards.

Our objective is to have all the forests entrusted to us certified to an SFM standard by the end of 2005. This aggressive timetable will help meet the needs and expectations of our stakeholders and the general public.

We are implementing the widely recognized Canadian Standards Association (CSA) SFM standard for our Canadian operations and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program for our operations in the United States. We were also involved in the development of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard for the Canadian boreal forest and are closely monitoring the development of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence standards. In 2004, we tested the National Boreal standard in one of our woodland divisions to assess the differences and identify possible improvements, recognizing that no standard is perfect.

All these standards are purposely designed for SFM and support the implementation of sustainable practices through criteria and objectives consistent with those recognized by governmental processes around the world. Certification is a tool that assists Abitibi-Consolidated to realize its vision of continual improvement in matters of environmental performance and SFM.





Our results

As of October 2005, approximately 16.5 million hectares of Abitibi-Consolidated forests have been certified under the CSA or SFI® requirements, representing 94% of the land under our care. Abitibi-Consolidated woodlands were the first to achieve CSA SFM certification in three Canadian provinces: Newfoundland, Ontario and Québec. According to our forecasts, the objective of having 100% of our forests certified will be achieved by the end of 2005.

Chain of custody

One of our objectives is to ensure that our entire supply comes from responsible sources. We are implementing a chain of custody system that allows us and our customers to determine the source of the fibre used, and to ensure that all sources are acceptable. Implementation began in 2004 and the process continues in 2005 and 2006. We rely primarily on a generic chain of custody not associated with a specific certification standard.

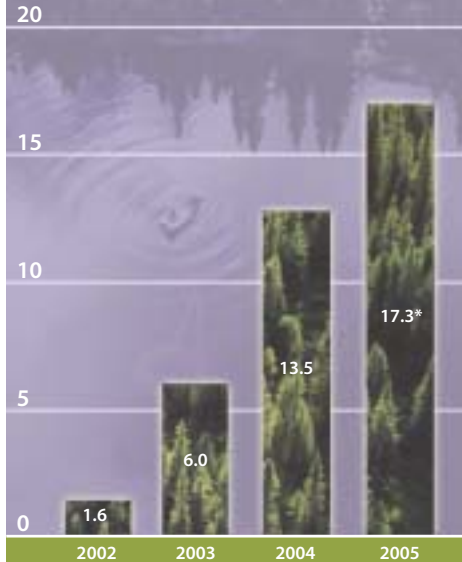
Certification standard similarities

In the same way we value biodiversity in the natural habitat, we recognize the value of diversity in credible certification standards. All standards require that independent experts audit Abitibi-Consolidated's performance against a set of objective measures and procedures for sustainability. Each standard has its own approach and also takes into account factors specific to various regional situations.

The CSA standard offers a structured approach to public consultation. The SFI® program is better suited to an industry environment where the majority of woodlands are privately owned, while the FSC standard has a strong social and environmental component. Although all of these standards take a different approach, each seeks to ensure implementation of SFM and address issues of key importance for today's stakeholders and customers.

SFM STANDARD IMPLEMENTATION (CSA on public lands and SFI® on private lands)

Millions of hectares



*Based on our forecasts – December 2005



If you require additional information, please visit www.abitibiconsolidated.com (Click on "Forest Certification" in the "Quick Search" menu).

Abitibi-Consolidated welcomes your comments and encourages you to complete our on-line survey.