



PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Distribution

**KRUGER PLEDGES TO PROTECT SIX EXCEPTIONAL
FOREST ECOSYSTEMS (EFE) ON ÎLE RENÉ-LEVASSEUR**

First Company in the Quebec Forest Industry to Identify EFEs

Montréal (Québec), May 4, 2005 – The Kruger organization today made public the results of a research project for the identification of exceptional forest ecosystems carried out in collaboration with the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife, on Île René-Levasseur, north of Baie-Comeau.

Under the framework of this project, six exceptional forest ecosystems were identified and will eventually be preserved following the consultation process with the various stakeholders planned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife. Spread over an area of 1,538 hectares in total, these sites include over-mature forests of black spruce and balsam fir that are more than 200 years old.

Measures that permitted the EFEs to be identified consisted firstly of delimiting the sectors that were most likely to house over-mature forests, based on data from the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife's eco-forestry maps. An initial progressive targeting of twenty-one potentially over-mature forests was performed using photointerpretation. Each of these forests was then visited, which allowed more precise identification of the land's characteristics. Six exceptional forest ecosystems were identified as a result of this exercise.

This research project was initiated in 2003 as a result of work performed by the Public Advisory Committee of users of Common Area 093-20, and in accordance with recommendations from the Bureau d'audience publique en environnement (BAPE). It falls under the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife's process for identification of exceptional forest ecosystems.

“After having contributed to doubling the size of protected areas on Île René-Levasseur, which is close to a quarter of the island, Kruger Inc. pledged to protect all exceptional forest habitats or forest sites, should such sites be discovered,” said Mr. Michel Lessard, General Manager – Forest and Wood Products, of Kruger Inc.

In Canada, protection of biological diversity is recognized as one of the essential criteria for sustainable forest management (SFM). Recently, after having satisfied all the criteria relative to sustainable forest management, Kruger Inc. obtained CSA-Z809-02 certification of its forest activities in Common Area 093-20, on the North Shore, which includes, notably, Île René-Levasseur.

Kruger is a major pulp and paper company engaged in the manufacturing and sale of newsprint, specialty grades, lightweight coated paper, directory paper, tissue, recycled linerboard, corrugated containers, lumber and wood products. In March 2004, Kruger created a new Business Unit, Kruger Energy Group, to ensure its growth in the energy sector. Scott Paper Limited, a member of the Kruger Company, is the leading tissue manufacturer in Canada, with well-known brands including Cashmere from Cottonelle, Purex, ScotTowels, Scotties, White Swan, Capri and Viva, as well as away from home products for industrial and commercial use across Canada. The Kruger Company has operations in Québec, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador, the United States, United Kingdom and employs over 10,500 people.

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