



Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry

Community Forest Indicators Framework & Methodology

Survey #6

January 2019

Introduction

Community forestry is an innovative form of forest management; whereby local communities gain the right to manage local forests for local benefit. Every community forest is unique and each one strives to return benefits as defined by the local community. To better understand these benefits, in 2014 the British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA) developed a system to measure and track the benefits of community forests.

The BCCFA worked together with community forest practitioners and in collaboration with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and several independent advisors, to identify the most compelling indicators that demonstrate the tangible social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that community forests bring to their communities and to the province. The indicators chosen represent the most common, universal and easy to measure indicators that can be applied regardless of the organizational structure of a community forest or the location and ecosystem of the land base.

Objectives

Every community forest is unique, and they all strive to meet the needs of their communities. While each may have a different focus, collectively their efforts support the Provincial Government's objectives. Through the course of this project we have focused on the most common objectives shared by all.

Eighteen indicators will measure progress towards the following **four key objectives**:

- A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to British Columbia.***
- B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation, and forest worker safety.***
- C. Community forests promote communication and strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and persons.***
- D. Community forest management is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.***

18 Community Forest Indicators

Objective A: Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

This is measured by:

1. The number of jobs the community forest creates
2. The total economic activity generated by the community forest
3. The cash and in-kind contributions made by the community forest
4. The additional funds leveraged by those contributions
5. The active role the community forests play in the forest sector through harvesting
6. The support for the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities
7. Investments in the future economic return of the forest through intensive silviculture
8. Efforts to diversify the economic activities of the community forest.

Objective B: Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation, and forest worker safety.

This is measured by:

9. The accountability of the community forest agreement holder to the local community
10. The range and depth of engagement with different sectors of the community
11. Investments in education
12. Investments in recreation
13. Proactive efforts to reduce the wildfire hazard to communities
14. Forest worker safety.

Objective C: Community forestry promotes communication and strengthens relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and persons.

This is measured by:

15. The breadth and depth of First Nation involvement in community forests.

Objective D: Community forestry is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

This is measured by:

16. The management of sensitive areas
17. Investments in forest stewardship incremental to legal requirements
18. Compliance with environmental standards.

Notes

Indicators Complement Community Forest Stories

There is consensus that reporting on a set of common indicators will help the BCCFA and our members promote community forestry and will support government decision-makers to expand and improve the program. It is also very important to continue to collect stories of the ways in which individual community forests are benefiting their communities. **Stories are at the heart of who we are and what we do.** This qualitative information continues to be of great importance. In addition, reporting on the provincial objectives for the program and on each CFA's commitments is likely to require this qualitative information. Indicators are a complimentary methodology to the narrative story telling.

We also ask for photos to accompany the stories. A picture is worth 1,000 words is the operating principle when we build the next Indicators Report. Send us your photos to emphasise the story you want to tell.

Indicator #1: Number of Jobs

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

Rationale

This indicator will measure both the number of jobs per year & the number of jobs per cubic metre. Local employment in rural communities is one of the primary benefits of community forests. This indicator measures the total direct employment & contract labour generated by the community forest. Further, the number of jobs/m³ shows the value, in terms of employment, of the harvest volume allocated to community forests.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The total # of workers with the community forest during the reporting year in each category.
2. The The total # of hours for workers in each category.
3. The # of m³ harvested in the reporting year.
4. AAC - Allowable Annual Cut.

Instructions

The number of workers and number of hours will be asked in two separate questions. Your total number of workers and total hours of all workers will include direct, contracted and any subsidized employment. This only includes workers that are run through the community forest books.

Calculations & Analysis

New to the survey is "Person Years" (PY). PY replaces "Full Time Equivalent" used in previous reports. In accordance with BC Stats, a PY is equivalent to 1750 hours. In this Indicator we measure both the number of jobs per year & the number of jobs per cubic metre. When members report on the number of employment hours, the BCCFA will be able to report on the average number of PYs per m³ of community forest volume, and to make a comparison with the rest of the industry.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #2: Total Economic Activity

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

Rationale

As long-term area-based tenures, community forests support long-term community economic development resulting in more self-reliant rural communities. The total annual cost of sales and expenditures is an indicator of the total economic activity generated by the community forest.

