

CEN Forest Caucus Annual Report

April 1999 to April 2000

Summary

In the last year the Forest Caucus published two newsletters, participated in many international and national forest meetings, and circulated information through our listserve. Caucus work was done by the volunteer steering committee and by our staff coordinator, Chantal Bois. Caucus meetings took place at the CEN AGA in September and through teleconferencing.

Our draft workplan for 2000 includes the following items: improving and developing the Forest Caucus website; continuing to select delegates for consultations and meetings in a timely manner; focusing on priority campaigns including certification and "trade and environment" issues; circulating funding information to Forest Caucus members; and increasing membership.

For more information contact Lara Ellis (lara@wildlandsleague.org) or Chantal Bois (chantal@cen-rce.org)

Forest Caucus Steering Committee:

Chair; Ontario: Lara Ellis, Wildlands League

BC and Yukon: Tyhson Banighen, Turtle Island Earth Stewards

Prairies and NWT: Allyson Brady, Saskatchewan Environmental Society

Quebec and Nunavut: Henri Jacob, Le Reve

Atlantic: Michel Palmer, Voice of the Earth Society

National: Rita Morbia, Sierra Club of Canada

International Issues: Cliff Wallis, Canadian Nature Federation

Certification Issues: John McInnis, Sierra Club BC

International Program Liaison: Jean Arnold, Falls Brook Centre

Member at Large: Martin Von Mirbach, Humber Environmental Action Group

Member at Large: Sarah Shima, Falls Brook Centre

Member at Large: Jan Vandermeer, Northwatch

1. Caucus Goals, Vision Statement

The mandate of the CEN Forest Caucus is to share information, network, and use other tools to increase knowledge and promote the conservation of Canadian forests. The

Forest Caucus respects and aims to include the great diversity of our membership in all our activities.

2. Activities for April 1999 - April 2000

May 2000

Second Forest Caucus Newsletter sent out.

May 3 - 14, 1999

Forest Caucus delegate (Cliff Wallis) attends the United Nations Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in Geneva.

June 21, 1999

Several Forest Caucus members, along with several members of the Climate Action Network, meet in Ottawa to review and respond to a draft Options Paper detailing ways that the forest sector proposes to help Canada meet its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. The report from that meeting is presented to the complete Forest Sector Table the following week in Vancouver.

July 23, 1999

Several Forest Caucus members meet with Odin Knudsen from the World Bank and Andrew Deutz from IUCN who introduced the World Bank Forest Policy Implementation Review and Strategy.

November 24 -27, 1999

Forest Caucus delegates (Lara Ellis, Martin Von Mirbach) attend a Canada - Costa Rica Initiative regional forest experts workshop in Mexico City to discuss existing and possible elements of international forest instruments.

December 4-5, 1999

Forest Caucus members attend an international ENGO and Indigenous Peoples Organizations forest strategy session in Ottawa prior to the final Canada - Costa Rica Initiative meeting.

December 6 - 10, 1999

Forest Caucus delegate (Cliff Wallis) attends the final meeting of the Canada - Costa Rica Initiative in Ottawa. Recommendations are drafted regarding possible elements of an international agreement or agreements relating to forests for submission to the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

January 10, 2000

Canadian Forest Service representatives meet with members of forest caucus to discuss domestic implications of different possible elements in an international forest instrument.

February, 2000

Canadian Forest ENGOs release a statement regarding an international forest convention entitled: "A Forest Convention or Conventional Forestry?"

January 31 - February 11, 2000

The final meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in New York City. Cliff Wallis participates as part of the Canadian Delegation. A recommendation is made to form a United Nations Forum on Forests in part to monitor implementation of previously made commitments/recommendations.

January 2000

Third issue of Forest Caucus newsletter sent out.

March 2, 2000

Federal Government delegation members and Forest Caucus members discuss outcome of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the recommendations for a permanent forum via teleconference.

3. Caucus Plans for 2000/2001

The forest caucus continues to look for networking opportunities, provide feedback on forest issues, and act as a conduit for information regarding forests and forest-related issues.

In order to facilitate information exchange we circulate information on the internet and publish a newsletter. In the coming year we will put more effort into our website so that we will meet our goal of becoming a Canadian forest resource centre on the internet.

Our draft workplan for 2000 includes the following items:

- Improving and developing the Forest Caucus website
- Continuing to select delegates for consultations and meetings in a timely manner
- Focusing on priority campaigns including certification and "trade and environment" issues
- Circulating funding information to Forest Caucus members
- Increasing membership

4. Caucus Budget for 2000/2001

Funds will be requested as opportunities become available and needs are identified.