



Fundy Model Forest E-News June 2011

Swedish Researchers Visit Fundy Model Forest

Two top Swedish researchers who addressed the Fundy Model Forest annual meeting June 16 in Fredericton, see opportunities to co-operate in research. Concerns about balancing biodiversity and conservation and protected areas and industrial forestry are being expressed in Sweden as they are in New Brunswick.

Dr. Marine Elbakidze told the Daily Gleaner newspaper that the two countries can learn from each other. "It's about ecology, economy and social culture. We need to develop the proper indicators to steer forest management," she said.

In her address, she referred to examples in other countries where economic development has been balanced with biodiversity through integrated planning by multiple stakeholders.

Like Elbakidze, Angelstam believes it is important for scientists to collaborate. In his presentation, he talked of the need to identify and analyze the conflicts between new societal values and forest management operational principles and to develop a sustainable forest management system. Managing for sustained yield is not the same as sustainable forest management, he said.

"By working together, people from different places that have different histories, we can become more efficient in learning and in striking this balance between economy and ecology and society," he told the Gleaner.

Fundy Model Forest President Dr. Dave MacLean said the presentations by the Swedish couple were a learning opportunity. He sees both similarities and differences in forestry here and Sweden. Both countries have a similar mix of landownership with Sweden having about 50 percent of its forest in private non-industrial forests. Sweden has managed its forests even more intensely than New Brunswick.

They are now facing some of the same concerns that are emerging in New Brunswick over biodiversity, conservation, and protected areas, he said.

Elbakidze and Angelstam spent several days in Quebec where they visited the Le Bourdon Project, one of the three Model Forests in that province, before arriving in New Brunswick. They visited several forest operations during their stay.