



**Standards Document**

# **SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment for the Province of Quebec, Canada**

**Sustainable Biomass Program**  
sbp-cert.org



## Version 1.0

### 21 April 2021

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In the case of inconsistency between translations, the official English language version shall always take precedence.

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

APGN: agreement-in-principle of a general nature

CEAF: Forest Management Certification Program

CIFA: Canadian Food Inspection Agency

CNESST: Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et du travail - Commission on workplace standards, fairness, health and safety

CNRA: Centralized National Risk Assessment of the FSC

COC: Chain of custody

EMS: environmental management system

FMU: Forest Management Unit

FPIC: Free, Prior and Informed Consent

FSC: Forest Stewardship Council

GFWI: Global Forest Watch International

HCV: High Conservation Values

IFL: intact forest landscapes

IFMP: Integrated Forest Management Plan

ILO: International Labour Organization

JBNQA: James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement

LILRMP: local integrated land and resource management panel

MELCC: Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques

MFFP: Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

NEPCON: Nature Economy and People Connected

NEQA: Northeastern Québec Agreement

PLUP: land use plan for the domain of the State

PRAU: permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant

QFIC: Québec Forest Industry Council

QWEB: Québec Wood Export Bureau

RCM: regional county municipality

RS: Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State

RSFM: Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State

SBP: Sustainable Biomass Program

SFDA: Sustainable Forest Development Act

SFDS: Sustainable Forest Development Strategy

SOPFEU: Société de protection des forêts contre le feu – Forest protection agency against fire

SOPFIM: Société de protection des forêts contre les insectes et les maladies – Forest protection agency against insects and fires

TC: traceability chain

TVFS: threatened and vulnerable forest species

UN: United Nations

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

WO: watershed organization

WPAC: Wood Pellet Association of Canada

WTO: World Trade Organization

WWF: World Wildlife Fund

## Foreword

SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments (RRAs) are a key part of SBP's focus on identifying and mitigating risks associated with sustainably sourcing feedstock for biomass pellet and wood chip production. The SBP Framework is designed to provide assurance that feedstock is sourced legally and sustainably.

The purpose of an SBP-endorsed RRA is to evaluate an entire geographic region and determine the risks associated with sourcing feedstock for biomass pellet or wood chip production from that region. Thus, the need for individual Biomass Producers (BPs) to conduct risk assessments is avoided and, therefore, consistency between Biomass Producers is improved. The SBP RRA procedure also ensures active engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders in the region.

The SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) Procedure Version 1.1 specifies the requirements and processes that must be followed in order to develop and endorse SBP risk assessments of regions or countries. SBP accepted the consortium of industry representatives and INCOS Strategies as the WB responsible for conducting the RRA for the province of Quebec. A diversity of experts facilitated the risk assessment work throughout the process to ensure relevant knowledge of forestry, laws and customs of Québec. The main coordinator of the risk assessment was Nicolas Blanchette, ing.f. of INCOS Strategies.

Feedstock certified at the forest level through FSC® or PEFC-endorsed schemes such as SFI® is considered SBP-compliant which represent most of the public forest lands in the Province of Québec and 17% of private forest holdings<sup>1</sup>. Even with such an important accessible source of SBP-Compliant fibre, the forest sector and especially the wood pellet producers in Québec through their associations QWEB and WPAC decided to undertake the RRA process to secure SBP-Compliant fibre without relying on claims from other forest certification schemes. This is why the scope of the RRA includes all forest lands, certified or not. The RRA can then confirm the risks associated with sourcing feedstock in the province as a whole. If endorsed forest certification schemes did not adequately comply with SBP requirements of an indicator, a specified risk was determined. Stakeholders were invited to comment the RRA with this in mind.

Chain-of-Custody (COC) certification of primary, secondary and tertiary forest products processing companies in Québec is common. Third-party certification allows certificate holders to demonstrate the responsible, sustainable nature of their wood supply base. It guarantees that the companies control the origin of their wood supply base and that the certified products they market do not contain wood from controversial sources.

Biomass Producers (BP) in the province mainly source secondary feedstock, that is wood fibre generated from mills manufacturing logs. Tertiary feedstock (pre and post consumer fibre) can also represent a variable portion of the feedstock supply of pellet producers. Once the RRA is endorsed, BP's must comply with its findings and implement mitigation measures to manage any specified risks such that the risks can be considered to be controlled and hence low risk. It is the role of an independent accredited third-party Certification Body to check that the feedstock evaluation has been correctly undertaken and that any mitigation measures are being effectively implemented.

In early September, in line with the RRA Procedure, INCOS Strategies submitted a Draft RRA Report for the province of Québec (Canada) to SBP for review prior to the WB's public consultation. Following which, INCOS invited stakeholders to comment on the document during the 30-day public consultation between 20 September 2019 and 21 October 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Portrait statistiques 2017, MFFP 2018

On 15 March 2020, INCOS submitted the Final Draft RRA Report to SBP. SBP then undertook its own public consultation and internal technical review. Comments arising from that review were directed back to INCOS. INCOS provided a complete response to each of the issues raised and revised the Final Draft RRA Report to include additional clarifications and/or explanations as necessary. The revised Final Draft RRA Report was submitted to SBP on 10 February 2021.

On 3 March 2021, the Final Draft RRA Report was submitted to the SBP Technical Committee for the final independent technical review and their recommendation for approval or otherwise. The Technical Committee recommended approval on 5 March 2021 and the SBP CEO approved the Report on 8 April 2021.

## Project Summary

The Quebec Forest Industry Council (QFIC), the Quebec Wood Export Bureau (QWEB) and their regular members jointly undertook the development of the risk analysis of controlled wood for the province of Quebec in order to meet the mandatory requirements of the FSC® Controlled Wood standards and the “Sustainable Biomass Program” (SBP).

The QFIC / QWEB approach used several means to inform and collect stakeholder comments on the RRA indicators. The consultation process has been carried out in several stages since the summer of 2017 (see Annex 2). The first consultation period was carried out according to the categories of standard FSC-STD-40-005. A webinar on the preliminary results of the analysis was held on July 11, 2017. 42% of participants made comments or made comments on the conclusions of the risk analysis. Among the respondents, more than 83% agreed with the conclusions of the risk analysis while the rest was partially in agreement with the findings. Meetings with local integrated land and resource management panel (LILRMP) began in August while an email survey was conducted between October 2 and 20, 2017. During this first consultation phase, 93% of respondents approved the designation of low risk for the FSC high conservation value categories. Only four individuals or organizations disagreed with the proposed designations, without, however, reasonably justifying the reasons for their opposition.

The second consultation phase was carried out under the coordination of INCOS Strategies. Other meetings and communications were held to finalize the preliminary version of the RRA. The 30-day public consultation required by SBP was conducted between September 20, 2019, and October 21, 2019. The consultation period was communicated by email and by the RRA project website. One hundred and fifty-two people were notified by email before and during this consultation period.

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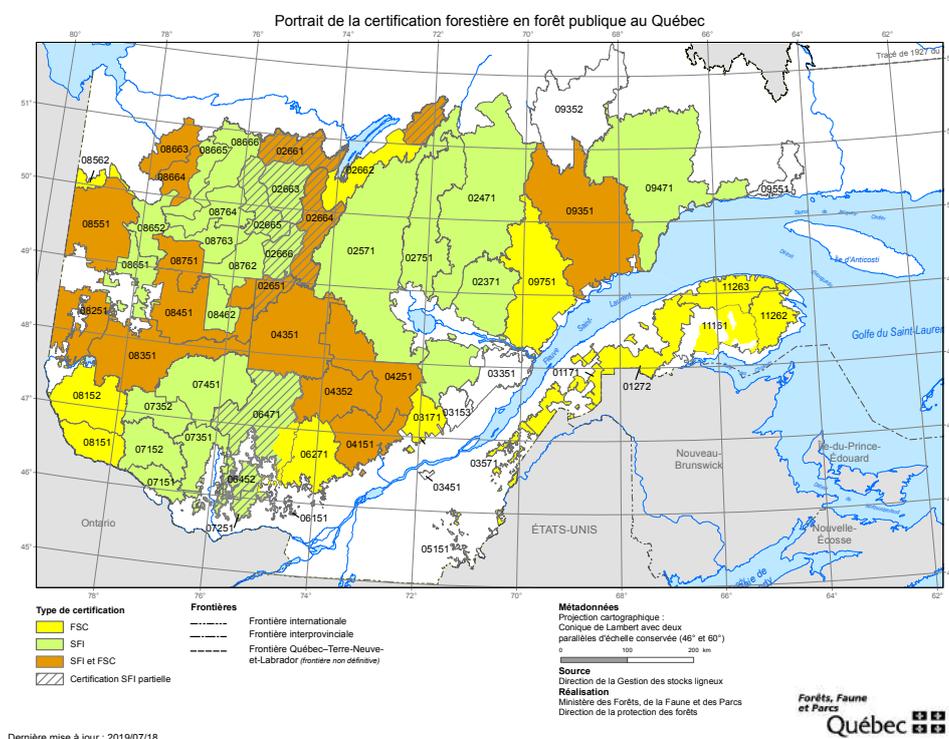


# 1 Introduction

Standard 1: Sustainable Feedstock Standard, v1.1, May 2017 and the FSC® Company Risk Assessment for controlled wood. The assessment was conducted in two phases. The process was conducted under the supervision of the Québec Forest Industry Council (QFIC), the Québec Wood Export Bureau (QWEB) and their accredited members. The first produced the company FSC risk assessment for controlled wood for the Province of Québec in time for the FSC Canada National Risk Assessment in December 2018. Under the QFIC and QWEB supervision, the second phase was carried out by INCOS Strategies in order to satisfy the mandatory requirements of the Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP).

Forest and COC certification in Québec is widespread. As shown in the certification portrait on public forest lands (see Figure 1), 93.6% of the area is certified at the forest level through FSC® and SFI® is considered SBP-compliant. Considering no harvest is planned on management units 09352 and 09551 in the next five-year period 2018-2023 and more than 50% of 111-61 is certified by the merger in 2018 of the former Forest Management Units (FMU) 111-51, 1111-52, 111-53 and 111-54, the proportion of active FMU that are not certified drops to 2.5% in terms of total area. Overall, it is estimated less than 1.3% of the annual allowable cut on public forests of the province will be sourced from non-certified management units<sup>2</sup>.

**Figure 1 Certification portrait on Québec public forest lands (07-2019)**



<sup>2</sup> <https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/documents/calcul-des-possibilites-forestieres/periode-2018-2023/>

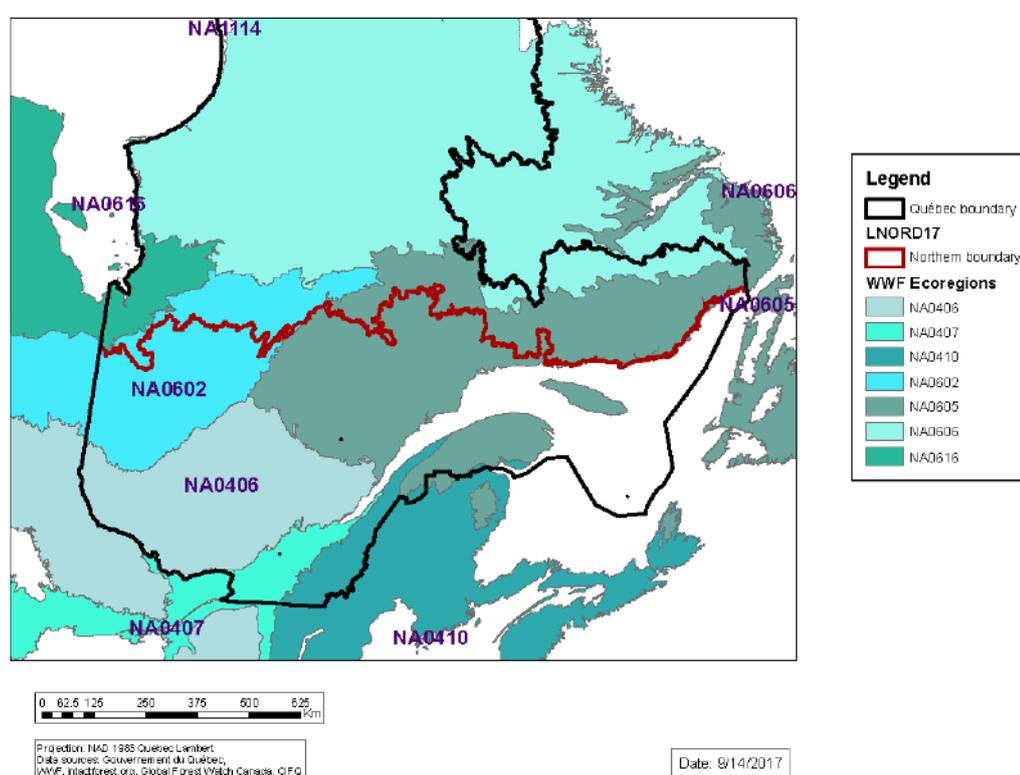
Even with such an important accessible source of SBP-Compliant fibre, the forest sector and especially the wood pellet producers in Québec through their associations QWEB and WPAC decided to undertake the RRA process to secure SBP-Compliant fibre without relying on other organizations. This is why the scope of the RRA includes all forest lands, certified or not. The RRA can then confirm the risks associated with sourcing feedstock in the province as a whole.

INCOS Strategies, with a strong background in forest certification in forest management and chain of custody certification in general, coordinated and prepared this Regional Risk Assessment (RRA). Furthermore, collaboration was obtained from a range of independent professionals with experience in forest certification.

## 2 Scope and Regional Background

The RRA focuses on the total forest area south of the northern limit of attributable forests, in red on the map in Figure 2<sup>3</sup>, represents an important component of the Québec forest context in which the Québec government has decided to exclude all commercial forestry operations above the northern limit as required by law (SFDA, Chapter A-18.1, article 15). This area under evaluation includes the NA0602, NA0605, NA0410, NA0407, NA0406 excluding NA0616 and NA0606 ecoregions defined by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

**Figure 2 Province of Québec and the WWF Ecoregions**



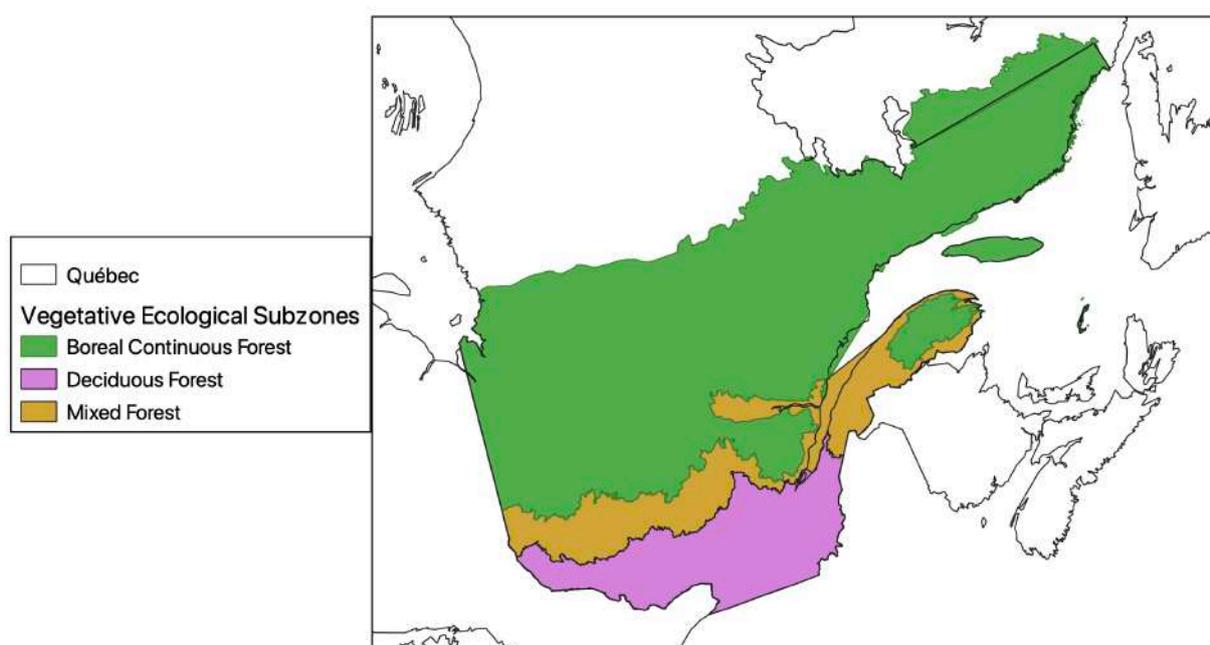
- NA0406 – Eastern Forest-Boreal Transition
- NA0407 – Eastern Great Lakes lowland forests
- NA0410 – New England-Acadian forests
- NA0602 – Central Canadian Shield forests
- NA0605 – Eastern Canadian forests
- NA0606 – Eastern Canadian Shield taiga (excluded)
- NA0616 – Southern Hudson Bay taiga (excluded)

This forest area can be subdivided in three large vegetation zones, the boreal continuous forest, the mixed hardwood forests and the deciduous forests (Figure 3). The main tree species found in the boreal forest are black and white spruce (*Picea mariana* and *P. glauca*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), white and

<sup>3</sup> Risk Analysis - Forest Region: Province of Québec, CIFQ-QWEB, December 2018

jack pine (*Pinus strobus* and *Pinus banksiana*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and various species of aspen. The same species are found in the mixed forest in combination with yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and eastern hemlock (*Tsuga occidentalis*) to name a few. The deciduous forest is the most diverse of the three vegetation zones in terms of tree, fauna and plant species. The most common tree species are sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), beech (*Fagus sp.*), ash (*Fraxinus sp.*), white elm (*Ulmus americana*), cherry (*Prunus sp.*), Oak (*Quercus sp.*). Walnut (*Juglans sp.*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) can also thrive on specific sites. It is the home of a higher concentration of species at risk in the province where most of the population of the province are located.

**Figure 3 Vegetation Subzones of the Province of Québec<sup>4</sup>**

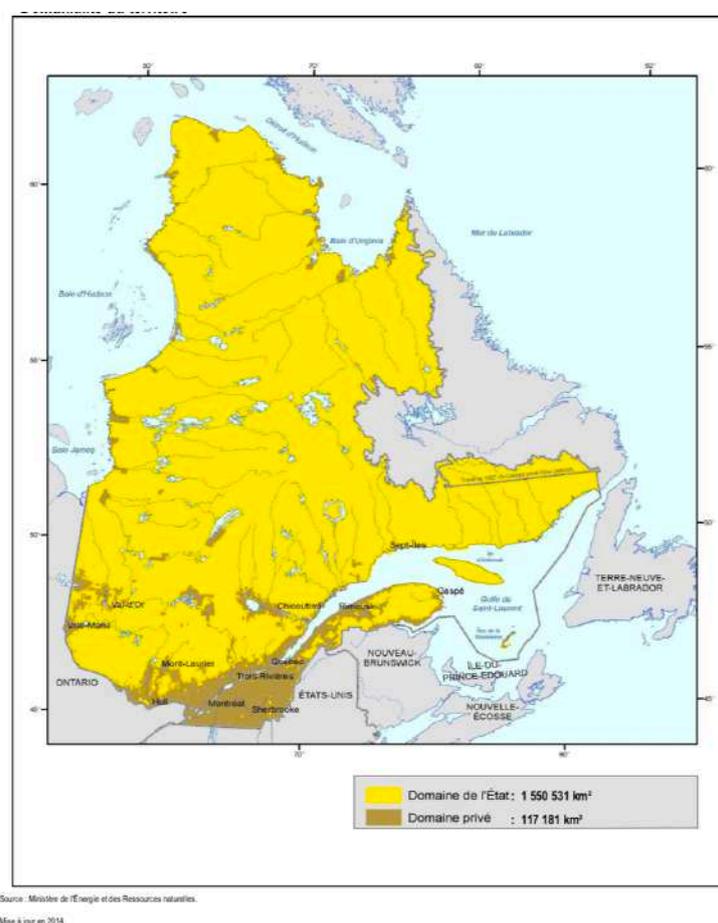


The Sustainable Forest Development Act (SFDA) applies to all public and private forest lands in the province south of the northern limit of attributable forest. The map below shows the public and private tenure for the province as a whole<sup>5</sup> (Figure 4).

<sup>4</sup> Foretouverte.gouv.qc.ca

<sup>5</sup> Portrait statistiques 2017, MFFP 2018

**Figure 4 State of Ownership of the Province of Québec**



Public forests are managed by the Quebec Ministry of Forest, Wildlife and Parks. The government implements the SFDA by preparing forest management plans and monitor compliance with the *Sustainable Forest Management Regulations*. Implementation of the SFDA on private woodlot is delegated to the regional agencies for private forest development. The agencies work with recognized accredited professionals who offer their services to private woodlot owners.

With respect to assessing SBP risks, some indicators required the use of subscope. The most common subscope of the RRA is because of the level of intensity and the legal and regulatory framework differences between public and private tenure. Another subscope was deemed appropriate to highlight the differences of forest management activities undertaken under a forest development program administered by regional agencies on private woodlots. Regional Forest Development Agencies are derived from the Forest and Municipal Act that regulate forest practices on private lands.

All forest activities on private woodlots must comply with development plans, municipal by-laws and other laws and regulations associated with logging. However, if they are undertaken within the framework of the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots, the level of scrutiny the program requires in comparison to activities undertaken without the program called upon the use of an additional subscope.

Forest activities on private woodlots which benefit from the development program are carried out under the, [translation] “the forest producer must retain an accredited forestry consultant to obtain the financial assistance provided and the professional and technical services required to carry out eligible work. The forestry consultant is a registered professional forester or a legal entity (firm) that employs registered professional foresters. The forestry consultant must be accredited by the regional agency for private forest development.” Since 1995, regional agencies for private forest development must monitor operations benefiting from the program. To ensure eligibility for financial assistance, the forest owner must have a valid forest management plan, a prescription and a final execution report all signed by a registered professional forester. With this information and their own monitoring, the agencies are able to evaluate if the activities comply with the criteria of the program.

As mentioned above, forests south of the northern limit of attributable forests in the province are part of the RRA including forests certified by a recognized SBP forest certification program. Conclusions of the RRA are based on the context and measures present at the time of its finalization. A suspension or termination of FSC and SFI certification status of forest areas in the province after the approval of the RRA will automatically change low risk designations of the RRA to specified risks. Biomass producers shall immediately cease using material sourced from these forest areas until the suspension has been lifted or once the biomass producer has completed a supplier verification program as required in Standard 2: Verification of SBP Compliant Feedstock.

### 3 Methodology

Initiated in 2017, the QFIC and QWEB focused their efforts on delivering a company risk assessment for the Province of Québec in time to comply with FSC Motion 56 from the 2017 FSC General Assembly deadline ending the possibility to use company risk assessments where national risk assessment had been scheduled by 31 December 2017. This first phase included consultations across the Province of Québec in order to satisfy the mandatory requirements of the FSC Controlled Wood Standard® and the Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP). The second phase built on the conclusions of the QFIC/QWEB company risk assessment with the additional criteria included in the SBP Standard not covered by FSC Controlled Wood requirements.

The RRA is based on a number of different sources of information, including applicable legislation, reports from state authorities and other stakeholders, various databases and statistical data sources. Information was requested from state authorities, such as the Quebec Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (MFFP), the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) of Natural Resources Canada, the Quebec Ministry of the Environment and Fight Against Climate Change and Environment Canada. The first phase of the process span from April 2017 until December 2018. The Working Group organized webinars and participated to integrated resource management committee meetings beginning in June until the end of October 2017. A first version of the FSC company risk assessment was published in December 2017.

The second phase ended in June 2019. The RRA process focused on the additional SBP requirements not included in FSC Controlled Wood standards all the while taking advantage of the stakeholder dialogue present in the FSC NRA. Primary and secondary feedstock were considered in the evaluation of the indicators.

## 4 Consultation

The QFIC / QWEB approach used several means to inform and collect stakeholder comments on the FSC and SBP risk analyzes. The consultation process was carried out in several stages between July 11 and October 20, 2017. A webinar on the preliminary results of the risk analysis was held on July 11. Meetings with the LILRMP began in August while two consultation periods took place across the province, between October 2 and 20, 2017 and from September 20 to October 21, 2019.

In all, more than 250 individuals or organizations were informed and contacted during this consultation. To facilitate the process, the approach favored the use of LILRMP active in each of the targeted regions. LILRMP are a consultation structure recognized in the *Sustainable Forest Development Act* (SFDA). Due to their composition, the LILRMP are representative of all areas of interest applicable to resource and territory management. Organizations of more than 14 LILRMP were contacted as part of this consultation. When the operating mode allowed (decision-making process, quorum, etc.), the LILRMP was itself able to decide on the proposed risk designation. 24% of their members commented or expressed themselves on the conclusions of the preliminary risk analysis on Aboriginal issues, high conservation values including the caribou and intact forest landscapes.

### Webinar and Survey

As a first step, a webinar presentation was held on July 11, 2017, to inform LILRMP members about the concept of traceability and certification of controlled wood, as well as the preliminary conclusions of the risk analysis. An online survey was then sent to all participants of the webinar. The webinar reached over 64 people. Of these, 27 (42%) responded to the survey.

Representatives from all fields of interest attended the webinar. No participant disagreed with the preliminary findings of the draft risk analysis. Sixteen percent of them partially agreed with the findings, while more than 83 percent of respondents agreed with the preliminary findings of the analysis. It should be recalled that a low risk had been defined for the indicators linked to the First Nations and the HCVs identified, in this case the intact forest landscape and the woodland caribou<sup>6</sup>. Survey respondents did not highlight the need to consider other high conservation values as part of the risk analysis. The detailed results of the survey are presented in Appendix 2.

### Meetings with Local Integrated Land and Resource Management Panels (LILRMP)

During the months of August, September and October 2017, meetings were organized with 14 LILRMP in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Nord-du-Québec, Saguenay- Lac-Saint-Jean, Côte-Nord and Charlevoix to discuss the results of the preliminary risk analysis performed and to collect comments from stakeholders in the Quebec public forest on the proposed risk designation. The scope of discussions included risk designations for all five FSC Controlled Wood categories<sup>7</sup>. These LILRMP were identified by their geographic location which is directly located in areas where high conservation values have been determined.

The QFIC / QWEB approach targeted them since, according to article 55 of the SFDA, its participants must have “a good representation of the people and organizations involved in forest planning. »(P.11,

<sup>6</sup> SBP criteria: 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6.

<sup>7</sup> SBP principles and criteria: principle 1, criteria 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.10

MFFP 2017)<sup>8</sup>. Their positions must be adopted on the basis of the broadest possible consensus based on adequate representativeness for their respective tables. If they remain, differences of opinion are documented. Thus, by gaining the support of TGIRTs, the QFIC / QWEB approach is based on a common vision of land management focused on the common interest.

All the LILRMP received the information concerning the process during the consultation period. Certain LILRMP were able to express their support, as an organization, for the conclusions of the risk analysis: this is the case for the LILRMPs of Sept-Rivières, Manicouagan, Mistissini, Oujébougamau, Lac-Saint - Jean, Saguenay and Chapais-Chibougamau. For the other LILRMP in Haute-Côte-Nord, Waswanipi, Vallée de l'Or, VVB, Matagami, Nemaska and Charlevoix, individual support was obtained, but no resolution was adopted by these LILRMP.

#### First General Consultation (October 2017)

Between October 2- October 20, 2017, a general consultation on the complete company risk assessment was held across the province. More than 100 individuals were reached by email and telephone while others were met in person.

A total of 127 individuals or organizations were contacted by email during this period. They represented various interests that were representative of the community. They could share their comments and decide on the risk designation by completing a comments form included in the shipment, or by any other means. Some of the organizations met during the process verbally confirmed their support for the designation of “low risk” for issues related to indigenous people and high conservation values, pending the receipt of a resolution or an official letter.

Over 93% of respondents approved the low risk designation in relation to high conservation values such as biodiversity, species at risk and large intact forest areas. Only four individuals or organizations disagreed with the proposed designations, without, however, reasonably justifying the reasons for their opposition.

#### Second and last general consultation (October 2019)

The RRA Working Body decided to put the project on hold to allow all interested parties to participate in the FSC Canada National Risk Assessment (NRA) process. The NRA process was engaging in the last stretch to finalize the assessment in June 2019.

Building on this experience, work resumed finalizing the RRA in time to initiate the last 30-day public consultation required by SBP. Over 152 individuals were asked to participate. The website <https://www.boiscertifies.ca/qcsbp-rra> hosted all the information relevant to the public consultation including the RRA and related documents. At the end of the consultation period, the project had received four comments and endorsements of the RRA findings (see Table 6 in Appendix 2).

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<sup>8</sup> Guide de la table locale de gestion intégrée des ressources et du territoire : son rôle et son apport dans l'élaboration des plans d'aménagement forestier intégré (MFFP, 2017)

## 5 Findings Summary

As of May 2019, only management units 06151, 03153, 03351, 09352 and 09551 are not certified under one of the forest certification programs recognized by SBP. More than 50% of MU 11161 is certified as a result of the merger of former forest units 111-51, 111-52, 111-53 and 111-54. No logging is planned in units 09352 and 09551 in the 2018-2023 five-year forest management plan. Although FSC and SFI certified forests are initially considered SBP Compliant feedstock, the RRA assessed all indicators for all forests. If endorsed forest certification schemes did not adequately comply with SBP requirements of an indicator, a specified risk was determined.

If the FSC and SFI certification status of a forest area is suspended or terminated after the approval of the RRA, the low risk designations of indicators will automatically change to specified risks. Biomass producers shall immediately cease using material sourced from these forest areas until the suspension has been lifted or once the biomass producer has completed a supplier verification program as required in Standard 2: Verification of SBP Compliant Feedstock.

**Table 1 Overview of results from the RRA of all indicators**

Indicator	Initial Risk Rating			Indicator	Initial Risk Rating		
	Specified	Low	Unspecified		Specified	Low	Unspecified
1.1.1		X		2.3.1		X	
1.1.2		X		2.3.2		X	
1.1.3		X		2.3.3		X	
1.2.1		X		2.4.1		X	
1.3.1		X		2.4.2		X	
1.4.1		X		2.4.3		X	
1.5.1		X		2.5.1		X	
1.6.1	X (private forests)	X (for all other)		2.5.2		X	
2.1.1	X (private without development program)	X (for all other)		2.6.1		X	
2.1.2	X (private without development program)	X (for all other)		2.7.1		X	
2.1.3		X		2.7.2		X	
2.2.1	X (private with and without)	X (for all other)		2.7.3		X	

Indicator	Initial Risk Rating		
	Specified	Low	Unspecified
	development program)		
2.2.2	X (private with and without development program)	X (for all other)	
2.2.3		X	
2.2.4	X (private without development program)	X (for all other)	
2.2.5	X		
2.2.6	X (private without development program)	X (for all other)	
2.2.7		X	
2.2.8		X	
2.2.9		X	

Indicator	Initial Risk Rating		
	Specified	Low	Unspecified
2.7.4		X	
2.7.5		X	
2.8.1		X	
2.9.1		X	
2.9.2		X	
2.10.1		X	

A detailed description of the situation for each indicator is presented in the next section along with the chosen level of risk, which is based on the information provided.

## 6 Detailed Findings for Indicators

1.1.1 The Biomass Producer's Supply Base is defined and mapped.		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Analysis by tenure type: public forests and private forests
	2. Possible threats	If the supply bases of biomass producers that have secondary or tertiary processing suppliers are defined inaccurately, the geographic scope of risk analysis will be incorrect.
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>Management of forests in the public and private domains is regulated by the <i>Forest Act</i> and the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i><sup>1</sup>. Since 1970, periodic inventories representing about 550,000 km<sup>2</sup> have been carried out in public and private forests in southern Quebec below the northern boundary of allocated forests. The data collected on these areas can be used to describe the forests found there in terms of topography, vegetation, glacial deposits, water system, wildlife habitats, etc.</p> <p>The analysis of indicator 1.1.2 details how regulatory requirements and tools can be used to trace the origin of the wood supplied to primary processing plants. This framework can be used to define the supply bases of these plants precisely.</p>
	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>Determining the origin of wood supplied to pellet manufacturing plants is more complex when they source from secondary and tertiary processing plants. The <a href="http://originesdubois.com">originesdubois.com</a> website, in collaboration with suppliers, documents the origins of wood from suppliers and sub-suppliers, and more accurately defines the supply bases of pellet plants.</p> <p><u>Public forests:</u></p> <p>In Quebec, the MFFP<sup>2</sup> carries out eco-forest inventories on a 10-year cycle to characterize the forest. The inventories include photo-interpretation mapping and a field survey to evaluate the dendrometric characteristics of the photo-interpreted stands. The results of the mapping and the survey are then combined. In recent years, the MFFP has begun mapping the entire territory using data generated by active-sensor LiDAR<sup>3</sup> technology to increase forest mapping accuracy.</p>

1.1.1 The Biomass Producer's Supply Base is defined and mapped.						
		<p>The resulting eco-forest maps are detailed and include a description of the various stands, wetlands, lakes and the main ecosystems of forests and sensitive areas. The maps are updated annually to include anthropogenic disturbances, such as logging and roads.</p> <p>The MFFP plans forest development using georeferenced data for each management unit. The five-year tactical plan for integrated forest development (TPIFD) contains the objectives and the sustainable development strategies for the selected forests in accordance with the allowable cut. The operational integrated forest management plan (OIFMP) contains the operations sectors planned for the harvest of wood or other forest development activities.</p> <p>The OPIFD is used to produce an annual program of work carried out under supply guarantees, permits to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant and harvest areas sold by the Bureau de mise en marché des bois (BMMB), among others.</p> <p><u>Private forests:</u></p> <p>For private forests, the MFFP updates forest maps as part of its 10-year inventory<sup>4 5</sup>. The delimitation of the assessment rolls and thus property limits was recently redone for the entire province<sup>6</sup>. The forest area is even more detailed when landowners hire forest engineers for silvicultural prescriptions or forest management plans.</p>				
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.				
	6. Sources of useful information	N.A.				
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.				
	8. Status					
		<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Minimum required status</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>	
		Public forests		Mechanisms in place	Requirements met	

1.1.1 The Biomass Producer's Supply Base is defined and mapped.					
		Private forests with development programs	Mechanisms to ensure that values important to biodiversity are protected		Requirements met
		Private forests without development programs			
<b>9. Means of verification</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of management units and joint plan territories by supplier</li> <li>- Public forest transport permits</li> <li>- Private forest trip tickets</li> <li>- Directory of supply guarantee holders</li> <li>- List of bidders (BMMB)</li> <li>- Summary of records of wood volumes consumed per wood processing plant</li> <li>- <a href="http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/inventaire-ecoforestier/">http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/inventaire-ecoforestier/</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/le-ministere/acces-aux-donnees-gratuites/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/le-ministere/acces-aux-donnees-gratuites/</a></li> <li>-</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Sustainable Forest Development Act (<a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/A-18.1">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/A-18.1</a>)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><a href="http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/connaissances/inventaire-placettes.pdf">http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/connaissances/inventaire-placettes.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><a href="http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/produits-derives-faits-a-partir-lidar-accessible/">http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/produits-derives-faits-a-partir-lidar-accessible/</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup><a href="https://foncier.mern.gouv.qc.ca/Portail/arpenteurs-geometres/cadastre/mise-a-jour-du-cadastre/">https://foncier.mern.gouv.qc.ca/Portail/arpenteurs-geometres/cadastre/mise-a-jour-du-cadastre/</a></li> <li>- <sup>5</sup><a href="http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privées/">http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privées/</a></li> <li>- <sup>6</sup>Register of landowners</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Low risk			

1.1.2 Feedstock can be traced back to the defined Supply Base		
<b>F i n d i</b>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	If the supply bases of biomass producers that have secondary or tertiary processing suppliers are defined inaccurately, the geographic scope of risk analysis will be incorrect.