Methodology

Survey respondents report:

1. The total value (\$) of sales and expenditures in the last year.

Instructions

Value of sales and expenditures should be available on the annual income statement of the community forest. This figure represents total operating expenses and include fixed and production costs.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: annual

Indicator #3: Community Contributions

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation, and forest worker safety.

Rationale

The cash and in-kind contributions made by the community forest are an important indicator of the distribution of economic benefits locally. In many cases, these contributions serve social objectives, in addition to economic ones.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The total cash contributed to the community through shareholder dividends, grants, infrastructure improvements, special projects etc. in the past year.
2. The total in-kind contributions to the community measured in dollars.

Instructions

Respondents tally the total cash contributions on an annual basis, and separately, the total in-kind contributions, estimated in dollars. In-kind includes all volunteer hours contributed. For example: board of directors' meetings, planning, committee work, education, field tours, and special events. A donation of 3 hours of machine time to a community project can be calculated using the going rate for the piece of equipment. Likewise, the dollar amount for volunteer time (including that of your board) can be estimated by using an average community wage.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: annual

Indicator #4: Funds Leveraged by the Community Forest

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation, and forest worker safety.

Rationale

In many cases, the revenues generated, and contributions made by community forests are used as seed money to grow larger projects and generate even more local benefits. This indicator will show how CFA funds are used to leverage additional funds for community priorities. As with Indicator #3, in often these projects serve social objectives, in addition to economic ones.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The total dollars raised from outside sources for local projects, leveraged by CFA profits.

Instructions

Respondents to tally the total dollars raised from outside sources for local projects, leveraged by CFA revenues. Tally the total dollars raised from outside sources for local projects, accessed due to the availability of community forest dollars for leveraging. For example, the Kaslo Community Forest raised \$20,000 from outside sources and put in \$25,000 for their \$45,000 summer youth employment project. In other words, they leveraged \$25,000 to get \$20,000.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #5: Cut Control

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

Rationale

Community forests play an active role in the forest sector through harvesting. This indicator will measure their success at meeting cut control requirements, keeping the supply of logs flowing.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. Whether they are on target to meet the cut control in the current period and if not, why.
2. The total cubic metres of undercut in the last cut control period. Enter numerical values only.
3. Relevant comments. If you are operating in your first cut control period, please let us know in this comment section

Instructions

1. Whether they are on target to meet their cut in the current period: Yes/NO
2. Provide the total cubic metres of undercut in the last cut control period.
3. Give any relevant comments or rationale that explains the answers provided.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #6: Distribution of Log Sales

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

Rationale

Community forests primarily supply wood on the open market to major industry, and to small and medium sized mills and value-added manufacturers. In doing so, they contribute to the diversification of manufacturing while supporting small and medium sized mills.

The data from this question will be linked with the responses from Indicator #1. We will then use the standard BC employment coefficients for each mill category to generate more facts on the employment benefits of community forest logs in comparison to the rest of the industry. When linked with results from Indicator #1, data from this Indicator provides the BCCFA with one of our most important advocacy tools.

The BCCFA would also like to better understand how our members are marketing their logs and learn about any multi-year arrangements you have with the major mills in their area. We also want to know if/how you are dealing with post-harvest waste.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The volume of sales to mills in each of the categories, based on the annual log input of a mill/manufacturing facility as described below.
 - a. Large > 200,000 m³/yr
 - b. Medium 50,000 to 200,000 m³/yr
 - c. Small < 50,000 m³/yr
 - d. Value Added: specialty project manufacturing facilities such as flooring, log homes, soundboards etc.
 - e. Facility that utilizes low quality fibre (bio-energy, pellet plants etc)
 - f. Other: Please describe
2. How you market your logs.
3. Your involvement and or interest in markets for wood waste.
4. Your activities to increase utilization and reduce burning.

