

CBFA



EFBC

“The trials, tribulations and triumphs of an historic accord between the Canadian forest industry and conservation organizations”

International Congress for Conservation Biology
Baltimore, July 22, 2013

CANADIAN BOREAL FOREST AGREEMENT.COM

CBFA



EFBC

OUTLINE

- What is the CBFA?
- Summary
- Structure and key goals of the Agreement
- Enabling conditions
- Progress to date
- Challenges and opportunities
- Conclusion



CBFA



EFBC

What is the CBFA?

- The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) is an historic agreement
 - between seven Canadian and International environmental organizations and the majority of the Canadian forest industry,
 - to protect significant areas of Canada's vast Boreal Forest, protect threatened woodland caribou, and sustain a healthy forestry industry for the communities who rely on it

CBFA



EFBC

What is the CBFA?

- Reciprocal commitments:
 - Participating forest companies have committed to implement, "the highest environmental standards of forest management," and;
 - Participating conservation groups committed to ensure "global recognition and support for forest company efforts"

CBFA



EFBC

SUMMARY



- Despite some significant setbacks after three years work continues across the Agreement
- First joint recommendations in Northeast Ontario are before government
- Forging ahead with land use planning in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Newfoundland
- National-level guidance work is proceeding
- Communications have been stymied
- Human and financial resource limitations are impeding progress

CBFA



EFBC

OUR OBJECTIVE

- A globally significant precedent for boreal forest conservation and forest sector competitiveness
- To ensure that Canada is recognized as:
 - a world leader in conservation and protection of boreal biodiversity; and,
 - the preferred global source of supply of sustainable forest products

CBFA



EFBC

OUR CORE COMMITMENT

- CBFA parties “**will always seek to achieve both high degrees of social and economic prosperity... and high degrees of ecological integrity**”
- We believe conserving habitat and protecting jobs can go hand in hand



CBFA



EFBC

CORE ELEMENTS OF THE CBFA

- Six key goals:
 - World-leading forest practices standards (Goal 1)
 - Network of protected areas (Goal 2)
 - Recovery of species at risk (Goal 3)
 - Climate change (Goal 4)
 - Forest sector and community prosperity (Goal 5)
 - Recognition by the marketplace (Goal 6)

CBFA



EFBC

STRUCTURE OF THE CBFA

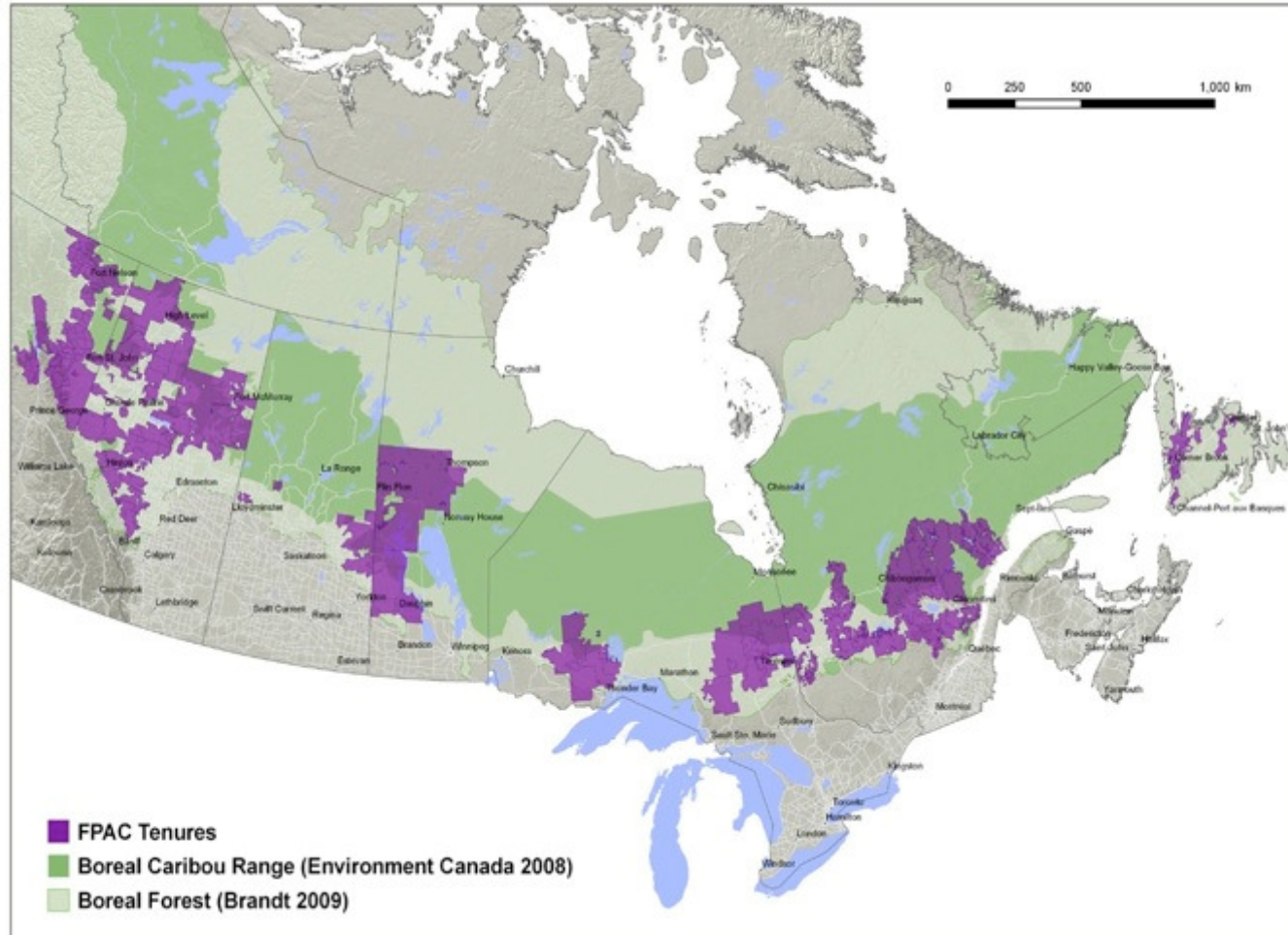
- An agreement-to-agree, including:
 - Publicly-available text
 - Third-party Secretariat program management providing coordination and facilitation
 - Commitment to independent science
 - Implementation with governments, communities, First Nations and stakeholders
 - Independent auditing of progress that is reported to markets and the public