1.1.2 Feedstock can be traced back to the defined Supply Base		
<b>n g s</b>	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>Since 2013, the MFFP has carried out forest planning for public forests and monitored the timber allocated and harvested. In 2010, the timber marketing board created under the SFDA made wood available on the open market. All the wood harvested in public forests is governed by supply guaranties, contractual agreements and permits<sup>1</sup>. The Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the States<sup>2</sup> ensures that quantities of harvested timber are recorded before they leave the cutting area as well as on delivery to mills..</p> <p>A permit to operate a wood-processing plant is mandatory and requires an annually updated record of fibre inventories, fibre received and consumed as well as the nature and quantity of the products manufactured<sup>3</sup>. The volumes allocated and harvested in public and private forests can then be compared with deliveries to mills.</p> <p>Volumes allocated in public forests are posted on the MFFP website, while the annual reports of regional wood marketing boards of the Union des producteurs agricoles and forestry groups provide information on the provenance of timber on the scale of municipalities and RCMs<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>Timber harvested in private forests and marketed in Quebec is subject to the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, fish and food products<sup>5</sup> and to the regulations on timber marketing by wood producers for each administrative region of Quebec. Depending on the region, wood marketing boards monitor all or a category of wood harvested in private forests.</p>
	<b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b>	<p>Tracking along the supply chain and documents obtained from companies are used to demonstrate the forest source of their wood supply.</p> <p>Forest biomass producers obtain original declarations and documents from their suppliers and subsuppliers demonstrating the source of their wood supply.</p>
	<b>5. Other applicable evidence</b>	As a result of stakeholder collaboration along supply chains, the originesdubois.com website can be used to document the origin of the supply, from suppliers and subsuppliers to the original forests.
	<b>6. Sources of useful information</b>	N.A.
	<b>7. Applicable good practices</b>	N.A.
	<b>8. Status</b>	

1.1.2 Feedstock can be traced back to the defined Supply Base						
		Scale of analysis	Minimum required	status	Current status	Status
		Public forests	Mechanisms to ensure that values important for biodiversity are protected		Mechanisms in place	Requirements met
		Private forests with development programs				
		Private forests without development programs				
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transportation documents</li> <li>- Species are present in the supply area</li> <li>- Verify the logging permit</li> <li>- Harvesting permits</li> <li>- Directory of supply guarantee holders</li> <li>- List of bidders (BMMB)</li> <li>- Summary of records of wood volumes consumed per wood processing plant</li> <li>- Manuel de mesurage des bois récoltés sur les terres publiques du domaine de l'État (administration and forms)</li> <li>- Manuel de mesurage des bois récoltés sur les terres publiques du domaine de l'État (method and technical instructions)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 7)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State (draft) (2014, G.O. 2, 4837)</li> <li>- Municipal bylaws concerning public forests</li> <li>- Regulation respecting forest transport contracts</li> <li>- Transport Act (chapter T-12, s. 5 and s. 47.1)</li> <li>- FSC Centralized National Risk Assessment 2016 (CNRA 2016)</li> <li>- American Forest &amp; Paper Association</li> <li>- <a href="http://www.illegal-logging.info/">http://www.illegal-logging.info/</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.afandpa.org/">http://www.afandpa.org/</a></li> <li>- Cullers Act (M-12.1)</li> </ul>				

1.1.2 Feedstock can be traced back to the defined Supply Base	
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (<a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/A-18.1">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/A-18.1</a>)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/entreprises/entreprises-permis.jsp">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/entreprises/entreprises-permis.jsp</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup><a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/privees/privees-recolte.jsp">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/privees/privees-recolte.jsp</a></li> <li>- <sup>5</sup>Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, fish and food products (chapter M-35.1)</li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk

1.1.3 The feedstock input profile is described and categorized by the mix of inputs		
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	Improper characterization of feedstock would cause quality wood to be sent to destinations that would not use it to best advantage.
	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	In public forests, primary processors obtain supply guarantees or harvesting permits for species groups <sup>1</sup> . The <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> <sup>2</sup> defines the Minister's responsibilities for granting a supply guarantee to a third party. Mills can also purchase wood on the open market under the Program for an Open Timber Market. Under the <i>Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State</i> <sup>3</sup> , it is possible to account for and trace such wood from the original forest to the primary processing plant. The <i>Regulation respecting operating permits for wood-processing plants</i> requires that the holder of an operating permit for a wood-processing

1.1.3 The feedstock input profile is described and categorized by the mix of inputs	
	<p>plant maintains a register that includes inventories, receipt and consumption of feedstock, whether it comes from public or private forests.</p> <p>Private forests with or without development assistance:</p> <p>For private forests, forestry boards record the volumes sold of each species and annually publish statistics on volumes marketed. Each agency for private forest development publishes an annual report with the reported volumes of timber sold. Moreover, wood-processing plants are obliged to report their timber consumption from private forests to regional agencies for private forest development.</p>
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>Primary processing plants must hold a permit to operate a wood processing plant and maintain an annual register of inventories, receipt and consumption of feedstock, as well as of the type and quantity of manufactured products. Volumes allocated and harvested in public and private forests can then be compared with deliveries to mills. Volumes allocated in public forests are posted on the MFFP website, while the annual reports of regional wood marketing boards of the Union des producteurs agricoles and forest groups provide information on the source of wood at the scale municipalities and RCMs.</p> <p>When feedstock is delivered, mills that consume primary processing byproducts check the characteristics of the products delivered, in a systematic manner or by sampling<sup>4</sup>. For example, pellet mills ensure that feedstock meets their criteria for tree species and moisture levels.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>The volumes of each species harvested are accounted for by forest development companies and provided to the authorities in technical and financial activity reports. In addition, mills that purchase wood from the forest record and track harvested volumes by species or group of species.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>Each of the private forest development agencies publishes an annual report describing the volumes of wood sold and reported<sup>5</sup>. In addition, wood processing plants are required to report their consumption of wood from private forests to regional agencies.</p> <p>The evidence collected shows that the systems and legal requirements ensure that feedstock is recorded in terms of species, quantities and origins.</p>
5. Other applicable	N.A.

1.1.3 The feedstock input profile is described and categorized by the mix of inputs																						
	evidence																					
	6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transport Act (<a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cs/T-12">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cs/T-12</a>)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting forest transport contracts</li> <li>- Manuel de mesurage des bois récoltés sur les terres du domaine de l'État</li> <li>- Scalers Act (M-12.1)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State (<a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cr/A-18.1,%20r.%205.1">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cr/A-18.1,%20r.%205.1</a>)</li> <li>- Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1, sec. 72)</li> <li>- <a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/privees/privees-agences-liste-adresses.htm">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/privees/privees-agences-liste-adresses.htm</a></li> </ul>																				
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.																				
	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required</th> <th>status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public forests</td> <td rowspan="3">Mechanisms to effectively categorize feedstock on receipt by processing plants</td> <td></td> <td>Mechanisms in place</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private forests with development programs</td> <td></td> <td>Mechanisms in place</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private forests without development programs</td> <td></td> <td>Mechanisms in place</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Scale of analysis	Minimum required	status	Current status	Status	Public forests	Mechanisms to effectively categorize feedstock on receipt by processing plants		Mechanisms in place	Requirements met	Private forests with development programs		Mechanisms in place	Requirements met	Private forests without development programs		Mechanisms in place
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Private forests without development programs			Mechanisms in place	Requirements met																		
9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verification of development plans</li> <li>- Forest activity technical report</li> <li>- Records of plant input volumes</li> <li>- Visits to supplier facilities</li> <li>- Verification of feedstock delivered</li> <li>- Regions where supply guarantees apply</li> <li>- Scaling report at biomass processing plant</li> <li>- Summary of registers of feedstock volumes consumed per wood processing plant</li> <li>- Annual reports of wood marketing boards by region</li> </ul>																					

1.1.3 The feedstock input profile is described and categorized by the mix of inputs	
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/entreprises/entreprises-permis.jsp">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/entreprises/entreprises-permis.jsp</a></li> <li>- Directory of Quebec's primary processing plants (<a href="https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?ll=47.70350061183099%2C-70.85106316796873&amp;z=7&amp;mid=1PdQ2H_eTS2ISGc_TGc8DEmvNMRg">https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?ll=47.70350061183099%2C-70.85106316796873&amp;z=7&amp;mid=1PdQ2H_eTS2ISGc_TGc8DEmvNMRg</a>)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Sustainable Forest Development Act (<a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/A-18.1">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/A-18.1</a>)</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup> Manuel de mesurage des bois récoltés sur les terres publiques du domaine de l'État (administration and forms)</li> <li>- Manuel de mesurage des bois récoltés sur les terres publiques du domaine de l'État (method and technical instructions)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 7)</li> <li>- <sup>5</sup>Annual reports of wood marketing boards by region</li> <li>- Forest resources and industries – statistical portrait (French only) (<a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/connaissances/statistiques-forestieres/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/connaissances/statistiques-forestieres/</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk
<b>12. Mitigation Measures</b>	N/A

1.2.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that legality of ownership and land use can be demonstrated for the Supply Base.					
<b>Finding</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6; width: 15%; vertical-align: top;">1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</td> <td>Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6; vertical-align: top;">2. Possible threats</td> <td>           For both subscales (public forests and private forests)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: Wood may come from a territory that the seller does not have a right to.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests	2. Possible threats	For both subscales (public forests and private forests) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: Wood may come from a territory that the seller does not have a right to.</li> </ul>
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**1.2.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that legality of ownership and land use can be demonstrated for the Supply Base.**

<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b></p>	<p>Canada has a rigorous and extensive forest governance system that avoids land-tenure abuses. In Quebec, the MFFP ensures protection of the forest and penalizes offences that affect its integrity. It monitors logging in public forests and makes public findings concerning such matters as enforcement of laws and regulations, penalties imposed, volumes harvested and compliance with allowable cuts<sup>1, 2</sup>.</p> <p>Land and management rights are governed by the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> and the <i>Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State</i>. A number of regulations govern the procedures for issuing operating permits, licences and other legal documents required to carry out specific operations.</p> <p>The supply guarantee gives the beneficiary the right to purchase an annual volume of timber from forests in the domain of the State in one or more regions defined for that purpose, with a view to supplying a wood processing plant under section 88 of the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (Chapter A-18.1). The guarantee states the annual volumes of wood, by species or group of species, that the beneficiary may purchase from each of the regions covered by the guarantee<sup>3</sup>. The permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant is a forest right that authorizes the holder to harvest a volume of wood or a quantity of forest biomass from forests in the domain of the state, in one or more development units. It is issued under section 74 of the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i>. The term of the permit is five years or less under section 86.4 of the Act. Two types of permit are issued by the Minister: the merchantable timber permit, issued to legal persons and bodies that do not hold a wood-processing plant operating permits and are not related to the holder of such a permit; and the forest biomass permit, which can also be issued to a holder of wood-processing plant operating permits. In accordance with the conditions of their permits, holders must sign an integration agreement with other beneficiaries of forest rights in the territory concerned by the harvests. Permit holders identify the zones where they plan to do work in the annual program of forest development activities.</p> <p>Logging in private forests is also monitored by various stakeholders and levels of government. On the municipal level, logging is monitored by inspectors. Under the private forest development program, forest producers must retain the services of a forestry engineer to determine the appropriate requirements. Since 1995, regional agencies for private forest development have also monitored operations under the program.</p> <p>In 2014, the World Resources Institute emphasized Canada's record, pointing out that it has the lowest occurrence of suspicious log supply and corruption of any country. There is a low risk that laws and regulations are not enforced in Quebec.</p>
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**1.2.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that legality of ownership and land use can be demonstrated for the Supply Base.**

<p><b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b></p>	<p>Public forests:</p> <p>To ensure the sustainability of the resource and to protect the forest environment, the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs penalizes activity that undermines the integrity of the forest environment. For example, an individual or business that carries out development activities in a public forest in a manner that does not comply with the <i>Forest Act</i> or the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> commits an offence and may be fined.<sup>1</sup> The list of offenders under the <i>Forests Act</i> and the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> demonstrates that this mechanism is enforced.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Private forests:</p> <p>Wood from private forests is considered an agricultural product in Quebec and is governed in part by the <i>Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products</i>. In addition to the provisions of this Act and those of the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i>, the <i>Civil Code of Québec</i> provides remedies for felling carried out on private property without the owner's consent or in contravention of the owner's requirements. Municipalities also have the power to regulate the felling of trees, to ensure the enforcement of such by-laws and, if necessary, to use the courts to punish offenders. The majority of municipalities with private woodlots have adopted by-laws to regulate tree felling, to restrict the area of harvesting sites in a single block, or to protect riparian or exceptional environments. Municipalities may require that a permit be obtained.<sup>3</sup></p>
<p><b>5. Other applicable evidence</b></p>	<p>N.A.</p>
<p><b>6. Sources of useful information</b></p>	<p>N.A.</p>
<p><b>7. Applicable good practices</b></p>	<p>N.A.</p>
<p><b>8. Status</b></p>	

1.2.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that legality of ownership and land use can be demonstrated for the Supply Base.					
		Scale of analysis	Minimum status required	Current status	Status
		Public forests	Active mechanisms to apply laws	Implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations	Requirements met
		Private forests	Active mechanisms to apply laws	Implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations	Requirements met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	Public forests - Directory of holders of timber supply guarantees in public forests - Record of volumes consumed per wood-processing plant  Private forests - Trip tickets – UPA/wood marketing boards			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/</a></li> <li>- Regulation respecting sugar bush management in forests in the domain of the State (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 2)</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Directory of holders of timber supply guarantees in public forests</li> <li>- Record of volumes consumed per wood-processing plant</li> <li>- Regulation respecting changes in the destination of timber purchased by a holder of a timber supply guarantee pursuant to the guarantee (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 0.1)</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><a href="https://www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publications/FR/QC_info_Provinces_and_territories_FR.pdf">https://www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publications/FR/QC_info_Provinces_and_territories_FR.pdf</a></li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Low Risk			

1.3.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is legally harvested and supplied and is in compliance with EUTR legality requirements.		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Tenure: Public and private forests
	2. Possible threats	<p>In public forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Monitoring in public forests is insufficient to ensure effective control over compliance with laws and regulations concerning integrated forest development.</li> </ul> <p>In private forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Monitoring in private forests by municipalities and the private forest development and protection program are insufficient to ensure compliance with laws and regulations concerning private forests.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>Forest development companies operating in public forests must have ISO 14001 or CEAF<sup>1</sup> certification. They are obliged to train their employees and contractors in the procedures to follow if they witness illegal activity. Any incident must be reported to a supervisor, who then notifies the MFFP by completing a reporting sheet.</p> <p>The reports are analyzed and processed by various persons at the MFFP and, if necessary, are sent to the competent authorities, such as the Sûreté du Québec or wildlife agents. In private forests, harvest monitoring is governed by the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products and the Transport Act<sup>2</sup>. See appendix 1 for table 3 of laws and regulations in force in Quebec that meet the minimum requirements for assessing the legality of wood.</p>
	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>Canada is not on the list of countries with a domestic harvesting problem. But its timber imports can be problematic. The provinces have laws and regulations as well as personnel to ensure they are enforced. Canada has a rigorous and extensive forest governance system that avoids land-tenure abuses. In Quebec, the MFFP ensures protection of the forest and penalizes offences that affect its integrity. Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Report gives Canada a score of 81 out of 100, ranking it ninth among countries with the lowest perception.</p> <p>A permit to operate a wood-processing plant is mandatory and requires the keeping of an annually updated record</p>

**1.3.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is legally harvested and supplied and is in compliance with EUTR legality requirements.**

of inventories, fibre received and consumed, and the nature and quantity of the products manufactured<sup>3</sup>. In this way, volumes allocated and harvested in public and private forests can be compared with volumes delivered to mills.

In public forests:

In Quebec, the MFFP ensures protection of the forest and penalizes offences that affect its integrity. It monitors forest activities in public forests and publicly discloses the results, such as those concerning enforcement of laws and regulations, offences committed, volumes harvested and compliance with the allowable cut. All violations of the Forest Act and the Sustainable Forest Development Act<sup>4</sup> committed in public forests are posted on the MFFP website.

All organizations operating in public forests must have ISO 14001 or CEAF certification. They are obliged to train their employees and contractors in the procedures to follow if they witness illegal activity. Any incident must be reported to a supervisor, who then notifies the MFFP by completing a reporting sheet. The reports are analyzed and processed by various persons at the MFFP and, if necessary, are sent to the competent authorities, such as the Sûreté du Québec or wildlife agents.

In 2005, Quebec created the position of Chief Forester<sup>5</sup>, whose mission is to determine allowable cuts and to inform decision makers and the public of the status of public forests and their management to ensure the sustainability and diversified use of the forest. He provides opinions to the Minister on forest-related matters, prepares a five-year plan of the status of the forest and calculates allowable cuts for the province's regions.

In private forests:

Logging in private forests is also monitored by various stakeholders and levels of government. On the municipal level, logging is monitored by inspectors. Under the private forest development program<sup>6</sup>, forest producers must retain the services of a forestry engineer to determine the appropriate requirements. Since 1995, regional agencies for private forest development have also monitored operations under the program. Timber harvested in private forests and marketed in Quebec is subject to the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products and regulations on timber marketing by producers in each administrative region of Quebec. Depending on the region, unions and forestry boards monitor all or a portion of the timber harvested in private forests.

In 2014, the World Resources Institute emphasized Canada's record, pointing out that it has the lowest occurrence of suspicious log supply and corruption of any country.

1.3.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is legally harvested and supplied and is in compliance with EUTR legality requirements.					
		The evidence shows that the systems and procedures in effect make it possible to ensure that timber harvested in Quebec complies with EUTR legality requirements.			
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.			
	6. Sources of useful information	N.A.			
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.			
	8. Status	<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Required minimum status</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>
		Public forests	Mechanisms ensuring that wood is harvesting in compliance with laws and regulations, including the EUTR	Mechanisms in place	Requirements met
		Private forests with development programs		Mechanisms in place	Requirements met
		Private forests without development programs		Mechanisms in place	Requirements met
	9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directory of timber supply guarantee holders</li> <li>- Trip tickets – UPA/wood marketing boards</li> <li>- Visits to suppliers</li> <li>- MFFP management reports on timber volumes allocated and harvested in public forests</li> <li>- Verification of the list of offenders of the Forest Act and the Sustainable Forest Development Act.</li> <li>- Summary of records of fibre received and consumed by wood-processing plants</li> </ul>			
	10. Evidence reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Certification des entreprises d'aménagement forestier (CEAF)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, fish and food products (chapter M-35.1)</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/entreprises/entreprises-permis.jsp">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/entreprises/entreprises-permis.jsp</a></li> </ul>			

1.3.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is legally harvested and supplied and is in compliance with EUTR legality requirements.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulations on the scaling and transport of timber allowing for monitoring of timber harvested and delivered to mills</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>Sustainable Forest Development Act (authorizations and recognition of ecosystem-based management)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 7)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State (draft) (2014, G.O. 2, 4837)</li> <li>- Municipal bylaws concerning public forests</li> <li>- <sup>5</sup>forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca</li> <li>- <sup>6</sup><a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/programmes-laide-financiere/programme-aide-mise-valeur-forets-privees/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/programmes-laide-financiere/programme-aide-mise-valeur-forets-privees/</a></li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk

1.4.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that payments for harvest rights and timber, including duties, relevant royalties and taxes related to timber harvesting, are complete and up to date.		
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Analysis by tenure type: public forests (development units and unorganized territories) and private forests
	2. Possible threats	<p>Public forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: Non payment of harvest rights and timber, including duties, relevant royalties and taxes related to timber harvesting</li> </ul> <p>Private forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: Non payment of harvest rights and timber, including duties, relevant taxes related to timber harvesting</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable	In public forests, logging rights are required for volumes harvested, and forestry companies pay fees to SOPFIM and SOPFEU, to fight pests and fires, respectively <sup>1</sup> . Both are non profit organizations created by the government to

1.4.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that payments for harvest rights and timber, including duties, relevant royalties and taxes related to timber harvesting, are complete and up to date.	
regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>protect forests against pests, disease and fires. Non-payment of royalties and obligations gives rise to financial penalties, including an amount equal to the interest accrued on the amount of royalties due, which is added to the aforementioned fees. Ultimately permits can be revoked for non-payment of royalties.</p> <p>Finally, property taxes apply to companies that have infrastructure and private land. The sale of timber from private forests is governed by the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, fish and food products<sup>2</sup>. Regulations on timber marketing are in effect for each region of Quebec to manage the joint plans of private-forest timber producers.</p>
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>Government resources and relevant authorities ensure appropriate control over the payment of duties, royalties and taxes related to timber harvesting in Quebec<sup>3</sup>. Offenders under the <i>Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State</i> and the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> receive notices of infraction or contravention. The list of offenders is posted and updated on the MFFP website. In private forests, logging is regulated by the <i>Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products</i>, M-35.1<sup>2</sup>. The wood marketing boards of the <i>Union des producteurs agricoles</i> market wood products from private forests and help private woodlot owners with the cutting rights associated with the volumes of wood harvested on their properties. Owners have to decide whether they wish to exercise their cutting rights with or without forest contractors.</p>
5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.
6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 5)</i></li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the method for assessing the annual royalty and the method and frequency for assessing the market value of standing timber purchased by guarantee holders pursuant to their timber supply guarantee (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 6)</i></li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 5.1)</i></li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the terms of payment of the annual royalty and timber purchased by guarantee holders pursuant to their timber supply agreement (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 6.1)</i></li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting forest royalties (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 11)</i></li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the rate per cubic metre of timber applicable to the computation of the contribution payable to a regional agency for private forest development by holders of a wood-processing plant operating permit (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 13)</i></li> <li>- <i>Cullers Act (CQLR, chapter M-12.1)</i></li> </ul>

1.4.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that payments for harvest rights and timber, including duties, relevant royalties and taxes related to timber harvesting, are complete and up to date.															
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i></li> <li>- <i>Excise Tax Act (GST)</i></li> <li>- <i>Act respecting the Québec Sales Tax (QST)</i></li> <li>- <i>Fuel Tax Act</i></li> <li>- <i>Customs Act</i></li> <li>- <i>Income Tax Act (federal)</i></li> <li>- <i>Taxation Act (provincial), which includes a section on the taxation of logging operations</i></li> </ul>													
	<b>7. Applicable good practices</b>	N.A.													
	<b>8. Status</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Required minimum status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public forests</td> <td rowspan="3">Mechanisms ensuring that payments for harvesting rights and feedstock are made and are up to date</td> <td rowspan="3">Mechanisms in place</td> <td rowspan="2">Requirements met</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private forests with development programs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private forests without development programs</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scale of analysis	Required minimum status	Current status	Status	Public forests	Mechanisms ensuring that payments for harvesting rights and feedstock are made and are up to date	Mechanisms in place	Requirements met	Private forests with development programs	Private forests without development programs	Requirements met		
Scale of analysis		Required minimum status	Current status	Status											
Public forests		Mechanisms ensuring that payments for harvesting rights and feedstock are made and are up to date	Mechanisms in place	Requirements met											
Private forests with development programs															
Private forests without development programs	Requirements met														
<b>9. Means of verification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MFFP reports on management of wood volumes allocated and harvested in public forests</li> <li>- Verification of the list of offenders under the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i>.</li> <li>- Summary of wood processing plant registers of receipt and consumption of feedstock</li> </ul>														
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>List of offenders of the Forest Act and the Sustainable Forest Development Act.</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Payment of royalties by primary processing plants with representatives of wood marketing boards</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Regulations on the scaling and transport of timber to permit monitoring of wood harvested and delivered to mills</li> </ul>														
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk														

**1.5.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that feedstock is supplied in compliance with the requirements of CITES.**

<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	Province of Quebec
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	New commercially exploited tree species potentially included in the supply of biomass producers could be added to Appendix I of CITES.
	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>Canada fulfills its obligations under CITES by the enforcement of the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRITA). The Act prohibits the import, export and interprovincial transport of the species covered by the Convention, unless specimens are accompanied by the appropriate paperwork (permits)<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Logging operations as well as imports and exports of products derived from tree species must also respect the specific requirements of the international agreements concluded by Canada, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).</p> <p>Schedule 1 of the Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations provides a list of the flora and fauna in CITES. A review of Schedule 1 of CITES confirms that there are no Canadian tree species on the CITES list.</p>
	<b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b>	Primary processing plants are required to submit to the government an annual report that summarizes the tree species consumed and the origins of their supply <sup>2, 3</sup> . A review of Appendix I of CITES confirms that there are no Canadian tree species on the CITES list.
	<b>5. Other applicable evidence</b>	N/A
	<b>6. Sources of useful information</b>	N/A
	<b>7. Applicable</b>	N/A

1.5.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that feedstock is supplied in compliance with the requirements of CITES.					
	good practices				
	8. Status	<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Minimum required status</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>
		Province of Quebec	Marketing of species protected by CITES only with a permit	No commercial tree species protected by CITES	Requirements met
<b>9. Means of verification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verification of scaling reports and sampling tests for fibre delivered to biomass producer</li> <li>- Verification of CITES appendix 1 List of tree species</li> <li>- Verification of scale reports and test samples of feedstock deliveries at biomass producer facility</li> </ul>				
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act</li> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Customs Act</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Act respecting threatened and vulnerable species and the regulations thereunder</li> <li>- Species at Risk Act (Canada)</li> <li>- <a href="http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/entrepotpubl/pdfs/35983.pdf">http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/entrepotpubl/pdfs/35983.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Canada's Regulatory Framework for Forest Management: Information for Importers of Canadian Forest Products (March 2015)</li> </ul>				
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk				

1.6.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is not sourced from areas where there are violations of traditional or civil rights.		
<b>F</b>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as</b>	Tenure: public forests; private forests

**1.6.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is not sourced from areas where there are violations of traditional or civil rights.**

<b>n d i n g s</b>	applicable)	
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	<p>Subscale 1 (public forests) and subscale 2 (private forests):</p> <p>Possible threats that a biomass producer sources wood from a region where forest activities have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• been conducted in recognized or unrecognized territories without the free and informed consent of First Nations;</li> <li>• created damage or destroyed protected resources in recognized and non-recognized First Nations territories.</li> </ul>
	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>Canada and Quebec have a substantial legislative, political and case law framework concerning aboriginal matters. Section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms the existing ancestral and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. Thereafter, the Canadian courts established that “The Crown must have the intention of sustainably addressing the concerns of the Aboriginal communities as they are expressed; that is what is expected of honourable conduct.”</p> <p>From the principle of the honourable conduct by the Crown arises, among other things, the Crown’s constitutional duty to consult the Aboriginal communities and, as necessary, to accommodate them when it considers a decision that may have prejudicial effects on their potential or established ancestral and treaty rights. The duty to accommodate, if necessary, aims to mitigate the effect of the contemplated measure on such rights. The approach taken by the Government of Quebec is described in the Interim Guide for Consulting the Aboriginal Communities<sup>1</sup>. After the guide was adopted in 2006, Quebec invited all the communities to make comments, which were taken into account when it updated the guide in 2008.</p> <p>The legislative and regulatory framework described below make tools available to the federal and provincial governments and First Nations so that such rights can be recognized and respected.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>The Government of Canada, the Government of Quebec and the First Nations of the Province of Quebec have taken various approaches to recognize and guarantee respect for the rights of Aboriginal peoples on their lands and their right to take part in the planning and implementation of forest activities that take place there. The Quebec</p>

<b>1.6.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is not sourced from areas where there are violations of traditional or civil rights.</b>	
	<p>State is the owner of natural resources and must define and implement procedures whereby the First Nations are consulted with a view to determining the degree to which their interests would be adversely affected, before beginning or allowing any resource exploration or development program on their lands.</p> <p>The Sustainable Forest Development Act<sup>2</sup> provides that all Aboriginal communities be consulted separately by the MFFP before tactical plans for integrated forest development (TPIFDs) are published and when operational and annual forest planning takes place. The Interim Guide for Consulting the Aboriginal Communities provides that if First Nations raise concerns about forest activity, accommodation measures can be negotiated to mitigate the disturbance as much as possible. A number of forest development companies have their own consultation process for discussions with First Nations affected by their operations.</p> <p>Under section 8 of the SFDA, the government may conclude agreements with band councils to enable the members of a community to carry out and follow up on certain forest development activities and to support sustainable forest development. Under section 24.1 of the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife, the Government is also authorized to enter into agreements with communities to better reconcile wildlife conservation and management requirements with the activities pursued by Native people for food, ritual or social purposes, or to further facilitate wildlife resource development and management by Native people. The Regulation respecting beaver reserves<sup>3</sup>, of which there are 11, gives Native people the exclusive right to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals in the reserves, with the exception of the Saguenay Reserve.</p> <p>Private forests:</p> <p>There are fewer legal references concerning the rights of First Nations and private ownership, including rights to private forests. The Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in <i>Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia</i> raises the issue of recognition of Aboriginal rights versus private property rights. According to Borrows (2015), neither common law nor civil law considers Aboriginal title or private ownership to be absolute title. It is not within the scope of this assessment to determine whether one of these rights takes precedence over the other or whether they can coexist.</p>
<b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b>	<p>Public forests:</p> <p>In Quebec, as part of forest activities, the First Nations have access to various tools to affirm their rights and to mitigate the disturbance that forest activities may cause. Pending a treaty or judgment defining their rights, consultations during the PIFD process make it possible to finalize forest planning. Occasionally, agreements with communities affected take longer than expected, causing the stoppage of consultations or the exclusion of problematic operations sectors. A number of forest development companies have their own consultation process</p>

**1.6.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is not sourced from areas where there are violations of traditional or civil rights.**

for discussions with First Nations affected by their operations.

For lack of treaties addressing the matter of consultation on forest development, the Government of Quebec enables communities to negotiate administrative agreements concerning consultations, which may provide various terms and conditions, including the territory to which they apply. In the case of the Innu, a protocol to facilitate consultations was signed between the Mashteuiatsh, Essipit and Nutashkuan communities and the MFFP. In February 2017, the Abitibiwinni First Nation signed an agreement on consultation and accommodation with the Government of Quebec.

More specifically, in the case of the Crees, the Inuit and the Naskapi, the governments have duly concluded, after negotiations, treaties or agreements that are implemented by such means as laws and regulations. Such treaties and agreements may provide processes for Aboriginal participation and consultation in respect of various decision-making processes of the State. As for the Crees, they take part in territory management through such means as involvement in the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board. In addition, a number of First Nations with claims below the northern limit for timber allocations have begun negotiating with the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec (such as the Mohawk of Akwesasne; the Innu of Natuashish and Sheshatshiu; the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj; the Maliseet of Viger; the Atikamekw of Manawan, Obedjiwan and Wemotaci; the Innu of the Mamuitun mak Nutashkuan Tribal Council; Regroupement Petapan inc.; Assemblée Mamu Pakatatau Mamit; and Ashuanipi Corporation)<sup>9</sup>.

The negotiations concern multiple areas, including self-government (Innu, Akwesasne and Atikamekw), clarification of ancestral rights provided in treaties before 1975 (Mi'kmaq and Maliseet) and land claims (Atikamekw, Innu and Mi'kmaq). Lists of agreements concluded between Aboriginal groups and the governments are available on the sites of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones. Information on the situation of various Aboriginal communities can also be found in the integrated forest development plans available on the MFFP website.

As for economic development, the Government of Quebec has put in place various support measures. In 2017 more than 875,850 m<sup>3</sup> of timber was allocated to organizations associated with 12 First Nations in the form of supply guarantees, permits to harvest timber to supply a wood-processing plant and forest biomass allocation agreements (see Table 2 in Appendix 1 – Timber volumes allocated to First Nations (2017))<sup>10</sup>. Several Aboriginal communities have signed with the Government of Quebec specific agreements establishing terms and conditions

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/relations\\_autochtones/ententes/liste\\_ententes\\_conclues.htm](http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/rerelations_autochtones/ententes/liste_ententes_conclues.htm)

1.6.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is not sourced from areas where there are violations of traditional or civil rights.				
		<p>for programs and cooperation concerning economic development and community infrastructure. The Aboriginal Human Resource Council, a non-profit organization, has launched, organized and coordinated many initiatives to create career opportunities for Aboriginals in Canada.</p> <p>Hence, the legislative, regulatory and case-law frameworks referred to above constitute sound practices in the spirit of the Convention's provisions. The agreements that have been concluded with a large number of communities concern forestry, hunting, fishing and other matters. Several Aboriginal nations have had their rights recognized by treaties or the courts or are in the process of negotiating with the federal and provincial governments in a framework other than that of forest activities.</p> <p>Private forests:</p> <p>Some First Nations, such the Abenaki in southern Quebec and the Mi'kmaq in the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie regions, have signed agreements that recognize their hunting and fishing rights on private land. According to a representative of the Waban-Aki Nation, implementation of this type of agreement in private forests presents challenges for First Nations. Even though some Nations have signed consultation and accommodation agreements, the assessment is not able to conclude that there is a low risk that forest activities violate the rights of First Nations in private forests.</p>		
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.		
	6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Canadian Constitution 1982</li> <li>- Indian and Northern Affairs</li> <li>- ILO Convention 169: ilo.org</li> <li>- The Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (<a href="http://www.autochtones.gouv.qc.ca/index_en.asp">http://www.autochtones.gouv.qc.ca/index_en.asp</a>)</li> </ul>		
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.		
	8. Status			
		<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Minimum required</b>	<b>status</b>
		<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>	

1.6.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that feedstock is not sourced from areas where there are violations of traditional or civil rights.					
		Public forests	Mechanisms ensuring that the wood supply does not come from areas where there are significant conflicts with First Nations.	Mechanisms in place	Requirements met
		Private forests with development programs		Mechanisms in place	Requirements not met
		Private forests without development programs		Lack of such systemic mechanisms	Requirements not met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Status of forest management certification</li> <li>- Existence of significant conflicts with First Nations</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Interim Guide for Consultation with Aboriginal Communities (translation - <i>Guide intérimaire en matière de consultation des communautés autochtones</i>)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Sustainable Forest Development Act</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Regulation respecting beaver reserves. Chapter C-61.1, r. 28</li> <li>- Timber volumes allocated to First Nations (table 2, Appendix 1)</li> <li>- FSC and SFI forest management certifications</li> <li>- List of First Nations claims and applications</li> <li>- List of agreements concluded with First Nations</li> <li>- Presence of significant conflicts</li> <li>- Integrated Forest Management Plan First Nation Consultation Manual (translation - <i>Manuel sur les consultations autochtones PAFI</i>)</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		<b>Specified risk for private woodlots</b>			

<b>2.1.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation values are identified and mapped.</b>		
F i n d i n g s	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	<p>Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs )</p>
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	<p>More than 24 million ha of Quebec’s public forests has been certified to the FSC or SFI standards. Several thousand private properties have also been certified. Assessments of the presence of HCVs (such as rare and exceptional ecosystems, sites of Aboriginal interest, wildlife habitats, potable water intakes, etc.) have been done for these forests, and HCV protection measures are included in the forest stand and ecological information GIS layers used for the MFFP’s planning. Moreover, the controlled wood risk assessment made by QFIC and QWEB for the province of Quebec has made it possible to map intact forest landscapes (IFLs), as defined by Global Forest Watch International. The analysis shows that the IFLs are all located in areas with FSC or SFI certification. In private forests, areas certified under these programs are found in the following regions: Gatineau, Capitale-Nationale, Mauricie, Estrie, Beauce, Chaudière-Appalaches, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie.</p> <p>In the light of SBP requirements, there is a low risk that high conservation values are not identified and mapped in areas with FSC or SFI certification.</p> <p>Forests and other high-conservation areas contain one or more outstanding or critical biological, ecological, social or cultural values. These high conservation values (HCVs) are divided into six categories:</p> <p>HCV 1 Species diversity: Concentrations of biological diversity, including endemic species and rare, threatened or endangered species that are significant at global, regional or national levels.</p> <p>HCV 2 Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics and intact forest landscapes: Large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics and intact forest landscapes that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.</p> <p>HCV 3 Ecosystems and habitats: Rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.</p> <p>HCV 4 Ecosystem services: Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.</p>

2.1.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation values are identified and mapped.	
	<p>HCV 5 Community needs: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples.</p> <p>HCV 6 Cultural values: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Forests and other HCV areas that should be in the development plan may not all be identified or mapped for structural reasons (for example, if they are not planned for during preparation of the plan, or for circumstantial reasons (for example, in the case of insufficient information), which could result in forest operations taking place there without adequate protection or mitigation measures.</li> </ul>
3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p><b>Public forests:</b></p> <p>Since 2013, the Government of Quebec has aimed to implement sustainable forest development by means of ecosystem-based development under the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA). The forest planning manual and the standards and procedures for discussions between the MFFP and stakeholders guide the department's professionals in the preparation of development plans. Public consultations as well as the MFFP's separate consultations of all Aboriginal communities before the publication of the management strategy in the tactical integrated forest management plan (TIFMP) and during operational and annual forest planning make it possible to improve identification of environmental and social HCVs, such as rare and unusual ecosystems, wildlife habitats, exceptional forest ecosystems and biological refuges, which may be rare forests, old-growth forests or forest sanctuaries used by threatened or vulnerable species.</p> <p><b>Private forests<sup>1</sup>:</b></p> <p>In the case of uncertified private forests, under section 132 of the SFDA, the MFFP<sup>11</sup> delegates the responsibility for forest planning, protection and development to regional agencies. Regional private-forest protection and development plans (PDPs), in accordance with RCM land-use plans, take an ecosystem-based approach with monitoring indicators, with a view to the natural range of variability. Public consultations are also provided to develop land-use plans and PDPs. In recent years, the review of PDPs has made it possible to further incorporate</p>

<sup>11</sup> <http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/>

<b>2.1.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation values are identified and mapped.</b>	
	<p>ecosystem-based development measures, including protection of wildlife habitats and rare and unusual ecosystems, reduction of fragmentation of lands and forests, limitation on construction of forest roads, etc.</p> <p><i>Private forests with development assistance:</i></p> <p>When forest activities are carried out under the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots, [translation] “the forest producer must retain an accredited forestry consultant to obtain the financial assistance provided and the professional and technical services required to carry out eligible work. The forestry consultant is a forest engineer or a legal entity (firm) that employs a forest engineer. The forestry consultant must be accredited by the regional agency for private forest development.”<sup>2</sup> To ensure eligibility for financial assistance, the agency may have a policy requiring that practices comply with the PPD.<sup>3,4</sup></p> <p><i>Private forests without development assistance:</i></p> <p>Forest activities must comply with development plans, municipal by-laws and other laws and regulations associated with logging in private forests.</p>
<b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b>	<p><b>Public forests:</b></p> <p>The MFFP makes considerable effort to deepen its forest and environmental knowledge. Its forest research directorate carries out research to improve forest practices and develop new knowledge and supports external organizations to do so as well. The MFFP’s inventory directorate has a forest inventory program to acquire and disseminate detailed knowledge of forest ecosystems and to map them.</p> <p>An administrative agreement involving the MFPP’s wildlife, forests and regional operations units, as well as the MDDELCC, is designed to promote protection of threatened or vulnerable animals and plants and their habitats as well as to protect other elements of biodiversity in Quebec’s forests with the concerted implementation of various projects. A list of known habitats is kept up to date by the MFFP and specifies the location of habitats to be protected and the scope of the protection measures. Since 1997, annual campaigns to inventory and substantiate known, suspected or potential habitats of threatened or vulnerable wildlife species (TVWS) have been conducted. The instructions of the MFFP’s Environmental Management System (EMS) concerning sustainable forest development are designed to take TVWS into account during planning and implementation of forest management activities carried out in public forests. Since 2008, the obligation to protect known TVWS habitats has been formally included in development plans. Threatened species and their habitats are also taken into account by companies logging in public forests, which have to be certified under ISO 14001 or Quebec’s Forest Management Certification Program</p>

**2.1.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation values are identified and mapped.**

(CEAF). In this way, stakeholders contribute to detection of threatened and vulnerable species in the province. In March 2013, the MFFP obtained certification of its EMS according to ISO 14001:2004.

