Title: A critical assessment of ten years of on-the-ground sustainable forestry in eastern Ontario’s settled landscape

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Abstract:
Over the past 10 years, the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) has been developed by partners and the local community as a means of involving a large and varied group of people in achieving sustainable forestry. In this settled landscape, with over one million residents and 88 percent private land ownership, involvement of local communities is a given.

The Naturalized Knowledge System is used as an analytical framework for assessing sustainable forestry efforts in the EOMF over the past decade. This critical assessment considers outstanding issues, dynamics of the operating environment, key accomplishments and unexpected outcomes that have resulted, all in the context of the Naturalized Knowledge System.

The fundamentals of the Naturalized Knowledge System are introduced, focusing on the principles of respect, equity and empowerment. These principles are discussed, in particular, in the context of how they shape the nature of partnerships and the success of forestry projects. Case studies are used to highlight how the Naturalized Knowledge System can be applied to enhance sustainable forestry efforts in Canada, the United States and abroad.

Key Words: Naturalized Knowledge System, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Sustainable Forests, Communities