The Sustainable Forest Management Strategy forms the cornerstone of the new forest regime introduced by the Sustainable Forest Development Act. It sets out the vision of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) for a more sustainable form of forest management. The Strategy also constitutes the MRNF’s contribution to the sustainable development objectives defined by the Québec Government in its 2008-2013 Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Strategy leaves plenty of room for regional participation, and will generate more social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits for the regions. At the same time, it will ensure that forests, ecosystems and landscapes are maintained or improved. The MRNF’s vision for the future, presented in the Strategy, is as follows:

**Québec’s forests are a source of pride, wealth, stimulating jobs and development for the whole population. Québec will be recognized worldwide for the quality and diversity of its forests, for its exemplary approach to sustainable management, and for the high-quality products and services it derives from the forest.**

### VISION

The Sustainable Forest Management Strategy sets out the vision of the MRNF for a more sustainable form of forest management. It also constitutes the MRNF’s contribution to the sustainable development objectives defined by the Québec Government in its 2008-2013 Sustainable Development Strategy.

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### SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

The Strategy will serve as a guideline for all instruments developed by the State, regional bodies, Aboriginal communities and forest users, including the regional plans for integrated land and resource development, the integrated forest development plans, and all other policies and programs.
What is sustainable forest management?

Forest management is sustainable when it allows populations to benefit from the forest and its advantages, while protecting the ability of future generations to benefit from those same advantages. For a forest to be managed in a sustainable way, community values and concerns must be considered, steps must be taken to maintain ecosystem health, regenerated forests must reflect the structure of the natural forest, regional economies must be supported, and the impacts of climate change must be fought or mitigated.

Five challenges and five main priorities

The Sustainable Forest Management Strategy presents five challenges that reflect the MRNF’s priorities. They are as follows:

1. Take the interests, values and needs of the Québec population and Aboriginal nations into account in managing the forests.
2. Use forest management practices that ensure ecosystem sustainability.
3. Ensure a productive forest that generates wealth at different levels.
4. Promote diversified, competitive and innovative wood products and forestry industries.
5. Ensure that forests and the forest sector help fight and adapt to climate change.

At whom is the sustainable forest management strategy aimed?

The Strategy is aimed at every individual and organization concerned by the forests and interested in their future. Many different stakeholders – individuals, partners and citizens – have a role to play in forest management, both locally and throughout Québec, within the scope of their activities, mandates and interests. Their involvement will help the MRNF to implement the Strategy, and will also generate social and economic benefits.

Public consultations

An important step was taken in the fall of 2010, when public consultations were launched on the new Strategy. The consultation process ended in January 2011. The MRNF wanted to ensure that society’s values and concerns regarding forest management were taken into account, and asked the general public for its opinions of the draft Strategy. The comments made will be used by the MRNF to improve its vision, orientations and objectives. The final version of the Strategy will be adopted in early 2012.

For further information on the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy, please visit the following website:

consultation-adf.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/documents.asp