Despite the lack of measures for some TVWS, those provided for umbrella species or focal species help maintain habitat characteristics, at the landscape or stand level, associated with TVWS needs. Indicator no 1.2.1 – Protection of threatened or vulnerable species of the MFFP’s EMS makes it possible to monitor progress with the protection of threatened and vulnerable species. In 2017, a total of 625,726 ha of public land was subject to a protection measure. The number of sites on public lands subject to a protection measure increased from fewer than 200 in 1999 to more than 1,300 in 2015. The agreement also provides for significant action by the Government of Quebec to demonstrate its compliance with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets established under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The tools made available to managers of public forests contribute to the maintenance, protection and restoration of HVCs. The MFFP uses multiple sources of information and the participation of many stakeholders, which promotes their identification. Moreover, the five-year sustainable forest development review, under the responsibility of the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, is an additional means to determine whether the tools and guidelines meet current and future sustainable forest development needs.

**Private forests:**

*Private forests with development assistance:*

It is the Regional Forest Development Agencies derived from the Forest and Municipal Act that regulate forest practices on private lands. The development plans of each Regional County Municipality (RCM) required by the Land Use Planning and Development Act define the scales of use of their territory ensuring a harmonious and sustainable cohabitation of activities on the territory. The main laws governing forest practices on private land relevant to high conservation values are the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife, the Act respecting the protection of land and agricultural activities, the Act respecting the quality of the environment, on threatened or vulnerable species, the Species at Risk Act. Through the collaboration of forest technicians and professionals with private woodlot owners who benefit from the Private Forest Development Assistance Program, the existing system is adequate to identify and map forests and other conservation values in private forest.

*Private forests without development assistance:*

Forest activities may be carried out without assistance programs, such as those for private woodlot development and property tax refunds. As a result, these activities are not subject to the same requirements of sound forestry practices and the same frequency of professional monitoring. Even though these activities must comply with

2.1.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation values are identified and mapped.																				
		development plans, municipal by-laws and other laws and regulations associated with logging in private woodlots, it is difficult to ascertain whether HCVs are identified and mapped on these properties.																		
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.																		
	6. Sources of useful information	E. Brown, N. Dudley, A. Lindhe, D.R. Muhtaman, C. Stewart and T. Synnott (editors). 2013 (October). A good practice guide for identifying HCVs across different ecosystems and production systems. HCV Resource Network. <a href="https://hcvnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/HCVCommonGuide_English.pdf">https://hcvnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/HCVCommonGuide_English.pdf</a>																		
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.																		
	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Required minimum status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public forests</td> <td>Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs</td> <td>Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private forests with development programs</td> <td>Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs</td> <td>Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private forests without development programs</td> <td>Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs</td> <td>Uncertain</td> <td>Requirements not met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scale of analysis	Required minimum status	Current status	Status	Public forests	Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs	Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs	Requirements met	Private forests with development programs	Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs	Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs	Requirements met	Private forests without development programs	Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs	Uncertain	Requirements not met		
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Private forests without development programs	Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCVs	Uncertain	Requirements not met																	
	9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PDPs by agency for private forest development</li> <li>- RCM development plans</li> <li>- PIFDs</li> </ul>																		

<b>2.1.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation values are identified and mapped.</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VOITs</li> <li>- Follow-up reports on consultations on forest development plans</li> </ul>
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup> <a href="http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/">http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup> <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/privees/privees-programmes-valeur.jsp">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/privees/privees-programmes-valeur.jsp</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup> <a href="http://www.agence-bsl.qc.ca/Mission/Politique_admissibilite/Politique_admissibilite.pdf">http://www.agence-bsl.qc.ca/Mission/Politique_admissibilite/Politique_admissibilite.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup> <a href="http://www.agenceestrie.qc.ca/Documents_PDF/Reglement_PAF.pdf">http://www.agenceestrie.qc.ca/Documents_PDF/Reglement_PAF.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	<b>Specified risk on private woodlots without the assistance of development programs</b>

<b>2.1.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to identify and address potential threats to forests and other areas with high conservation values from forest management activities.</b>							
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b></td> <td>Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>2. Possible threats</b></td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat to the three sublevels: New information and scientific data have not been effectively integrated into forest management practices.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b></td> <td> <p>On the provincial level, all public lands in Quebec are subject to a public land use plan (PLUP), which is open to public consultation and suggestions at the time of its renewal. The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources is responsible for the government's preparation of PLUPs. The guidelines are developed in collaboration with several government departments, including the MFFP, which ensures they are interlinked with forest management plans.</p> <p>The role of the Conseil du patrimoine culturel du Québec is to notify the Minister of Culture, under the <i>Cultural Heritage Act</i> and the <i>Archives Act</i>, and to hear from citizens or groups during private hearings, public consultations and representations. Applications for the heritage designation of a cultural landscape must be filed with the Minister.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>Forest development under the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) and the <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests</i> (RSDF) allows HCVs to be considered at various stages of its implementation. They can be identified during forest planning with the manual provided under section 54 of the SFDA for the</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat to the three sublevels: New information and scientific data have not been effectively integrated into forest management practices.</li> </ul>	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>On the provincial level, all public lands in Quebec are subject to a public land use plan (PLUP), which is open to public consultation and suggestions at the time of its renewal. The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources is responsible for the government's preparation of PLUPs. The guidelines are developed in collaboration with several government departments, including the MFFP, which ensures they are interlinked with forest management plans.</p> <p>The role of the Conseil du patrimoine culturel du Québec is to notify the Minister of Culture, under the <i>Cultural Heritage Act</i> and the <i>Archives Act</i>, and to hear from citizens or groups during private hearings, public consultations and representations. Applications for the heritage designation of a cultural landscape must be filed with the Minister.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>Forest development under the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) and the <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests</i> (RSDF) allows HCVs to be considered at various stages of its implementation. They can be identified during forest planning with the manual provided under section 54 of the SFDA for the</p>
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		<p>preparation of integrated forest management plans (IFMPs). The <i>Natural Heritage Conservation Act</i> and the <i>Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species</i> permits the identification, location and protection of critical ecosystems and habitats. Consultations with the public and indigenous communities during preparation of the development strategy, namely the tactical plan for integrated forest development (TPIFD) and during operational and annual forest planning are also mechanisms that foster identification of HCVs and their inclusion in development plans.</p> <p>Private forests</p> <p>Agencies for private forest development are governed by the <i>Forest Act</i> and municipalities that regulate forest practices in private forests. The MRCs' development plans under the <i>Act respecting land use planning and development</i> define guidelines for the use of their territory, ensuring harmonious and sustainable coexistence of all the activities that take place there. The main statutes that govern work done in private forests relevant to the maintenance of high conservation values are the <i>Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife</i>, the <i>Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities</i>, the <i>Environment Quality Act</i>, the <i>Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species</i> and the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>.</p> <p>Private forests with development assistance:</p> <p>The agencies are mandated to carry out consultation between partners and individuals through the protection and development of private forests. In collaboration with partners, they develop and implement the regional private forest protection and development plans (PDPs) and administer the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots. The PDPs are designed to integrate the content of development plans while adopting an ecosystem-based approach to private forest management. In recent years, revision of them has allowed more conservation and ecosystem development issues to be incorporated.</p> <p>Private forests without development assistance:</p> <p>Forest activities must comply with development plans, municipal by-laws and other laws and regulations associated with logging in private forests.</p>
	<p><b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b></p>	<p>Public forests:</p> <p>In public forests, the PLUP includes archaeological sites and sectors, which are protected from forest activities (sections 3 and 4 of the RSDF). This protection is mandatory once the site or sector is recognized in the PLUP. Once the HCVs have been identified and integrated into the management plans, the MFFP, in collaboration with its partners, has access to a set of tools to manage the potential threats of forest development activities to the HCVs. The forest planning process and consultations allow for the enhancement and validation of HCVs identified and mitigation measures adopted to maintain, protect or restore them. An annual review by the integrated land and resource management panels (ILRMPs), with involvement by indigenous communities, determines compliance with harmonization measures and requirements. All comments and complaints from third parties are considered and</p>

		<p>archived by the MFFP. Occasionally, some HCVs do not require specific mitigation measures because the regulatory framework is deemed to meet the maintenance and protection needs of the HCVs. The acquisition of new knowledge through research and monitoring of forest operations makes it possible to assess whether the implemented mitigation measures are adequate or need to be improved.</p> <p>Private forests with development assistance:</p> <p>When forest activities are carried out under the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots, the forest producer must retain an accredited forestry consultant to obtain the financial assistance provided and the professional and technical services required to carry out eligible work. The forestry consultant is a forest engineer or a legal entity (firm) that employs a forest engineer. The forestry consultant must be accredited by the regional agency for private forest development.<sup>1</sup> To ensure eligibility for financial assistance, the agency may have a policy requiring that practices comply with the PDP.<sup>2,3</sup> Owing to the collaboration of forestry technicians and professionals with private woodlot owners who benefit from the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots, the system in effect is adequate to identify and manage potential threats of forest activities to forests and other conservation values in private forests.</p> <p>Private forests without development assistance:</p> <p>Forest activities may be carried out without assistance programs, such the as private forest management program and the property tax refund program. As a result, these activities are not subject to the same requirements of sound forest practices and the same frequency of professional monitoring. Even though these activities must comply with development plans, municipal by-laws and other laws and regulations associated with logging in private forests, it is difficult to verify whether HCVs are identified to manage potential threats of forest activities to forests and other conservation values in private forests without development assistance.</p>
	<p><b>5. Other applicable evidence</b></p>	<p>N.A.</p>
	<p><b>6. Sources of useful information</b></p>	<p>E. Brown, N. Dudley, A. Lindhe, D.R. Muhtaman, C. Stewart and T. Synnott (editors). 2013 (October). A good practice guide for identifying HCVs across different ecosystems and production systems. HCV Resource Network. <a href="https://hcvnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/HCVCommonGuide_English.pdf">https://hcvnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/HCVCommonGuide_English.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/">http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/</a></li> <li>- <a href="https://mern.gouv.qc.ca/territoire/planification/planification-affectation.jsp">https://mern.gouv.qc.ca/territoire/planification/planification-affectation.jsp</a></li> <li>- Guide d'intégration des besoins associés aux espèces fauniques dans la planification forestière, ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs (Bujold F., 2013)</li> <li>- <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act – SFDA</i></li> <li>- <i>Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species – ATVS</i></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministère de la Forêt, de la Faune et des Parcs – MFFP</li> <li>- Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte aux changements climatiques – MDDELCC</li> </ul>			
	<b>7. Applicable good practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guide terrain - Saines pratiques d'intervention en forêt privée</li> </ul>			
	<b>8. Status</b>				
		<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Required status minimum</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>
		Public forests	Identification and management of potential threats to the 6 categories of HCV	Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCV	Requirements met
		Private forests with development programs	Identification and management of potential threats to the 6 categories of HCV	Description and mapping of the 6 categories of HCV	Requirements met
		Private forests without development programs	Identification and management of potential threats to the 6 categories of HCV	Uncertain	Requirements not met
	<b>9. Means of verification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mitigation measures for HVCs in effect in the IFDPs of development units that have recently lost their FSC or IFC certification</li> <li>- Mitigation measures for impacts on HCVs identified in implemented PDPs</li> <li>- Audit reports and development plans for development units that recently lost their FSC or IFC certification status</li> <li>- Presence of HCVs (6 categories) and suggested mitigation measures in PDPs</li> </ul>			
	<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup> <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/privees/privees-programmes-valeur.jsp">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/privees/privees-programmes-valeur.jsp</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.agence-bsl.qc.ca/Mission/Politique_admissibilite/Politique_admissibilite.pdf">http://www.agence-bsl.qc.ca/Mission/Politique_admissibilite/Politique_admissibilite.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup> <a href="http://www.agenceestrie.qc.ca/Documents_PDF/Reglement_PAF.pdf">http://www.agenceestrie.qc.ca/Documents_PDF/Reglement_PAF.pdf</a></li> </ul>			

<b>11. Risk rating</b>	<p>Low Risk: The evidence gathered shows that there is a low risk that control systems and procedures do not adequately manage potential threats from forest development activities to HCVs in public forests.</p> <p><b>Specified Risk:</b> According to the information analyzed on harvesting operations in uncertified private forests without an assistance program, there is a specified risk that the potential threats of forest development activities to HCVs are not adequately taken into account by current procedures and control systems (see indicator 2.1.1).</p>
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<b>2.1.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not sourced from forests converted to production plantation forest or non-forest lands after January 2008.</b>							
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"><b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b></td> <td>Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"><b>2. Possible threats</b></td> <td>           Public and private forests:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: Natural forests are converted to plantations or other non-forest uses.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"><b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b></td> <td> <p>In public forests, harvesting must be carried out in a way that protects and promotes natural regeneration. The <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) and the <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests</i> (RSDF) define how forest practices can promote ecosystem-based management and ensure the sustainability of forest resources. Under sections 153, 154 and 155 of the RSDF, any cutting without soil protection and regeneration is prohibited, and the site must be left in conditions conducive to the establishment of natural regeneration. The loss of forest area caused by the construction of the road network is the main factor in the conversion of forest cover associated with forest activities. The RSDF sets out several requirements to limit the impacts of the road network on the environment, waterways and forest cover.</p> <p>The SFDA's chapter on increasing timber production provides in sections 36 and 37 for identification of areas of high forestry potential where increased timber production may be seriously considered. The 2018 consultation on the draft Quebec Wood Production Strategy is expected to lead to the adoption of the strategy in 2019. Areas for increased timber production (AITPs) will be identified and could be recognized as plantations by the SBP certification program.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	Public and private forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: Natural forests are converted to plantations or other non-forest uses.</li> </ul>	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>In public forests, harvesting must be carried out in a way that protects and promotes natural regeneration. The <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) and the <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests</i> (RSDF) define how forest practices can promote ecosystem-based management and ensure the sustainability of forest resources. Under sections 153, 154 and 155 of the RSDF, any cutting without soil protection and regeneration is prohibited, and the site must be left in conditions conducive to the establishment of natural regeneration. The loss of forest area caused by the construction of the road network is the main factor in the conversion of forest cover associated with forest activities. The RSDF sets out several requirements to limit the impacts of the road network on the environment, waterways and forest cover.</p> <p>The SFDA's chapter on increasing timber production provides in sections 36 and 37 for identification of areas of high forestry potential where increased timber production may be seriously considered. The 2018 consultation on the draft Quebec Wood Production Strategy is expected to lead to the adoption of the strategy in 2019. Areas for increased timber production (AITPs) will be identified and could be recognized as plantations by the SBP certification program.</p>
	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs					
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	Public and private forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: Natural forests are converted to plantations or other non-forest uses.</li> </ul>					
<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>In public forests, harvesting must be carried out in a way that protects and promotes natural regeneration. The <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) and the <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests</i> (RSDF) define how forest practices can promote ecosystem-based management and ensure the sustainability of forest resources. Under sections 153, 154 and 155 of the RSDF, any cutting without soil protection and regeneration is prohibited, and the site must be left in conditions conducive to the establishment of natural regeneration. The loss of forest area caused by the construction of the road network is the main factor in the conversion of forest cover associated with forest activities. The RSDF sets out several requirements to limit the impacts of the road network on the environment, waterways and forest cover.</p> <p>The SFDA's chapter on increasing timber production provides in sections 36 and 37 for identification of areas of high forestry potential where increased timber production may be seriously considered. The 2018 consultation on the draft Quebec Wood Production Strategy is expected to lead to the adoption of the strategy in 2019. Areas for increased timber production (AITPs) will be identified and could be recognized as plantations by the SBP certification program.</p>						

**2.1.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not sourced from forests converted to production plantation forest or non-forest lands after January 2008.**

		<p>As for private forests, section 79.1 of the <i>Act respecting land use planning and development</i> states: “The council of a regional county municipality may, by by-law, regulate or restrict the planting or felling of trees on all or part of the territory of the regional county municipality to ensure protection of the forest cover and promote the sustainable development of private forests.” The zoning by-law provided therein makes it possible “to regulate or restrict the planting or felling of trees to ensure protection of the forest cover and promote sustainable development of private forest”. The territory is subject to concerted planning at various levels of government along with stakeholders in the community. The development plan determines the main development guidelines, the development and land use guidelines, etc. The development of the territory must respect these guidelines. Agricultural land with forest cover is protected by the <i>Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land</i> and related regulations. The Commission de protection du territoire agricole (CPTAQ) is responsible for assessing applications for the non-agricultural use, subdivision or alienation of a lot, and inclusion of a lot in an agricultural zone. Municipal by-laws limit the size of total logging to no more than 4 hectares. Owners of woodlots must apply to the municipality for a permit before carrying out logging in a larger area.</p>
	<p><b>4. Mechanisms and application evidence</b></p>	<p>Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service’s Deforestation Monitoring Group, in partnership with the provinces, coordinates the National Deforestation Monitoring System (NDMS) designed to provide estimates of deforestation rates in Canada at the national level. The NDMS defines forest area as all areas of 1 hectare or more having the potential to develop forest cover, with a minimum crown closure of 25% and a minimum tree height of 5 metres at maturity.</p> <p>According to the NDMS, over the past 46 years 1% of Canada's forest land has been converted to other uses (Personal communication, Canadian Forest Service). In the 1970s and 1980s, deforestation was due mainly to agricultural expansion and hydroelectric development. Logging is not considered deforestation because these areas are regenerated into forest stands. Rather, it is the development of forestry access roads that causes the loss of forest area. Taking into account that, on average, less than 1% of development units is harvested annually and that road occupancy accounts for between 4% and 5% of harvest areas, it can be deduced that there is less than 0.0005% loss of forest area annually due to the development of the road network in public forests.</p> <p>In private forests, the conversion of forest areas to non-forest uses must be carried out in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The protection of sugar bushes in agricultural territory is carried out by the CPTAQ. Land use and zoning must be respected unless a waiver or an amendment is sought.</p> <p>Large areas of former farmland were replanted with Norway spruce in southern Quebec in the 1970s and 1980s. Harvesting of these plantations has begun and will become more frequent in several years once the stands are 50</p>

**2.1.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not sourced from forests converted to production plantation forest or non-forest lands after January 2008.**

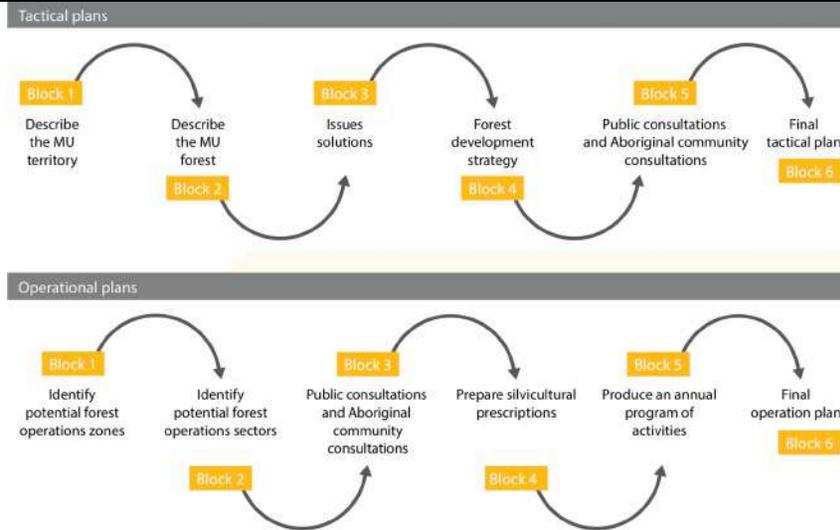
		<p>to 55 years old (Personal communication, MFFP). The Scots pine plantations established at the same time as the Norway spruce should be harvested in the next few years.</p> <p>Conversion of natural forests into plantations occurs rarely in Quebec. Ligniculture efforts continue in Quebec mainly with hybrid poplar, but also hybrid larch. Such plantations are established mainly on fallow lands that are due to conversion of natural forest are of limited size and are present in only a few regions. Statistics on these plantations in public forests are available from the MFFP and integrated forest management plans (IFMP) in terms of area and number of plants used. In private forests, the use of these species is monitored by means of the delivery of plants from nurseries to various actors, such as forest groups, accredited consultants and owners of large forests.</p> <p>For example, in a certified public forest in the Mauricie region, plantations of hybrid poplar and hybrid larch cover 5,593 ha. It will be at least 10 years before the poplar is harvested for facilities that manufacture Oriented Strand Board panels, whereas the hybrid larch will go to sawmills. In certified forests in the Portneuf region, hybrid larch was used in public forests only in 2000 and 2001 for a total of about a dozen hectares.</p> <p>The information collected shows that there are very few plantations established after 2008 in public and private forests. Moreover, the harvest age of larch is 35 years, whereas it is 20 years for poplar, which means that timber from these plantations will not enter the biomass producers' supply until 2028.</p> <p>There is therefore a low risk that biomass producers' feedstock is sourced from forests converted to production plantation forest after January 2008.</p>
	<p><b>5. Other applicable evidence</b></p>	<p>N.A.</p>
	<p><b>6. Useful sources of information</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment Canada. 2006. National Inventory Report, 1990–2004: Greenhouse gas sources and sinks in Canada. Government of Canada Submission to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. <a href="http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/items/3734.php">http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/items/3734.php</a></li> <li>- Tactical Plan for Integrated Forest Development 2013-2018</li> <li>- Manuel d'aménagement écosystémique (ecosystem-based development manual) [French only]</li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</i> (RSDF)</li> <li>- <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA)</li> <li>- <i>Act respecting land use planning and development</i></li> <li>- Indicator – follow-up report on Aichi targets, MFFP [French only]</li> </ul>

2.1.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not sourced from forests converted to production plantation forest or non-forest lands after January 2008.																		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission de la protection du territoire agricole – <a href="http://www.cptaq.gouv.qc.ca/">http://www.cptaq.gouv.qc.ca/</a></li> <li>- Affaires municipales et Habitation – <a href="https://www.mamh.gouv.qc.ca/amenagement-du-territoire/guide-la-prise-de-decision-en-urbanisme/planification/schema-damenagement-et-de-developpement/">https://www.mamh.gouv.qc.ca/amenagement-du-territoire/guide-la-prise-de-decision-en-urbanisme/planification/schema-damenagement-et-de-developpement/</a></li> </ul>																
	<b>7. Applicable good practices</b>	Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec. 2016. Saines pratiques d'intervention en forêt privée : guide terrain, 4th edition revised. 140 pages. <a href="https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf">https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf</a>																
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	<b>9. Means of verification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of plantations established in natural forests after 2008 in the PIFDs of development units without FSC or IFC certification that could potentially end up in the biomass producer's supply</li> <li>- Identification of plantations established in natural forests after 2008 in private woodlots without FSC or IFC certification that could potentially end up in the biomass producer's supply</li> <li>- Development plans for uncertified public forests</li> <li>- <a href="http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/">http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.frfce.qc.ca">http://www.frfce.qc.ca</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://rlq.uqam.ca">http://rlq.uqam.ca</a></li> </ul>																
	<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act (SFDA)</i></li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests (RSDF)</i></li> <li>- <i>Act respecting land use planning and development states</i></li> </ul>																

<b>2.1.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not sourced from forests converted to production plantation forest or non-forest lands after January 2008.</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal communication with the Canadian Forest Service</li> <li>- Personal communication with the MFFP</li> <li>- Personal communication with private forest stakeholders (i.e. forest groups, regional agencies)</li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk

<b>2.2.1 Feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimize them.</b>	
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b> Analysis by tenure type: public forests (development units and unorganized territories) and private forests Subscale applicable to private forests: development work with or without development programs
	<b>2. Possible threats</b> Forest development work carried out without prior assessment of possible impacts or planning, implementation and monitoring of mitigation measures. Reminder: The threat to the forest exists only if the territory not certified.
	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b> <b>Public forests:</b> The forest planning manual is the tool designated by the Sustainable Forest Development Act (section 54) to carry out IFDPs. The manual serves as a reference for the department's forest engineers responsible for the development of the plans. <sup>1</sup> It provides for the following steps in the preparation of tactical and operational plans:

**2.2.1 Feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimize them.**



The planning includes a system for monitoring issues identified by local integrated land and resource management panels, as well as some of the issues specific to ecosystem-based development.<sup>2</sup>

**Private forests:**

*Private forests with development assistance:*

The owner must have a forest management plan (FMP) signed by a forest engineer. The FMP identifies the various stands and possible silvicultural treatments, and in doing so also identifies specific components (sensitive sites, production potential of a maple stand, etc.).<sup>3</sup> An example is provided at [https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Plan-d'amenagement-forestier-RF-Biotiques-PAF2018\\_RFB.pdf](https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Plan-d'amenagement-forestier-RF-Biotiques-PAF2018_RFB.pdf)

*Private forests without development assistance:*

Any owner who carries out logging must comply with the development plan and any tree felling by-laws that may apply in the territory of the municipality or the RCM.

**2.2.1 Feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimize them.**

<p><b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b></p>	<p><b>Public forests:</b></p> <p>For public forests, sensitive environmental components (such as wildlife habitats, protected areas, watercourses spawning beds, species-at-risk occurrences and soils prone to rutting and loss of nutrients) are integrated into the forest stand and ecological information GIS layers used by MFFP planners who assess the environmental impacts of forest activities and harvest planning. All these components are used to identify sensitive features (such as soils, watercourses, wildlife habitats and sites of interest) and the mitigation measures to be adopted during planning.</p> <p>Moreover, consultations on operational integrated forest management plans (OIFMP) make it possible to harmonize operations in order to consider the concerns of other users of the forest. First Nations have access to a number of tools to affirm their rights and to mitigate the adverse impact that forest activities could have on them (such as the Interim Guide for Consulting the Aboriginal Communities, <i>Manuel de consultation des communautés autochtones 2013-2018</i>,<sup>12</sup> Sustainable Forest Development Strategy, <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i>). The <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</i> provides conditions to protect a number of components of the land, such as soil, water, paths, residual stems, retention, etc. Forest management companies are responsible for complying with the Regulation. In Quebec, they must have ISO 14001 or CEAF certification and procedures that comply with the regulatory framework. Geomatic tools are used to determine the level of soil sensitivity to rutting and to adjust the logging schedule so that harvesting is carried out on frozen soil when the area is sensitive. During or after such operations, MFFP inspectors visit a sampling of sites to ensure compliance with the prescriptions and the Regulation.</p> <p><b>Private forests:</b></p> <p>As for private forests, environmental impact mitigation is an important point described in the guide to sound management practices for private forests. Application of these practices is the responsibility of landowners if they carry out the work themselves, or that of the contractors they hire.</p> <p><i>Private forests with development assistance:</i></p> <p>Forest activities included in the development assistance program of regional agencies must be prescribed and monitored by a certified forester accredited by the agencies. The development plan and the silvicultural prescription</p>
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<sup>12</sup> Manual for consulting the Aboriginal communities 2013-2018 (document not translated).

2.2.1 Feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimize them.												
		<p>provide for consideration of sensitive characteristics and high values before forest activities are carried out. Depending on the region, various organizations can help landowners with training or oversight of contractors. These include wood marketing boards as well as common management organizations that, in some regions, offer assistance and training to their member woodlot owners.</p> <p><i>Private forests without development assistance:</i></p> <p>According to the information analyzed on harvests from uncertified private forests that do not benefit from an assistance program, there is a specified risk that the assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to mitigate them, are not addressed by the control procedures and systems in effect (see indicator 2.1.1). Municipalities or RCMs may have by-laws on tree felling, but such by-laws are specific to each municipality, as are the resources deployed to verify compliance by forest owners.</p>										
	<b>5. Other applicable evidence</b>	N.A.										
	<b>6. Sources of useful information</b>	N.A.										
	<b>7. Applicable good practices</b>	<p>Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec. 2016. Saines pratiques d'intervention en forêt privée : guide terrain, 4th edition revised. 140 pages.</p> <p><a href="https://www.foretprivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf">https://www.foretprivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf</a></p>										
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2.2.1 Feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimize them.					
			planning and monitoring mechanisms.		
		Private forests with development programs	Impact assessment possible, consequent planning and monitoring mechanisms.	Mechanisms in place	Requirements met with documented monitoring
		Private forests without development programs	Impact assessment possible, consequent planning and monitoring mechanisms.	Variable.	Requirements not met
<b>9. Means of verification</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Report of public consultation on forest management plan</li> <li>- Monitoring of sustainable forest management criteria and indicators</li> <li>- List of RSFM offenders</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup> Forest Planning v1.5, MFFP 2014 <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/planification-forestiere/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/planification-forestiere/</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup> <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/201709-02_DO.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/201709-02_DO.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup> <a href="https://www.foretprivee.ca/jamenage-ma-foret/plan-damenagement-forestier/">https://www.foretprivee.ca/jamenage-ma-foret/plan-damenagement-forestier/</a></li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		<p style="text-align: center;">Low risk in public forests.</p> <p><b>A specified risk in private forests</b> to the extent that monitoring mechanisms need to be identified and, in the case of work not carried out under a program, the identification of potential impacts and the appropriate planning are uncertain.</p>			

2.2.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is sourced from forests where management maintains or improves soil quality (CPET S5b).		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Analysis by tenure type: public forests (development units and unorganized territories) and private forests Subscale applicable to private forests: development work with or without development programs
	2. Possible threats	<p><b>Public forests:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible threat: The characterization of logging territories is not detailed enough to minimize the impacts on soils of microsite-scale forest operations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Private forests:</b></p> <p><i>Private forests with development assistance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible threat: The lack of monitoring of unsubsidized and unadapted forest activities on soils sensitive to compacting, rutting, erosion or nutrient loss.</li> </ul> <p><i>Private forests without development assistance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible threat: Unadapted forest activities carried out on soils sensitive to compacting, rutting, erosion or nutrient loss.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p><b>Public forests:</b></p> <p>Section 2 of the SFDA states that forest development must contribute to the maintenance and improvement of the productivity of forest ecosystems and to the conservation of soil and water in private and public forests alike. As stated in requirement 2.2.1, in public forests, sensitive components of the territory are integrated into the ecoforestry layers used by MFFP planners who conduct an environmental impact assessment during harvest planning. The <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State (RSFD)</i> contains provisions to protect various components of the territory, including the soil, as required by section 38 of the SFDA. In particular, maximum thresholds have been set for ruts (section 45) and in several regions tree branches must be left near the stump to prevent a loss of soil fertility in the long term (section 46). Soils sensitive to ruts and nutrient loss have also been mapped and incorporated into the MFFP's planning control plan.</p> <p><b>Private forests:</b></p> <p>Under section 79.1 of the <i>Act respecting land use planning and development</i>, "The council of a regional county municipality may, by by-law, regulate or restrict the planting or felling of trees on all or part of the territory of the</p>

2.2.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is sourced from forests where management maintains or improves soil quality (CPET S5b).	
	<p>regional county municipality to ensure protection of the forest cover and promote the sustainable development of private forests.” Municipal by-laws on tree planting and felling may consider soil protection issues.</p> <p><i>Private forests with development assistance:</i></p> <p>In private forests, the MFFP<sup>1</sup> delegates, as provided under section 132 of the SFDA, the responsibility for planning, protection and development to regional agencies. Forest operations on properties benefiting from the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots (FAPDPW) must comply with the prescriptions developed by forest engineers.</p> <p><i>Private forests without development assistance:</i></p> <p>Owners performing forest work in their woodlots must comply with local municipal by-laws but are not subject to FAPDWP requirements.</p>
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p><b>Public forests:</b></p> <p>Forest development companies must have ISO 14001 (or CEAF) certification and procedures that comply with the provisions of the RSDF. Such companies are responsible for complying with the RSDF. Geomatics tools have been developed for that purpose, in particular to determine soil sensitivity to ruts and to modify the logging schedule so that harvesting is carried out on frozen soils if the area is sensitive. During or after operations, FPMF auditors visit a sample of the sites to ensure compliance with the objectives of the prescriptions and the RSDF.</p> <p><b>Private forests:</b></p> <p><i>Private forests with development assistance:</i></p> <p>Properties benefiting from the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots (FAPDPW) are visited, mapped and defined with great precision, with no limit on the size of mapped stands. If located in an inhabited environment, properties are frequently visited by accredited consultants. Even though operations may not be funded by the FAPDPW, the high frequency of visits by forestry professionals to the properties ensures adequate monitoring.</p> <p><i>Private forests without development assistance:</i></p> <p>Properties are not necessarily visited, nor are forestry operations assessed by forestry professionals.</p>
5. Other applicable	N.A.

