

ACR Aboriginal Programs Project Program Template

Program Area:	5.0	Resource Stewardship
Sub Program:	5.1	Strengthening the Knowledge Base
Template:	5.1.3	Prince Albert Model Forest Integrated Resource Management Model
Sponsor(s):	<i>Prince Albert Model Forest</i>	

1. Objective

To establish a partnership of First Nations, industry, governments and public stakeholders for planning and sustainable management of the forest ecosystem and land base through research, education and integrated use of all forest resources.

2. Description

The Prince Albert Model Forest (PAMF) is a not-for-profit partnership association of First Nations, industry, local communities, and federal and provincial resource management agencies. These parties share a commitment to the sustainability of Saskatchewan's forests through research, education and integrated use of all forest resources. There are 12 partners involved in PAMF including four First Nations and Aboriginal organizations. PAMF is supported by direct funding from the Canadian Forest Service and by partner contributions.

PAMF covers 367,034 hectares in central Saskatchewan within the mixed wood section of the southern boreal forest. A significant part of PAMF is an active part of Weyerhaeuser's forest management agreement. Protected areas include Prince Albert National Park and Candle Lake Provincial Park. PAMF also encompasses part of the traditional lands of the Montreal Lake and Lac La Ronge bands.

The purpose of PAMF is to work together to implement integrated programs in land-use planning and First Nations business opportunities, while maintaining a sustainable and healthy forest ecosystem. The partners have formed working groups that carry out a wide range of activities related to:

- Ecosystem health and local level indicators of sustainable forest management suited to local socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions
- Communications and knowledge exchange
- Integrated resource management

3. Implementation

The model forest program offers opportunities for Aboriginal communities to participate in sustainable forest management decision-making. These opportunities are provided through three main mechanisms:

- **The model forest partnership.** Direct participation by Aboriginal partners provides unique knowledge of the forest ecosystem and allows both traditional and contemporary experiences to shape management practices. The PAMF board of directors has 12 members including four Aboriginal representatives. The board sets direction, establishes priorities, approves the annual workplan and assesses results.
- **Enhanced Aboriginal involvement strategic initiative.** This was introduced in 1997 as part of Canada's model forest program. It was designed to enhance the participation of First Nation, non-status Indian and Métis communities in the development and accumulation of knowledge and tools associated with sustainable management of forest resources. Projects that specifically address the needs of Aboriginal communities include documenting traditional ecological knowledge, launching non-timber forest product ventures and developing Aboriginal forest management plans.

As an example, PAMF partners have collaborated on the Wapus Lake elk re-establishment project to bring back this species whose population was severely affected by an epidemic in the 1940s and an increase in timber harvesting in the mid-1960s which created greater access for predators. The project draws on traditional knowledge of the Montreal Lake Cree elders as well as modern science. In 1999, 276 elk were released into the Wapus Lake area and a total of 600 to 1,200 animals are expected to be relocated throughout the five-year program.

- **Prince Albert Model Forest ecosystem-based integrated resource management plan.** PAMF has developed an integrated land use plan that was adopted in 2000 by all levels of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal government - a first in Canada. It was developed with input from all resource users including the public, Aboriginal people and local residents and is being used by the Saskatchewan government as the framework for future forest management planning. The plan provides PAMF partners with direction on how to manage all uses and resources of the PAMF area. It was designed to be an adaptive document, to allow for change so that the plan could continually guide management decisions in the best possible direction. The plan is also reviewed and monitored, including annual assessments with continued public input and comprehensive evaluation every five years.

The planning area accommodates a wide variety of resource and land-based uses such as forestry, mining, ecotourism and tourism, traditional use, trapping, roads, trails, power lines, railroads and recreation sites. The plan is based on the principles of integrated and ecosystem-based management, which ensure that planning decisions consider the health of the whole ecosystem including soil, water, plants and animals, to meet a wide variety of objectives. Integrated resource management allows for a broad range of resource uses and gives all affected parties the opportunity to be informed and involved in management planning. The plan is supported by ecological, social and economic information so that decisions are based on consideration of all uses and benefits over the whole area.

Each of PAMF partners expects that the technical knowledge and experience gained in working cooperatively on the model forest will provide the foundation for long-term relationships on much larger forest lands in Saskatchewan. The transfer of technology from the model forest to

other forest managers as well as the transfer of technology from other areas to the model forest are major priorities of PAMF.

4. Timeframe for Results

PAMP was established in 1992 by the Government of Canada as one in a network of 11 model forests across Canada. The program was renewed in 1997 and again in 2002 for another five-year term.

5. Measurable Criteria

- The number of participants and the ability to build an effective partnership
- Direct partner contributions in addition to federal government funding; success as a large-scale working model of sustainable forest management
- Development of new knowledge and technologies
- Promotion of education and public awareness of sustainability issues
- Technology transfer

6. Budget

The budget is set at \$750,000 a year for five years. This includes \$500,000 annually from the Canadian Forest Service and \$250,000 a year (cash or in-kind) from the other PAMF partners. Depending on the project, there may also be additional contributions from PAMF partners as well as external sources.

7. Partners and Sponsors

Canadian Forest Service, Weyerhaeuser, Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Prince Albert Grand Council, Parks Canada, Canadian Institute of Forestry, Resort Village of Candle Lake, Saskatchewan Environment, Saskatchewan Forest Centre, Saskatchewan Research Council

8. Experience with the Program

PAMF is seen by all partners as a highly successful effort in long-term relationship building. In particular, the development and implementation of PAMF's ecosystem-based integrated resource management plan is a major accomplishment. The partners saw the need to replace the previous system of independent, single-purpose objective setting among agencies and groups with integrated resource management planning. It was recognized that such planning must be supported by adequate ecological, social and economic information on which to base decisions. It was also recognized that the process must include a wide range of participants and that the interests and unique contribution of Aboriginal communities must be integrated into planning and decision-making for PAMF.

Other successes of the PAMF program include the development of local level indicators of sustainability; innovative land tenure models; best management practices in sustainability codes of conduct for woodlot managers and contractors; leading-edge wildlife research; public education and participation; and the development and application of geographical information systems technologies for forest management and resources scenario planning.

9. General Applicability

PAMF provides a working example of how industry, Aboriginal communities and governments can cooperate in developing and implementing an integrated resource management plan, and jointly undertake research activities and apply practical knowledge in support of sustainable forest resource management.

10. Additional Information or Support

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