



Media Release

**Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue researcher
receives \$220,000 research award**

**Dr. Osvaldo Valeria to develop modeling tools to implement a
unique system to manage and protect Western Québec forests**

Rouyn Noranda, Québec, April 25, 2007 – Principal Investigator Dr. Osvaldo Valeria, NSERC/UQAT/UQAM Industrial Chair in Sustainable Forest Management at the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT), will receive \$220,000 over two years to develop new modeling tools to implement a unique ecosystem-based forest management system for Western Québec forests. The project – launched to increase the role of the province in forest protection – involves working with Aboriginal, government and industry representatives, and will play a key role in helping to conserve the natural conditions of Québec's forests.

This award is part of a \$3 million investment over two years by the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Network.

As part of the project – which is supported by NRCAN - Canadian Forest Service, Abitibi-Consolidated Inc. and Tembec Inc. – Dr. Valeria will create a simulation model that will help forest managers forecast from one to 10 years forward, using both ecological and economic criteria which will help them make decisions that best protect the environment.

Addressing the December 2004 recommendations of the Coulombe Commission (the task force on the management of Québec's public forests), which called for dramatic changes to Québec's forest policy, “we need to find ways to integrate the concept of ecosystem-based management in present forestry practices, while meeting the expectations of both Aboriginal people and forestry companies that rely on wood supply,” said Dr. Valeria.

To this end, his research team will develop and adapt various modeling tools that are capable of comparing different strategic, tactical and operational management scenarios. The tools will also be used to address such issues as determining if old growth forest and woody debris is sufficient to secure the habitat of endangered species such as the Woodland Caribou, assessing the financial impacts of various harvest patterns, and the effect of road networks needed to meet the strategic timber supply of industry.

With a focus on areas of interest to Aboriginal people, particularly the residents of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue-based Pikogan community, Dr. Valeria's work will include the creation of a special experimental site on the eastern part of a forest land tenure held by Tembec, with involvement by Norbord, known as Forest Management Unit 85-51, covering 10 826 km².

Dr. Valeria will be joined by UQAT colleagues Yves Bergeron, Louis Imbeau, Hugo Asselin as well as colleagues from Université du Québec à Montréal, Alain Leduc, Daniel Kneeshaw and Pierre Drapeau and from the Université Laval, Frédéric Raulier.

About The Sustainable Forest Management Network

The Sustainable Forest Management Network facilitates collaborative, applied research partnerships among 32 industry, government, Aboriginal, and non-government partners in supporting the work of more than 190 researchers. Their research efforts are accomplished thanks to 300 highly qualified personnel working at 35 participating institutions across Canada. The SFM Network represents one of the few forums to bring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal forest

resource managers and policy makers around one table to promote dialogue and the development of a common understanding in a non-confrontational environment.

- 30 -

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