2.2.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is sourced from forests where management maintains or improves soil quality (CPET S5b).																				
evidence																				
6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report on compliance with the RSFD</li> <li>- Ecoforest maps</li> <li>- PIFDs</li> <li>- Soil sensitivity maps (ruts and nutrient loss)</li> </ul>																			
7. Applicable good practices	N/A																			
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Private forests without development programs	Impact assessment possible, consequent planning and monitoring mechanisms.	Variable.	Requirements not met																	
9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maps of sensitive soils (erosion, rutting, nutrient loss, high gradient slopes)</li> <li>- Forest management plans</li> <li>- Technical and Financial Activity Report (RATF)</li> <li>- List of RSFD offenders</li> </ul>																			
10. Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup> <a href="http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/">http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privees/</a></li> </ul>																			

2.2.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is sourced from forests where management maintains or improves soil quality (CPET S5b).	
reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>2</sup> <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/planification-forestiere/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/planification-forestiere/</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup> <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/201709-02_DO.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/201709-02_DO.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup> <a href="https://www.foretprivee.ca/jamenage-ma-foret/plan-damenagement-forestier/">https://www.foretprivee.ca/jamenage-ma-foret/plan-damenagement-forestier/</a></li> <li>- Act respecting land use planning and development</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</li> </ul>
11. Risk rating	<p>Low risk in public forests.</p> <p><b>Specified risk in private forests</b> to the extent that monitoring mechanisms need to be identified and, in the case of work not carried out under the program, the identification of possible impacts and the requisite planning are uncertain.</p>

2.2.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state (CPET S8b).		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	<p>Province</p> <p>Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs</p>
	2. Possible threats	<p>The forest industry is active in each of the NA0406, NA0407, NA0410, NA0602 and NA0605 ecoregions, and is therefore considered a potential threat to some critical ecosystems and habitats. The “critical ecosystems and habitats” of the indicator are synonymous with rare or at risk species. Thus large-scale, province-level ecosystems that are not at risk are not included in the assessment of the indicator.</p> <p>Province:</p> <p>The development of the network of protected areas is one of the fundamental elements for maintaining the diversity of species, ecosystems and wild genetic resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: The proportions of protected areas are below the 10% threshold set in Aichi Target 11 in the NA0406, NA0407 and NA041 ecoregions and appear to be insufficient to safeguard critical ecosystems and habitats in forests.</li> </ul>

<b>2.2.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state (CPET S8b).</b>	
	<p>Public forests:</p> <p>Under the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA), the Government of Quebec has been aiming since 2013 to implement sustainable forest development through ecosystem-based development. This approach focuses on maintaining the biodiversity and viability of forest ecosystems. Continuous acquisition of ecological and dendrometric data from the forest environment, accountability for forest management and integration of knowledge into forest planning are all mechanisms to minimize the threats of forest harvesting to critical ecosystems and habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: Consideration of new knowledge of critical ecosystems and habitats may be ineffective and not allow it to be integrated into forest management quickly enough.</li> </ul> <p>Private forests:</p> <p>Harvesting in private forests is subject to the SFDA and municipal by-laws. It may or may not be overseen by the private forest development program managed by regional agencies. This program ensures that development plans and related activities are overseen by forest engineers. Forest activities not covered by this program may also be supervised in whole or in part by forest engineers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible threat: Harvesting in private forests without the involvement of forest engineers may be detrimental to critical ecosystems or habitats.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b></p>	<p>Province:</p> <p>The <i>Environment Quality Act</i>, the <i>Natural Heritage Conservation Act</i> and the <i>Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species</i> aim, respectively, to protect the environment, to safeguard the character, diversity and integrity of Quebec's natural heritage, and to protect and manage species designated threatened or vulnerable or likely to be so designated as well as their habitats. The MELCC and the MFFP enforce these laws and regulations in the forest territory. In inhabited areas, the ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) through the Commission de protection du territoire agricole (CPTAQ) protects forest lands zoned for agriculture, such as by limiting the conversion of sugar bushes often associated with the presence of threatened or vulnerable species. Regional county municipality (RCM) development plans under the <i>Act respecting land use planning and development</i> govern land use. The plans determine areas requiring special constraints to protect the environment or to foster sustainable development of private forests within the meaning of the SFDA.</p> <p>Public forests:</p>

**2.2.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state (CPET S8b).**

	<p>Under the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA), the Government of Quebec has been aiming since 2013 to implement sustainable forest development through ecosystem-based management. Measures are taken to protect rare and unusual ecosystems and wildlife habitats, including exceptional forest ecosystems and biological refuges, which may be rare forests, old forests or forests that are refuges for threatened or vulnerable species. Since 2013 the Québec government, through the Sustainable Forest Development Act (SFDA), has sought to establish sustainable forest development through ecosystem-based management. Measures have been adopted to protect rare, unusual ecosystems and wildlife habitats, especially through the designation of exceptional forest ecosystems and biological refuges, which can be rare forests, old-growth forests and forests that serve as refuges for threatened or vulnerable species.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Quebec's <i>Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species</i> applies throughout the province. A list of known habitats is kept up to date by the MFFP and specifies the location of habitats to be protected and the extent of the protection measures. Measures for umbrella species and focal species help maintain habitat characteristics at the level of the landscape or stands associated with the needs of threatened or vulnerable wildlife species.</p> <p>Tactical and operational plans for integrated forest development ensure the implementation and guidelines needed to achieve the objectives of the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (SFMS) in the five-year sustainable forest management reviews. The <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</i> (RSDF) regulates forest development activities in public forests whose compliance is assessed by the MFFP. The list of contraveners of the <i>Forest Act</i> and the SFDA is available to the public on the MFFP website.</p> <p>Private forests:</p> <p>The MFFP<sup>1</sup> delegates responsibility for planning protection and the development of private forests to the regional agencies for private forest development, as stipulated in section 132 of the SFDA. Regional private forest protection and development plans (FPDPs) adopt, in accordance with the land-use planning provisions of the RCMs, an ecosystem-based approach with monitoring indicators to ensure the range of natural variation.</p> <p>Sales of wood from private forests are regulated by the <i>Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products</i>. Regulations on the marketing of wood are in effect in Quebec by region to manage the joint plans of private woodlot producers.</p>
<p><b>4. Application mechanisms</b></p>	<p>Province:</p>

**2.2.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state (CPET S8b).**

<p><b>and evidence</b></p>	<p>Government guidelines for biological diversity (MELCC, 2013) provide the basis for identifying concrete targets for achieving the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Aichi targets. As at December 31, 2018, more than 10% of the province's area was part of the network of protected areas, including 10.65% of its land territory. According to the WWF, HCV 3 category is potentially at risk in 2%, 4% and 11%, respectively, of protected areas in the New England-Acadian forests (NA0410), Eastern Great Lakes lowland forests (NA0407) and Eastern Canadian forests (NA0605) ecoregions. By way of comparison, the percentages of protected areas of the other ecoregions in the province with forest areas are 8% (NA0406), 14% (NA0602) and 13% (NA0606, NA0616).</p> <p>Issues of loss and degradation of natural habitat raised by the WWF, such as the conversion of forest areas to other non-forest uses, are attributable mainly to urbanization and intensification of agriculture. This is highlighted by the Canadian Forest Service's National Deforestation Monitoring System (NSDS, 2019). Parts of ecoregions NA0407, NA0410 and NA0605 have more of a mix of agricultural and forest activities. Apart from ecoregion NA0406, they are almost exclusively privately owned, although there is a small number of forests in the public domain in the Outaouais, Estrie, Beauce, Chaudière-Appalaches and Lower St. Lawrence regions. As for ecoregion NA0605, WWF estimates 40% of the NA0605 ecoregion is relatively intact in the north. However, natural habitat loss and degradation are nonetheless identified as conservation issues in certain portions of the ecoregion, particularly in the Gaspé Peninsula.</p> <p>Despite the small percentage of protected areas in the NA0407 and NA0410 ecoregions, this analysis has shown the limited impact of forestry activities on HCV 3 category in these ecoregions. As for the NA0605 ecoregion, this analysis has also shown the limited role that forestry activities play in the habitat loss and degradation reported by the WWF, while emphasizing the attainment of protection of a minimum threshold of 10% of the area of an ecoregion, in accordance with Aichi Target 11<sup>2</sup>. More than 41% of the ecoregion benefits from other legal and administrative protections such as the northern limit of attributable forests, caribou habitat management plans, and so on. With regard to the intact forest landscapes in this ecoregion, more than 17% are included in the Register of Protected Areas and 86% of their area benefits from protection (see CIFIQ-QWEB, 2018).</p> <p>No forest ecosystems are on the IUCN's Red List of Ecosystems.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>Implementation of ecosystem-based management involves setting forest restoration objectives and targets so that certain parameters (such as stand structure, species composition, connectivity, wildlife habitats, etc.) are similar to</p>
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**2.2.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state (CPET S8b).**

the conditions that would exist naturally. Henceforth, the needs of wildlife will be taken into account in the planning of the PIFDs.<sup>3</sup> The acquisition of new knowledge of the forest environment through inventory programs, forest planning and activities, compliance with the RSDF and accountability by the integrated land and resource management panels (ILRMPs) and the MFFP every five years promotes improved forest management, notably by considering this knowledge throughout the forest development process. Critical ecosystems and habitats requiring protection are considered in forest planning and, if necessary, in the development of the network of protected areas.

Forest activities therefore do not pose a significant threat to critical ecosystems and habitats in public forests.

**Private forests:**

In recent years, the revision of PDPs has resulted in the incorporation of more ecosystem-based development measures, including protection of wildlife habitats and rare and unusual ecosystems, reduction of land fragmentation and forest fragmentation, limits on construction of forest roads, etc. The number of connectivity-related projects is increasing in Quebec, especially in ecoregions associated with HCVs. These projects aim to achieve biodiversity conservation targets in fragmented landscapes. They assess the possibility of linking the forest cover of the public forest to that of the private forest. Some of these projects are cross-border, notably in Montérégie, Estrie and Gaspésie, where the United States and other provinces are involved.

Incentives such as the *Regulation Respecting the Reimbursement of Property Taxes of Certified Forest Producers* are available to owners who engage in sound practices in their woodlots, in particular by managing wildlife habitats, protecting threatened or vulnerable species and even obtaining forest certification. Forestry activities in forests in these ecoregions are nevertheless limited in terms of area and volume. According to a 2012 survey of the *Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec*<sup>4</sup>, it is estimated that only 40% of woodlot owners have harvested trees on their property and that for more than 66% of such owners, harvesting generates volumes of less than 50 m<sup>3</sup> over a five-year period. The small percentage of activity in private forests, in terms of area and volume harvested, confirms the limited impact of forest management activities on the conservation status of the ecoregions concerned.

Forest activities therefore do not pose a significant threat to critical ecosystems and habitats on private woodlots.

2.2.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state (CPET S8b).					
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.			
	6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MFFP monitoring of Aichi objectives</li> <li>- <a href="http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privées/">http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privées/</a></li> <li>- Deforestation Monitoring Group, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada 2019-08-30</li> <li>- Caractérisation des profils, des motivations et des comportements des propriétaires forestiers québécois par territoire d'Agence régionale de mise en valeur des forêts privées, FPBQ et al., 2012.</li> <li>- Guide d'intégration des besoins associés aux espèces fauniques dans la planification forestière, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs (F. Bujold, 2013).</li> <li>- FSC-STD-40-005v3.1</li> <li>- WWF Conservation Status Index</li> <li>- <a href="http://www.worldwildlife.org/biome-categories/terrestrial-ecoregions">http://www.worldwildlife.org/biome-categories/terrestrial-ecoregions</a></li> <li>- Sustainable Forest Development Act – SFDA</li> <li>- Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State</li> <li>- Sustainable Forest Development Regulation</li> <li>- Act Respecting Threatened or Vulnerable Species – ATVS</li> <li>- Regulation Respecting the Reimbursement of Property Taxes of Certified Forest Producers – RPT</li> <li>- Act respecting land use planning and development</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects</li> <li>- Regulation respecting compensation for adverse effects on wetlands and bodies of water</li> <li>- Commission de protection du territoire agricole</li> <li>- Act Respecting The Preservation Of Agricultural Land And Agricultural Activities</li> </ul>			
	7. Applicable good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Best Management Practices on Private Woodlots (<i>fourth edition</i>) - <i>Guide - Saines pratiques d'intervention en forêt privée</i></li> </ul>			
	8. Status				
	<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Required status</b>	<b>minimum</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>

2.2.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state (CPET S8b).					
		Public forests	Mechanisms ensuring that values important for biodiversity are protected	Mechanisms in place	Requirements met
		Private forests with development programs	Mechanisms ensuring that values important for biodiversity are protected	Mechanisms in place	Requirements met
		Private forests without development programs	Mechanisms ensuring that values important for biodiversity are protected	Mechanisms in place	Requirements met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Map of Quebec's protected areas network</li> <li>- Interviews with MELCC</li> <li>- Fauna and plant inventory data</li> <li>- Forest Management Plans</li> <li>- PDPs by agency for private forest development</li> <li>- RCM development plans</li> <li>- PIFDs</li> <li>- VOITs</li> <li>- Follow-up reports on consultations on forest development plans</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><a href="https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/4-5_organisation-spatiale.pdf">https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/4-5_organisation-spatiale.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><a href="https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/targets/T11-quick-guide-en.pdf">https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/targets/T11-quick-guide-en.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Wildlife Needs Integration Guide in Forest Planning Parks (Free translation) <i>Guide d'intégration des besoins associés aux espèces fauniques dans la planification forestière, ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs</i> (Bujold F., 2013).</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>Woodlot owner characterization profiles, motivations and behaviors of Quebec by territory of Regional Agencies for the Development of Private Forests (Free translation) - <i>Caractérisation des profils, des motivations et des comportements des propriétaires forestiers québécois par territoire d'Agence régionale de mise en valeur des forêts privées</i>, FPBQ et al., 2012</li> <li>- National forest inventory of Canada - <a href="https://nfi.nfis.org/fr">https://nfi.nfis.org/fr</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.mdelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires_protegees/">http://www.mdelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires_protegees/</a></li> <li>- HCVF reports of FSC certified organisations</li> </ul>			

<b>2.2.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state (CPET S8b).</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official registry of protected areas (<a href="http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires_protegees/registre/">http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires_protegees/registre/</a>)</li> <li>- Voluntary conservation options on private land - <a href="http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/prive/brochure-conservation-volontaire.pdf">http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/prive/brochure-conservation-volontaire.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk

<b>2.2.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).</b>	
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	<p><b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b></p> <p>Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs</p>
	<p><b>2. Possible threats</b></p> <p>Biodiversity refers to the diversity or variety of the living world on all levels: diversity of environments (ecosystems), diversity of species and genetic diversity within a species. The Government of Quebec has taken actions and made commitments to protect biodiversity in its territory. It is developing a Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011-2020. In 2013, it adopted new government guidelines on biodiversity. In 2015, the cabinet adopted the government's Sustainable Development Strategy 2015-2020, which aims to implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, measures to preserve, protect and use biodiversity. Under the <i>Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species</i> and the <i>Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable plant species and their habitats</i> the government is committed to safeguarding all of Quebec's genetic diversity.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Ecosystem-based development as implemented may not maintain living conditions suited to all species and thus protect and maintain biodiversity in forest environments.</li> </ul> <p>Private forests with development assistance:</p>

2.2.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: The Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots may not ensure the protection of biodiversity on the landscape scale.</li> <li>• Possible threat: Forest owners' development objectives may conflict with the protection of biodiversity on their properties.</li> </ul> <p>Private forests without development assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Forest development work may be done without a prior assessment of possible impacts or planning, implementation and monitoring of mitigation measures.</li> </ul>
3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>The <i>Environment Quality Act</i>, the <i>Natural Heritage Conservation Act</i> and the <i>Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species</i> aim, respectively, to protect the environment, to safeguard the character, diversity and integrity of Quebec's natural heritage, and to protect and manage species designated threatened or vulnerable or likely to be so designated as well as their habitats. The MELCC and the MFFP enforce these laws and regulations in the forest territory. An administrative agreement involving the wildlife, forests and regional operations units, as well as the MELCC, aims to promote the protection of threatened or vulnerable species of flora and fauna and their habitats as well as other elements of biodiversity in Quebec's forest territories through the concerted implementation of various projects. A list of known habitats is kept up to date by the MFFP and specifies the location of habitats to be protected and the extent of protection measures. Measures for umbrella species and focal species contribute to the maintenance of habitat characteristics at the scale of landscapes or stands associated with the needs of threatened or vulnerable species.</p> <p><u>Public forests:</u></p> <p>The <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) and the <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests</i> (RSDF) provide for a number of restrictive measures and adapted practices for harvesting and roads in public forests. The new forest regime aims to preserve the natural variability of ecosystems in order to maintain living conditions suited to all species, such as by setting forest restoration objectives and targets so that parameters (for example, stand structure, species composition, connectivity, wildlife habitats, etc.) are similar to natural conditions. It is estimated that measures adopted for umbrella and focal species contribute to the maintenance of</p>

<b>2.2.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).</b>	
	<p>habitat characteristics at the scale of landscapes or stands associated with the needs of these species. In cases where the needs of some species are not met by this approach, specific measures must be implemented.</p> <p>The MFFP monitors sustainable forest development criteria and indicators to disseminate results and report on its progress toward sustainable forest development. Under the SFDA, the MFFP tables a five-year review of sustainable forest development that includes reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (SFMS).</p> <p>Sustainable forest development indicators – Criterion 1: Conservation of biological diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Ecosystem diversity</li> <li>1.2. Species diversity</li> <li>1.3. Genetic diversity</li> </ul> <p><u>Private forests:</u></p> <p>Section 132 of the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) provides for delegation of the responsibility for development and protection of private forests to regional agencies. Regional protection and development plans for private forests (PDPs), in accordance with the development plans of regional county municipalities (RCMs) under the <i>Act respecting land use planning and development</i>, take an ecosystem-based approach with monitoring indicators so as to move toward the natural range of variation. The ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) through the Commission de protection du territoire agricole (CPTAQ) protects the forest lands zoned for agriculture, such as by limiting the conversion of sugar bushes often associated with the presence of threatened or vulnerable species. RCM development plans under the <i>Act respecting land use planning and development</i> govern land use. The plans determine areas requiring special constraints to protect the environment or to foster sustainable development of private forests within the meaning of the SFDA.</p> <p>Quebec's <i>Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species</i> applies to private land, and the Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec encourages its members to consult forestry professionals or conservation organizations to identify species at risk.</p>
<b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b>	<p><u>Public forests:</u></p> <p>In public forests, development targets have been set according to the baselines per homogeneous unit in order to maintain the natural variability of forest landscapes. This ecosystem-based development approach aims to</p>

**2.2.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).**

maintain the natural diversity of habitats to which forest species are adapted. This approach is a raw filter that helps maintain biodiversity. In addition, regulation concerning public and private forests alike protects threatened sites and species. Finally, the network of protected areas presented in 2.2.3 contributes to the protection of biodiversity at the provincial level.

This agreement is being implemented through the province-wide adjustment of plans for integrated forest development (PIFDs), when location data are known concerning sites essential to the survival of the threatened or vulnerable species. The MFFP maintains an up-to-date list of known habitats that specifies the location of habitats to be protected and the scope of protective measures. Since 1997, annual campaigns have been conducted to inventory and validate known, suspected or potential habitats of threatened and vulnerable forest species (TVFS). Assisted by a committee of experts, the MFFP plans protective measures according to the needs of the species concerned. The instructions of the environmental management system (EMS) of the MFFP on sustainable forest development target the recognition of TVFS when forest development activities are planned and carried out in public forests. Since 2008, the obligation to protect known TVFS habitats has been formally integrated into forest management plans. Companies engaged in logging in public forests, which must necessarily be certified with the ISO 14001 Standard or the Forest Management Certification Program, also take into account threatened species and their habitats. In March of 2013, the MFFP obtained ISO 14001:2004 certification for its environmental management system.

To date, measures are in force with respect to several plant species (1) and wildlife species (9). Despite the absence of measures respecting certain TVFS, those pertaining to so-called “umbrella species” or “focal species” are contributing to the maintenance of habitat characteristics at the level of landscapes or forest stands associated with the needs of TVFS. Indicator INDI no 1.2.1 of the environmental management system of the MFFP makes it possible to monitor progress in protecting threatened and vulnerable species. In 2017, more than 625 726 ha of public territory were covered by a protective measure. The number of sites on public land subject to a protective measure increased from fewer than 200 in 1999 to more than 1300 in 2015. The agreement is also part of the Québec government’s initiatives to demonstrate its adherence to the Aichi Targets established in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Private forests:

In private forests, there are three main legal options for protection: 1) nature reserves, 2) conservation servitudes and 3) gifts or sales of property to a protection organization with a notarized protection agreement.

**2.2.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).**

- Nature reserves are created under the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*: [Translation] “This law is intended to ensure the conservation of Quebec’s natural heritage. It proposes measures to facilitate the establishment of a network of protected areas representative of Quebec’s biodiversity. It allows the recognition of nature reserves on land under private ownership. To be recognized in this way, a private property must have biological, ecological, wildlife, floristic, geological, geomorphic or landscape features that warrant preservation. Such recognition is initiated by the owner. The recognition process also allows for the approval of a conservation agreement between an owner and a non-profit conservation organization. The recognition may be perpetual or for a term of not less than 25 years.”<sup>3</sup>
- [Translation] “A conservation servitude is a restriction on a property in respect of its uses. The owner keeps his land, but transfers certain rights of use to a third party (conservation organization, municipality or government). The conservation servitude is legal in scope and allows eligibility for tax support under the federal government’s Ecological Gifts Program and the provincial government’s tax certificate (*visa fiscal*) program.”
- [Translation] “The sale or gift to a conservation organization is possible when an owner assigns his property rights. The owner who makes a gift is eligible for tax support if the organization that receives the donation has the required legal status and a tax reduction in the event of a donation.”<sup>4</sup>

Private forest development agencies have an obligation to prepare private forest protection and development plans (PDPs). Most of the agencies incorporate regional plans for integrated land and resource development (RPILRD), which establish an integrated regional vision of sustainable development for conservation of natural resources and public land. These plans provide an integrated frame of reference covering issues and setting clear guidelines for stakeholders.

Owners of woodlots have access to training offered by the syndicates and board of the Union des producteurs agricoles, regional agencies for private forest development, regional forest associations, etc. The guide to good practices prepared by the Fédération des producteurs de bois du Québec (FPBQ) highlights the responsibilities of forest owners in managing their woodlots. Respect for ecosystems and critical habitats is one of the responsibilities.

*Private forests with development assistance:*

Recognized forest producers have access to the Private Forest Development and Protection Program only if they have a prescription signed by a forest engineer. The different regions have regional forest protection and development plans (PDPs), which private woodlot owners must comply with if they want to receive grants, but each of these plans deals with the protection of species at risk in different ways. Regional agencies assess compliance

2.2.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).	
	<p>with their program requirements by monitoring recognized forest activities carried out by accredited forest consultants.</p> <p>Government assistance programs aim to improve forest productivity, to promote timber harvesting through silvicultural activities and to protect existing investments. In the event of non-compliance with the conditions set in the prescription for silvicultural work and included in the work sequence (such as destruction of work or failure to carry out work, thereby jeopardizing the government's investment in the property), a delivery agent may terminate the agreement. In such a case, the delivery agent must notify the regional agency for private forest development, which may require reimbursement of the assistance paid to the owner under the program.</p> <p>It is understood that the owner retains control over his property. He is not required to comply with the activities suggested in his forest development plan as long as he respects the silvicultural investments carried out on his property. As commercial harvesting activities are often excluded in different regions under the Private Forest Development and Protection Program, follow-up by forestry professionals is therefore not assured. Even so, properties benefiting from this program are frequently visited by forestry professionals who can take action in respect of the owner if inappropriate impacts are observed or expected.</p> <p><i>Private forests without development assistance:</i></p> <p>According to information analyzed on harvesting in uncertified private forests that do not benefit from an assistance program, there is a specified risk that these forest practices will not ensure protection and maintenance of biodiversity. Municipalities or RCMs may have by-laws governing such practices, but such by-laws are specific to each as are the resources deployed to check compliance by forest owners.</p>
5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.
6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (2013). Orientations gouvernementales en matière de diversité biologique - <a href="http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/orientations/index.htm">www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/orientations/index.htm</a>.</li> <li>- Stratégie gouvernementale de développement durable 2015-2020 (2015) - <a href="http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/developpement/strategie_gouvernementale/strategie-DD.pdf">http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/developpement/strategie_gouvernementale/strategie-DD.pdf</a></li> </ul>

2.2.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).																		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable plant species and their habitats Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species (<a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/E-12.01,%20r.%203">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/E-12.01,%20r.%203</a>)</li> <li>- PAFIT 2013-2018</li> <li>- Ecosystem Management Manual (Free translation) <i>Manuel d'aménagement écosystémique</i> (<a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/lamenagement-ecosystemique-au-coeur-de-la-gestion-des-forets/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/lamenagement-ecosystemique-au-coeur-de-la-gestion-des-forets/</a>)</li> <li>- Criteria and indicators - Sustainable Forest Management <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/forets/criteres-indicateurs/accueil.asp">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/forets/criteres-indicateurs/accueil.asp</a></li> <li>- Natural Heritage Conservation Act</li> </ul>																
	<b>7. Applicable good practices</b>	Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec. 2016. Saines pratiques d'intervention en forêt privée : guide terrain, 4th edition revised. 140 pages. <a href="https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf">https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf</a>																
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Private forests without development programs		Lack of comparable systematic mechanisms	Requirements not met															
	<b>9. Means of verification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MFPP monitoring report on Aichi targets</li> <li>- MMFP five-year review submitted to the National Assembly</li> <li>- Review of issue-and-solution sheets (VOITs) of PIFDs</li> <li>- List of threatened or vulnerable species by region – MFPP (fauna) and MELCC (flora)</li> <li>- Verification of integration of these lists into TPIFDs and PDPs</li> </ul>																

2.2.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that biodiversity is protected (CPET S5b).	
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Administrative agreement for the protection of threatened or vulnerable fauna and flora species, their habitats, and other biodiversity elements in Québec's forest areas (Free translation) - <i>Entente administrative concernant la protection des espèces menacées ou vulnérables de faune et de flore et d'autres éléments de biodiversité dans le territoire forestier du Québec</i> (MRNF et MDD, 2010)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>FAnalysis Sheet on the 12th Aichi Objective on biodiversity, Reduced extinction risks (Free translation) <i>Fiche d'analyse sur le 12e Objectif d'Aichi pour la biodiversité, Réduction des risques d'extinction</i> (Turcotte et al., MFFP, 2015)</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><a href="http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/BIODIVERSITE/prive/depliant.htm">http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/BIODIVERSITE/prive/depliant.htm</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup><a href="https://www.foretprivee.ca/je-protege-ma-foret/conservation-de-milieus-sensibles/options-de-conservation/">https://www.foretprivee.ca/je-protege-ma-foret/conservation-de-milieus-sensibles/options-de-conservation/</a></li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	<p><b>Private forests without development assistance: specified risk</b></p> <p>Public forests and private forests with development assistance: low risk</p>

2.2.5 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems.		
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development assistance
	2. Possible threats	<p>According to Thiffault et al. (2015),<sup>1</sup> the top five forest biomass harvesting issues are biodiversity, water and riparian areas, soil productivity, stand productivity and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (carbon footprint).</p> <p>Public and private forests with and without development programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Harvesting forest biomass has negative impacts on the ecosystem: biodiversity, water environments and soil and stand productivity (the carbon footprint goes beyond the scale of the ecosystem where harvesting takes place).</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory	Public forests:

2.2.5 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems.	
<b>requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>In public forests, strategies involving partial cutting or retention within intensive cutting treatments, such as harvesting with protection of regeneration and soils (HPRS), aim to maintain pre-established regeneration and a residual structure in harvested stands. The Regulation provides that, in forest stands belonging to defined ecological subregions and ecological types, tree branches and crowns must be left on the falling site, near the stump, to prevent a loss of soil fertility in the long term (sec. 46). Section 126 of the RSDF provides for windrowing or spreading of logging residues in the case of a total cutting of whole trees.</p> <p>Compliance with IFDPs makes it possible to monitor the achievement of targets associated with ecological issues relevant to the harvesting of forest biomass, such as the quantity and quality of wood fibre on the ground and the internal structure of stands. Monitoring of values, objectives, indicators and targets (VOITs) under the IFDPs provides an assessment of the achievement of targets at the end of the five-year period.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>For the time being, there are no specific measures associated with biomass harvesting activities in private forests. All harvesting activities in such forests must comply with municipal by-laws.</p>
<b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b>	<p>A number of studies are under way in Canada and Quebec to assess the potential impacts of forest biomass harvesting on forest ecosystems.</p> <p>Research on forest biomass management for ongoing Canadian Forest Service<sup>2</sup> projects focuses on forest biomass harvesting, including soil fertility mapping, site sensitivity to harvesting, and development and validation of indicators of site sensitivity to biomass harvesting. The integration of new requirements to minimize the impacts of the five main issues of forest biomass harvesting into harvesting prescriptions and activities is incomplete.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>Sites with thin soils, steep slopes, soils with a coarse or very coarse texture, sites with excessive drainage and acidic or infertile sites are recognized as sensitive to a loss of productivity with forest residue removal.<sup>1</sup> Maps of these sensitive sites are available in Quebec to facilitate their integration into forest planning. According to the findings of indicator 2.1.1, the use of harvesting processes without biomass removal nearly tripled from 1993 to 2004. Even so, forest biomass extraction is still common through whole-tree harvesting processes and forest biomass harvesting. To limit damage to soils sensitive to nutrient loss, the MFFP has mapped these soils to prescribe activities that minimize soil degradation.</p>

2.2.5 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems.	
	<p>Some forest biomass allocation agreements and permits authorizing the harvesting of timber to supply wood processing plants allow the harvesting of non-merchantable volumes. From 2016 to 2018, nearly 667,000 m<sup>3</sup> of non-merchantable timber was allocated to be harvested in public forests in Quebec. These volumes must be harvested in accordance with RSFD<sup>3, 4</sup> and the specific characteristics of the forest stands. Such forest biomass harvesting agreements are in effect in forest administrative regions 01, 02, 03, 04, 06, 08 and 10. Permit holders must comply with the RSFD and the harvesting terms set out in the agreements.</p> <p>Private forests with development assistance:</p> <p>Very little forest biomass harvesting takes place in Quebec's private forests. The <i>Forest Act</i> and the municipalities oversee forest practices in private woodlots. As a result of the collaboration of forestry technicians and professionals with private forest owners under the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots, the current system is sufficient to minimize the impacts of the harvesting of forest biomass in the forest environment.</p> <p>Private forests without development assistance:</p> <p>Forest activities may be carried out without assistance programs, such the programs for the private forest management program and the property tax refund program. As a result, these activities are not subject to the same requirements of sound forest practices and the same frequency of professional monitoring. Even though these activities must comply with development plans, by-laws and other laws and regulations associated with logging in private forests, it is difficult to verify whether the harvesting of forest biomass in private forests without development assistance minimizes impacts on the forest environment.</p>
5. Other applicable evidence	N/A.
6. Sources of useful information	- Sustainable forest development criteria and indicators [French only] <a href="https://mfpp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/forets/criteres-indicateurs/accueil.asp">https://mfpp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/forets/criteres-indicateurs/accueil.asp</a>
7. Applicable good practices	N/A

2.2.5 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems.				
8. Status	Scale of analysis	Required minimum status	Current status	Status
	Public forests	Specific measures to minimize impacts to the forest environment	Uncertain	Requirements not met
	Private forests with development programs	Specific measures to minimize impacts to the forest environment	Uncertain	Requirements not met
	Private forests without development programs	Specific measures to minimize impacts to the forest environment	Uncertain	Requirements not met
9. Means verification	of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest biomass allocation agreement (FBAA) and permit for the harvesting of timber to supply a wood processing plant (PHSP) (<a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/amenagement/EABF-pdf/synthese/eabf.pdf">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/amenagement/EABF-pdf/synthese/eabf.pdf</a>)</li> <li>- Maps of sensitive soils (erosion and loss of nutrients)</li> </ul>		
10. Evidence reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup> Forest Biomass Harvesting: Healthy Practices and Ecological Issues in Canada's Boreal Forest [translation - <i>La récolte de biomasse forestière : saines pratiques et enjeux écologiques dans la forêt boréale canadienne</i>] (Thiffault et al. 2015, 87 pages)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup> Development and validation of indicators of site sensitivity to biomass harvesting – <a href="http://scf.rncan.gc.ca/projets/82">http://scf.rncan.gc.ca/projets/82</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup> RSDf compliance report</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup> Report on offences in public forests</li> </ul>			
11. Risk rating	Specified Risk			

2.2.6 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that negative impacts on ground water, surface water and water downstream from forest management are minimised (CPET S5b).		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs
	2. Possible threats	<p>All types of tenure:</p> <p>The threats posed by forestry in areas critical to water quality protection, flood prevention and aquatic wildlife are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction and maintenance of roads and bridges near or across watercourses;</li> <li>- Physical damage to watercourses due to inappropriate development practices resulting in sediment erosion and soil compaction; and</li> <li>- Indirect contamination of watercourses as a result of surface runoff or underground leakage.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>In Canada, the Navigation Protection Act stipulates that “[i]t is prohibited to construct, place, alter, repair, rebuild, remove or decommission a work in, on, over, under, through or across any navigable water that is listed in the schedule.” This applies to the St. Lawrence River and the Saguenay River.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Fisheries Act makes provision for the protection of fish habitat. Pursuant to the Act, no one can carry out work or an undertaking that would cause the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat subject to commercial fishing, unless authorized to do so by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.</p> <p>At the provincial level, the Québec government implemented the Québec Water Policy in the fall of 2002. The policy introduces measures and commitments by the government to implement management based on drainage basins, reform water governance and protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems, in particular.</p> <p>Division V.1 of Chapter IV of Title I of the <i>Environment Quality Act</i> (EQA), which concerns wetlands and bodies of water, and the <i>Regulation respecting compensation for adverse effects on wetlands and bodies of water</i> came into force In 2018. Regardless of tenure, the <i>Environment Quality Act</i> requires that a permit be issued for any disturbance to a wetland. The permit-application process involves an analysis of the project in relation to the quality of the environment.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>On public lands, the Sustainable Forest Development Act, the Sustainable Forest Development Regulation include several protective measures respecting water in the realm of harvesting, road construction or and maintenance.</p>

**2.2.6 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that negative impacts on ground water, surface water and water downstream from forest management are minimised (CPET S5b).**

		<p>These include requirements for buffer zones of a certain distance from a watercourse or lake (sections 2, 10 to 14, 17 to 19, 21, 40 and 42). Between 1999 and 2013, the compliance rate with these protective measures rose from 78% to 91%.</p> <p>Private forests:</p> <p>The Act Respecting Land Use Planning and Development<sup>1</sup> stipulates that the land-use plan of each regional county municipality (RCM) “must identify zones where land occupation is subject to special restrictions for reasons of public safety such as flood zones, erosion zones, landslide zones or zones subject to other disasters or for reasons of environmental protection regarding wetlands and bodies of water.” The Act also allows municipalities to restrict or prohibit any use of land, “taking into account the topography of the landsite, the proximity of wetlands or bodies of water, the danger of flood, rockfall, landslide or other disaster, or any other factor specific to the nature of a place which may be taken into consideration for reasons of public safety or of protection of the environment.” These provisions apply to private woodlots.</p> <p>The Environmental Quality Act includes the Policy for Lakeshores, Riverbanks, Littoral Zones and Floodplains<sup>2</sup>, which establishes standards, for example, for a riparian strip of 10 m, or 15 m if the slope exceeds 30% and 3 m for farmland. If the land-use plan of an RCM does not comply with these standards, the MDDELCC can demand the necessary modifications.</p> <p>As regards the impact of the application of herbicides, no herbicide is applied in the context of private and public forest development in Québec.</p>
	<p><b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b></p>	<p>Public forests:</p> <p>To ensure the sustainability of the resource and protection of the forest environment, the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) has in recent years identified wetlands of interest. The MFFP penalizes activities that adversely affect the integrity of the forest environment. An individual or a business that carries out development activities in a public forest in a manner that contravenes the <i>Forest Act</i> or the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> commits an offence and may incur a fine. The list of violators of the <i>Forest Act</i> and the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> testifies to the implementation of this mechanism.</p>

**2.2.6 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that negative impacts on ground water, surface water and water downstream from forest management are minimised (CPET S5b).**

	<p>Private forests with development assistance:</p> <p>The <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> and municipalities govern forestry practices in private forests. As a result of the collaboration of forestry technicians and professionals with private woodlot owners under the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots, the current system is adequate to minimize the impacts of forest biomass harvesting in the forest environment.</p> <p>Private forests without development assistance:</p> <p>Forest activities may be carried out without assistance programs, such as the managing private forests assistance program and the property tax refund program. Such activities must comply with development plans, municipal by-laws and other laws and regulations associated with logging in private forests. As a result of uneven monitoring of forest operations in private forests without development assistance, it is not possible to verify whether negative impacts on the water system are minimized in such forests.</p>								
<b>5. Other applicable evidence</b>	N.A.								
<b>6. Sources of useful information</b>	N.A.								
<b>7. Applicable good practices</b>	<p>Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec. 2016. Saines pratiques d'intervention en forêt privée : guide terrain, 4th edition revised. 140 pages.</p> <p><a href="https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf">https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf</a></p>								
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2.2.6 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that negative impacts on ground water, surface water and water downstream from forest management are minimised (CPET S5b).					
		Private forests with development programs	Identification and protection of watercourses	Active identification of watercourses and protection measures	Requirements met
		Private forests without development programs	Identification and protection of watercourses	Active identification of watercourses and protection measures	Requirements not met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of offenders to the Forestry Act and the Sustainable Forest Management Act - <i>Loi sur l'aménagement durable du territoire forestier</i> (<a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/</a>)</li> <li>- Use of material produced by the Ministry de l'Environnement, Lutte contre les changements climatiques (i.e. <i>Guide d'identification et de délimitation des milieux humides du Québec méridional, Fiche Identification et délimitation des milieux hydriques et riverains</i>)</li> <li>- List of applicable laws</li> <li>- Interviews with forest practitioners</li> <li>- Field Audits</li> <li>- Supply Agreement with suppliers</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Act Respecting Land Use Planning and Development <a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cs/A-19.1">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cs/A-19.1</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Policy for Lakeshores, Riverbanks, Littoral Zones and Floodplains <a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cr/Q-2.%20r.%2035">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cr/Q-2.%20r.%2035</a></li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting compensation for adverse effects on wetlands and bodies of water</i></li> <li>- Land-use plan of an RCM</li> <li>- Wetlands policy and legislation (<a href="http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/rives/milieuxhumides.htm">http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/rives/milieuxhumides.htm</a>)</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		<p>Risk Low</p> <p>Specified Risk for private forests without development program</p>			

2.2.7 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that air quality is not adversely affected by forest management activities.		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs
	2. Possible threats	<p>The threats to air quality from forest operations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased environmental emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>- Deteriorating air quality and potential health impacts; and</li> <li>- Complaints due to poor air quality.</li> </ul> <p>The scope of the indicator is limited to activities directly associated with forest development activities. It does not include emissions from industrial sources or those generated by transportation and machinery used for forest operations.</p>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>All types of tenure:</p> <p>We have not identified any evidence that forest operations can have an impact on air quality. Section 192 of the SFDA states that “Persons or bodies that carry on work or cause work to be carried on in a forest, other than forest development activities carried on under a plan drawn up or approved by the Minister, must inform the forest protection organization operating in the area concerned of their intention and obtain from the organization a forest protection plan, if the organization considers it expedient. If the work is to be carried on outside an intensive protection zone, the costs incurred to determine the necessity of obtaining a plan and, where applicable, those relating to the preparation of the plan are to be assumed by the person or body that carries on the work or causes it to be carried on in the forest. The plan must be submitted to the Minister for approval. The costs of the surveillance operations provided for in the plan are assumed by the person or body that carries on the work in the forest.”</p>
	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	The <i>Environment Quality Act</i> covers depollution of the atmosphere (see Division VI of the Act). Among other things, the Act requires companies to report their greenhouse gases. Emitting companies are registered in a public register. A cap-and-trade system is in place as well as a schedule of contributions to be paid by emitters. It should be noted that the practice of prescribed burning is extremely rare in Quebec in public and private forests alike.
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.

