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Dr. David Suzuki

Provincial Opposition:

In Alberta: The Alberta Forest Genetic Resources Council does not recommend the use of GMOs for reforestation at this time?

In British Columbia: The Ministry of Forests and Range has ensured that no genetically modified tree seed has been registered or used on crown land.

GE trees have the potential to wreak ecological havoc throughout the world? In native forests. GE trees could also impact wildlife as well as rural and indigenous communities that depend on intact forests for their food, shelter, water, livelihood and cultural practices. As a geneticist, I believe there are far too many unknown and unanswered questions to be growing genetically engineered plants? food crops or trees? in open fields. GE trees should not be released into the environment in commercial plantations and any outdoor test plots or existing plantations should be removed."

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The Canadian Forest Service is conducting field trials of GE poplar in Quebec? trial that may already pose contamination threats to Canadian forests. Even without these trials, the field trial currently underway in the United States could pose a significant threat to Canadian forest ecosystems. This is one reason why CBAN collaborates closely with our colleagues in the US.

GE trees pose a greater threat of contamination than seen with GE crops, largely because trees live for decades, have many nearby wild relatives and their pollen travel hundreds of miles. This scenario of contamination from trees genetically engineered to be insect resistance via Bt (as in recent government field trials in Quebec), for example, warns of serious biodiversity impacts as Bt targets lepidoptera, a main food source for many birds.

Natural Resources Canada is discussing the use of Terminator technology? (genetically engineered sterile seed technology) to contain genetic pollution from GE trees. This raises a new level of concerns since Terminator would not function 100% but would create new risks from the spread of Terminator genes and sterility traits, for example.

May 4, 2010, Press Release - [New Studies Expose Potential Risks of GMOTrees](http://www.globaljusticeecology.org/pressroom.php?ID=393)

April 5, 2010: [Gone with the Wind: Far-](http://www.sciencecodex.com/gone_with_the_wind_farflung_pine_pollen_still_potent_miles_from_the_tree)

[flung Pine Pollen Still Potent Miles from the Tree](http://www.globaljusticeecology.org/pressroom.php?ID=393)

Claire Williams of the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) in the U.S. and her colleagues have found that pollen from the loblolly pine can still germinate after drifting long distances. Williams and her colleagues used a hand-

held device called a spore sampler to capture and analyze pollen found off the southeastern coast of the U.S.

Sampling by helicopter and by ferry, they found viable pine pollen as far as 2,000 feet in the air and 25 miles offshore. "Until then, the highest pine pollen had ever been found in the atmosphere was

1000 feet," comments Williams. The research findings have been published in the American Journal of Botany.

GM loblolly pine has not been approved for commercial planting. GM varieties are planted in the U.S. in field trials, however. The researchers say their finding means that it would be difficult to contain the pollen from GM loblolly pine trees. The long lifespan of pine trees makes it difficult to evaluate the environmental impacts of GM varieties, adds Williams. The research was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Report from the UN Meeting May 2008

Governments at the UN meeting in May 2008 failed to ban GE trees

[You can read the CBAN Daily Blog from the UN meeting in Germany to find out what exactly happened](http://cban.ca/Resources/Topics/GE-Trees/Blog)

Read the [Press Release from May 22: Canada Tries to Eliminate Moratorium Request on GE Trees](http://cban.ca/Press/Press-Releases/Canada-Tries-to-Eliminate-Moratorium-Request-on-Genetically-Engineered-Trees)

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity could have established an international moratorium on the field testing and commercial release of GE trees at the major COP9 meeting May 19-

30 in Germany. But Canada, Brazil, and Colombia, with Australia and New Zealand worked against this proposal from African countries.

CBAN joined with international partners to present the potential negative impacts of GE Trees.

[Click here to read the CBAN briefing to the United Nations meeting. \(6 pages\)](/Resources/Topics/GE-Trees/Potential-Impacts-of-Genetically-Engineered-Trees)

[This briefing is a critique of](/Resources/Topics/GE-Trees/Background-document-to-the-in-depth-review-of-the-forest-programme-of-)

work"target="_self">thebackgrounddocumentpreparedbytheSecretariatoftheConventiononBiologic
alDiversity.(17pages)CBANhasalsosignedthe<a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-
Trees/SBSTTA-WRM-Open-Letter-to-Stop-GE-
Trees"target="_self">internationalopenletterdemandingabanongeneticallyengineered(GE)trees.<p>CBANisaSteeringCommitteeMemberoftheNorthAmerican<a href="http://www.stopge
trees.org/staticpages/index.php?page=2004081"target="_self">StopGETreesCampaignandis
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c604_1"><h2>Articles</h2><a href="http://www.alternet.org/story/58477/"target="_self
>Frankenforests:GETreesThreatenEcosystemCollapse,DaraColwell,AlterNet,August2,2007.
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globaljusticeecology.org/stopgetrees.php"target="_self">STOPGETreesCampaignNorthAmerica</
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a href="http://www.globalforestcoalition.org"target="_self">GlobalForestCoalitionEcoNexus