



International Model Forest Network News

Connections

LANDSCAPES PARTNERSHIPS SUSTAINABILITY

2013 Issue 1

OUR VISION

To support, through Model Forests, management of the world's forest resources in a sustainable manner, reflecting environmental and socio-economic issues from the perspective of local needs and global concerns.

IN THIS ISSUE

you will find articles highlighting Model Forest activities that promote responsible resource management in areas such as corporate social responsibility, forest and forest product certification and local economic development.

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MODEL FORESTS AND RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

"It is timely to connect the different sectors and networks that can help us make wise use of our finite resources."

— UNEP International Resource Panel, 2013

For more than 20 years, the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) has advanced the sustainable management of the world's ecosystems and landscapes through multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration. By providing a forum for open and inclusive participation at the local level, Model Forests facilitate the development of long-term relationships that build trust among stakeholders thereby allowing them to identify, explore, and negotiate the trade-offs involved in responsibly managing their natural resources.

As the name "Model Forest" implies, representatives from the forest sector are among those stakeholders, but it is important to note that representatives from other natural resources, such as agriculture, mining, oil and gas industries are also at the table. These groups see value in participating because they connect with other stakeholders and move toward a common vision that integrates social, economic, cultural, ethical and environmental components.

Joint efforts and sharing expertise and knowledge produce individual and shared benefits. Overall, the network provides an approach to sustainability that is focused

and concrete. Furthermore, by sharing the responsibility for innovative approaches, stakeholders are sharing risks associated with implementing them. Our experience persuasively argues that the synergies gained through new and non-traditional partnerships generate creative and innovative solutions to shared problems and those solutions, in turn, can—and indeed should—ultimately influence public policy.

What is Responsible Resource Management?

Sustainable forest management is described as combining ecosystem conservation with the wise use of forest resources for economic and social purposes. Responsible Resource Management goes a step further by engaging a broader set of interests from the suite of natural resource and land use sectors such as agriculture, forestry, hydro, mining, oil and gas and wind power industries. It creates a landscape-level discussion between private businesses, government, academia, NGOs and local communities.

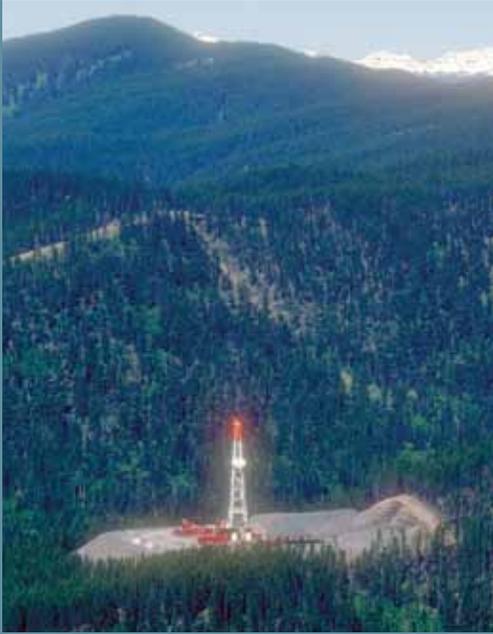


Photo Credits: © Natural Resources Canada

THE CANADIAN MODEL FOREST NETWORK: BUILDING ON ITS PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Leanne Elliott, General Manager, Canadian Model Forest Network

For twenty years, the Canadian Model Forest Network has been a pioneer in addressing environmental and community-related issues through a multi-stakeholder approach to promote a sustainable forest sector. We have built a wide range of skill sets, knowledge, and expertise with our partners and through our various projects.

We are now opening up the concept to address a much more complex range of interconnected issues and sectors than we have in the past. Targeted sectors include industries (both companies and associations) and landscape level development interests from the forestry, hydro, mining, oil and gas, wind power and other land use sectors. The outcome will be our contribution to responsible resource management activities and decision-making in Canada.

In fact, we are already engaged with new partners from public, private, and non-governmental organizations (see following page on Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement). These organizations trust Model Forests to assist them to make progress with the process they have committed to implement.

Strengths of the Model Forest approach applicable to other natural resource sectors:

- *provides a space for integrated landscape management discussions*
- *gives an equal voice and opportunity to all parties and makes their perspectives heard at the table*
- *engages relevant stakeholders to address challenges and conflict*
- *identifies opportunities for working collaboratively to achieve mutual goals*
- *facilitates the use of science and research results in decision making*
- *encourages best practices and knowledge exchange through partnerships*
- *engages strategic partners in new topics of discussion*
- *incorporates considerations from those working and living in the region, as well as the broader interests of Canadian citizens*

Model Forests supporting the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement

Launched in May 2010, the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) is a business model and unique collaboration between the private sector and environmentalists working together to find pragmatic solutions to benefit conservation efforts and community prosperity.

This agreement between 23 forest companies, members of the Forest Products Association of Canada, and eight leading environmental organizations, applies to more than 76 million hectares of Canada's boreal forest, one of the most ecologically significant and important natural ecosystems in the world. The breadth and scope of the agreement is unprecedented.