2.2.7 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that air quality is not adversely affected by forest management activities.				
6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment Quality Act (EQA) - (<a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cs/Q-2">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cs/Q-2</a>)</li> <li>- Sustainable Forest Management Act (LADTF)</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manual Prescribed Burning for Silvicultural Purposes [translation - <i>Guide de brûlage dirigé à des fins sylvicoles</i>] (MFQ, 2011) - <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/entreprises/guide-brulage-dirige.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/entreprises/guide-brulage-dirige.pdf</a></li> </ul>			
	8. Status			
	<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Required minimum status</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>
Public forests	Compliance with section 192 of the Sustainable Forest Management Act	Prescribed burning almost non-existent	Requirements met	
Private forests with development programs	Compliance with section 192 of the Sustainable Forest Management Act	Prescribed burning almost non-existent	Requirements met	
Private forests without development programs	Compliance with section 192 of the Sustainable Forest Management Act	Prescribed burning almost non-existent	Requirements met	
9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liste of relevant laws</li> <li>- List of offenders to the Forestry Act and the Sustainable Forest Management Act - <i>Loi sur l'aménagement durable du territoire forestier</i> (<a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/</a>)</li> </ul>			
10. Evidence reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of offenders to the Forestry Act and the Sustainable Forest Management Act (Free translation) - <i>Loi sur l'aménagement durable du territoire forestier</i> (<a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/</a>)</li> </ul>			

<b>2.2.7 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that air quality is not adversely affected by forest management activities.</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manual Prescribed Burning for Silvicultural Purposes (Free translation) <i>Guide de brûlage dirigé à des fins sylvicoles</i> (MFQ, 2011) - <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/entreprises/guide-brulage-dirige.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/entreprises/guide-brulage-dirige.pdf</a></li> <li>- Sustainable Forest Management Act</li> <li>- <i>Environment Quality Act</i></li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk

<b>2.2.8 There is controlled and appropriate use of chemicals, and that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is implemented wherever possible in forest management activities.</b>		
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	<p>The possible threats from the use of chemicals and insect pest control include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impacts on human, wildlife and aquatic health;</li> <li>- Loss of biodiversity of insects and plants;</li> <li>- Contamination of watercourses and soils; and</li> <li>- Misidentification of parasites and use of improper treatment.</li> </ul>
	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>The application of a pesticide in forest areas is regulated by the <i>Pesticides Act</i><sup>1</sup>. Under the <i>Regulation respecting permits and certificates</i><sup>2</sup> for the sale and use of pesticides, a certificate must be obtained to use pesticides in forest areas, farm woodlots and sugar bushes.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>Chemical insecticides are used in Quebec's forests only to control competing vegetation and to combat forest pests. Since 2001, the use of chemical insecticides has been prohibited in public forests. Any use of chemicals, such as to control vegetation in Hydro-Québec's transmission and distribution rights-of-way, is subject to the <i>Pesticides Act</i></p>

2.2.8 There is controlled and appropriate use of chemicals, and that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is implemented wherever possible in forest management activities.	
	<p>and the <i>Environment Quality Act</i><sup>3</sup>. For example, only 2% of Hydro-Québec's rights-of-way was treated with phytocides in 2016; the remainder of the vegetation control was done mechanically.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>In private forests, owners may use pesticides in plantations, nurseries and seed orchards. The <i>Pesticides Act</i> and the <i>Environmental Quality Act</i> apply to private property.</p>
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>In Quebec, the main pests are the spruce budworm, the white pine weevil, the hemlock looper and the Swaine jack pine sawfly. Only SOPFIM<sup>4</sup> is authorized to use organic, non-chemical insecticides to manage pest epidemics. Detailed planning of insect management is done to minimize the use of insecticides in the context of a limited budget and a complex environment. Regular monitoring is carried out to minimize the impacts of insect infestations and to assess the effectiveness of spraying. To combat the spruce budworm, only the organic insecticide bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is approved and authorized.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>As for private forests, owners may use insecticides in plantations, nurseries and seed orchards. Even though there are no statistics on the use of insecticides in private forests, the information collected suggests that it is the exception in the case of timber production.</p>
5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.
6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pesticide Use in Forest Areas, Apprentice Guide (Free translation) - <i>Utilisation de pesticides dans les aires forestières, Guide d'apprentissage</i> (MDDELCC, Août 2018)</li> <li>- MFFP.gouv.qc.ca</li> <li>- List of spraying areas of SOPFIM <a href="https://sopfimweb.sopfim.qc.ca/portail/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ea8cc74047354010bf8231c3ea453d23">https://sopfimweb.sopfim.qc.ca/portail/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ea8cc74047354010bf8231c3ea453d23</a></li> <li>- SOPFIM.qc.ca</li> <li>- <a href="http://www.sopfim.qc.ca/produits-utilises.html">http://www.sopfim.qc.ca/produits-utilises.html</a></li> </ul>
7. Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pesticide Use in Forest Areas, Apprentice Guide (Free translation) - <i>Utilisation de pesticides dans les aires</i></li> </ul>

2.2.8 There is controlled and appropriate use of chemicals, and that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is implemented wherever possible in forest management activities.					
	good practices	<i>forestières, Guide d'apprentissage</i> (MDDELCC, Août 2018)			
	8. Status				
		<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Required minimum status</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>
		Public forests	Use of chemicals prohibited; integrated pest management	Laws and regulations implemented	Requirements met
Private forests	Compliance with laws and regulations	Laws and regulations implemented	Requirements met		
<b>9. Means of verification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verification of updates of the <i>Pesticides Act</i></li> <li>- Verification of SOPFIM spraying areas for pest control</li> </ul>				
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><i>Pesticides Act</i></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><i>Regulation respecting permits and certificates for the sale and use of pesticides</i></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><i>Environment Quality Act</i></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>SOPFIM spraying areas for pest control</li> <li>- Pesticides Management Code</li> </ul>				
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk				

2.2.9 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that methods of waste disposal minimise negative impacts on forest ecosystems (CPET S5d).		
F	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as	Quebec forests

2.2.9 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that methods of waste disposal minimise negative impacts on forest ecosystems (CPET S5d).		
i n d i c a t o r s	applicable)	
	2. Possible threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible threats: Waste disposal methods are not implemented in forests.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>In public forests, forest developers or companies must be certified under ISO 14001 or the forest management company certification program (CEAF<sup>1</sup>). Such certification obliges them to adopt procedures to manage waste, hydrocarbons and wastewater (<i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State, division IV<sup>2</sup></i>). Hazardous materials must be recycled by specialized firms. Used oil and wastewater may not be discharged in forests.</p> <p>For public and private forests, the <i>Regulation respecting hazardous materials</i> stipulates:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Every person who accidentally releases a hazardous material into the environment shall immediately:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) stop the spill;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) inform the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks; [<i>Urgence Environnement 1 866 694-5454</i>]; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(3) recover the hazardous material and remove all contaminated material that is not cleaned or treated on site.</p> <p>Under the regulations for the recovery and reclamation of used oils and related products, companies that market hydrocarbons as well as organizations that acquire them are required to recover them or have them recovered at collection facilities registered with the Société de gestion des huiles usées (SOGHU). Residual hazardous materials and contaminated soil have to be eliminated through the services of a recovery company holding a permit issued for that purpose by the MDDELCC.</p>
	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>Sellers of hazardous products and collection facilities are monitored to assess their compliance with the regulations<sup>3</sup>. The considerable monitoring carried out in public forests under the responsibility of certification program registrars and government officials reduces the risks of inadequate elimination of waste. As for private forests, the risks of</p>

2.2.9 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that methods of waste disposal minimise negative impacts on forest ecosystems (CPET S5d).												
		<p>poor management of waste and hydrocarbons are also deemed low, given the regulatory framework and the proximity to inhabited areas.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>In public forests, forest developers or companies must be certified under ISO 14001 or the forest company certification program (CEAF). Such certification obliges them to adopt procedures to manage waste, hydrocarbons and wastewater (Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State, division IV). Hazardous materials must be recycled by specialized firms. Used oil and wastewater may not be discharged in forests.</p> <p>Private forests:</p> <p>In private forests, the risks of mismanagement of waste and hydrocarbons are also deemed low, given the regulatory framework and proximity to inhabited areas.</p>										
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.										
	6. Sources of useful information	N.A.										
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.										
	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Required minimum status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public forests</td> <td>Compliance with the <i>Regulation respecting hazardous materials</i></td> <td>Independent certification of forest contractors; recovery obligation at recognized sites</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Scale of analysis	Required minimum status	Current status	Status	Public forests	Compliance with the <i>Regulation respecting hazardous materials</i>	Independent certification of forest contractors; recovery obligation at recognized sites	Requirements met
Scale of analysis	Required minimum status	Current status	Status									
Public forests	Compliance with the <i>Regulation respecting hazardous materials</i>	Independent certification of forest contractors; recovery obligation at recognized sites	Requirements met									

2.2.9 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that methods of waste disposal minimise negative impacts on forest ecosystems (CPET S5d).					
		Private forests with and without development programs	Compliance with the <i>Regulation respecting hazardous materials</i>	Recovery obligation at recognized sites	Requirements met
<b>9. Means of verification</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of forest management companies certified under the BNQ's CEAF program</li> <li>- Inventory of spills</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State, division IV</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the recovery and reclamation of products by enterprises (Quebec)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the recovery and reclamation of used oils, oil or fluid containers and used filters (Quebec)</li> <li>- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (Canada)</li> <li>- Environment Quality Act</li> <li>- Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation (Quebec)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the recovery and reclamation of products by enterprises (Quebec)</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the recovery and reclamation of used oils, oil or fluid containers and used filters (Quebec)</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>List of forest management companies certified under the BNQ's CEAF program</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State, division IV</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Urgence-Environnement response actions by region</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Low Risk			

2.3.1 Analysis shows that feedstock harvesting does not exceed the long-term production capacity of the forest, avoids significant negative impacts on forest productivity and ensures long-term economic viability. Harvest levels are justified by inventory and growth data.		
<b>F i n</b>	1. Échelle d'analyse (et sous-échelles le cas échéant)	Tenure: public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs

**2.3.1 Analysis shows that feedstock harvesting does not exceed the long-term production capacity of the forest, avoids significant negative impacts on forest productivity and ensures long-term economic viability. Harvest levels are justified by inventory and growth data.**

<b>d i n g s</b>	<p><b>2. Menaces possibles</b></p>	<p><b>Public forests:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: The Chief Forester does not have access to all the information required to calculate allowable cuts so as to avoid negative impacts on forest productivity and ensure long-term economic viability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Private forests with and without development assistance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Failure to respect the forest’s long-term production capacity.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>3. Exigences réglementaires applicables et agences impliquées</b></p>	<p>Public forests:</p> <p>Section 46 of the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA)<sup>1</sup> defines the functions of the Chief Forester, particularly in terms of determining allowable cuts in accordance with the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (SFMS). Section 38 states that the government may, by regulation, prescribe sustainable forest development standards “to ensure the preservation or renewal of the forest cover, the protection of the forest environment, the conciliation of forest development activities with the activities pursued by Native people and other users of the forest, and the compatibility of forest development activities with the use of land in the domain of the State under the land use plan provided for in the <i>Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State</i>².” The <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</i> (RSDF), which came into force on April 1, 2018, applies to forests in the domain of the State up to the northern limit of the forest tundra.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>Allowable cuts are calculated on the regional level defined by the territory under the responsibility of the regional agencies for private forest development (sections 149 and 150 of the SFDA). The 17 regional agencies are responsible on the regional level for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Calculating the allowable cuts for all small private forests (less than 800 ha) in the territory;</li> <li>- Preparing a biophysical portrait of the territory using MFFP forest inventories;</li> <li>- Carrying out regional planning of silvicultural strategies to be implemented; and</li> </ul>

**2.3.1 Analysis shows that feedstock harvesting does not exceed the long-term production capacity of the forest, avoids significant negative impacts on forest productivity and ensures long-term economic viability. Harvest levels are justified by inventory and growth data.**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Administering assistance programs for private forests.</li> </ul> <p>The volumes harvested in private forests are monitored by the 13 regional syndicates and forest producers' boards responsible on the regional level for setting forest production quotas and monitoring the harvest for all private forests in their territories and ensuring the traceability of the volumes of wood delivered to processing plants (the provisions on the quotas of wood producers by region are found in the <i>Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products</i><sup>3</sup>).</p>
	<p><b>4. Mécanismes et preuves d'application</b></p>	<p><b>Public forests:</b></p> <p>The MFFP continually increases its knowledge of the forest and the impacts of forest activities on forest ecosystems. The forest inventory program, identification of exceptional ecosystems and research on silvicultural treatments and their impact on the forest make it possible to acquire and disseminate detailed knowledge of forest ecosystems and logging. The work done throughout forest development makes it possible to avoid the negative impacts of logging (see 2.2.1). Characterization of forests makes it possible, for example, to determine sites sensitive to nutrient loss as well as damage to soils and the water system. Selected silvicultural treatments and the harvest period take into account the characteristics of forest stands and ecosystems to minimize the adverse impacts of forest operations on harvest sites. Post-harvest monitoring ensures that sites are properly regenerated; otherwise, the necessary measures are implemented to establish sufficient regeneration. The inventory program makes it possible to check the yields of forest stands. Further to the findings of the Auditor General's 2017 report<sup>4</sup>, which identified deficiencies in the department's ability to assess the effectiveness of silvicultural treatments, particularly for stand tending, the MFFP has taken steps to improve this situation.</p> <p>In 2005, Québec created the position of Chief Forester, whose mission is to determine allowable cuts and to inform decision makers and the public of the status and management of public forests to ensure their sustainability and diversified use. He provides opinions to the Minister on forest-related matters, prepares a five-year plan of the status of the forest and calculates allowable cuts for the province's regions. Calculation of the annual cut is done in a transparent and rigorous manner, and includes planning and operations constraints arising from TPIFD targets. Details concerning this modelling initiative are available to the public in the <i>Manuel de détermination des possibilités forestières</i><sup>5</sup> produced by the Chief Forester's Office.</p>

**2.3.1 Analysis shows that feedstock harvesting does not exceed the long-term production capacity of the forest, avoids significant negative impacts on forest productivity and ensures long-term economic viability. Harvest levels are justified by inventory and growth data.**

		<p>Historically, forest allocation accounts for about 80% of the allowable cut (see Portrait statistique, Ressources et industries forestières du Québec (MFFP)<sup>6</sup>). Integrated management of public forests involves a great diversity of resources, creating significant economic benefits for Quebec society. Timber, wildlife resources, non-wood forest products and recreational activities contribute to the economic viability of Quebec's forests and the regions that depend on them directly and indirectly.</p> <p>Private forests:</p> <p>Logging in private forests is also monitored by various stakeholders and levels of government. On the municipal level, inspectors monitor logging. Under the private forest development program, forest producers must retain the services of a forestry engineer to determine the appropriate requirements. Since 1995, the <i>Agences régionales de mise en valeur de la forêt</i> (regional forest development agencies) have also monitored operations under the program. Monitoring of the volumes harvested is carried out by the syndicates and boards, whose statistics are published in their annual reports. According to a 2012 survey by the Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec,<sup>7</sup> it is estimated that only 40% of woodlot owners harvested trees on their properties and that, for more than 66% of these owners, such harvesting generated volumes of less than 50 m<sup>3</sup> over a 5-year period.</p>
	<b>5. Autres preuves applicables</b>	N.A.
	<b>6. Sources d'information utiles</b>	N.A. ...
	<b>7. Saines pratiques applicables</b>	N.A.
	<b>8. État</b>	

2.3.1 Analysis shows that feedstock harvesting does not exceed the long-term production capacity of the forest, avoids significant negative impacts on forest productivity and ensures long-term economic viability. Harvest levels are justified by inventory and growth data.					
		Scale of analysis	Required minimum status	Current status	Status
		Public forests	Respect of annual allowable cut	Wood supply allocation monitoring	Requirements met
		Private forests	Respect of annual allowable cut		Requirements met
<b>9. Means of verification</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allowable cut determination 2018-2023 (06151 and 111-61)</li> <li>- Determination 2018-2023 – Provincial Synthesis, March update 2018</li> <li>- Regional determination – Synthèse régionale Capitale-Nationale (03151, 03351)</li> <li>- Decision of the <i>Forestier en chef</i> (Fall 2016 – 03153 et 03351)</li> <li>- Allowable cut determination manual</li> <li>- Silvicultural Manual for Québec</li> <li>- Synthesis of the allowable cut calculations per management unit</li> <li>- Annual report of the regional agencies for private woodlots</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><i>Sustainable Forest Management Act</i></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><i>Act Respecting The Lands In The Domain Of The State</i></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><i>Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products</i></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>Rapport du Vérificateur général du Québec à l'Assemblée nationale pour l'année 2017-2018 (printemps 2017, Commissaire au développement durable)</li> <li>- <sup>5</sup><i>Manuel de détermination des possibilités forestières</i></li> <li>- Chief Forester's annual activity reports</li> <li>- <sup>6</sup><i>Portrait statistique, Ressources et industries forestières du Québec (MFFP)</i></li> <li>- <sup>7</sup>Caractérisation des profils, des motivations et des comportements des propriétaires forestiers québécois par territoire d'Agence régionale de mise en valeur des forêts privées, FPBQ et al., 2012 (characterization of profiles, motivations and behaviours of Quebec woodlot owners by regional private forest development agency territory – document not translated).</li> </ul>			

<b>2.3.1 Analysis shows that feedstock harvesting does not exceed the long-term production capacity of the forest, avoids significant negative impacts on forest productivity and ensures long-term economic viability. Harvest levels are justified by inventory and growth data.</b>	
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	<p>From existing MFFP programs, one can conclude that, in public forests, there is a low risk that harvesting will exceed the forest's long-term production capacity, will create negative impacts on forest productivity or will not be economically viable in the long term.</p> <p>The low percentage of activities and the monitoring carried out make it possible to conclude that there is a low risk that harvesting in private forests will exceed the forest's long-term production capacity, will create negative impacts on forest productivity or will not be economically viable in the long term.</p>

<b>2.3.2 Adequate training is provided for all personnel, including employees and contractors.</b>		
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Quebec forests
	2. Possible threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible threat: Forest managers and workers do not have access to sufficient training to carry out their activities.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>The practice of forest engineering is exclusive to forest engineers and protected by the <i>Forest Engineers Act</i><sup>1</sup>. The mission of the Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec (OIFQ) is to protect the public by controlling admission to the practice of the profession and monitoring compliance with the profession's rules of practice by requiring continuing education for its members.</p> <p>Under the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i><sup>2</sup>, employers have a duty to train their employees and to ensure they are integrated into the workplace.</p>
	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>The OIFQ provides its members with continuing education activities and conducts professional inspections throughout their professional lives.</p> <p>Businesses must comply with multiple health and safety regulations<sup>3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15</sup>. They also have access to various programs and organizations to maintain and improve the skills of their professionals and workers.</p>

2.3.2 Adequate training is provided for all personnel, including employees and contractors.				
		<p>Applications for funding can be submitted to the Comité sectoriel de main-d'oeuvre en aménagement forestier (CSMOAF) for labour skills development projects. Professional standards allow for an official attestation that a worker is competent in a trade or provision of the required training. There are four professional forest management standards developed by the CSMOAF: forestry worker – clearing, manual feller, logging machinery operator and forest road equipment operator.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>In public forests, permit holders are responsible for the compliance of their forest operations and are therefore also responsible for the adequate training of their employees and those of the contractors they hire. All forest workers in public forests must be under the responsibility of companies certified under recognized programs, such as ISO 14001, the Forest Management Certification Program (CEAF in French) or the Certification of Forestry Enterprise Management Practices (PGES in French) of the Bureau de normalisation du Québec. All FSC, PEFC and SFI forest certification programs require appropriate worker training.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>As for private forests, forest producers who own woodlots are members of the syndicates and boards of the UPA and its affiliate, the Fédération des producteurs de bois du Québec, which provide services to owners, including training sessions. The same is true for forest groups whose forest owners are shareholders of companies. They offer training for owners who do the work themselves or for contractors.</p>		
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.		
	6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSMOAF</li> <li>- CNESST</li> </ul>		
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.		
	8. Status			
		<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Required minimum status</b>	<b>Current status</b>
				<b>Status</b>

2.3.2 Adequate training is provided for all personnel, including employees and contractors.					
		Public forests	Measures to improve and promote employee training	Training opportunities and active monitoring of workforce	Requirements met
		Private forests with and without development programs	Measures to improve and promote employee training	Training opportunities and active monitoring of workforce	Requirements met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://www.foretprivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf">http://www.foretprivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.foretprivee.ca/jamenage-ma-foret/intervenants-en-foret-privee/">http://www.foretprivee.ca/jamenage-ma-foret/intervenants-en-foret-privee/</a></li> <li>- Training materials for operators</li> <li>- Training materials for woodlot owners</li> <li>- Skills register updated by Emploi-Québec</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Forest Engineers Act</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Act respecting labour standards</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Canada Labour Code</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup><a href="#">Act to promote workforce skills development and recognition</a></li> <li>- <sup>5</sup>Act respecting occupational health and safety (AOHS) (CQLR, c S-2.1)</li> <li>- <sup>6</sup>Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases (AIAOD) (CQLR, c A-3.001)</li> <li>- <sup>7</sup>Workers' Compensation Act (WCA) (CQLR c A-3)</li> <li>- <sup>8</sup>Crime Victims Compensation Act (CQLR c I-6) and Act to promote good citizenship (CQLR c C-20)</li> <li>- <sup>9</sup>Regulation respecting health and safety in forest development work</li> <li>- <sup>10</sup>Regulation respecting first-aid minimum standards</li> <li>- <sup>11</sup>Regulation respecting forestry operations</li> <li>- <sup>12</sup>Regulation respecting health and safety committees</li> <li>- <sup>13</sup>Regulation respecting prevention programmes</li> <li>- <sup>14</sup>Regulation respecting the quality of the work environment</li> <li>- <sup>15</sup>Règlement intérieur de la Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail [French only]</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Low Risk			

2.3.3 Analysis shows that feedstock harvesting and biomass production positively contribute to the local economy including employment.		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales as applicable)	Tenure: public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs
	2. Menaces possibles	<p>Public forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible threat: Forest development may not sufficiently take into account the activities and concerns of all forest users and may not foster economic benefits in local communities.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>Quebec's forests play a leading role in Quebec society from the economic, social and environmental standpoints. The Quebec government adopts practices to improve its knowledge of the forest environment and to ensure integrated management of forest resources and lands. The Sustainable Forest Management Strategy sets out the MFFP's vision for progress toward sustainable forest development. The Quebec Industry Development Strategy [translation] "puts in place the necessary means to accelerate the transformation of the forest products industry and to contribute significantly to the prosperity of Quebec and its regions."<sup>1</sup></p> <p>After allowable cuts are determined by the Chief Forester, the MFFP assigns supply guarantees to primary wood processing plants. Holders of primary-plant permits issued by the MFFP are required to produce an annual report in order to renew their permits.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>The purpose of the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) is integrated management of forest resources and lands. This management [translation] "brings together all the actors and managers of the environment, whether representing public or private collective interests, for a given territory. This process aims to integrate, from the start of planning, their vision of the development of the territory, which is based on conservation and enhancement of all the environment's resources and functions. This includes integrated and concerted planning and development of forest lands and resources, which help increase the benefits and spinoffs to the community and optimize the use of land and resources." Under section 55 of the SFDA, integrated land and resource management panels are defined and mandated to work with the MFFP to prepare development plans.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>Private woodlots, which may be in inhabited areas on productive land, play an important role in the vitality of municipalities. [Translation] "The MFFP contributes \$82 million a year to the development and protection of private</p>

2.3.3 Analysis shows that feedstock harvesting and biomass production positively contribute to the local economy including employment.												
		forests, through various grant programs for development and silviculture, plant production, protection against insects, diseases and fires, as well as the forest inventory. <sup>3</sup> The creation of regional agencies for private forest development under section 132 of the SFDA allows for the preparation of a private forest protection and development plan in consultation with locals in a region.										
	4. Mécanismes et preuves d'application	The forest industry is one of the largest industries in Canada, providing direct and indirect employment for almost 900,000 workers. The vast majority of these jobs offer good wages and a high standard of living. In addition, the industry supports 337 communities that depend on it for their survival and represents a net foreign trade surplus of \$32 billion, by far the largest surplus of any industrial sector. In Quebec, the forestry industry creates 69,000 direct jobs in forest development, wood production, paper manufacturing and other forest-related activities. According to the report of the wood production project, the use of biomass for energy could generate 5,000 jobs by 2031. In Quebec, the forestry industry has been shown to be an important economic force for more than 152 municipalities in terms of employment alone. <sup>2</sup>										
	5. Autres preuves applicables	N.A.										
	6. Sources d'information utiles	N.A.										
	7. Saines pratiques applicables	N.A.										
	8. État	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Required minimum status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public forests</td> <td>Consideration of the needs and concerns of all forest stakeholders</td> <td>Adaptation of PIFDs and follow-up on public consultations</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Scale of analysis	Required minimum status	Current status	Status	Public forests	Consideration of the needs and concerns of all forest stakeholders	Adaptation of PIFDs and follow-up on public consultations	Requirements met
Scale of analysis	Required minimum status	Current status	Status									
Public forests	Consideration of the needs and concerns of all forest stakeholders	Adaptation of PIFDs and follow-up on public consultations	Requirements met									

2.3.3 Analysis shows that feedstock harvesting and biomass production positively contribute to the local economy including employment.					
		Private forests with and without development programs	Fosters the development of private forests and the marketing of wood from them	Provision of grants and increase in the marketing of wood from private forests	Requirements met
<b>9. Means of verification</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public consultation reports on TPIFDs and OPIFDs</li> <li>- Annual reports of the Fédération des producteurs de bois du Québec</li> <li>- Annual reports of the syndicates and boards of Quebec wood producers</li> <li>- Annual reports of Quebec forest development companies</li> <li>- Statistical portrait – Quebec forest resources and industries (MFFP) [French only]</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Strategy to develop Quebec’s forest products industry <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/transformation-du-bois/strategie-2018-2023/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/transformation-du-bois/strategie-2018-2023/</a> [French only]</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Importance of the forest sector to the economic development of Quebec’s municipalities and regions (May 2010) <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Etude_municipalites_2019.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Etude_municipalites_2019.pdf</a> [French only]</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privées/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privées/</a></li> <li>- Sustainable Forest Development Act</li> <li>- Sustainable Forest Management Strategy</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Low Risk			

2.4.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the health, vitality and other services provided by forest ecosystems are maintained or improved (CPET S7a).		
<b>Finding</b>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	Public forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat: The procedures in effect may be insufficient to monitor and verify that the health, vitality and other services provided by forest ecosystems are maintained or improved.</li> </ul>

<b>S</b>		<p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threat: The lack of operations coordination in private forests may be insufficient to monitor and verify that the health, vitality and other services provided by forest ecosystems are maintained or improved.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b></p>	<p>Since the 1990s, reviews of the state of forests have been tabled in the National Assembly. Since 2008, under the new forest regime, these reviews have been produced under the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA). They report on the implementation of the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy<sup>1</sup> (SFMS), which is based on six challenges, two of which concern the state of forest ecosystems. Forest development must ensure sustainable ecosystems and productive forests that generate diversified wealth sources. In 2015, the MFFP selected the indicators and criteria of the INDI project and integrated most of them into the SFDA<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>The <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</i><sup>3</sup> (RSDF) sets out conditions for compliance with forest practices for public forests under the SFDA. The RSDF provisions on protection of forest and soil regeneration, residual forest, productive forest areas, wildlife habitats, aquatic environments, wetlands and soils promote implementation and monitoring of the SFMS.</p> <p>Water protection</p> <p>The RSDF is also interlinked with the federal Fisheries Act with respect to the free movement of fish in structures crossing watercourses. At the provincial level, the Québec government implemented the Québec Water Policy in the fall of 2002<sup>4</sup>. The policy introduces measures and commitments by the government to implement management based on drainage basins, reform water governance and protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems, in particular. Under this policy, 40 watershed organizations have been created to develop water master plans with local stakeholders. The plans highlight the territory's major challenges in integrated water management and propose an action plan to improve water quality and aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>On public lands, the Sustainable Forest Development Act, the Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (RS) and the Sustainable Forest Development Regulation<sup>5</sup> include several protective measures respecting water in the realm of harvesting, road construction or and maintenance. These include requirements for buffer zones of a certain distance from a watercourse or lake (sections 7, 25 à 27, 30 à 32, 34, 67 à 69, 72 à 78, 80 à 83, 93 à 98, 103 à 114). Between 1999 and 2013<sup>6,7</sup>, the compliance rate with these protective measures rose from 78% to 91%.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>The SFDA oversees forest development in private forests. The creation of regional agencies for private forest development (sec. 130) and the <i>Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots</i><sup>8</sup> (FAPDPW) provide financial support to forest owners for recognized silvicultural work (sec. 150). Private forest protection and</p>

	<p>development plans, most of which have been updated in recent years, guide management and development activities in private forests. They contain a great deal of information about the forest environment. Under the <i>Act respecting land use planning and development</i>, they must comply with land use and development plans that determine the general aims and policies on land use.</p>
<p><b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b></p>	<p>Water sources for irrigation:</p> <p>On average, there is no shortage of rain in eastern Canada and, consequently, there is little irrigation in Québec. Given that Québec uses 1.5% of the total national volume of irrigation water and that only 2.5% of farms in Québec are irrigated, forestry activities are deemed at low risk of impacting sources of water for irrigation in Québec.</p> <p>Water sources supplying communities:</p> <p>The MDDELCC has identified 316 municipalities whose water supply comes from surface water (79 water supplies from lakes, five lacustrine or fluvial water supplies, 10 watercourses, 199 rivers, 23 underground sources of supply rounded out with at least one surface water supply). While the intake points have not all been mapped to ascertain whether they are located in a forest area, they are all deemed potential HCVs.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>Reviews on the state of the forest have been produced and tabled since the early 1990s. Initially, under the <i>Forest Act</i>, the five-year reports on the state of forests were produced by the Minister of Forests and tabled in the National Assembly. In the 2000s, under the <i>Act respecting the ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune</i>, the Chief Forester submitted to the Minister a review on the state of forests and the results of sustainable forest development, which he tabled in the National Assembly. Since the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) was adopted, the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks and his department (MFFP) have been responsible for producing the five-year review on sustainable forest development and tabling it in the National Assembly. These reports present the results of sustainable forest development and an analysis of the means used to achieve the department's objectives and overall vision.</p> <p>The latest forest review covers the period from 2008 to 2013. According to this review, human pressure on forests and natural disturbances were lower than in the previous five-year review. Protected areas more than doubled from 2008 to 2013, to 9.10%. This proportion then rose to 10.03% as at March 31, 2019. The number of protected wildlife sites increased from 245 in 2008 to 1,041 in 2013. In 2015, more than 1,300 sites were protected, for a total of more than 625,726 hectares in 2017. Only 55% of the allowable cut was harvested from 2008 to 2013.</p> <p>Tracking the indicators of the MFFP's INDI project on its website allows us to observe certain trends, notably on protection of exceptional forest ecosystems, protection of threatened or vulnerable species, genetic diversity of forest tree species in Quebec, forest regeneration and soil fertility, soil quantity and quality, and water quantity and quality. The MFFP uses several mechanisms to monitor health, vitality and other forest ecosystem services.</p>

		<p>In the spring of 2017, the Auditor General of Quebec tabled his report in the National Assembly<sup>9</sup>. In it, he raised a number of shortcomings, some of which had been pointed out by the Chief Forester in his 2008-2013 forest review. The MFFP therefore needs to further develop its control measures to improve monitoring of the effectiveness of silvicultural work and to permit a better assessment of the degree to which the SFMS targets are achieved. In the fall of 2017, the MFFP adopted an action plan to implement the Auditor General’s recommendations on silvicultural work.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>The MFFP has adopted a strategic plan for 2015-2019, the fourth objective of which is to increase environmental benefits. The work recognized by the Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots focuses on land preparation, artificial regeneration and intermediate treatment. The aim is to ensure the sustainability of the forest cover by respecting the ecological and biophysical characteristics of forest sites. The protection and development plans describe the forest environment at the landscape level while identifying stand-level issues and respecting land use. In recent years, they have been updated, albeit in an uneven fashion, to include more concepts of biodiversity, wildlife habitats, connectivity, etc. Collaboration between the various private forest stakeholders, as well as field and strategic monitoring, provides quality information to assess the state and functions of forest ecosystems. Monitoring of wood mobilization and compliance with the allowable cut makes it possible to assess the pressure on private forests.</p>											
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.											
	6. Sources of useful information	N.A.											
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.											
	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public forests</td> <td>Control and verification system to monitor the state</td> <td>Reviews of the state of forests and monitoring of criteria and indicators of</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status	Public forests	Control and verification system to monitor the state	Reviews of the state of forests and monitoring of criteria and indicators of	Requirements met
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Public forests	Control and verification system to monitor the state	Reviews of the state of forests and monitoring of criteria and indicators of	Requirements met										

			and functions of forest ecosystems	sustainable forest development	
		Private forests with and without development programs	Characterization of the forest environment and sharing of knowledge with private forest stakeholders	Monitoring of wood harvesting, updating of knowledge and annual assessments of work done in private forests	Requirements met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Five-year review of the state of forests, forests in the public domain</li> <li>- Values, objectives, indicators and targets (VOITs) in tactical plans for integrated forest development (TPIFDs)</li> <li>- MFFP's INDI project</li> <li>- Private forest protection and development plan (PDP)</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (<a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/strategie-damenagement-durable-forets/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/strategie-damenagement-durable-forets/</a>)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>MFFP criteria and indicators (French only) <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/forets/criteres-indicateurs/accueil.asp">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/forets/criteres-indicateurs/accueil.asp</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>Quebec Water Policy <a href="http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/politique/">http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/politique/</a></li> <li>- <sup>5</sup>Sustainable Forest Development Regulation</li> <li>- <sup>6</sup>Five-year review of the state of forests <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-du-quebec/letat-des-forets/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-du-quebec/letat-des-forets/</a></li> <li>- <sup>7</sup>Bilan de l'état des forêts 2008-2013, Bureau du Forestier en chef, <a href="#">Report (full version – French only)</a></li> <li>- <sup>8</sup>Financial Assistance Program for the Development of Private Woodlots</li> <li>- <sup>9</sup>Action plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Auditor General of Quebec – silvicultural work (French only) <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Plan-action-VGQ-travaux-sylvicoles.pdf">Plan d'action pour l'application des recommandations du Vérificateur - https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Plan-action-VGQ-travaux-sylvicoles.pdf</a></li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Low Risk			

2.4.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that natural processes, such as fires, pests and diseases, are managed appropriately (CPET S7b).		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Tenure: Quebec forests
	2. Possible threats	<p>Forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential threat: Forest development does not sufficiently consider natural processes as natural disturbances and increases the differences between managed and natural forests.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>Section 1 of the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> specifies that the forest regime aims to implement sustainable forest development, in particular through ecosystem-based management. The main objective of ecosystem-based management is to reduce the difference between managed forests and natural forests. [Translation] “Its role is to reduce the differences between managed forests and natural forests to ensure the maintenance of biodiversity and the viability of ecosystems.”<sup>1</sup> Seven main objectives have been identified by the MFFP to implement ecosystem-based management. The second, on changes in spatial organization, is particularly relevant to natural disturbances. It is impossible to predict or reproduce these disturbances strictly according to the extent of natural variability, so implementation of ecosystem-based management aims to reduce the differences between the managed forest and the natural forest while focusing on maintaining biodiversity.</p> <p>In the document <i>L’intégration des enjeux écologiques dans les plans d’aménagement forestier intégré, partie II - Élaboration de solution aux enjeux</i><sup>3</sup> (integrating ecological issues into integrated forest development plans, part II - developing a solution to issues – French only), the range of natural disturbances present in a forest territory is considered to define the preferred approaches to forest planning. Landscape-level management and planned wood volume recovery in windfall and burned areas are adjusted in accordance with the ecosystem-based management principles and objectives defined by the MFFP. Management of natural disturbances is carried out according to these parameters to manage and combat natural disturbances, as defined in the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy.</p> <p>Management of these natural processes, known as natural disturbances, is defined in the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy adopted in 2015. SOPFEU and SOPFIM are responsible for fighting fires, diseases and forest pests. These bodies have a mandate to ensure the sustainability of the forest environment for the benefit of the entire community. SOPFIM is mandated by the provincial government to help reduce the impact of insect outbreaks through aerial spraying programs using biological insecticide. SOPFEU’s mission is to provide the very best forest</p>

2.4.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that natural processes, such as fires, pests and diseases, are managed appropriately (CPET S7b).	
	<p>fire protection so as to ensure the sustainability of forest areas for the benefit of the entire community at the lowest possible cost.</p> <p>Under the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (sec. 185), if a fire starts in a private forest whose owner is not a member of the forest protection organization responsible for the area concerned, a representative of that organization is authorized to enter the forest and take the measures necessary to fight the fire. If an epidemic of destructive insects or a cryptogamic disease occurs or is about to occur in a forest in the domain of the State, the Minister requests the forest protection organization to prepare an action plan for the area defined by the Minister. The action plan must be approved by the Minister and implemented and made public by the forest protection organization (sec. 199).</p>
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>SOPFEU's activities include fire detection, prevention, mainly through education and awareness activities, and extinguishment of fire areas. SOPFIM conducts environmental monitoring to detect epidemics and monitor their progress. Programs using aerial spraying of insecticides are developed to minimize impacts on the forest environment. These programs are considered a success when 70% of the treated stands retain a minimum of 50% of their forest cover.</p> <p>Ecosystem-based management is carried out according to approaches based on historic degrees of alteration of natural variations and the habitat needs of focal species. Objective 1 of the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy is "Take into account the effects of the main natural disturbances when planning forest management and calculating allowable cuts." Combatting natural disturbances is one of the tools available to the government for the implementation of ecosystem-based development. Forest planning and harvesting activities are adapted according to the success of SOPFIM's and SOPFEU's efforts as well as the areas affected by natural disturbances.</p>
5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.
6. Sources of useful information	N.A.
7. Applicable good practices	N.A.