Instructions

To assist respondents in answering this question, upon request the BCCFA will provide scale site data, provided by MFLRNO. Contact Jennifer to access. Note: responses to this question will be kept confidential.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #7: Investments in Intensive Silviculture

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

Rationale

As long-term, area-based tenures, community forest agreements create strong incentives for investment in the future. This indicator will measure investments in the future economic return of the forest. By measuring the investments in intensive silviculture, incremental to legal requirements, it will demonstrate efforts to increase the growing capacity in community forest, with the intent of increasing the AAC.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The total value, in dollars and in-kind, of the community forest's investment in intensive silviculture, incremental to legal requirements in the listed categories. Activities include: spacing, brushing, enhanced genetic stock, quick regeneration. Respondents will report the total treatment cost, including planning, development, and administration of these projects.
2. Total dollar value of Land-Based Investment/Forests for Tomorrow invested in intensive silviculture.
3. The total dollar value from outside sources for intensive silviculture.
4. The number of hectares treated in the reporting year.
5. The number of hectares treated to date.
6. Brief description of the incremental activities.

Instructions

Respondents will report separately on work paid for by the community forest, and work paid for with outside sources (like Land Based Investment Program: Forests for Tomorrow). Enter numerical value only and round up to the nearest whole number.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.=

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #8: Economic Diversification

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to the province of British Columbia.

Rationale

One of the provincial objectives for the community forest program is to diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area. The CFA tenure is one of only two forest tenures in BC that has the right to develop and manage Non-Timber Forest Resources (NTFRs). Section 43.3 of the Community Forest Legislation through the Forest Act gives rights to harvest and collect fees for NTFRs.

The indicator will show the degree to which community forests are generating revenue from sources other than timber. These include botanical forest products and other prescribed products (such as carbon credits) as listed in Schedule C of the Community Forest Agreement Licence. While little development has occurred in this realm to date, this indicator will provide baseline data.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The total value in dollars of revenue from diversified sales for the reporting period.
2. The activity in which dollars were earned.

Instructions

Report the total value in dollars of revenue from diversified sales for the reporting period including all products for which the CFA holder has the authority to manage according to Schedule C of the Agreement.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #9: Community Accountability

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation and forest worker safety.

Rationale

One of the elements of community forests that set them apart from other forest tenures is their accountability to their local communities. This accountability is the cornerstone of local decision-making. In community forestry, management decisions are made by those who have to live with them. Furthermore, when local people have a hand in management of the forests adjacent to their rural communities, they are more likely to be innovative in the integration of multiple values in their decision-making. This indicator measures whether the community forest reports out annually to its community on its progress towards objectives as identified in the Community Forest Agreement Management Plan.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. Annual reporting to the community on the commitments made in the Community Forest Agreement Management Plan. Yes/No
2. Select from a list, all the various strategies they employ to share information and report to the local community.

Instructions

1. Answer Yes/No to annual reporting to the community.
2. The survey will provide a list of potential strategies & tools used to communicate the community forest's performance on the commitments made in the Management plan. Tick all that apply.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #10: Public Engagement

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation and forest worker safety.

Rationale

While Indicator #9 focuses on reporting out to the community, this indicator measures the efforts of the community forest to engage with the diversity of community members. Outreach to the full array of forest users and community members leads to an improved awareness of forest management among members of the public and increases potential to resolve conflicts over timber harvesting in watersheds and other sensitive areas.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The community sectors that the community forest engages in targeted outreach and consultation activities.
2. The number of formal agreements with community organizations and user groups.

Instructions

Select from the list the community sectors that the community forest engages in targeted outreach and consultation activities: water users, property owners, tourism associations, chamber of commerce, environmental groups, hunters, firewood cutters, ranchers, miners, trappers, mountain bike groups, hiking groups, motorized vehicle recreation groups, horseback riding groups, cross country ski etc.