CBFA



EFBC

AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION

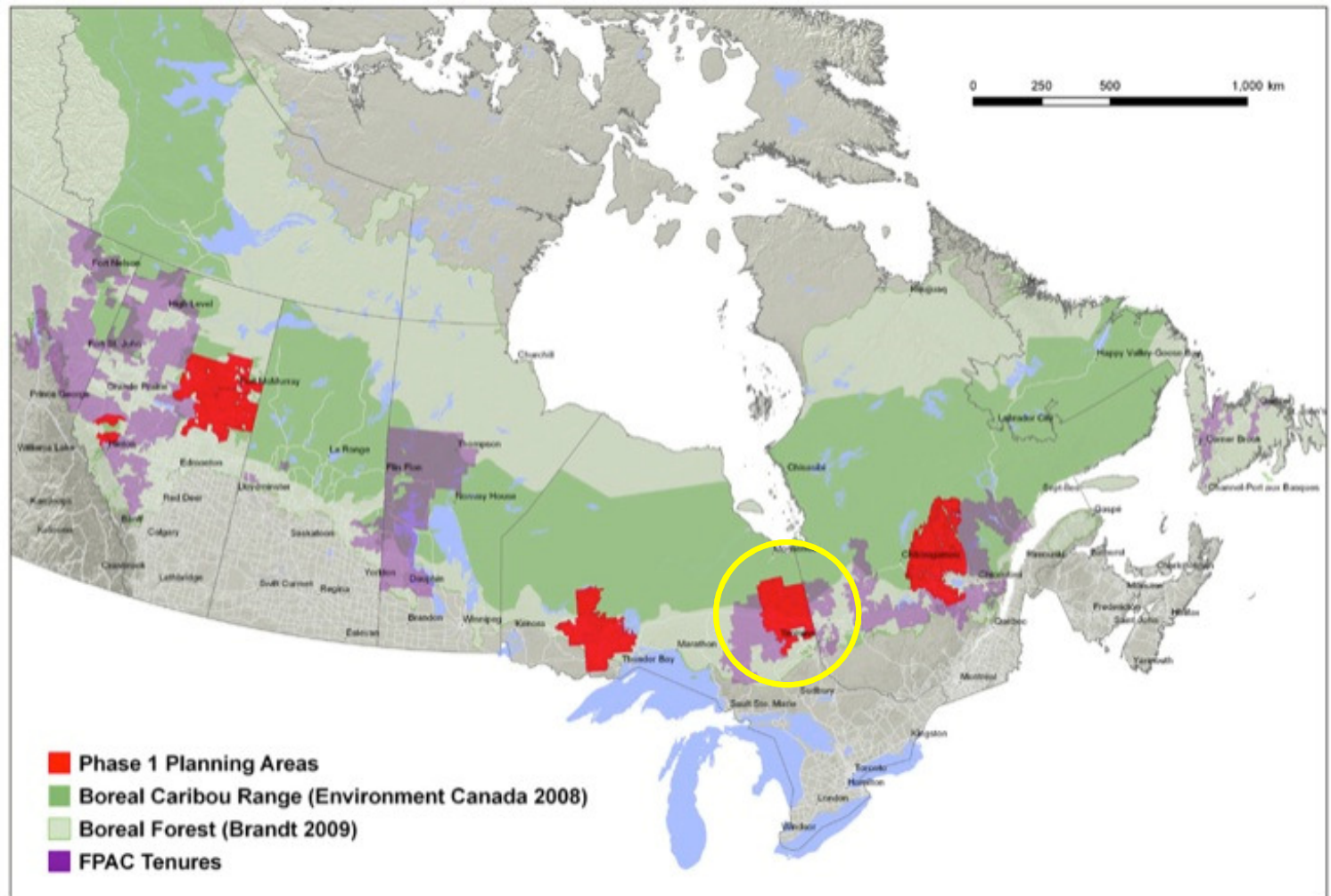


CBFA



EFBC

ONTARIO NORTHEAST

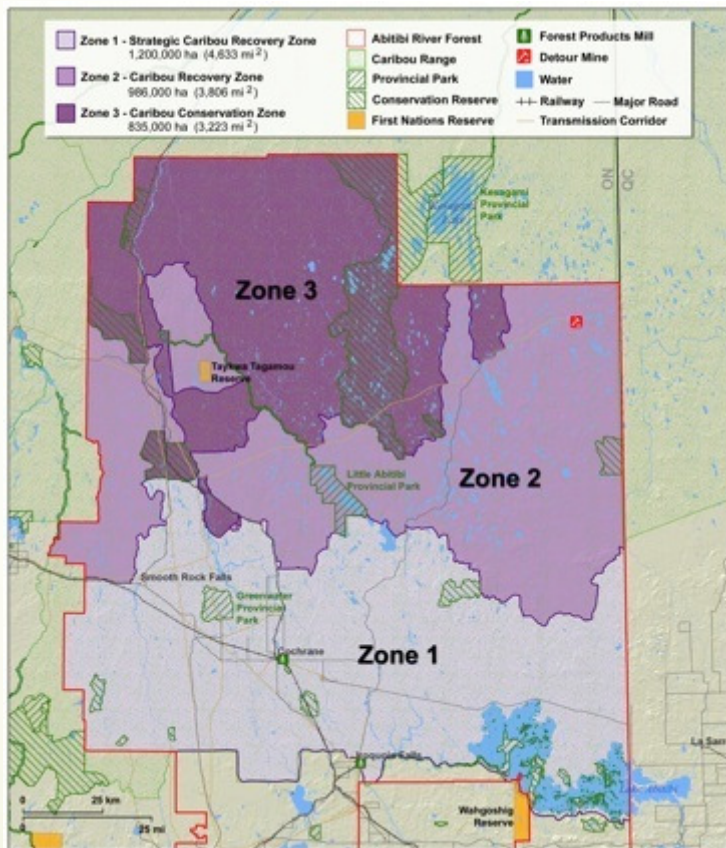


CBFA



EFBC

NORTHEAST ONTARIO



- Joint recommendations for Caribou survival before government
- First Nations, municipal, forest company, and conservation support
- ~800,000 ha Caribou Conservation Zone
- ~20% increase in available wood supply

CBFA



EFBC

Progress

- Joint Secretariat established
- Science Committee assembled – top-flight scientists and technicians
- Decision-making structures in place and staffed with 120 expert volunteers from across the country
- 29 million hectares of caribou habitat off limits to harvesting to allow space for our planning efforts
- Jointly-produced, scientifically-based guidance for caribou action planning and protected areas planning at the national level

CBFA



EFBC

Progress

- Boreal Business Forum – A collection of globally influential retailers/consumers of Canada forest products in place
- Independent Assessor hired – KPMG LLP, an international accounting firm
- Beginning to secure Aboriginal government and Provincial government engagement

CBFA



EFBC

ENABLING CONDITIONS

The unprecedented coincidence, *circa* 2008, of:

- Large-scale precedents for collaboration
- Industry leadership, particularly on climate change
- Coordinated, sustained conservation focus
- Progressive policy developments, and
- Influence of the marketplace

Additionally there were two critical catalysts:

- Leadership and vision of key individuals, and
- Decision of the CBFA parties to frame the opportunities and challenges as “shared”

CBFA



EFBC

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Challenges:
 - Signatory commitment
 - Slow progress
 - Program management (6 goals, 7 provinces, 31 organizations, ~140 people, etc)
 - Balancing the “twin pillars” of prosperity and conservation
 - Skepticism
- Opportunities:
 - Setting a global precedent of sustainable development
 - Achieving a new prosperity for a significant Canadian sector
 - Confirming Canada as a global leader in Boreal conservation
 - Advancing understanding through active, adaptive management

CBFA



EFBC

CONCLUSION

- CBFA is a global precedent for sustainable development
- Slow and fitful progress towards goals of the Agreement
- Building support amongst target audiences
- Science is integral to implementation of the CBFA



CANADIAN BOREAL FOREST AGREEMENT.COM

CBFA



EFBC

Thank you

Aran O'Carroll

Executive Director, CBFA Secretariat - aocarroll@borealagreement.ca

CANADIAN BOREAL FOREST AGREEMENT.COM