


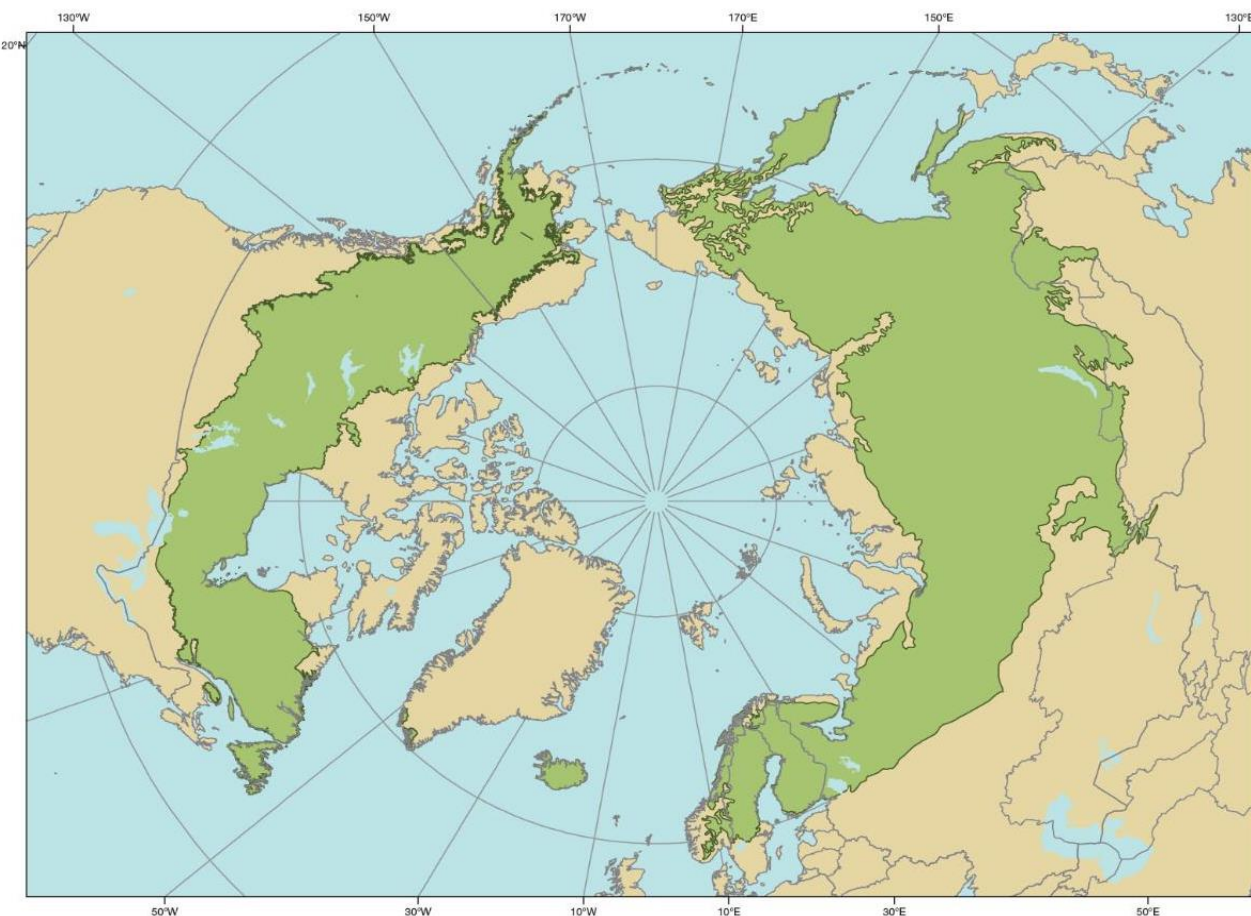


The Circumboreal Cooperation



What it is
Why it is
Progress so far

General Description (extent)



- “Boreal Domain” represents about 30% of global forest area
- Slow growing, cold tolerant species (e.g., spruce, larch, fir, pine, poplar and birch)

General Description (country distribution)

- The Russian boreal forest is estimated at 717 million ha. (88% of all Russian forest land), and about 60% of the world's boreal forests.
- Canada—270 Mha boreal forest (75%+ of Canada's forest land)
- USA—40-50 Mha boreal (appx. 15% of total US forests)
- Norway's, Sweden's and Finland's forests (12 million ha, 28 million ha, 22 million ha, respectively) These fall mainly within the boreal zone



General Description (biophysical characteristics)

- Slow growth
- Limited but unique set of biodiversity
- Large scale disturbances prevalent and formative, remote and difficult to manage
- Largest terrestrial sink - 559 Gt carbon (trees, soils and peatlands)
- Uniquely susceptible to climate change, likelihood of incidents



Circumboreal Cooperation - What it is

A network of six boreal countries to strengthen cooperation on forest matters in the boreal region. It includes

- Canada, The United States, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Russian Federation.
- The international Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) – network research institutions
- FAO and ECE observers



Circumboreal Cooperation - Why it is

Boreal countries face similar challenges and opportunities:

- Forest countries with developed industrial sector – Bio economy
- Special challenges with regard to climate change requiring regional adapted strategies/responses, exchange scientific knowledge
- Gender equality, local communities, indigenous peoples, skilled workforce, ...
- Raise the profile of boreal forests in Agenda 2030



How it started and work so far

- 2012: Dialogue to strengthen cooperation between Circumboreal countries (objective, themes, possible modes of cooperation). Build on existing structures.
- 2013: High level meeting in Edmonton. Circumboreal working group established. IBFRA joined.
- 2013-2018: Scientific mission, country reports, thematic studies, bioeconomy working group. Discussions on formalizing the cooperation (COFO 2014, 2016)
- 2018: Ministerial summit and high level science/policy dialogue, Haparanda, Sweden



Outcomes of the Haparanda Summit

- The Haparanda declaration:
Increased cooperation,
explore the establishment of a
UNECE/FAO Team of
Specialists (ToS) on Boreal
Forests
- Science/policy dialogue:
Launching of an IBFRA
insight process