Report the total number of formal agreements with these groups.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #11: Investments in Community Education

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation and forest worker safety.

Rationale

Community forests provide an opportunity to link community members to the forest, and to increase their understanding of forest ecosystems and management. As long-term, area-based tenures, community forests provide enhanced opportunities for education and research. Community forests can be laboratories for testing innovative forest practices. This indicator measures the investments the community forest is making in education and capacity building.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. Number of hours spent on coordination and delivering educational activities in the community
2. The total value, in dollars, of all community forest investments in education.
3. If they have an educational program targeting K-12 students. Yes/No

Instructions

Respondents will include the time spent by community forest staff, contractors, employees and volunteers on all educational activities. This includes school presentations, field trips, public events, as well as training supported by the community forest (such as first aid, faller certification, etc.).

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #12: Investments in Recreation

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation and forest worker safety.

Rationale

One of the most significant benefits for many communities that have community forests are the investments the organization makes in creating, improving and maintaining recreational infrastructure and opportunities. This indicator will measure the value of the cash and in-kind investments in recreation that the community forest has made in the reporting year and over time.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The estimated cash and in-kind investments in recreation features by type.
2. The amount of community forest money invested and the amount of funding from outside sources invested.
3. Total amount of CFA money invested in recreation to date.
4. The total amount of money from outside sources invested to date.
5. The total number of kilometres of trail the community forest, or its partner community organizations, have built or maintained.
6. The total number of kilometres of trail the community forest, or its partner community organizations, have built or maintained over time.

Instructions

Respondents estimate cash & in-kind investments in recreation features. Respondents to estimate the total number of kilometres of trail the community forest has built or maintained both in the reporting year and over time. This can include work done by recreation groups that partner with the community forest organization.

Respondents can include investments & trails outside the boundaries of the community forest.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #13: Proactive Management of Wildfire Hazard

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

A. Community forests provide economic benefits to their communities and to British Columbia.

B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation and forest worker safety.

D. Community forest management is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

Rationale

The combined effects of climate change, the mountain pine beetle, past management increasing forest fuels and the province's limited fire suppression capacity are leading to an increase in wildfire incidence and severity. Community forests are situated in the interface between communities and wild forest lands and are uniquely positioned to serve as a leader in the coordination and management of these areas to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Efforts to manage the wildfire hazard to communities are primarily driven by social objectives, however depending on the ecosystem type, history and outcome of the treatments; they may also bring economic and environmental benefits.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The value of investments, which includes the community forest's own funds
2. The amount of funds from outside sources, cash and in-kind, to reduce wildfire hazard.
3. The number of hectares treated.
4. Whether or not they have collaborated with local government on wildfire planning/preparedness (FESBC, SWPI, CRI, etc).

Instructions

You will report separately on the total dollars invested, which includes the community forest's own funds as well as funds from outside sources. Tally the amount for the fiscal year and for the amount invested to date.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #14: Forest Worker Safety

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation and forest worker safety.

Rationale

One of the provincial government's objectives for the community forest program is to advocate forest worker safety.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. Whether or not the CFA holder requires its employees and/or contractors to be Safe Certified with the BC Forest Safety Council or an equivalent program.
2. The number and severity of recordable safety incidents in the reporting year.
3. The activity associated with the incident/s.
4. Description of the incident/s.

Instructions

1. Does the CFA holder require its employees and/or contractors to be Safe Certified with the BC Forest Safety Council? Yes/No
2. Does the CFA holder require its employees and/or contractors to participate in an equivalent program includes a sign in requirement and a safety discussion? Yes/No
3. The number of recordable incidents. This is the number of incidents requiring a visit to a doctor or nurse.
4. The number of recorded incidents that prevented a worker from returning to work.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #15: First Nations Involvement

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

C. Community forests promote communication and strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and persons.

Rationale

The BC Community Forest Association promotes forest management which respects First Nation rights and cultural values, and which fosters understanding and cooperation between rural communities and First Nations. Many community forest agreements are held by First Nations, and even more are partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. This indicator will measure the breadth and depth of First Nations involvement in the community forest. It will serve to demonstrate how effective community forest organizations are at working with the First Nation within whose territory the community forest is located.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The types of involvement with First Nations, beyond legal requirements.