**2.4.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that natural processes, such as fires, pests and diseases, are managed appropriately (CPET S7b).**

	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Forests</td> <td>Implementation of control measures and procedures that ensure appropriate management of natural processes</td> <td>Integration of natural processes and variability into forest development</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status	Forests	Implementation of control measures and procedures that ensure appropriate management of natural processes	Integration of natural processes and variability into forest development	Requirements met
		Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status					
Forests	Implementation of control measures and procedures that ensure appropriate management of natural processes	Integration of natural processes and variability into forest development	Requirements met							
9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SOPFIM and SOPFEU annual reports to ensure sound management of forest fires, parasites and diseases</li> <li>- Five-year review of PIFDs</li> <li>- State of the public forest</li> </ul>									
10. Evidence reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i></li> <li>- SOPFIM website (e.g. annual reports, epidemics in progress, spraying)</li> <li>- SOPFEU website (e.g. annual reports)</li> <li>- <sup>1</sup> Intégration des enjeux écologiques dans les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré de 2018-2023, Cahier 1, Concepts généraux liés à l'aménagement écosystémique des forêts (MFFP, June 2017)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup> Sustainable Forest Management Strategy</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup> L'intégration des enjeux écologiques dans les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré, partie II - Élaboration de solution aux enjeux (MFFP, December 2013)</li> </ul>									
11. Risk rating	Low Risk									

**2.4.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that there is adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities, such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment (CPETS7c).**

F i n	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Quebec forests
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**2.4.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that there is adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities, such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment (CPETS7c).**

<b>d i n g s</b>	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	<p>Forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential threat: Uncontrolled illegal activities cause damage to the forest environment.</li> </ul>
	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>Many illegal activities threaten the forest environment. A number of laws and regulations have been adopted to protect it from illegal harvesting, misrepresentation of harvested volumes, illegal occupation of public land and poaching.</p> <p>Since 2013, the MFFP has carried out forest planning for public forests and monitored the wood allocated and harvested. In 2010, the timber marketing board created under the Sustainable Forest Development Act (SFDA) made wood available on the open market. All timber harvested in public forests is subject to supply guaranties, contractual agreements and permits. The Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State ensures that the quantities of such timber are recorded where it is harvested as well as on delivery to mills.</p> <p>Timber harvested in private forests and marketed in Quebec is subject to the <i>Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products</i> and regulations on timber marketing by producers in each administrative region of Quebec. Depending on the region, unions and forestry boards monitor all or a portion of the timber harvested in private forests.</p> <p>A permit to operate a wood-processing plant is mandatory and requires the keeping of an annually updated record of inventories, fibre received and consumed, and the nature and quantity of the products manufactured. In this way, volumes allocated and harvested in public and private forests can be compared with volumes delivered to mills.</p> <p>Quebec's hunting and trapping regulations are derived from the <i>Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife</i>, while its fishing regulations are derived from the federal <i>Fisheries Act</i>. Wildlife officers have a mandate to protect wildlife by combating poaching, among other things. Wildlife management agencies, such as controlled harvesting zones and outfitters, ensure sound management of wildlife and their habitats.</p> <p>The ministère de l'Énergie et Ressources naturelles (MERN) oversees the development of land in the domain of the state. It may lease or sell land or grant other forms of user rights. Permanent use is possible only with authorization from the department. If illegal occupation is reported, the department or one of the delegated RCMs initiates proceedings to ensure the illegal occupant leaves the land and that it is restored.</p>

2.4.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that there is adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities, such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment (CPETS7c).					
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>Forest development companies operating in public forests must have ISO 14001 or CEAF certification. They are obliged to train their employees and contractors in the procedures to follow if they witness illegal activity. Any incident must be reported to a supervisor, who then notifies the MFFP by completing a reporting sheet. Reporting can be done online with a form available to the general public (<a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/protection/braconnage-inscription.asp">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/protection/braconnage-inscription.asp</a>).</p> <p>The reports are analyzed and processed by various persons at the MFFP and, if necessary, are sent to the competent authorities, such as the Sûreté du Québec or wildlife agents. In private forests, harvest monitoring is governed by the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products and the Transport Act. Inspectors from municipalities and regional county municipalities (RCMs) as well as the provincial and municipal police forces monitor compliance with property rights and enforce municipal bylaws. In private forests, surveillance is also provided by the woodlot owner, neighbours and the community. In the event of illegal activity, police or wildlife officers may intervene.</p> <p>Canada is not on the list of countries with a domestic harvesting problem<sup>1</sup>. But its timber imports can be problematic. The provinces have laws and regulations as well as personnel to ensure they are enforced.</p>				
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.			
	6. Sources of useful information	N.A.			
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.			
	8. Status				
	<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Minimum required</b>	<b>status</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>

2.4.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that there is adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities, such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment (CPETS7c).					
		Quebec Forests	Conformance with laws and regulations	Implementation and monitoring of laws and regulations	Requirements met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://www.reseauzec.com/nouvelles/sos-braconnage">https://www.reseauzec.com/nouvelles/sos-braconnage</a></li> <li>- Verify the monitoring of illegal activities in public forests without FSC or SFI certification <a href="https://www.rendez-vousnature.ca/Nouvll/2019/02/09/les-pourvoires-une-force-economique-et-touristique-majeure-2189/">https://www.rendez-vousnature.ca/Nouvll/2019/02/09/les-pourvoires-une-force-economique-et-touristique-majeure-2189/</a></li> <li>- Legality and sustainability - <a href="https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/forests-forestry/sustainable-forest-management/canadas-forest-laws/legality-and-sustainability/13303?_ga=2.91226777.286278076.1567471931-1133212382.1560389233">https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/forests-forestry/sustainable-forest-management/canadas-forest-laws/legality-and-sustainability/13303?_ga=2.91226777.286278076.1567471931-1133212382.1560389233</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publications/FR/QC_info_Provinces_and_territories_FR.pdf">http://www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publications/FR/QC_info_Provinces_and_territories_FR.pdf</a></li> <li>- Municipal bylaws concerning public forests</li> <li>- Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products, Chapter M-35.1</li> <li>- Règlement sur la mise en marché du bois des producteurs de bois de la région de Québec, r. 123</li> <li>- Regulation respecting forest transport contracts</li> <li>- MFFP Annual Management Reports</li> <li>- <a href="http://www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publications/FR/QC_info_Provinces_and_territories_FR.pdf">http://www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publications/FR/QC_info_Provinces_and_territories_FR.pdf</a></li> <li>- Customs Act</li> <li>- Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products</i></li> <li>- <i>Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife</i></li> <li>- <i>Fisheries Act</i></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.mern.gouv.qc.ca">www.mern.gouv.qc.ca</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/sos-braconnage/">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/sos-braconnage/</a></li> <li>- <i>Transport Act</i></li> <li>- <sup>1</sup>transparency.org, World Bank Governance indicators</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Low Risk			

2.5.1 The legal, customary and traditional tenure and use rights of indigenous peoples and local communities related to the forest, are identified, documented and respected.		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs
	2. Possible threats	<p>Public forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Supply is sourced from areas where First Nations have not been able to integrate their interests and concerns in forest management plans and activities.</li> </ul> <p>Private forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Forest operations on private woodlots occur without any consideration to contemporary agreements with First Nations.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>The rights of Aboriginal peoples have been recognized in Canada’s Constitution since 1982. Even so, the Constitution does not define these rights nor does it specify the territories where they apply. A number of judgments by Canadian courts have affirmed ancestral rights in favour of First Nations. In general, conflicts concerning land use rights are resolved with assistance from the courts or by means of treaty negotiation processes involving First Nations, the federal government and provincial governments..</p> <p><u>Legislative Framework to Recognize and Respect Aboriginal Rights</u></p> <p>Canada and Québec have a substantial legislative, political and judicial framework concerning Aboriginal rights. Section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms the existing ancestral and treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. Thereafter, the Canadian courts established that “the Crown must have the intention of sustainably addressing the concerns of Aboriginal communities as they are expressed; that is what is expected of honourable conduct.”</p> <p>From the principle of honourable conduct by the Crown arises, among other things, the Crown’s constitutional duty to consult Aboriginal communities and, as necessary, to accommodate them when it considers a decision that may have prejudicial effects on their potential or established ancestral and treaty rights. The duty to accommodate when necessary is supposed to mitigate the effect of the contemplated measure on such rights. The approach taken by the Québec government is described in the <i>Interim Guide for Consulting Aboriginal Communities</i> (see 2.4). After the guide</p>

**2.5.1 The legal, customary and traditional tenure and use rights of indigenous peoples and local communities related to the forest, are identified, documented and respected.**

	<p>was adopted in 2006, Québec invited communities to comment, and these comments were taken into account when it updated the guide in 2008.</p> <p>The legislative and regulatory framework described below makes tools available to the federal and provincial governments and to First Nations so that such rights can be recognized and respected.</p> <p>The federal government, the Québec government and First Nations in the Province of Québec have taken various steps to recognize and guarantee respect for the rights of Aboriginal peoples on their lands as well as their right to take part in the planning and implementation of forestry activities that take place there. The Québec government is the owner of natural resources and must define and implement procedures to consult First Nations with a view to determining the degree to which their interests would be adversely affected by an action, before beginning or allowing any resource exploration or development on their lands.</p> <p>In Québec, First Nations have access to various tools to affirm their rights and to mitigate the disturbance that forestry activities may cause. Pending a treaty or judgment defining their rights, consultations during the PIFD process make it possible to finalize forest planning. Occasionally, agreements with affected communities take longer than expected, causing the cease of consultations, the suspension or the relocation of forestry operations until disputes are resolved.</p> <p>In the absence of treaties addressing the question of consultation around forest development, the Québec government enables communities to negotiate administrative agreements concerning consultations, which may establish terms and conditions including the territory to which they apply. In the case of the Innu, a protocol to facilitate consultation was signed between the Mashteuiatsh, Essipit and Nutashkuan communities and the MFFP. In February of 2017, the Abitibiwinni First Nation signed an agreement on consultation and accommodation with the Québec government.</p> <p>The <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> requires that all Aboriginal communities be consulted separately by the MFFP before plans for integrated forest development (TPIFDs) are published and when operational and annual forest planning takes place. The Interim Guide for Consulting Aboriginal Communities provides that if First Nations raise concerns about forestry activity, accommodation measures can be negotiated to mitigate the disturbance as much as possible. A number of forest development companies have their own process for consulting with First Nations affected by their operations.</p>
<p><b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b></p>	<p>Even though there are land claims and treaty negotiations in several regions of Canada, governmental and legal mechanisms enable all parties to express their claims freely and to expect an equitable judgment that is respectful of their rights. Such equitable mechanisms are also in place in Québec to resolve major conflicts concerning traditional Aboriginal rights. NEPCon’s Sourcing Hub (<a href="http://beta.nepcon.org">beta.nepcon.org</a>) concludes that these mechanisms, as well as the related</p>

**2.5.1 The legal, customary and traditional tenure and use rights of indigenous peoples and local communities related to the forest, are identified, documented and respected.**

laws and regulations, meet the requirements for consultation and respect for customary and traditional rights, and that monitoring of non-compliance with such obligations is rapidly taken into consideration by the relevant authorities. Over the years, a number of court decisions have recognized and defined the scope of the rights of Canada's Aboriginal peoples (e.g. Haida, Taku River, and Tsilhqot'in). In August of 2017, the Atikamekw community of Opitciwan obtained an injunction from the Superior Court of Québec, which determined that it had not been adequately consulted and had not had sufficient time to analyze a special development plan.

There are also other types of official land claims negotiations between the federal government, the Québec government and some First Nations. The Québec government regularly concludes sectoral agreements with First Nations concerning management of natural resources. Such agreements may also include provisions concerning economic development, taxation, public safety, justice, hunting and fishing, and so on.

At a time when formal agreements on natural resource management are being discussed, the Québec government and First Nations have agreed on interim measures to protect the interests of Aboriginal peoples.

Mechanisms associated with forestry

For the purposes of forest planning consultation, the Manuel de consultation des communautés autochtones 2013-2018<sup>1</sup> on PIFDs is implemented by the regional directorates of the MFFP. The regional office presents the PIFD development and consultation process to Aboriginal communities and adapts it in response to the specific needs of these communities. The manual is being revised by the MFFP for the next 2018-2023 five-year plan. It will take into consideration the recommendations made by a task force consisting of representatives of the MFFP and of First Nations.

The Sustainable Forest Management Strategy<sup>2</sup> (SFMS) also includes elements concerning the importance of dialogue and harmonious relations with Aboriginal communities in the context of forest management and development. The SFDA includes a number of provisions that are specific to Aboriginal communities and that concern their consultation and, if applicable, accommodation, as well as consideration of their interests, values and needs in sustainable forest management (e.g., sections 9, 10, 11, 37, 40, 55, 58, 224 and 345). The *Regulation Respecting Standards of Forest Management for Forests in the Domain of the State*<sup>3</sup> and the *Sustainable Forest Management Regulation*<sup>4</sup>, which will take effect on April 1, 2018, also aim to reconcile forest management activities with the activities of Aboriginal populations. Consultation offers an interim solution while courts and treaties work to define the scope of Aboriginal rights. The Agreement-in-principle of a general nature (APGN) with the Innu communities includes a consultation framework applicable to forests. Dispute resolution mechanisms are provided for in the implementation agreements concluded with the Crees, the Naskapi and the Inuit.

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Concerning forest management and enhancement, Aboriginal communities that have not signed a modern agreement or an APGN have access to dispute resolution mechanisms during their consultation concerning integrated forest management plans (PIFDs). The 2013-2018 version of the manual provides for a dispute resolution mechanism in the event of a dispute concerning PIFDs as part of an initiative involving consultation and, as applicable, accommodation. Moreover, the MFFP manages the Programme de participation autochtone à l'aménagement durable des forêts (Program for Aboriginal participation in sustainable forest management<sup>5</sup>), intended to financially sustain Aboriginal communities' participation in and contribution to sustainable forest development. It supports their involvement in consultation processes concerning sustainable forest management and development, particularly forest planning, as well as local integrated land and resource management panels (LILRMPs) or any other forum under the forest regime. It also promotes implementation by Aboriginal communities of socioeconomic development projects involving sustainable forest development to ensure such communities can contribute to the forest sector.

It is also noteworthy that a number of forestry companies have concluded specific agreements with First Nations that, for the most part, provide their own processes to resolve disputes with the communities affected by their operations. A number of these private agreements have also led to business and economic development partnerships with Aboriginal communities. The sawmill operated by Société en commandite Opitciwan in the Haute-Mauricie and the Boisaco group of companies in the Côte-Nord region are examples of successful partnerships of this kind between the forest industry and First Nations. Other agreements, of a contractual or supply nature, are common in Québec, given that a number of communities have been granted forest rights. In 2016, Université Laval created a Leadership Chair in Aboriginal Forestry Education, whose members include Aboriginal communities and the Québec Forest Industry Council. The purpose of the Chair is to promote self-government for First Nations, for example through the development of communities' capabilities and of industrial partnerships.

More specifically, in the case of the Crees, the Inuit and the Naskapi, the federal and provincial governments have negotiated and concluded treaties and agreements that are implemented by means including laws and regulations. Such treaties and agreements may provide for Aboriginal participation and consultation in various state decision-making processes. As for the Crees, they participate in territorial management through involvement in the Cree-MFFP Joint Committee on Forestry. Moreover, a number of First Nations with claims below the northern limit for timber allocations have begun negotiating with the federal and Québec governments. These Nations include the Mohawk of Akwesasne; the Innu of Natuashish and Sheshatshiu; the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj; the Maliseet of Viger; the Atikamekw of Manawan, Obedjiwan and Wemotaci; the Innu of the Mamuitun mak Nutashkuan Tribal Council; Regroupement Petapan inc.; the Assemblée Mamu Pakatatau Mamit; and Ashuanipi Corporation<sup>6</sup>.

These negotiations concern multiple subjects, including self-government (Innu, Akwesasne and Atikamekw), clarification of ancestral rights defined in treaties before 1975 (Mi'kmaq and Maliseet) and land claims (Atikamekw,

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Innu and Mi'kmaq). Lists of agreements concluded between Aboriginal groups and the federal and provincial governments are available on the websites of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones. Information on the situation of various Aboriginal communities can also be found in the integrated forest management plans available on the MFFP website.

Section 8 of the SFDA<sup>7</sup> authorizes the Québec government to enter into agreements with any Aboriginal community, as represented by a band council, to enable the members of the community to carry out and follow up on certain forest development activities and to support sustainable forest development. Under section 24.1 of the Act Respecting the Conservation and Development of Wildlife, the government is also authorized to enter into agreements with communities to better reconcile wildlife conservation and management requirements with the activities pursued by Aboriginal peoples for subsistence, ritual or social purposes, or to further facilitate wildlife resource development and management by Aboriginal peoples. The Regulation Respecting Beaver Reserves<sup>8</sup>, of which there are 11, gives Aboriginal peoples the exclusive right to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals within beaver reserves, with the exception of the Saguenay Reserve.

As for economic development, the Québec government has put in place various support measures. In 2017 more than 875 850 m<sup>3</sup> of timber were allocated to organizations associated with 12 First Nations in the form of supply guarantees, permits to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant and forest biomass allocation agreements (see Table 2 in Appendix 1: Timber volumes allocated to First Nations (2017)). Several Aboriginal communities have signed specific agreements with the Québec government establishing terms and conditions for programs and cooperation around economic development and community infrastructure<sup>9</sup>. The Aboriginal Human Resource Council, a non-profit organization, has launched, organized and coordinated many initiatives to create career opportunities for Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Even though Canada has not signed ILO Convention 169, the legislative, regulatory and case law frameworks referred to above constitute sound practices in the spirit of the Convention's provisions. The duty to consult and, as necessary, to accommodate makes it possible to mitigate as much as possible the potential negative effects of forestry activities on the potential or established rights of First Nations. Agreements have been concluded with a large number of communities that concern forestry, hunting, fishing and other matters. Several Aboriginal groups have had their rights recognized by treaties or the courts, or are in the process of negotiating with the federal and provincial governments in a framework other than that of forestry activities.

As for private forests, recognition of the rights of First Nations is constantly evolving in the country. Some communities have signed contemporary agreements with the government that recognize their rights to traditional practices like

2.5.1 The legal, customary and traditional tenure and use rights of indigenous peoples and local communities related to the forest, are identified, documented and respected.	
	subsistence hunting and gathering, although they point out that they have difficulty undertaking discussions with landowners for the implementation of such agreements.
5. Other applicable evidence	s.o.
6. Sources of useful information	<p>Judgments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- R. c. Sparrow, [1990] 1 R.C.S. 1075</li> <li>- Delgamuukw c. British Columbia, [1997] 3 R.C.S. 1010</li> <li>- Nation Haida c. British Columbia (Forest ministry), [2004] 3 R.C.S. 511</li> <li>- Taku River Tlingit First Nation c. British Columbia (Directeur d'évaluation de projet), [2004] 3 R.C.S. 550</li> <li>- Mikisew Cree First Nation c. Canada (Canadian Heritage), [2005] 3 R.C.S. 388</li> <li>- Nation Tsilhqot'in c. British Columbia, [2014] 2 R.C.S. 256.</li> </ul> <p>Public Forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information document published by the Québec government for promoters and general introduction to relations with Aboriginal communities in the context of natural resource development projects</li> <li>- Manual for public consultation on integrated forest development plans and special development plans</li> <li>- Integrated Forest Management Plan First Nation Consultation Manual</li> <li>- Consultation policy on directions for sustainable forest development and management Secrétariat des affaires autochtones Québec</li> </ul> <p>Private Forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional agencies for private forest development - <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privées/agences-regionales-mise-en-valeur-forets-privées/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/forets-privées/agences-regionales-mise-en-valeur-forets-privées/</a></li> <li>- Secrétariat des affaires autochtones Québec</li> </ul>
7. Applicable good practices	N/A
8. Status	

2.5.1 The legal, customary and traditional tenure and use rights of indigenous peoples and local communities related to the forest, are identified, documented and respected.					
		Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status
		Public and Private Forest	Mechanisms ensuring identification, documentation and respect of Aboriginal rights	Mechanisms in place	Requirements met
<b>9. Means of verification</b>		Public Forest : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Validate First Nations dialogue with forest companies and MFFP associated with non certified management units.</li> <li>- Validate integrated forest management plans address First Nations issues</li> <li>- Vérifier la présence d'ententes veillant aux respects des droits autochtones entre le gouvernement du Québec et des Premières Nations sur le territoire forestier pertinent</li> </ul> Private forest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Validate First Nation participation and integration of their interests in the regional plans for integrated land and resource development</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 35(1) of the Constitution Act 1982</li> <li>- Integrated forest management plans</li> <li>- Interim mechanisms between the Quebec government and First Nations</li> <li>- Sectoral agreements (i.e. economic development, taxes, public security, etc.) with First Nations relative to natural resource management.</li> <li>- Beta.nepcon.org</li> <li>- <sup>1</sup> First Nations Communities Consultation Manual 2013-2018 on forest management planning of the MFFP (<i>Manuel de consultation des communautés autochtones 2013-2018</i>) - <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/201709-27_DO.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/201709-27_DO.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup> <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/forest/sustainable-forest-management-strategy.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/forest/sustainable-forest-management-strategy.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup> <i>Regulation Respecting Standards of Forest Management for Forests in the Domain of the State</i></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup> <i>Sustainable Forest Management Regulation</i></li> <li>- <sup>5</sup> Program for Aboriginal participation in sustainable forest management</li> <li>- <sup>6</sup><a href="https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca">https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca</a></li> <li>- <sup>7</sup><i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i></li> </ul>			

<b>2.5.1 The legal, customary and traditional tenure and use rights of indigenous peoples and local communities related to the forest, are identified, documented and respected.</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>8</sup>Règlement sur les réserves de castor <a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/territoires/castor.jsp">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/territoires/castor.jsp</a></li> <li>- <sup>9</sup><a href="http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/relations_autochtones/ententes/liste_ententes_conclues.htm">http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/relations_autochtones/ententes/liste_ententes_conclues.htm</a></li> <li>- Private forest protection and development plan (PPMV)</li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk

<b>2.5.2 Production of feedstock does not endanger food, water supply or subsistence means of communities, where the use of this specific feedstock or water is essential for the fulfilment of basic needs.</b>	
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	<p><b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b></p> <p>Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs</p>
	<p><b>2. Possible threats</b></p> <p><u>Risk assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Potential threats to the subsistence means of communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest planning does not take into account the rights, interests, values and needs of Native communities to their satisfaction.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The threats posed by forestry in areas critical to the water supply to communities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● construction and maintenance of roads and bridges near or across watercourses;</li> <li>● physical damage to watercourses owing to inappropriate development practices resulting in sediment erosion and soil compaction; and</li> <li>● indirect contamination of watercourses as a result of surface runoff or underground leakage.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b></p> <p>Section 1 of the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> (SFDA) seeks to “determine how responsibilities under the forest regime are shared between the State, regional bodies, Native communities and users of the forest.” The Act contains provisions specific to Native communities. Sections 6 and 7 ensure that the interests, values and needs of Native communities are taken into account in forest planning while accommodating them if necessary. Under section 38, the government can prescribe sustainable forest development standards associated with First Nations.</p>

**2.5.2 Production of feedstock does not endanger food, water supply or subsistence means of communities, where the use of this specific feedstock or water is essential for the fulfilment of basic needs.**

Several sections of the *Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State* (RSDF) consider Native interests on delimited sites.

Water supply

Furthermore, the Fisheries Act makes provision for the protection of fish habitat. Pursuant to the Act, no one can carry out work or an undertaking that would cause the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat subject to commercial fishing, unless authorized to do so by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

At the provincial level, the Québec government implemented the Québec Water Policy in the fall of 2002. The policy introduces measures and commitments by the government to implement management based on drainage basins, reform water governance and protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems, in particular.

Under this policy, 40 watershed organizations have been created to develop water master plans with local stakeholders<sup>5</sup>. These plans highlight the territory's major challenges in integrated water management and propose an action plan to improve water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

On public lands, the Sustainable Forest Development Act, the Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (RS) and the Sustainable Forest Development Regulation include several protective measures respecting water in the realm of harvesting, road construction or and maintenance. These include requirements for buffer zones of a certain distance from a watercourse or lake (sections 7, 25 à 27, 30 à 32, 34, 67 à 69, 72 à 78, 80 à 83, 93 à 98, 103 à 114). Between 1999 and 2013, the compliance rate with these protective measures rose from 78% to 91%.<sup>6</sup>

Regardless of tenure, the *Environmental Quality Act* requires a permit for any disturbance to a wetland. The permit application process includes an analysis of the project in relation to environmental quality.

The *Act respecting land use planning and development* requires that each regional county municipality (RCM) have a development plan that must "identify zones where land occupation is subject to special restrictions for reasons of public safety such as flood zones, erosion zones, landslide zones or zones subject to other disasters or for reasons of environmental protection regarding wetlands and bodies of water". The Act also allows municipalities to regulate or prohibit all land uses "taking into account the topography of the landsite, the proximity of wetlands or bodies of water, the danger of flood, rockfall, landslide or other disaster... for reasons of public safety or of protection of the environment".<sup>7</sup> These situations (MRC and municipalities) also apply to private woodlots.

The Environmental Quality Act includes the Policy for Lakeshores, Riverbanks, Littoral Zones and Floodplains, which establishes standards, for example, for a riparian strip of 10 m, or 15 m if the slope exceeds 30% and 3 m

2.5.2 Production of feedstock does not endanger food, water supply or subsistence means of communities, where the use of this specific feedstock or water is essential for the fulfilment of basic needs.	
	for farmland. If the land-use plan of an RCM does not comply with these standards, the MDDELCC can demand the necessary modifications. <sup>8</sup>
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>Specific terms and conditions are defined during consultations on tactical and operational plans for integrated forest development to address the concerns of Native communities. The consultation processes vary by region and First Nation requests. The Native communities raise their concerns about the territories defined and recognized by the MFFP during the consultation process. The reports on consultations with these communities remain confidential even though the terms and conditions of the development plans are public.</p> <p><b>Water sources for irrigation:</b></p> <p>On average, there is no shortage of rain in eastern Canada and, consequently, there is little irrigation in Québec<sup>1</sup>. Given that Québec uses 1.5% of the total national volume of irrigation water and that only 2.5% of farms in Québec are irrigated<sup>3</sup>, forestry activities are deemed at low risk of impacting sources of water for irrigation in Québec.</p> <p><b>Water sources supplying communities:</b></p> <p>The MDDELCC has identified 316 municipalities whose water supply comes from surface water (79 water supplies from lakes, five lacustrine or fluvial water supplies, 10 watercourses, 199 rivers, 23 underground sources of supply rounded out with at least one surface water supply). While the intake points have not all been mapped to ascertain whether they are located in a forest area, they are all deemed potential HCVs.</p> <p>To summarize, regulatory measures exist to minimize the impact of forest activities on watercourses and the functions and quality of wetlands.</p> <p>Given the provincial regulatory framework and restrictions on forest activities around watercourses and water catchments, there is a low specified risk to drinking water quality.</p> <p>Public forests:</p> <p>The MFFP assigns personnel to check compliance with the provisions of the RSFD, issue notices of non-compliance where appropriate, and, if necessary, take action on suspected infractions. Offenders found guilty are fined.<sup>9</sup></p>
5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.

2.5.2 Production of feedstock does not endanger food, water supply or subsistence means of communities, where the use of this specific feedstock or water is essential for the fulfilment of basic needs.											
	6. Sources of useful information	N.A.									
	7. Applicable good practices	Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec. 2016. <i>Saines pratiques d'intervention en forêt privée : guide terrain</i> , 4th edition revised. 140 pages. ( <a href="https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf">https://www.foretrivee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Guide_des_Saines_Pratiques_FPFQ_WEB.pdf</a> )									
	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quebec Forest</td> <td>Abiding to regulatory measures</td> <td>Abiding and monitoring of regulatory measures</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status	Quebec Forest	Abiding to regulatory measures	Abiding and monitoring of regulatory measures	Requirements met	
Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status								
Quebec Forest	Abiding to regulatory measures	Abiding and monitoring of regulatory measures	Requirements met								
9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public forests: Interviews with RSDF enforcement officials in the relevant MFFP management units to see whether there are any non-compliance issues related to the RSDF sections on watercourse protection</li> <li>- Private forests: Interviews with relevant watershed organizations to see whether there are any specific issues associated with harvesting in private forests</li> </ul>										
10. Evidence reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup> <a href="https://www.canada.ca/fr/services/environnement/meteo.html">https://www.canada.ca/fr/services/environnement/meteo.html</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/16-402-x/2011001/part-partie1-fra.htm">http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/16-402-x/2011001/part-partie1-fra.htm</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup> <a href="http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/16-402-x/2011001/t024-fra.htm">http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/16-402-x/2011001/t024-fra.htm</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup> <a href="http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/EAU/potable/distribution/index.asp">http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/EAU/potable/distribution/index.asp</a></li> <li>- <sup>5</sup> <a href="https://robvq.qc.ca/obv">https://robvq.qc.ca/obv</a></li> <li>- <sup>6</sup> <a href="http://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/c3.pdf">http://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/c3.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>7</sup> <a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cs/A-19.1">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cs/A-19.1</a></li> <li>- <sup>8</sup> <a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cr/Q-2,%20r.%2035">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cr/Q-2,%20r.%2035</a></li> <li>- <sup>9</sup> <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/infractions-aux-lois/liste-contrevenants-lois-foret/</a></li> </ul>										
11. Risk rating	<b>Low risk</b>										

2.6.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving grievances and disputes, including those relating to tenure and use rights, to forest management practices and to work conditions.		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Tenure: Public forests (development units and unorganized territories); private forests with and without development programs
	2. Possible threats	<p>Public forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Potential threat: Grievances and disputes concerning rights of occupancy and use, development practices or working conditions without a mechanism to resolve them.</li> </ul> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Potential threat: Grievances and disputes concerning rights of occupancy and use, development practices or working conditions without a mechanism to resolve them.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>Public forests:</p> <p><u>Dispute resolution mechanisms</u></p> <p>Under the <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i><sup>1</sup> (SFDA), the Minister may resolve disputes throughout the forest planning process. A number of mechanisms and committees are available to interested parties to manage disputes associated with forest development. The Minister may resolve disputes through integrated land and resource management panels (SFDA, sec. 55) and within the framework of agreements with holders of supply guarantees (SFDA, sec. 103.7).</p> <p>Dialogue mechanisms are provided as part of Quebec’s consultation policy on forest management and development directions. All interested parties can present arguments concerning their disagreement with forest planning and activities in the public forest. Integrated land and resource management panels<sup>2</sup> (ILRMPs) are a forum where forest representatives can present their arguments to resolve disputes. Each panel abides by operating rules that include dispute resolution mechanisms.</p> <p><u>Mécanismes de résolution de différends avec les Premières Nations</u></p> <p>For the purposes of forest planning consultation, the <i>Manuel de consultation des communautés autochtones 2013-2018</i><sup>3</sup> on PIFDs is implemented by the regional directorates of the MFFP. The regional office presents the PIFD development and consultation process to Aboriginal communities and adapts it in response to the specific needs of</p>

**2.6.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving grievances and disputes, including those relating to tenure and use rights, to forest management practices and to work conditions.**

these communities. The manual is being revised by the MFFP for the next 2018-2023 five-year plan. It will take into consideration the recommendations made by a task force consisting of representatives of the MFFP and of First Nations.

The Sustainable Forest Management Strategy<sup>4</sup> (SFMS) also includes elements concerning the importance of dialogue and harmonious relations with Aboriginal communities in the context of forest management and development. The SFDA includes a number of provisions that are specific to Aboriginal communities and that concern their consultation and, if applicable, accommodation, as well as consideration of their interests, values and needs in sustainable forest management (e.g., sections 9, 10, 11, 37, 40, 55, 58, 224 and 345). The *Regulation Respecting Standards of Forest Management for Forests in the Domain of the State*<sup>5</sup> and the *Sustainable Forest Management Regulation*<sup>6</sup>, which will take effect on April 1, 2018, also aim to reconcile forest management activities with the activities of Aboriginal populations. Consultation offers an interim solution while courts and treaties work to define the scope of Aboriginal rights. The APGN with the Innu communities includes a consultation framework applicable to forests. Dispute resolution mechanisms are provided for in the implementation agreements concluded with the Crees, the Naskapi and the Inuit.

**Private forests:**

The SFDA requires private forest development agencies to have a mechanism for decision making and conflict management. In private forests, landowners have access to forest professionals and the legal system to manage conflicts.

Mechanisms for resolving disputes associated with working conditions

The responsibilities of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail<sup>7</sup> (CNESST) include implementation of the *Act respecting labour standards* and promotion of work-related rights and obligations. Workers may file a complaint with the CNESST if they believe that they have been subject to sanction, discrimination or reprisal by their employer because they have sustained a workplace injury, exercised a right recognized by the *Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases* or exercised a right or a function recognized by the *Act respecting occupational health and safety*.

