

## **Integrating social and economic objectives in forest management research: Canada's Sustainable Forest Management Network**

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Established in 1995, the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Network provides a forum for large-scale, integrated research projects targeted at current and emerging issues at the heart of the sustainable management of Canada's forests. The program was, in part, an attempt to ensure that forest harvesting could co-exist with biodiversity and other ecosystem services. From the outset of the program, one of the major challenges for the SFM Network has been the integration of social and economic objectives in research attempting to provide management alternatives for the sustainable management of forests and the ecosystem services they provide. A further challenge has been the need to incorporate the rights, values and interests of Aboriginal people in research. This paper will provide a synthesis of some of the SFM Network's success stories in terms of the integration of social and economic objectives in research. An overview of some of the key features of projects that have been successful in getting researchers from a range of disciplines to collaboratively assess common research questions will provide an overview of success stories in terms of constructing successful, integrated projects. The key research results from inter-disciplinary projects will provide an overview of some of the key outcomes from this research and speak to the products of integrated projects.