Instructions

Respondents will be given a list of types of involvement with First Nations. These will include:

- The community forest is held by a First Nation
- The governance structure is a partnership with local First Nation(s)
- There is designated First Nations representation on the board
- Employment contracts with First Nations
- Cooperative planning
- Memoranda of Understanding
- Capacity building activities such as training and education.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #16: Management of Sensitive Areas

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

D. Community forest management is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

Rationale

Community forests, by their design, must integrate the values of the communities that manage them. This unique model of forest management sees CFA managers gaining the social license to operate in highly constrained areas that have not been previously accessible due to local values. And, while taking all that into consideration, they also comply with the tenure regulations and Acts of British Columbia.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The total number of hectares in the Community Forest Agreement area.
2. The number of hectares within the community forest that are considered sensitive.
3. The number of hectares within the community forest that are considered sensitive and operable.
4. The number of hectares within the community forest that are set aside in reserves, for example OGMA's.

Instructions

Respondents to use Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI) data or better. Questions are designed to differentiate the areas where no forestry can occur from areas where modified management practices can occur.

Sensitive areas are defined as: domestic and community watersheds; riparian areas ; visually sensitive areas ('preservation', 'retention', and 'partial retention' VQO's--not 'modification' VQO); 'potentially unstable' and 'unstable' terrain (Terrain Class IV and V); areas with archaeological values or cultural heritage (e.g., per Archaeological Overview Assessments); identified/critical wildlife habitat (e.g. ungulate winter range, wildlife habitat areas, caribou habitat, anything covered by a GAR order); fisheries sensitive watersheds; (buffers on) recreation trails and sites; areas identified as sensitive by the community.

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #17: Investments in Forest Stewardship

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

B. Community forests provide social benefits to their communities and to the province; they promote community involvement and participation and forest worker safety.

D. Community forest management is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

Rationale

This indicator will demonstrate the investments the community forest is making in enhanced forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The value, in dollars, of investments made by the community forest in enhanced or modified management for ecological or social reasons within the community forest and outside the boundaries.
2. The value, in dollars, of outside investment in enhanced or modified management.
3. The number of hectares treated within the community forest and outside the boundaries

Instructions

The survey will provide a list of possible activities incremental to legal requirements. This includes:

- Enhanced management of sensitive areas (as listed in Indicator 16)
- Information gathering & planning, monitoring and research. Including inventory and extra surveys that are incremental to legal requirements.

Respondents to answer separately the questions above for investments made and hectares treated within the Community Forest Agreement area and all outside.

It is understood that there will be overlap (i.e. some areas are sensitive for multiple reasons).

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual

Indicator #18: Compliance with Environmental Standards

Indicator Linkage to Objectives:

D. Community forest management is consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.

Rationale

This indicator shows that the management of the community forest is compliant with statutory requirements for resource management.

Methodology

Survey respondents will report:

1. The number of FLNRO C&E inspections conducted, as well as the number of determinations issued against the community forest organization/contractors/employees.
2. The results of a Forest Practices Board audit or investigation, if applicable.
3. The results of other agency investigations, if applicable (DFO is one example, ABCFP is another example)

Instructions

1. Respondents will request a compliance report from their District's Compliance and Enforcement staff on their license.
2. Use this report to report on the number of non-compliance actions that were issued.
3. Respondents will report on the results of Forest Practices Board audits and investigations

Calculations & Analysis

The BCCFA will tally the results and derive the figures to be reported.

Indicator Monitoring Plan

Measurement Interval: Annual