<b>2.6.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving grievances and disputes, including those relating to tenure and use rights, to forest management practices and to work conditions.</b>	
	The Commission sur les droits de la personne et les droits de la jeunesse has a mandate to enforce the Charter of Human and Youth Rights.
<b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b>	<p>Public forests:</p> <p>Sitting in four divisions, the Administrative Labour Tribunal<sup>8</sup> fosters the amicable settlement of disputes through its conciliation service, which is free of charge. If no conciliation agreement is reached, the parties are heard by an administrative judge at a hearing.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p><u>Mechanisms for resolving disputes with First Nations</u></p> <p>As for private forests, recognition of the rights of First Nations is constantly evolving in the country. Some communities have signed contemporary agreements with the government that recognize their rights to traditional practices like subsistence hunting and gathering, although they point out that they have difficulty undertaking discussions with landowners for the implementation of such agreements.</p> <p><u>Mechanisms for resolving disputes associated with working conditions</u></p> <p>The list of employers that have contravened the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> is available to the public on the CNESST website. Reports on its activities and on compliance with the Charter are also available on its website.</p> <p>The Comité sectoriel de main-d'œuvre en aménagement forestier monitors working conditions in the forest sector to formulate and support innovative development strategies for Quebec forest manpower and trades (csmoaf.com). The committee documents working conditions and fosters dialogue with forest sector partners, including trade unions, cooperatives, manufacturers and government.</p>
<b>5. Other applicable evidence</b>	N.A.
<b>6. Sources of useful information</b>	N.A.

**2.6.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving grievances and disputes, including those relating to tenure and use rights, to forest management practices and to work conditions.**

7. Applicable good practices	N.A.			
8. Status				
	<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Required minimum status</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Status</b>
	Public forests	Existing mechanisms to handle complaints concerning tenure, forest practices and working conditions	Such mechanisms exist.	Requirements met
Private forests	Idem	Such mechanisms exist.	Requirements met	
<b>9. Means of verification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ILRMP rules of operation</li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</i></li> <li>- <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/forest/consultation/summary-consultation-policy-forest.pdf">Politique de consultation sur les orientations en matière d'aménagement durable des forêts et de gestion du milieu forestier</a> (consultation policy on directions for sustainable forest development and management – French only)</li> <li>- <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/forest/consultation/summary-consultation-policy-forest.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/forest/consultation/summary-consultation-policy-forest.pdf</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Manuel de consultation du public sur les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré et les plans d'aménagement spéciaux</a> (manual for public consultation on integrated forest development plans and special development plans – French only)</li> <li>- Administrative Labour Tribunal: <a href="https://www.tat.gouv.qc.ca/menu-utilitaire/english-content/">https://www.tat.gouv.qc.ca/menu-utilitaire/english-content/</a></li> <li>- CNESST mediation (French only):</li> <li>- <a href="https://www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/Publications/100/Pages/DC_100_9006.aspx">https://www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/Publications/100/Pages/DC_100_9006.aspx</a></li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>ILRMP rules of operation</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><a href="#">Manuel de consultation du public sur les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré et les plans d'aménagement spéciaux</a> (manual for public consultation on integrated forest development plans and special development plans – French only)</li> </ul>			

<b>2.6.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving grievances and disputes, including those relating to tenure and use rights, to forest management practices and to work conditions.</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/forest/consultation/summary-consultation-policy-forest.pdf">Politique de consultation sur les orientations en matière d'aménagement durable des forêts et de gestion du milieu forestier</a> (consultation policy on directions for sustainable forest development and management – French only)</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup><i>Sustainable Forest Management Strategy</i></li> <li>- <sup>5</sup><i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</i></li> <li>- <sup>6</sup><i>Sustainable Forest Management Regulation</i></li> <li>- <sup>7</sup>CNESST mediation (French only): <a href="https://www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/Publications/100/Pages/DC_100_9006.aspx">https://www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/Publications/100/Pages/DC_100_9006.aspx</a></li> <li>- <sup>8</sup>Administrative Labour Tribunal: <a href="https://www.tat.gouv.qc.ca/menu-utilitaire/english-content/">https://www.tat.gouv.qc.ca/menu-utilitaire/english-content/</a></li> <li>- csmoaf.com</li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk

<b>2.7.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that Freedom of Association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining are respected.</b>		
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Quebec forests
	2. Possible threats	Quebec forests Possible threat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workers do not have recourse to the resources provided under the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> to assert their right to freedom of association in the workplace.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements	The 2017 and 2018 ITUC Global Rights Index <sup>1</sup> gave Canada a rating of 2, noting that “collective labour rights are generally guaranteed.” Only 12 countries were given a score of “1” and 21 were rated “2.”

2.7.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that Freedom of Association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining are respected.	
and agencies involved	<p>Canada has signed the ILO core conventions<sup>2</sup> (29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182), including the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No. 98). Canada's and Quebec's laws and regulations on labour standards and worker rights govern the workplace in accordance with Canada's obligations under these conventions.</p> <p>The <i>Labour Code</i> governs collective labour relations and is enshrined in Quebec's <i>Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms</i><sup>3</sup> and the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i><sup>4</sup>. It oversees the exercise of the right of association in the workplace. The exercise of the right of association is protected from any obstruction, sanction or reprimand. Section 12 prohibits an employer from hindering or financing the activities of an association of employees. In such a case, certification cannot be granted (sec. 29 and 31), and the employer is liable to a fine (sec. 143). The <i>Act to establish the Administrative Labour Tribunal</i> (CQLR, Chapter T-15.1) defines the mandate of the tribunal to ensure the efficient and diligent application of the <i>Labour Code</i>.</p>
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>The decisions of the Administrative Labour Tribunal are available on the Internet<sup>5</sup>. The Société québécoise d'information juridique (SOQUIJ) posts the Tribunal's substantiated decisions on its website. Decisions concerning accreditation of a union or recognition of an association are available via the Corail online service (Les relations du travail en ligne – French only)<sup>6</sup>. It is possible to review collective agreements, letters of agreement, grievance awards, decisions and orders.</p>
5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.
6. Sources of useful information	<p>Despite the legal and regulatory framework, since the new forest regime was introduced in 1985, outsourcing of forest work, with a high proportion of subcontractors and individual businesses carrying out harvesting, has made unionization more difficult in this sector of activity. The unionization rate for forestry workers was 68% in 1985 but fell to 44% in 1990 and 33% in 1997.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>The Comité sectoriel de main d'œuvre en aménagement forestier<sup>8</sup> (CSMOAF) analyzes issues in the sector, proposes strategies to address the manpower challenges identified as priorities and publishes annual reports on these activities. It consults stakeholders and contributes to the development of the workforce and the improvement of companies' human resources management practices. It also oversees a working group on forest entrepreneurship.</p>

2.7.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that Freedom of Association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining are respected.									
		Forestry companies operating in public forests must obtain certification under the Certification Program for Forestry Enterprise Management Practices, which targets illegal work, non-compliance with occupational health and safety requirements and lack of transparency toward workers. <sup>10</sup>							
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.							
	8. Status								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quebec forests</td> <td>Workers have access to the right of association in the workplace</td> <td>The legislative framework and the measures in place allow for compliance with this right</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status	Quebec forests	Workers have access to the right of association in the workplace	The legislative framework and the measures in place allow for compliance with this right
Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status						
Quebec forests	Workers have access to the right of association in the workplace	The legislative framework and the measures in place allow for compliance with this right	Requirements met						
9. Means verification	of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Les relations de travail en ligne (online labour relations – French only)</li> <li>- (<a href="https://www.corail.gouv.qc.ca/abonnement/acceder.do">https://www.corail.gouv.qc.ca/abonnement/acceder.do</a>)</li> <li>- Bank of the Tribunal’s substantiated decisions (<a href="https://www.tat.gouv.qc.ca/decisions-et-registres/decisions/banques-de-decisions-de-la-soquij/">https://www.tat.gouv.qc.ca/decisions-et-registres/decisions/banques-de-decisions-de-la-soquij/</a>)</li> </ul>							
10. Evidence reviewed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><a href="https://www.ituc-csi.org">https://www.ituc-csi.org</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><a href="http://www.ilo.org">www.ilo.org</a></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Quebec Labour Code</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>Canada Labour Code</li> <li>- Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms</li> <li>- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</li> <li>- <sup>5</sup>Bank of the Tribunal’s substantiated decisions (<a href="https://www.tat.gouv.qc.ca/decisions-et-registres/decisions/banques-de-decisions-de-la-soquij/">https://www.tat.gouv.qc.ca/decisions-et-registres/decisions/banques-de-decisions-de-la-soquij/</a>)</li> <li>- <sup>6</sup>Les relations de travail en ligne (online labour relations – French only)</li> <li>- <sup>7</sup> Barré, P. et Rioux, C. (2012). L’industrie des produits forestiers au Québec : la crise d’un modèle socio-productif (the forest products industry in Quebec: the crisis of a socio-productive model). <i>Recherches sociographiques</i>, 53 (3), 645–669 (French only)</li> <li>- <sup>8</sup> CSMOAF.com</li> </ul>							

<b>2.7.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that Freedom of Association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining are respected.</b>	
	- <sup>10</sup> <a href="https://bnq.qc.ca/fr/normalisation/101-normalisation/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=495&amp;Itemid=1404">https://bnq.qc.ca/fr/normalisation/101-normalisation/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=495&amp;Itemid=1404</a> ( <a href="https://www.corail.gouv.qc.ca/abonnement/acceder.do">https://www.corail.gouv.qc.ca/abonnement/acceder.do</a> )
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low

<b>2.7.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not supplied using any form of compulsory labour.</b>		
<b>C o n s t a t s</b>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</b>	Quebec forests
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	Possible threat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers' lack of awareness of the minimum conditions of labour standards and the resources available to them.</li> </ul>
	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	Canada has signed the ILO core conventions, including the Forced Labour Convention (No. 29) <sup>1</sup> . Canada's and Quebec's laws and regulations on labour standards and worker rights govern the workplace in accordance with Canada's obligations under these conventions.  The <i>Act Respecting Labour Standards</i> <sup>2</sup> establishes the foundations for minimum working conditions in Quebec. The Act defines the mandate of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail <sup>3</sup> , which is to monitor its implementation and to enforce labour standards. It contains provisions concerning forced labour, as well as wages, the right to rest, working hours, leave and absences owing to sickness.
	<b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b>	The Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) is responsible for promoting labour rights and obligations. Failure to comply with the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> can lead to

2.7.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not supplied using any form of compulsory labour.												
		violations and contraventions. The list of employers in violation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> is available to the public on the CNESST website <sup>4</sup> . No forestry offenders have been identified in connection with forced labour.										
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.										
	6. Sources of useful information	Forestry companies operating in public forests must obtain certification under the Certification Program for Forestry Enterprise Management Practices, which concerns illegal work, non-compliance with health and safety requirements at the lack of transparency toward workers. <sup>5</sup>  The Comité sectoriel de main d'oeuvre en aménagement forestier (CSMOAF) analyzes issues in the sector, proposes strategies to address the manpower challenges identified as priorities, and publishes annual reports on these activities.										
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.										
	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quebec forests</td> <td>Compliance with the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i></td> <td>Implementation and enforcement of labour standards</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	status	Quebec forests	Compliance with the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i>	Implementation and enforcement of labour standards	Requirements met
Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	status									
Quebec forests	Compliance with the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i>	Implementation and enforcement of labour standards	Requirements met									
	9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of employers in violation of the <i>Labour Standards Act</i> (CNESST)</li> <li>- List of companies certified under the Certification Program for Forestry Enterprise Management Practices</li> <li>- CSMAOF reports</li> </ul>										
	10. Evidence reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>International Trade Union Confederation, 2007, Internationally Recognised Core Labour Standards in Canada: Report for the WTO General Council Review of the Trade Policies of Canada</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><i>Act respecting labour standards</i></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail – cnesst.gouv.qc.ca</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>List of employers in violation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> (CNESST)</li> </ul>										

2.7.2 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not supplied using any form of compulsory labour.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of companies certified under the Certification Program for Forestry Enterprise Management Practices</li> <li>- <sup>5</sup><a href="https://bnq.qc.ca/fr/normalisation/101-normalisation/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=495&amp;Itemid=1404">https://bnq.qc.ca/fr/normalisation/101-normalisation/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=495&amp;Itemid=1404</a></li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk

2.7.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that feedstock is not supplied using child labour.									
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)</td> <td>Quebec forests</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">2. Possible threats</td> <td>           Quebec forests:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Workers' lack of awareness of the minimum conditions of labour standards and the resources available to them.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</td> <td>Canada has signed the International Labour Organization (ILO) core conventions<sup>1</sup> (29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182), including the Minimum Age Convention (No. 38). Canada's and Quebec's laws and regulations concerning labour standards and worker rights govern the workplace in accordance with Canada's obligations under these conventions. In Quebec, under the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i><sup>2</sup>, a child is a person under the age of 18. Children under the age of 14 must obtain written permission from a parent or guardian to work.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">4. Application mechanisms and evidence</td> <td>           There is a low risk of child labour in Canada according to Maplecroft's 2014 Child Labour Index<sup>3</sup>. The country is not on the ILO's list of countries noted for child labour.             The responsibilities of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) include the application of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> and the promotion of labour rights and obligations.         </td> </tr> </table>	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Quebec forests	2. Possible threats	Quebec forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Workers' lack of awareness of the minimum conditions of labour standards and the resources available to them.</li> </ul>	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	Canada has signed the International Labour Organization (ILO) core conventions <sup>1</sup> (29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182), including the Minimum Age Convention (No. 38). Canada's and Quebec's laws and regulations concerning labour standards and worker rights govern the workplace in accordance with Canada's obligations under these conventions. In Quebec, under the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> <sup>2</sup> , a child is a person under the age of 18. Children under the age of 14 must obtain written permission from a parent or guardian to work.	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	There is a low risk of child labour in Canada according to Maplecroft's 2014 Child Labour Index <sup>3</sup> . The country is not on the ILO's list of countries noted for child labour.  The responsibilities of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) include the application of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> and the promotion of labour rights and obligations.
1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Quebec forests								
2. Possible threats	Quebec forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Workers' lack of awareness of the minimum conditions of labour standards and the resources available to them.</li> </ul>								
3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	Canada has signed the International Labour Organization (ILO) core conventions <sup>1</sup> (29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182), including the Minimum Age Convention (No. 38). Canada's and Quebec's laws and regulations concerning labour standards and worker rights govern the workplace in accordance with Canada's obligations under these conventions. In Quebec, under the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> <sup>2</sup> , a child is a person under the age of 18. Children under the age of 14 must obtain written permission from a parent or guardian to work.								
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	There is a low risk of child labour in Canada according to Maplecroft's 2014 Child Labour Index <sup>3</sup> . The country is not on the ILO's list of countries noted for child labour.  The responsibilities of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) include the application of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> and the promotion of labour rights and obligations.								

2.7.3 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that feedstock is not supplied using child labour.									
		Failure to comply with the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> can lead to infractions and contraventions. The list of employers that have violated the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> is available to the public on the CNESST website <sup>4</sup> . No forestry offenders have been identified in connection with child labour.							
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.							
	6. Sources of useful information	N.A.							
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.							
	8. Status								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quebec forests</td> <td>Compliance with laws and regulations</td> <td>No offenders associated with child labour in forestry</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status	Quebec forests	Compliance with laws and regulations	No offenders associated with child labour in forestry
Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status						
Quebec forests	Compliance with laws and regulations	No offenders associated with child labour in forestry	Requirements met						
	9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check whether companies in the supply chain are on the list of employers in violation of the <i>Labour Standards Act</i></li> <li>- List of companies certified under the Certification Program for Forestry Enterprise Management Practices</li> </ul>							
	10. Evidence reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>ILO list of countries noted for child labour</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><i>Act Respecting Labour Standards</i></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Child Labour Index – Maplecroft report (2014)</li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>List of employers in violation of the Labour Standards Act (CNESST)</li> </ul>							
	11. Risk rating	Low Risk							

2.7.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not supplied using labour which is discriminated against in respect of employment and occupation.		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Quebec forests
	2. Possible threats	<p>Quebec forests</p> <p>Possible threat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers who have been discriminated against in employment do not have recourse to the resources of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> and the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms</i>.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>Canada has signed the International Labour Organization<sup>1</sup> (ILO) core conventions (29, 38, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182). Canada's and Quebec's laws and regulations concerning labour standards and worker rights govern the workplace in accordance with Canada's obligations under these conventions.</p> <p>In Quebec, discrimination, harassment and exploitation are practices prohibited by the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms</i><sup>2</sup>. The Charter prohibits all types of discrimination on Quebec territory. Prohibited grounds include age, gender, marital status, religion and ethnic or national origin.</p>
	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>The <i>Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms</i> provides the following institutions and instruments to enforce and promote the principles it sets out, namely the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse<sup>3</sup>, employment access programs and the Human Rights Tribunal. Anyone can file a complaint with the Commission if they believe they have been discriminated against.</p> <p>The responsibilities of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail<sup>4</sup> (CNESST) include implementation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> and promotion of labour rights and obligations. Failure to comply with the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> can lead to violations and contraventions. The list of employers in violation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> is available to the public on the CNESST website.</p> <p>No forestry offenders are listed in connection with employment and occupational discrimination.</p>
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.

2.7.4 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is not supplied using labour which is discriminated against in respect of employment and occupation.											
	6. Sources of useful information	N.A.									
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.									
	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quebec forests</td> <td>Compliance with laws and regulations</td> <td>No violations of the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms</i> in forestry</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status	Quebec forests	Compliance with laws and regulations	No violations of the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms</i> in forestry
Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status								
Quebec forests	Compliance with laws and regulations	No violations of the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms</i> in forestry	Requirements met								
9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check whether companies in the supply chain are on the list of employers in violation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i></li> <li>- Judgments and decisions of the Human Rights Tribunal (<a href="http://www.tribunaux.qc.ca/TDP/index-tdp.html">http://www.tribunaux.qc.ca/TDP/index-tdp.html</a>)</li> </ul>										
10. Evidence reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><a href="http://www.ilo.org">www.ilo.org</a></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><i>Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms</i></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Reports on the website of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse <a href="http://cdpdj.qc.ca">cdpdj.qc.ca</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>Reports on the CNESST website</li> </ul>										
11. Risk rating	Low Risk										

2.7.5 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is supplied using labour where the pay and employment conditions are fair and meet, or exceed, minimum requirements.		
F i	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as	Quebec forests

2.7.5 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is supplied using labour where the pay and employment conditions are fair and meet, or exceed, minimum requirements.		
findings	applicable)	
	2. Possible threats	<p>Quebec forests</p> <p>Possible threat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers do not have recourse to the resources provided by the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> to enforce their pay and employment conditions</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>In Quebec, the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i><sup>1</sup> sets out what is legally acceptable with respect to the minimum wage, the length of a normal work week, vacation, statutory holidays, sick leave, absences for family reasons, recourse against dismissal and sanction in certain circumstances, notices of termination of employment, layoff or collective dismissal, expenses related to clothing, equipment, compulsory travel or training, child labour and psychological harassment.</p> <p>For self-employed workers who operate their own businesses, as is the case of many forest contractors in the province, labour standards are defined by the <i>Canada Labour Code</i><sup>2</sup>, which is a federal law.</p>
	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>With offices across the province, the Administrative Labour Tribunal<sup>3</sup> (ALT) is called upon to rule on numerous cases related to work as well as to occupational health and safety. The Tribunal sits in four divisions: labour relations, occupational health and safety; essential services, and construction industry and professional qualifications. All the substantiated decisions of the ALT since 2016 are available free of charge on the website of the Société québécoise d'information juridique (SOQUIJ).</p> <p>The responsibilities of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail<sup>5</sup> (CNESST) include implementation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> and promotion of labour rights and obligations. It also carries out socio-demographic assessments of employees according to a number of criteria, including gender, minimum wage and education. Failure to comply with the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> can lead to violations and contraventions. The list of employers in violation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> is available to the public on the CNESST website<sup>6</sup>. An offender carrying out forest operations was listed in 2017 in connection with remuneration and employment conditions, namely staggering work hours over several weeks without first applying to the Commission for authorization. He was convicted in March 2017.</p>
	5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.

2.7.5 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is supplied using labour where the pay and employment conditions are fair and meet, or exceed, minimum requirements.											
6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://scf.rncan.gc.ca/index/forestindustryincanada/3?lang=en">scf.rncan.gc.ca/index/forestindustryincanada/3?lang=en</a></li> <li>- International Trade Union Confederation, 2007, Internationally Recognised Core Labour Standards in Canada: Report for the WTO General Council Review of the Trade Policies of Canada</li> </ul>										
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.									
	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quebec forests</td> <td>Compliance with laws and regulations</td> <td>Implementation and enforcement of labour standards</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status	Quebec forests	Compliance with laws and regulations	Implementation and enforcement of labour standards
Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status								
Quebec forests	Compliance with laws and regulations	Implementation and enforcement of labour standards	Requirements met								
9. Means of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of employers in violation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> (CNESST)</li> </ul>										
10. Evidence reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><i>Act respecting labour standards</i></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><i>Canada Labour Code</i></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup>Administrative Labour Tribunal <a href="http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/T-15.1,%20r.%201.1">http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/T-15.1,%20r.%201.1</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup>Substantiated decisions of the ALT on the website of the Société québécoise d'information juridique (SOQUIJ)</li> <li>- <sup>5</sup>Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail</li> <li>- <sup>6</sup>List of employers in violation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> (CNESST)</li> </ul>										
11. Risk rating	Low Risk										

2.8.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate safeguards are put in place to protect the health and safety of forest workers (CPET S12).		
F i n d i n g s	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Quebec forests
	2. Possible threats	Threat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Forest workers carry out their activities with inadequate health and safety measures, including inappropriate safety equipment and poor supervision by employers and their agents.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	<p>In Quebec, the CNESST<sup>1</sup> is mandated by the government to monitor the application of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> and regulations on worker health and safety, including in the forestry sector. In the forest environment, the <i>Regulation respecting health and safety in forest development work</i> governs all forest work, whether it is carried out in public or private forests. Each employer has an obligation to ensure a safe workplace for its employees, notably by having a minimum of \$2 million liability insurance against property damage, by adopting procedures and by offering the equipment and training required to comply with health and safety requirements.</p> <p>Private forests with and without development assistance:</p> <p>The obligations under the <i>Regulation respecting health and safety</i> apply only in the context of a relationship between an employer and a worker. Owners who hire a business to carry out work on their property but do not supervise it do not have to concern themselves with this matter.</p>
	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>The CNESST produces reviews of the application of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i>, including in mills and woodlands. The CNESST and employers carry out periodic inspections to ensure compliance with requirements and to improve workers' health and safety conditions. Occupational accidents are assessed to identify root causes and to implement the necessary measures to prevent recurrence.</p> <p>A joint forest sector prevention committee made up of representatives of employers, trade unions and the CNESST, as well as the Comité sectoriel de main d'oeuvre en aménagement forestier<sup>2</sup> (CSMOAF), is mandated to identify and optimize the means to be implemented to improve the management of health and safety hazards in the workplace. The committee meets at least three times a year. It analyzes issues in the sector, proposes strategies to address the labour challenges identified as priorities and publishes annual reports on these activities.</p> <p>The CNESST's responsibilities include implementation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> and promotion of labour rights and obligations. Failure to comply with the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> can lead to violations and</p>

2.8.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate safeguards are put in place to protect the health and safety of forest workers (CPET S12).	
	contraventions. The list of employers in violation of the <i>Act respecting labour standards</i> is available to the public on the CNESST website. <sup>3</sup>
5. Other applicable evidence	N.A.
6. Sources of useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- info.fsc.org</li> <li>- sfiprogram.org</li> <li>- Regulation respecting health and safety in forest development work</li> <li>- Regulation respecting first-aid minimum standards</li> <li>- Regulation respecting forestry operations</li> <li>- Regulation respecting health and safety committees</li> <li>- Regulation respecting prevention programmes</li> <li>- Regulation respecting the quality of the work environment</li> <li>- Règlement intérieur de la Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (French only)</li> <li>- Act respecting occupational health and safety (AOHS) (CQLR, chapter S-2.1)</li> <li>- Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases (AIAOD) (CQLR, chapter A-3.001)</li> <li>- Workers' Compensation Act (WCA) CQLR, chapter A-3)</li> <li>- Crime Victims Compensation Act, CQLR, chapter I-6 and An Act to promote good citizenship, CQLR, chapter C-20</li> </ul>
7. Applicable good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Guide de l'équipement sécuritaire- <a href="http://www.foretprivee.ca/jamenage-ma-foret/securite-au-travail/guide-de-lequipement-securitaire/">http://www.foretprivee.ca/jamenage-ma-foret/securite-au-travail/guide-de-lequipement-securitaire/</a></u> (French only)</li> <li>- Guide Santé en forêt – <a href="http://fpfq.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Guidesant%C3%A9-en-for%C3%AAt.pdf">http://fpfq.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Guidesant%C3%A9-en-for%C3%AAt.pdf</a> (French only)</li> <li>- Guide de prévention – Pratiques de travail sécuritaires en arboriculture-élagage - <a href="http://fpfq.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Guide_CSST_preventionarboriculture-elagage.pdf">http://fpfq.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Guide_CSST_preventionarboriculture-elagage.pdf</a> (French only)</li> </ul>
8. Status	

2.8.1 The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate safeguards are put in place to protect the health and safety of forest workers (CPET S12).					
		Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	status
		Public forests	Compliance with laws and regulations	Monitoring of the enforcement of laws and regulations. Evaluation by joint committee.	Requirements met
		Private forests with and without development programs	Compliance with laws and regulations	Monitoring of the enforcement of laws and regulations. Evaluation by joint committee.	Requirements met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of worker health and safety in the forestry sector (CNESST)</li> <li>- Publications of the Comité Sectoriel de main d'oeuvre en aménagement forestier (CSMOAF)</li> <li>- <a href="https://www.csst.qc.ca/prevention/secteur/foresterie/Pages/bienvenue.aspx">https://www.csst.qc.ca/prevention/secteur/foresterie/Pages/bienvenue.aspx</a></li> <li>- Results of audits by CNESST agents</li> <li>- Results of internal corporate audits</li> <li>- Field visits</li> <li>- Review of training materials</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>Review of worker health and safety in the forestry sector (CNESST)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup>Publications of the Comité Sectoriel de main d'oeuvre en aménagement forestier (CSMOAF)</li> <li>-</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Low Risk			

2.9.1 Feedstock is not sourced from areas that had high carbon stocks in January 2008 and no longer have those high carbon stocks.		
<b>F</b>	<b>1. Scale of analysis (and</b>	Quebec forests

<b>2.9.1 Feedstock is not sourced from areas that had high carbon stocks in January 2008 and no longer have those high carbon stocks.</b>		
<b>i n d i c a t o r s</b>	<b>subscsles, as applicable)</b>	
	<b>2. Possible threats</b>	<p>Harvested areas in managed forests where carbon stocks were high in 2008 are now under forest cover with stands of up to 10 years of age. It will be several decades before the biomass producers' supply can come from these areas. It is important to note that the conversion of peatbogs into forests, as cited by the SBP standard, is practically non-existent in Quebec.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible threat: Exploitation of forested areas with carbon stocks below the carbon stocks of stands prevailing in January 2008.</li> </ul>
	<b>3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved</b>	<p>The SFDA<sup>1</sup> provides for the delimitation of the boundary lines for timber allocations [translation] "to ensure that management practices rigorously meet all the criteria for sustainable forest development."<sup>2,3,4</sup> The boundary lines were defined with assistance from a scientific committee that tabled its report in 2014 and by a ministerial working committee. The scientific committee selected the following four criteria to define boundary lines: physical constraints, forest production capacity, vulnerability of forests to fire risk and maintenance of environmental biodiversity. According to the committee, these criteria are consistent with the spirit of sections 1 and 2 of the SFDA, which define the principles of sustainable forest development and specify the basic criteria. The SFDA was adopted in 2016 and came into force in 2018.</p>
	<b>4. Application mechanisms and evidence</b>	<p>Areas beyond the boundary line for timber allocations are excluded from calculations of the allowable cut and commercial logging because they cannot be harvested in compliance with the SFDA, particularly with regard to sustainable-yield harvesting.</p>
	<b>5. Other applicable evidence</b>	<p>In Quebec, organic carbon stocks found in soils are generally twice as large as those formed by tree biomass<sup>5</sup>. Wetlands and peat bogs are mapped in forest development plans and are excluded from productive forest areas and development activities<sup>6</sup>.</p> <p>Several initiatives are in progress to assess the complete carbon stocks of Quebec's forest ecosystems. In 2015, the MFFP included carbon in the assessment of allowable cuts in the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (SFMS)<sup>7</sup>. The Chief Forester assesses and tracks forest carbon stocks for the merchantable portion of the tree, excluding crown, stump and roots. The method shows the effect of development strategies on carbon stocks in forest ecosystems versus natural changes in the forest without development and without natural disturbances.</p>

**2.9.1 Feedstock is not sourced from areas that had high carbon stocks in January 2008 and no longer have those high carbon stocks.**

		In 2017, the Comité d'experts sur l'aménagement écosystémique des forêts et les changements climatiques tabled "L'aménagement écosystémique des forêts dans le contexte des changements climatiques" (MFFP 2017) <sup>8</sup> , its report on ecosystem-based management of forests in the context of climate change. It suggests that some MFFP guidelines for ecosystem-based management be maintained, particularly with regard to age structure and old forests. It concludes that, given the unpredictability of changes in forests, that [translation] "key adaptation efforts should focus on maintaining, restoring and strengthening the capacity of ecosystems to respond to stresses."											
	<b>6. Sources of useful information</b>	N.A.											
	<b>7. Applicable good practices</b>	N.A.											
	<b>8. Status</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quebec forests</td> <td>Protect loss of high carbon sites and exclude from the wood supply sites that had high carbon stocks before 2008 and that no longer have those high carbon stocks</td> <td>Protect high carbon stock sites with current regulations and forest management practices. Wood sourced from managed natural forest.</td> <td>Requirements met</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Scale of analysis	Minimum required status	Current status	Status	Quebec forests	Protect loss of high carbon sites and exclude from the wood supply sites that had high carbon stocks before 2008 and that no longer have those high carbon stocks	Protect high carbon stock sites with current regulations and forest management practices. Wood sourced from managed natural forest.	Requirements met
Scale of analysis		Minimum required status	Current status	Status									
Quebec forests	Protect loss of high carbon sites and exclude from the wood supply sites that had high carbon stocks before 2008 and that no longer have those high carbon stocks	Protect high carbon stock sites with current regulations and forest management practices. Wood sourced from managed natural forest.	Requirements met										
	<b>9. Means of verification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maps of wetland and peat bogs</li> <li>- Maps of sensitive sites (low productivity, nutrient loss)</li> <li>- Forest management plans mapping sensitive sites</li> <li>- Maps of wood supply origin of biomass producers</li> </ul>											
	<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/connaissances/limite-territoriale-des-forets-attribuables/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/connaissances/limite-territoriale-des-forets-attribuables/</a> (French only)</li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/connaissances/rapport-limite-nordique-forets.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/connaissances/rapport-limite-nordique-forets.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup><a href="#">Carte de la limite territoriale des forêts attribuables en vigueur à partir du 1er avril 2018</a></li> </ul>											

2.9.1 Feedstock is not sourced from areas that had high carbon stocks in January 2008 and no longer have those high carbon stocks.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>5</sup>Cooper 1993 in St-Laurent et al., 2000, Évolution des stocks de carbone organique dans le sol après coupe dans la sapinière à bouleau jaune de l'est du Québec</li> <li>- <sup>6</sup><a href="https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/MDPF_VF.pdf">https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/MDPF_VF.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>7</sup><a href="https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/avis_carbone_aout2015.pdf">https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/avis_carbone_aout2015.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>8</sup>L'aménagement écosystémique des forêts dans le contexte des changements climatiques (MFFP 2017) (French only)</li> </ul>
<b>11. Risk rating</b>	Low Risk

2.9.2 Analysis demonstrates that feedstock harvesting does not diminish the capability of the forest to act as an effective sink or store of carbon over the long term.		
<b>F i n d i n g s</b>	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Quebec forests
	2. Possible threats	Quebec forests Possible threats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Harvesting of forest stands with a low carbon sequestration capacity that does not permit a similar carbon stock per hectare of harvested forest after a standard forest rotation.</li> <li>● Harvesting of forest stands at sites where soils are sensitive to carbon loss caused by forestry equipment.</li> </ul>
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	The <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i> <sup>1</sup> (SFDA) requires that harvested areas remain under forest cover. The <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</i> (RSDF) defines ways to comply with public-forest practices under the SFDA. The RSDF sections on the protection of forest and soil regeneration, residual forest, productive areas, wildlife habitats and aquatic, wetland and soil environments foster the implementation and monitoring of the SADF. The RSDF provides procedures for protecting the soil as required

2.9.2 Analysis demonstrates that feedstock harvesting does not diminish the capability of the forest to act as an effective sink or store of carbon over the long term.	
	<p>by section 38 of the SFDA. Maximum thresholds have been set for rutting (sec. 45) and in several regions branches must be left close to the stump to prevent long-term soil fertility losses (sec. 46). Soils sensitive to rutting and nutrient loss have also been mapped and incorporated into the MFFP’s planning control plan.</p> <p>The SFDA also provides for the delimitation of the boundary lines for timber allocations [translation] “to ensure that management practices rigorously meet all the criteria for sustainable forest development.”<sup>3</sup> The boundary lines were defined with assistance from a scientific committee that tabled its report in 2014 and by a ministerial working committee<sup>4,5</sup>. The scientific committee selected the following four criteria to define boundary lines: physical constraints, forest production capacity, vulnerability of forests to fire risk and maintenance of environmental biodiversity. According to the committee, these criteria are consistent with the spirit of sections 1 and 2 of the SFDA, which define the principles of sustainable forest development and specify the basic criteria. The SFDA was adopted in 2016 and came into force in 2018.</p>
4. Application mechanisms and evidence	<p>Current forest development practices allow natural regeneration in 75% to 80% of the areas harvested<sup>6</sup>. When natural regeneration is insufficient, the SFDA provides that areas be reforested. Areas beyond the territorial boundary for timber allocation are excluded from calculations of the allowable cut and commercial logging. Geomatics tools have been developed to determine the level of soil sensitivity to rutting and to modify the harvesting schedule to carry out logging on frozen soils when the area is sensitive<sup>7</sup>. During or after operations, FPMF auditors visit a sample of logging sites to ensure compliance with the objectives of the prescriptions and the RSDF. Acquisition of knowledge in the field, public consultations and forest planning help ensure that forest development takes place in accordance with the SFDA scales.</p> <p>The reviews of the state of forests present the results of sustainable forest development and an analysis of the means used to achieve the department’s objectives and overall vision.</p>
5. Other applicable evidence	<p>Harvesting wood contributes positively to the creation of carbon sinks as the growth of regenerating stands allows carbon dioxide to be sequestered. Indeed, any process or activity that absorbs greenhouse gases (GHGs) is considered a carbon sink. Once harvested, the tree retains the captured carbon until its end of life (decomposition or combustion).</p> <p>In Quebec, organic carbon stocks found in soils are generally twice as large as those formed by tree biomass<sup>8</sup>. Wetlands and peat bogs are mapped in forest development plans and are excluded from productive forest areas and development activities.</p>

