



BACKGROUND

THE NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

The Nahanni National Park Reserve and UNESCO World Heritage Site protect a portion of one of Canada's most spectacular boreal wilderness areas and spiritual sites for local First Nations -- the South Nahanni watershed.

The Nahanni National Park Reserve became the first site in the world to be officially granted World Heritage status by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The South Nahanni Watershed falls within the traditional territories of two Dene First Nations. The Dehcho First Nations' traditional territory encompasses 80 percent of the watershed, while the upper 20 per cent lies in the traditional territory of the Sahtu.

The watershed is of cultural and traditional importance, and the Dehcho First Nations, Sahtu Dene and Metis have expressed a strong desire to protect the entire watershed of the South Nahanni River to protect the land and its people for all time.

Canada's north is besieged today by pressures to develop its energy and mineral resources, such as the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, which means conservation planning in the Northwest Territories is urgently needed.

WHY DO WE NEED TO CONSERVE CANADA'S BOREAL FOREST?

Canada's Boreal Forest, a vast complex of interconnected landscapes of forest, wetlands, mountains, rivers and lakes is still largely ecologically intact, and with the Amazon Rainforest and Siberian Taiga is one of the largest intact natural regions remaining on earth. Its vegetation, waters and soils represent one of the world's most important air purifiers, sources of fresh water and buffers against climate change.

WHAT IS THE BOREAL FOREST CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK?

The Boreal Forest Conservation Framework represents a new vision that promotes a conservation approach for the entire Boreal Forest. The goal of the Framework is to conserve the cultural, natural and sustainable economic values of the entire Boreal by protecting at least 50% of the region in a network of large interconnected protected areas, and supporting sustainable communities through world-leading ecosystem-based resource management practices and leading edge stewardship practices in the remaining landscape.

Implementing this vision will position Canada as the world leader in large-scale forest and wetlands conservation and management, through collaborative, pro-active planning.