2.9.2 Analysis demonstrates that feedstock harvesting does not diminish the capability of the forest to act as an effective sink or store of carbon over the long term.														
		<p>Several initiatives are being taken to assess the complete carbon stocks of Quebec’s forest ecosystems. In 2015, the MFFP included carbon in the assessment of allowable cuts in the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy<sup>9</sup> (SFMS). The Chief Forester assesses and tracks forest carbon stocks for the merchantable portion of the tree, excluding crown, stump and roots. The method shows the effect of development strategies on carbon stocks in forest ecosystems versus natural changes in the forest without development and without natural disturbances.</p> <p>In 2017, the Comité d’experts sur l’aménagement écosystémique des forêts et les changements climatiques tabled “L’aménagement écosystémique des forêts dans le contexte des changements climatiques”<sup>10</sup>, its report on ecosystem-based management of forests in the context of climate change. It suggests that some MFFP guidelines for ecosystem-based management be maintained, particularly with regard to age structure and old forests. It concludes that, given the unpredictability of changes in forests, that [translation] “key adaptation efforts should focus on maintaining, restoring and strengthening the capacity of ecosystems to respond to stresses.”</p> <p>The largest tree biomass sinks are in boreal forests where the development units, with a few exceptions, are certified under one of the FSC and IFC forest certification programs recognized by SBP. Development units 09352 and 09551 in the boreal forest have large areas of old forests with high carbon stocks. The low level of harvesting planned for 2018-2023, the next five-year period, suggests that there is a low risk that biomass producers’ feedstock will come from these development units.</p> <p>As for the rest of the forest territory without FSC or SFI certification in the south of the province, these areas are considered to have high potential for growth of carbon stocks, given the relatively young age of their forest stands.</p>												
	6. Sources of useful information	N.A.												
	7. Applicable good practices	N.A.												
	8. Status	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale of analysis</th> <th>Minimum required</th> <th>status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Scale of analysis	Minimum required	status	Current status	Status					
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2.9.2 Analysis demonstrates that feedstock harvesting does not diminish the capability of the forest to act as an effective sink or store of carbon over the long term.					
		Quebec forests	Maintain site productivity and capacity to store carbon	Maintain site productivity with current regulations and forest management practices and avoid negative impact sites carbon storing capacities	Requirements met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Allowable Cut calculations and monitoring by Forestier en chef</li> <li>- Maps of wetland and peat bogs</li> <li>- Maps of sensitive sites (low productivity, nutrient loss)</li> <li>- Forest management plans mapping sensitive sites</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup><i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i></li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State</i></li> <li>- <sup>3</sup><a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/connaissances/limite-territoriale-des-forets-attribuables/">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/connaissances/limite-territoriale-des-forets-attribuables/</a></li> <li>- <sup>4</sup><a href="https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/connaissances/rapport-limite-nordique-forets.pdf">https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/forets/connaissances/rapport-limite-nordique-forets.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>5</sup><a href="#">Carte de la limite territoriale des forêts attribuables en vigueur à partir du 1er avril 2018</a></li> <li>- <sup>6</sup><a href="https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&amp;rct=j&amp;q=&amp;esrc=s&amp;source=web&amp;cd=&amp;cad=rja&amp;uact=8&amp;ved=2ahUKEwjoqL3M1ajtAhXEqFkKHZPiCNsQFjAAegQIAhAC&amp;url=https%3A%2F%2Fmffp.gouv.qc.ca%2Fforets%2Finventaire%2Fpdf%2Fportrait-regeneration-naturelle.pdf&amp;usg=AOvVaw1_KAtcpRTSBT_RfpUM4YUZ">https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&amp;rct=j&amp;q=&amp;esrc=s&amp;source=web&amp;cd=&amp;cad=rja&amp;uact=8&amp;ved=2ahUKEwjoqL3M1ajtAhXEqFkKHZPiCNsQFjAAegQIAhAC&amp;url=https%3A%2F%2Fmffp.gouv.qc.ca%2Fforets%2Finventaire%2Fpdf%2Fportrait-regeneration-naturelle.pdf&amp;usg=AOvVaw1_KAtcpRTSBT_RfpUM4YUZ</a></li> <li>- <sup>7</sup><a href="https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/MDPF_VF.pdf">https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/MDPF_VF.pdf</a></li> <li>- <sup>8</sup>Cooper 1993 in St-Laurent et al., 2000, <i>Évolution des stocks de carbone organique dans le sol après coupe dans la sapinière à bouleau jaune de l'est du Québec</i></li> <li>- <sup>9</sup>Sustainable Forest Management Strategy</li> <li>- <sup>10</sup>L'aménagement écosystémique des forêts dans le contexte des changements climatiques (MFFP 2017) (French only)</li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Risk Low			

2.10.1 Genetically modified trees are not used.				
Findings	1. Scale of analysis (and subscales, as applicable)	Quebec forests		
	2. Possible threats	Quebec forests Possible threat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercialization of genetically modified trees without proper CFIA authorization.</li> </ul>		
	3. Applicable regulatory requirements and agencies involved	The CFIA regulates the dissemination in the environment of new plants. Such plants cannot be marketed until the CFIA and Health Canada have conducted a rigorous assessment to confirm that they pose no threat if they are disseminated in the environment like other traditional plant varieties cultivated in the country ( <a href="http://www.inspection.gc.ca">http://www.inspection.gc.ca</a> ).		
	4. Application mechanisms and evidence	No genetically modified trees are marketed in Québec. Existing genetically modified tree plantations are planted in conjunction with scientific studies and do not exceed 2 ha <sup>1</sup> . Before commercialization of genetically modified tree, strict protocol must be followed and demonstrated to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency <sup>2</sup> . There is no record of any request for approval under public comment associated with the use of genetically modified trees on CFIA web site inspection.gc.ca. CFIA has not granted approval for the use of genetically modified trees for unconfined release.		
	5. Other applicable evidence	s.o.		
	6. Sources of useful information	s.o.		
	7. Applicable good practices	s.o.		
	8. Status			
	<b>Scale of analysis</b>	<b>Minimum required</b>	<b>status</b>	<b>Current status</b>
				<b>Status</b>

2.10.1 Genetically modified trees are not used.					
		Quebec forests	Compliance with laws and regulations	No commercialization of GMOs	Requirements met
<b>9. Means verification</b>	<b>of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of applicants, approved plants, notices of submission <a href="http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plants-with-novel-traits/eng/1300137887237/1300137939635">http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plants-with-novel-traits/eng/1300137887237/1300137939635</a></li> <li>- List of permits emitted by CFIA</li> </ul>			
<b>10. Evidence reviewed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>1</sup>National Risk Assessment for Canada (FSC Canada 2019)</li> <li>- <sup>2</sup><a href="http://www.inspection.gc.ca">http://www.inspection.gc.ca</a></li> </ul>			
<b>11. Risk rating</b>		Low Risk			

## 7 Appendix 1: Additional Information

**Table 2 Timber volumes allocated to First Nations (2017)**

Region	Name of beneficiary of the forest right	Agreement Number	Total
BSL	Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government (2)	411	5 000
SLSJ	Conseil des Montagnais du Lac-Saint-Jean (2)	423	200 000
Mauricie	Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan (2)	417	60 000
Mauricie	Société en commandite Services forestiers atikamekw aski (2)	400	84 000
Outaouais	Conseil de bande Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg (2)	394	146 200
Abitibi	Coopérative agroforestière Kinijévis-Abijévis (3)	637	650
Nord du Québec	Produits forestiers Nabakatuk 2008, s.e.n.c. (1)	345	70 000
Nord du Québec	Corporation foncière de Waswanipi (2)	409	155 000
Nord du Québec	Corporation forestière Eenatuk (2)	414	125 000
Gaspésie	Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government (2)	411	10 000
Gaspésie	Nation Micmac de Gespeg (2)	433	5 000
Gaspésie	Conseil de bande des Micmacs de Gesgapegiag (2)	418	15 000
<b>Total (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>			<b>875 850</b>

(1) Garantie approvisionnement (GA)

(2) Permis pour la récolte de bois aux fins d'approvisionner une usine de transformation du bois (PRAU)

(3) Entente d'attribution de biomasse forestière (EABF)

**Table 3 Legislation and regulations in effect in Québec that meet minimum assessment indicators for legally harvested wood<sup>13</sup>**

<b>A minimum of legislation and regulations and international conventions in force in Québec</b>		
<b>Proof of Québec's regulatory framework public and private forests in Québec</b>		
<b>1 Harvesting rights</b>		
<b>1.1 Land and management rights</b>	Legislation covering land rights, including customary rights and management rights, which encompasses recourse to legal methods to obtain land rights and management rights. Also covers the legal registration of corporations and tax registration, including the requisite applicable legal licences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the fees payable by certified forest producers</i> (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 3)</li> <li>- SFDA</li> <li>- Land-related legislation</li> </ul>
<b>1.2 Concession licences</b>	Legislation governing procedures for the issuance of forest concession licences and including recourse to legal methods to obtain concession licences. Bribes, corruption and nepotism, in particular, are well-known problems related to concession licences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting sugar bush management in forests in the domain of the State</i> (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 2)</li> <li>- SFDA</li> </ul>
<b>1.3 Forest development and harvesting planning</b>	Any national or subnational legal requirement respecting development planning, including forest inventories, the possession of a forest development document and the attendant planning and control, impact studies, the consultation of other entities and the approval by the appropriate authorities of these elements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SFDA</li> </ul>
<b>1.4 Licences</b>	National and subnational legislation and regulations governing procedures for the issuance of licences and other legal documents required to carry out determined harvesting operations, which includes recourse to legal methods to obtain licences. Corruption linked to the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting changes in the destination of timber purchased by a holder of a timber supply guarantee pursuant to the guarantee</i> (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 0.1)</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> RISK ANALYSIS Forest Region: Province of Québec, CIFQ/QWEB 2018

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issuance of licences is a well-known problem.

- SFDA

**2 Taxes and royalties**

**2.1 Payment of royalties**

Legislation governing the payment of all specific royalties related to forest harvesting and required by law, such as royalties, stumpage fees or other expenses related to volume. Also includes the payment of expenses related to the correct classification of quantities, qualities and species. The incorrect classification of forest products is a well-known problem, often linked to the corruption of civil servants responsible for control of the classification.

- *Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 5)*
- *Regulation respecting the method for assessing the annual royalty and the method and frequency for assessing the market value of standing timber purchased by guarantee holders pursuant to their timber supply guarantee (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 6)*
- *Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 5.1)*
- *Regulation respecting the terms of payment of the annual royalty and timber purchased by guarantee holders pursuant to their timber supply guarantee (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 6.1)*
- *Regulation respecting forest royalties (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 11)*
- *Regulation respecting the rate per cubic metre of timber applicable to the computation of the contribution payable to a regional agency for private forest development by holders of a wood-processing plant operating permit*

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		(CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 13) - <i>Cullers Act</i> (CQLR, chapter M-12.1) - SFDA
<b>2.2 Value-added taxes and other sales taxes</b>	Legislation governing different types of sales taxes that apply to materials sold, including the sale of materials such as a growing forest (sale of standing stocks)	- <i>Excise Tax Act</i> (GST) - <i>Act respecting the Québec sales tax</i> (QST) - <i>Alternative Fuels Act</i> - <i>Customs Act</i>
<b>2.3 Taxes on income and profits</b>	Legislation governing taxes on income and profits pertaining to the profit generated by the sale of forest products and harvesting operations. This category also concerns income derived from the sale of timber and does not include the other taxes usually applicable to businesses (it is not linked to the payment of wages).	- <i>Income Tax Act</i> (federal) - <i>Taxation Act</i> (provincial), which includes a section on the tax on forestry operations
<b>3 Timber harvesting activities</b>		
<b>3.1 Regulation of timber harvesting</b>	All legal requirements pertaining to harvesting techniques and technology, including selective cutting, clump regeneration, clearcutting, the transportation of unbarked logs from the logging site, and seasonal limitations. This typically includes regulations governing the area of felling zones, the age or minimum diameter of harvested trees and elements that must be preserved during felling. The establishment of skidding and hauling lanes, road construction, the drainage system, and bridges must also be taken into account as well as the planning and control of harvesting operations. Account must be taken of all of the legally restrictive codes respecting harvesting operations	- SFDA (from the standpoint of authorizations and the recognition of ecosystem-based management) - <i>Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State</i> (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 7) - <i>Sustainable Forest Development Regulation</i> (draft) (2014, G.O. 2, 4837) - Municipal by-laws governing public forests
<b>3.2 Protected species and</b>	The treaties and international, national and subnational	- <i>Natural Heritage Conservation Act</i>

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<b>sites</b>	legislation and regulations pertaining to forestry activities and uses authorized in protected areas or to rare, threatened or endangered species, including their habitats or potential habitats.	(NHCA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species</i> and the attendant regulations</li> <li>- <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (Canada)</li> <li>- <i>Canada National Parks Act</i></li> <li>- <i>Parks Act</i> (Québec)</li> </ul>
<b>3.3 Environmental requirements</b>	National and subnational legislation and regulations respecting the identification or the protection of environmental values, in particular but not solely those pertaining to or concerned by harvesting, the acceptable limit on soil degradation, the establishment of buffer zones, for example, along watercourses, clearings and reproductions sites, the maintenance of residual trees on the harvesting site, the seasonal limitation of the harvesting period, environmental requirements for forest machinery, the use of pesticides and other chemical products, biodiversity conservation, air quality, the protection and restoration of water quality, the operation of recreational equipment, the development of non-forest infrastructure, and mining exploration and mining.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SFDA</li> <li>- RS</li> <li>- RSFM</li> <li>- <i>Forest Protection Regulation</i> (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 10)</li> <li>- <i>Forest Protection Regulation</i> (CQLR, chapter A-18.1, r. 10.1)</li> <li>- SFDS</li> <li>- <i>Environmental Quality Act</i></li> <li>- <i>Pesticides Act</i></li> <li>- <i>Mining Act</i></li> <li>- <i>Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife</i> (CQLR, chapter C-61.1)</li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting wildlife habitats</i> (CQLR, chapter A-61.1, r. 18)</li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the payment of indemnities to holders of hunting or trapping licences and the payment of third party damages</i> (CQLR, chapter C-61.1, r. 19)</li> <li>- <i>Regulation respecting the enforcement of legislative provisions by wildlife protection officers</i> (CQLR, chapter C-61.1, r. 6)</li> </ul>

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- *Regulation respecting wildlife sanctuaries (CQLR, chapter A-61.1, r. 53)*
- *Regulation respecting wildfowl hunting controlled zones (CQLR, chapter C-61.1, r. 77)*
- *Regulation respecting hunting and fishing controlled zones (CQLR, chapter C-61.1, r. 78)*
- *Regulation respecting salmon fishing controlled zones (CQLR, chapter C-61.1, r. 79)*
- *Regulation respecting the content of an outfitter's licence (CQLR, chapter C-61.1, r. 33)*
- *Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species (CQLR, chapter E-12.01)*
- *Regulation respecting the disposal of things seized (CQLR, chapter E-12.01, r. 1)*
- *Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable species and their habitats (CQLR, chapter E-12.01, r. 2)*
- *Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable plant species and their habitats (CQLR, chapter E-12.01, r. 3)*
- *Ministerial Order concerning the establishment of a list of threatened or vulnerable vascular plant species which are likely to be so designated and a list of threatened or vulnerable wildlife species which are likely to be so*

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- *designated* (CQLR, chapter E12.01, r. 4)
- *Plant Protection Act*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/ckt7>
- *Plant Protection Regulations*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/cpk7>
- *Pest Control Products Act*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/cl1x>
- *Pest Control Products Regulations*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/cn79>
- *Hazardous Products Act*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/ckld>
- *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act*
- <http://lois.justice.gc.ca/fr/T-19.01/110323.html>
- *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*
- <http://www.tc.gc.ca/fra/tmd/clair-tdesm-211.htm>
- *Highway Safety Code*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/19pl>
- *Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/1f30>
- *Regulation respecting road vehicle registration*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/chrv>
- *Watercourses Act*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/19hm>
- *Regulation respecting the water property in the domain of the State*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/1ds1>

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**3.4 Health and safety**

Individual protective equipment required by law for individuals involved in harvesting operations, adoption of safe felling and transportation practices, establishment of protected areas around harvesting sites, and safety requirements pertaining to the machines used. Safety requirements dictated by legislation governing the use of chemical products. The requirements to be observed in the realm of health and safety must be considered with respect to operations carried out in the forest (not to office work or other activities less connected to genuine forestry operations).

- *Pesticides Act*
- *Regulation respecting permits and certificates for the sale and use of pesticides*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/cjh2>
- *Pesticide Management Code*
- <http://canlii.ca/t/1fpp>
- *Regulation respecting health and safety in forest development work (RHSFDW)*
- *First-aid Minimum Standards Regulation*
- *Regulation respecting forestry operations*
- *Regulation respecting health and safety committees*
- *Regulation respecting prevention programs*
- *Regulation respecting the quality of the work environment*
- *Règlement intérieur de la Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail*
- *Act respecting occupational health and safety (AOHS) (CQLR, chapter S-2.1)*
- *Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases (AIAOD) (CQLR, chapter A-3.001)*
- *Workers' Compensation Act (WCA) (CQLR, chapter A-3)*
- *Crime Victims Compensation Act (CQLR, chapter I-6) and Act to promote good citizenship (CQLR, chapter C-20)*

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<p><b>3.5 Legal employment</b></p>	<p>Legal requirements respecting the employment of staff involved in harvesting operations, including requirements pertaining to contracts and work permits, requirements governing compulsory insurance, requirements governing qualification certificates and other training-related requirements, and the payment of the social charges and income taxes withheld by the employer. What is more, this point covers compliance with a minimum legal working age and a minimum age for staff involved in dangerous work, legislation against forced and compulsory labour, and discrimination and freedom of association.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Act respecting labour standards</i></li> <li>- <i>Canada Labour Code</i></li> </ul>
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**4 Aboriginal populations**

<p><b>4.1 Customary rights</b></p>	<p>Legislation governing customary rights applicable to forest harvesting operations, including requirements respecting the sharing of benefits and Aboriginal law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information document published by the Québec government for promoters and general introduction to relations with Aboriginal communities in the context of natural resource development projects<sup>14</sup></li> <li>- <i>Manuel de consultation du public sur les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré et les plans d'aménagement spéciaux</i></li> <li>- <i>Manuel de consultation des communautés autochtones sur les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré (PIFD)</i></li> <li>- <i>Consultation Policy on Québec's Priorities for the Management and Development of the Forest Environment</i></li> <li>- <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i></li> <li>- <i>Constitution Act, 1982: Section 35(1) of</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>4.2 Free, prior and informed</b></p>	<p>Legislation governing "free, prior and informed consent" in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Constitution Act, 1982: Section 35(1) of</i></li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.autochtones.gouv.qc.ca/publications\\_documentation/publications/2015-02-document-intention-promoteurs.pdf](http://www.autochtones.gouv.qc.ca/publications_documentation/publications/2015-02-document-intention-promoteurs.pdf).

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<b>consent</b>	keeping with the transfer of forest management rights and customary rights to the organization responsible for harvesting operations.	<p>the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> recognizes the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Treaties and other agreements concluded with Aboriginal groups*</li> <li>- Judicial decisions respecting Aboriginal rights**</li> <li>- Negotiations on the settlement of comprehensive land claims and negotiations of other types of agreements of an administrative nature</li> <li>- <i>Interim Guide for Consulting Aboriginal Communities</i></li> <li>- Consultation policy respecting sustainable forest development and forest environment management</li> <li>- <i>Manuel de consultation des communautés autochtones sur les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré</i> (PIFD)</li> <li>- <i>Sustainable Forest Development Act</i></li> </ul>
<b>4.3 The rights of Aboriginal populations</b>	Legislation governing the rights of Aboriginal populations in the case of forestry operations. The facets that can be considered are land rights, the right to use certain forest-related resources or engage in traditional activities that may	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Treaties and other agreements concluded with Aboriginal groups<sup>15</sup></li> <li>- Judicial decisions respecting Aboriginal rights<sup>16</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> The *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* and the *Northeastern Québec Agreement* are treaties that define the rights and advantages of the Cree, the Inuit and the Naskapi. Other agreements have been concluded with the signatories of the treaties, such as the *Agreement Respecting a New Relationship Between the Cree Nation and the Government of Québec* (also called *The Peace of the Braves*) and the *Agreement to Resolve the Baril-Moses Forestry Dispute Between the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and the Gouvernement du Québec*, which define, by way of an example, procedures governing forest development.

<sup>16</sup> See the following judgments: *R. c. Sparrow*, [1990] 1 R.C.S. 1075, *Delgamuukw c. Colombie-Britannique*, [1997] 3 R.C.S. 1010, *Nation Haïda c. Colombie-Britannique* (ministre des Forêts), [2004] 3 R.C.S. 511, *Première nation Tlingit de Taku River c. Colombie-Britannique* (Directeur d'évaluation de projet), [2004] 3

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involve forest lands.

- *Act to ensure the implementation of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec* (in part) (CQLR, chapter M-35.1.2)
- *Sustainable Forest Development Act*
- *Indian Act* (Canada)
- *First Nations Land Management Act* (Canada)

**5 Trade and transportation**

**5.1 Classification of species, quantities and qualities**

Legislation governing the classification of harvested materials from the standpoint of species, volume and quality, in terms of trade and transportation. The incorrect classification of harvested materials is a well-known method of reducing/avoiding the payment of the taxes and royalties prescribed by law.

- *Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State*

**5.2 Trade and transportation**

All of the requisite sales licences must exist as well as the transportation documents required by law that must accompany timber transportation from the forestry operations.

- *Transport Act*
- *Regulation respecting forest transport contracts*
- *Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State*

**5.3 Export trade and transfer pricing**

Legislation governing offshore trade. Offshore trade with affiliated companies located in tax havens linked to artificial transfer pricing is a well-known way to avoid paying the country in which harvesting occurs the taxes and royalties

- *Sustainable Forest Development Act* (SFDA).
- The State owns nearly 90% of Québec's productive forest land and the MFFP

R.C.S. 550 et *Première nation crie Mikisew c. Canada (ministre du Patrimoine canadien)*, [2005] 3 R.C.S. 388, *Delgamuukw c. Colombie-Britannique*, [2014] 2 R.C.S. 256.

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prescribed by law. The practice is deemed to generate substantial funds that can be used to pay bribes and obtain dirty money for the forestry operation and the employees involved in the harvesting operation.

Many countries have adopted legislation governing transfer pricing and offshore trade. It should be noted that only transfer pricing practices and offshore trade, provided that they are proscribed by the laws of the country, can be included here.

allocates wood volumes, assesses the available wood volumes in each territory and sells the timber through a supply guarantee system or at auction. The vast majority of exported forest products are destined for the United States. Very strict control occurs at the US border.

- The federal government is responsible for international trade. The provinces' policy directions, legislation and management and monitoring practices to avoid illegal timber trade in Canada are explained on the Natural Resources Canada website.<sup>17</sup>
- *Customs Act*
- The *Customs Act* demands that all goods imported into Canada be declared at to the Canada Border Services Agency. Border services officers can examine any goods imported or exported and hold goods until the CBSA confirms that the import or export complies with the *Customs Act* or any other statute of Parliament.
- Most of the imports are linked to transborder trade with the United States, which is also a territory at low risk of illegal forest harvesting. The forest products sectors in Canada and the

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.rncan.gc.ca/forets/canada/lois/13304>

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		<p>United States are highly integrated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While Québec requires timber from public forests to be processed in Québec, Québec firms buy unbarked logs and sell a multitude of forest products in the United States.</li> <li>- Canada also imports relatively small volumes of wood products from other sources.</li> <li>- <i>Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act</i></li> <li>- "No person shall import into Canada any animal or plant that was taken, or any animal or plant, or any part or derivative of an animal or plant, that was possessed, distributed or transported in contravention of any law of any foreign state."</li> </ul>
<b>5.4 Customs regulations</b>	Customs legislation covering fields such as import/export licences, the classification of products (codes, quantities, qualities and species).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Customs Act</i></li> <li>- Use of Harmonized Items Description and Coding System codes and the NAICS</li> <li>- <a href="http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/entrepotpubl/pdfs/35983.pdf">http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/entrepotpubl/pdfs/35983.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<b>5.5 CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permit (also known as the Washington Convention).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</i></li> </ul>
<b>6 Due diligence</b>		
<b>6.1 Due diligence</b>	Legislation that requires due diligence/reasonable care procedures, in particular due diligence/reasonable care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Customs Act</i></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publica">http://www.sfmcanada.org/images/Publica</a></li> </ul>

**A minimum of legislation and regulations and international conventions in force in Québec's regulatory framework public and private forests in Québec**

systems, reporting obligations, or the preservation of sales-related documents.

tions/FR/QC\_info\_Provinces\_and\_territories\_FR.pdf  
- *Sustainable Forest Development Act*

**Table 4 Conventions on fundamental principles and rights of the International Labour**

**Organization**

ILO convention	Date of ratification	Status	Convention on legislation and regulations
ILO 29: Forced Labour Convention, 1930	June 2011	In force	According to the WTO, forced labour is against the law in Canada and there are no known cases of it. <a href="http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb277/pdf/d2-elim.pdf">http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb277/pdf/d2-elim.pdf</a>
ILO 87: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948	March 1972	In force	Section 2 of the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> is the section of the Canadian Constitution that lists what the Charter calls “fundamental freedoms.” Such freedoms can be taken against the actions of all levels of government and are enforceable by the courts. The fundamental freedoms are freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of belief, freedom of peaceful assembly and <b>freedom of association.</b>
ILO 98: Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949	June 2017	Will come into force on June 14, 2018.  Partially covered in Canada by the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.</i>	Section 2 of the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> is the section of the Canadian Constitution that lists what the Charter calls “fundamental freedoms.” Such freedoms can be taken against the actions of all levels of government and are enforceable by the courts. The fundamental freedoms are freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of belief, freedom of peaceful assembly and <b>freedom of association.</b>  The application of section 2 of the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> can be illustrated by the Supreme Court of Canada’s declaration in 2015 that the right to strike is fundamental and protected by the Constitution. ( <a href="https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/top-court-upholds-">https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/top-court-upholds-</a>

ILO convention	Date of ratification	Status	Convention on legislation and regulations
			canadian-workers-right-to-strike/article22717100/)
ILO 100: Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951	November 1972	In force	For employers subject to federal regulation, pay equity is guaranteed pursuant to the <i>Canadian Human Rights Act</i> . (www.chrc-ccdp.ca) In Ontario, pay equity is mandatory pursuant to the <i>Employment Standards Act</i> (www.labour.gov.on.ca/french/es/) All Canadian jurisdictions have similar legislation although the names of the statutes vary.
ILO 105: Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957	June 1959	In force	According to the WTO, forced labour is against the law in Canada and there are no known cases of it. <a href="http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb277/pdf/d2-elim.pdf">http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb277/pdf/d2-elim.pdf</a>
ILO 111: Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958	November 1964	In force	See the guide on employment discrimination legislation in Canada. <a href="http://www.naalc.org/migrant/english/pdf/mgcanemd_en.pdf">http://www.naalc.org/migrant/english/pdf/mgcanemd_en.pdf</a>
ILO 138: Minimum Age Convention, 1973	June 2016	In force	Each province and territory stipulates by law the minimum age, depending on the type of work. The legislation applicable by province and territory can be found at: <a href="http://www.bestlibrary.org/ss9/files/minagee.pdf">http://www.bestlibrary.org/ss9/files/minagee.pdf</a>
ILO 182: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999	June 2000	In force	According to the WTO, forced labour is against the law in Canada and there are no known cases of it. <a href="http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb277/pdf/d2-elim.pdf">http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb277/pdf/d2-elim.pdf</a>

## 8 Appendix 2: Consultation

**Table 5 List of contacts - final consultation**

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Linda	Dwyer	Kitcisakik	<a href="mailto:linda.dwyer@kza.qc.ca">linda.dwyer@kza.qc.ca</a>	Social/rep. indigenous people
Fabien	Lanteigne	Essipit	<a href="mailto:flanteigne@essipit.com">flanteigne@essipit.com</a>	Social/rep. indigenous people
Marie-Ève	Desmarais	IDDPNQL	info@iddpnql.ca	Social/rep. indigenous people association
Sylvain	Jutras	Université Laval	<a href="mailto:sylvain.jutras@sbf.ulaval.ca">sylvain.jutras@sbf.ulaval.ca</a>	Research university
Louis	Pelletier	BMMB	<a href="mailto:bureau@forestierenche.f.gouv.qc.ca">bureau@forestierenche.f.gouv.qc.ca</a>	Provincial forest agency
Gordon	Murray	WPAC	gord@gordonmurray.ca	Economic/rep. biomass producer association
John W.	Arsenault	QWEB	jarsenault@quebecwoexport.com	Economic/rep. biomass producer association
Dave	Lepage	Nordic	dave.lepage@nordic.ca	Economic/rep. Forest industry and certificate holder
Paul	O'Dowd	CIFQ	paul.odowd@cifq.qc.ca	Economic/rep. Forest industry association
Brenda	Hopkin	Hopkin Forest Management Ltd.	<a href="mailto:brenda@kootenays.ca">brenda@kootenays.ca</a>	Expert in controlled wood
Max	Béraud	Granules Combustibles Energex	<a href="mailto:MBeraud@energex.com">MBeraud@energex.com</a>	Economic/rep. biomass producer
André	L'Heureux	Granules LG	<a href="mailto:alheureux@granuleslg.com">alheureux@granuleslg.com</a>	Economic/rep. biomass producer
Yves	Crits	La Granaudière inc.	<a href="mailto:yves.crits@lagranaudiere.com">yves.crits@lagranaudiere.com</a>	Economic/rep. biomass producer
Stephen	Kul	NRCAN	<a href="mailto:stephen.kull@canada.ca">stephen.kull@canada.ca</a>	Federal forest agency
Denis	Chiasson	Granule 777	<a href="mailto:Denis.Chiasson@ca.ebarette.com">Denis.Chiasson@ca.ebarette.com</a>	Economic/rep. biomass producer
André	Bédard	Granules LG	<a href="mailto:andrebedard@cgocable.ca">andrebedard@cgocable.ca</a>	Economic/rep. biomass producer
Julie	Griffiths	Shaw Resources	<a href="mailto:griffiths@shawresources.ca">griffiths@shawresources.ca</a>	Economic/rep. biomass producer

**Table 6 Comments Received During Final 30-day Consultation Period**

Name	Organization	Comments/Subject	Support	Modifications
Dave Lepage	Chantiers Chibougamau Ltée.	<p>L'analyse de risque est adéquate et couvre l'ensemble du territoire québécoise. la preuve documentaire est claire.</p> <p><i>The risk analysis is adequate and covers the entire territory of Quebec. The documentary evidence is clear.</i></p>	<p>Il appuie l'ensemble des conclusions et des mesures d'atténuation associées aux indicateurs avec un risque déterminé.</p> <p><i>He supports all the conclusions and mitigation measures associated with the indicators with a specified risk.</i></p>	None
Mathieu Béland	Nature Québec	<p>Je ne sais pas dans quel critère il faudrait statuer sur l'origine de la biomasse, mais il est essentiel de spécifier à un endroit ou l'autre que la matière première ne peut provenir d'arbres verts en santé. Dans le cas de peuplements affectés par des perturbations naturelles ou dans des peuplements stagnants, le débat reste ouvert et donc, cette partie pourrait ne pas être écrite dans le rapport. Cependant, pour garder le sérieux de la certification et ne pas être attaqué par des groupes environnementaux qui pourraient dénoncer cette "biomascarade", il semble essentiel de préciser que la biomasse provenant d'arbres debout et sains ne doit pas être utilisé pour la production de bioénergie. Ensuite, il est évident qu'il est plus difficile de certifier cet aspect. Cependant, dans le</p>	<p>Il appuie l'ensemble des conclusions et des mesures d'atténuation associées aux indicateurs ayant un risque déterminé.</p> <p>En ce qui concerne la préoccupation de M. Béland quant au risque d'utiliser des arbres sur pied pour la production de biomasse, un risque déterminé a été défini à l'indicateur 2.2.5 en l'absence de preuve pour atténuer les menaces associées à l'utilisation d'arbres à la production de biomasse. L'analyse de risque régionale a</p>	<p>Contrary to what was mentioned in Table 1, specified risk for indicator 2.2.5 applies to all forest tenures.</p>

		<p>cadre actuel, le bois avec une plus grande valeur va aux industries capables d'offrir plus, par exemple le sciage. Donc, il n'y a pas de problème pour les arbres de qualité. Cependant, pour les arbres de faible qualité, il pourrait y avoir un risque et il est donc essentiel de le préciser.</p> <p><i>I don't know under what criteria we should decide on the origin of the biomass, but it is essential to specify somewhere that the raw material cannot come from healthy green trees. In the case of stands affected by natural disturbances or in stagnant stands, the debate remains open and therefore, this part may not be written in the report. However, to keep the seriousness of the certification and not to be attacked by environmental groups which could denounce this "biomascarade", it seems essential to specify that the biomass coming from standing and healthy trees should not be used for the production of bioenergy. Then, it is obvious that it is more difficult to certify this aspect. However, in the current framework, wood with a higher value goes to industries capable of offering more, for example saw timber. So there is no problem for quality trees. However, for low quality trees, there could be a risk and it is therefore essential to specify this.</i></p>	<p>été corrigée pour préciser que le risque déterminé s'appliquait aux forêts privées et publiques contrairement à ce qui était souligné au tableau 1.</p> <p><i>He supports all of the conclusions and mitigation measures associated with indicators with a determined risk.</i></p> <p><i>Regarding Mr. Béland's concern about the risk of using standing trees for the production of biomass, a determined risk was defined in indicator 2.2.5 in the absence of evidence to mitigate the associated threats the use of trees for biomass production. The ARR has been corrected to clarify that the risk determined applies to private and public forests, contrary to what was highlighted in Table 1.</i></p>	
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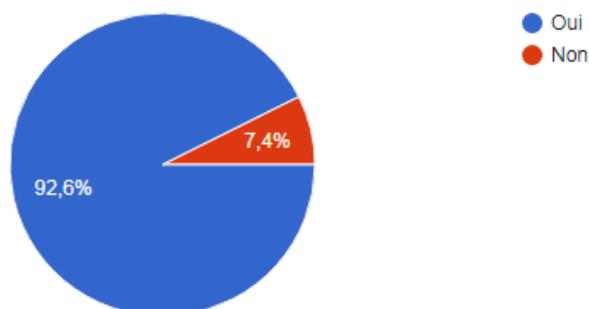
John Arsenault	W.	Quebec Export (QWEB)	Wood Bureau	En accord avec les conclusions de l'ARR. Quelques questions et commentaires de rédaction. - <i>In agreement with the conclusions of the ARR. Some editorial questions and comments.</i>	<p>Corrections mineures associées à la mise en page.</p> <p>Il a été précisé à M. Arsenault que les BGA paie des droits de coupe.</p> <p>Il a été convenu avec M. Arsenault que la menace de feux de résidus de coupe au Québec est faible et que l'impact potentiel de ces feux sur la qualité de l'air est non significatif.</p> <p><i>Minor fixes associated with the layout.</i></p> <p><i>It was confirmed to Mr. Arsenault that supply right holders did pay stumpage fees.</i></p> <p><i>It was agreed with Mr. Arsenault that the fire threat from logging residues in Quebec is low and that the potential impact of these fires on air quality is not significant.</i></p>	No modification to the content and conclusions of the RRA.
Yves Bouthillier		NEPCON		J'ai manqué la période de consultation pour l'ARR SBP pour le Qc, je viens juste de commencer à m'impliquer dans SBP. J'ai regardé rapidement et le seul commentaire qui m'est venu c'est que ton ARR dit qu'il n'y aura pas de récolte d'ici 2023 dans la 093-52, mais il y a eu des consultations	Il a été démontré qu'il n'y a pas de récolte de planifiée dans cette unité d'aménagement. Les secteurs d'intervention prévus au PAFIO sont uniquement pour	None

		<p>PAFIO pour cette UA en novembre 2018. Comment tu confirmes qu'il n'y a pas de récolte de prévue dans ces UA d'ici 2023?</p> <p><i>I missed the consultation period for the Quebec RRA SBP. I just started to get involved in SBP. I looked quickly and the only comment that came to me is that the RRA says that there will be no harvest by 2023 in 093-52, but there were consultations for this management unit in November 2018. How do you confirm that there is no harvest planned in this management unit by 2023?</i></p>	<p>la remise en production de sites récoltés antérieurement.</p> <p><i>It has been proven that there is no harvest planned in this management unit. The intervention sectors in the forest management plan are for non commercial purposes such as regeneration of sites harvested previously.</i></p>	
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### Survey Results of the Webinar July 2017

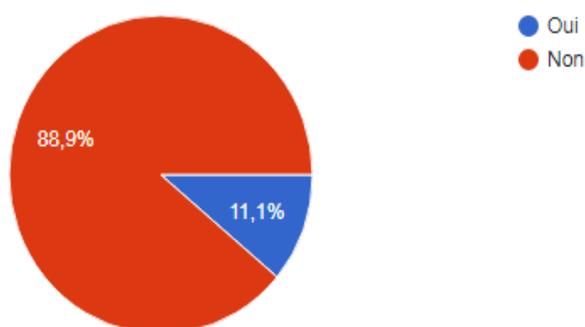
Question 1- Selon vous, est-ce que les concepts de chaîne traçabilité et de bois contrôlé ont été bien décrits ?

27 réponses



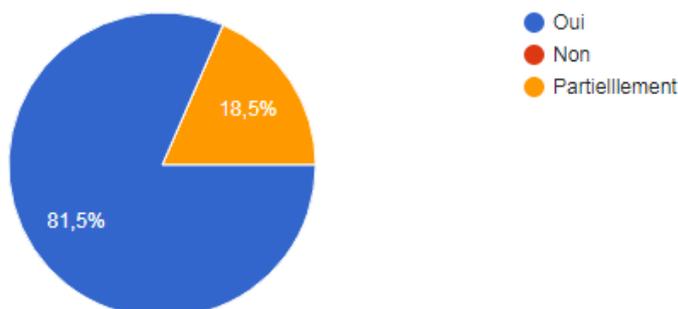
Question 2- Certaines hautes valeurs de conservation (HVC) significatives pour le Québec ont été discutées lors de la présentation. Croyez-vous que d'autres hautes valeurs de conservation significatives à l'échelle des écorégions devraient être considérées pour l'analyse de risque ?

27 réponses



Question 3- Face aux grands enjeux internationaux pour chacune des cinq catégories de sources de bois controversées, êtes-vous en accord avec les constats préliminaires présentées pour le Québec ?

27 réponses



Question 4- Croyez-vous que le secteur de la transformation du bois au Québec se démarque à l'échelle internationale notamment en ayant accès à des sources de bois non controversées sur son territoire ?

27 réponses