The signatories are now working with Indigenous people, provincial and federal governments, other resource sectors, the public and customers of forest industries (including paper) to implement the agreement. Researchers from across Canada are developing the science to support decision-making and proper approaches to responsible resource management.

The parties are currently 1) accelerating the completion of a protected areas network for the boreal forest, 2) protecting species at risk by developing, jointly-supported woodland caribou action plans that are based on leading, independent science and that provide input into relevant government processes, 3) producing ecosystem-based management guidelines for integration into existing practices by participating companies and 4) reaching out to governments and communities to seek their involvement and support for the work that is being undertaken.

The CBFA started its work in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec (Phase 1). Phase 2 work is underway in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador. Because of its knowledge of the institutional networks in provinces where Model Forests are established, as well as its reputation as a "neutral broker" with Indigenous people and local, environmental and private stakeholders, the Canadian Model Forest Network is well placed to facilitate the work of the two parties (NGO and industry). And indeed, in 2012 and 2013, signatories invited Model Forests to facilitate discussions among the regional working groups in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador has been an active participant in the process to establish a regional working group in the province and now coordinates and facilitates its work. Together, they were successful at drafting terms of reference for the working group and developing a scope of work for the first phase of both the caribou and protected areas action plans. The Model Forest secured provincial government approval of the process by having high level officials on the regional working group. They also established contacts with two Indigenous communities to involve them in the process.

Since February 2013, the Prince Albert Model Forest is supporting the Saskatchewan Regional Working Group. This work involves beginning a community engagement process in the Pasquia Porcupine region. Anticipated results include community workshops and meetings with leaders in the First Nations and Métis communities in that area, an assessment of the traditional knowledge that is available as well as a gap analysis. Ultimately, they will provide a plan to CBFA signatories on how to proceed to fill those gaps, and the people, groups and communities that would like to be engaged.

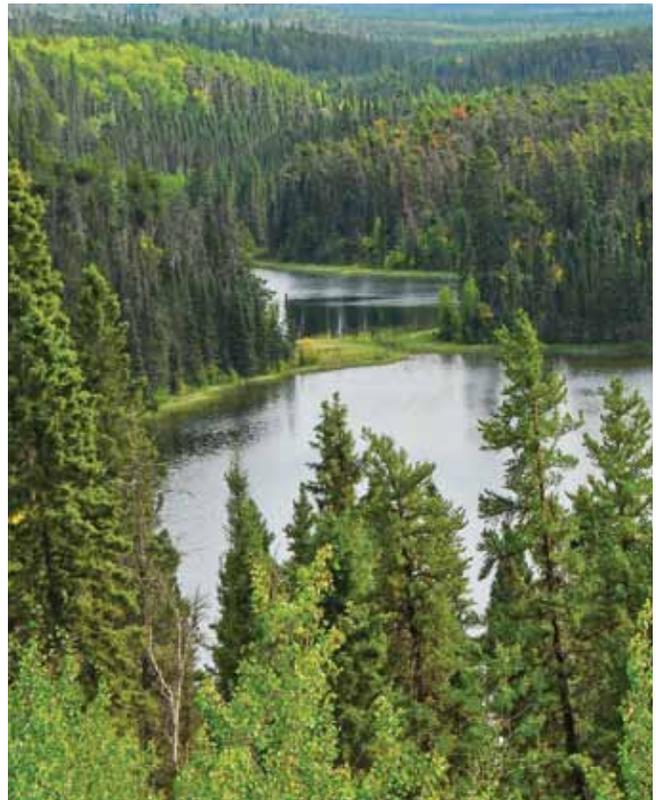


Photo Credit: Hamilton Greenwood



THE MODEL FOREST CONCEPT: AN EFFECTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Developed with contributions from Mamerto Valerio, Coordinator, Colinas Bajas Model Forest and Ralf Schillinger, Project Coordinator, Jujuy Model Forest

Over the last decade, a growing number of organizations have been engaging in social and environmental initiatives as part of broader strategies supporting corporate social responsibility (CSR). Through CSR, companies and organizations implement environmental outreach projects and address local stakeholders' needs. Some of these projects have contributed to the reforestation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and landscapes while others have supported environmental education programs and local community development.

The Model Forest concept has proven to be effective at facilitating dialogue among different stakeholders, including the private sector. This responsible resource management approach has helped several Model Forests identify common priorities and develop collaborative projects with industries as part of their CSR implementation strategies.

A good illustration is found in northwestern Argentina. When the Jujuy Model Forest was established in 2002, representatives of the concrete company Holcim Argentina (previously known as Minetti S.A.), participated as observers. Soon after, the company joined the Model Forest and became one of 28 organizations represented on the Board of Directors. Holcim already had a sustainable community and local employment program but through the Model Forest it also incorporated forest conservation and environmental development in its CSR portfolio.

From the beginning, the company showed interest in the preservation of its property, which was largely covered by native forest, as well as forest landscape restoration of areas degraded due to its extractive activities. It has supported several projects including the creation of a seed bank and a tree nursery. For the first time in Jujuy Province, and at the request of Holcim, Model Forest partners prepared a 20-year forest conservation plan (based on national legislation) for 80% of its property.

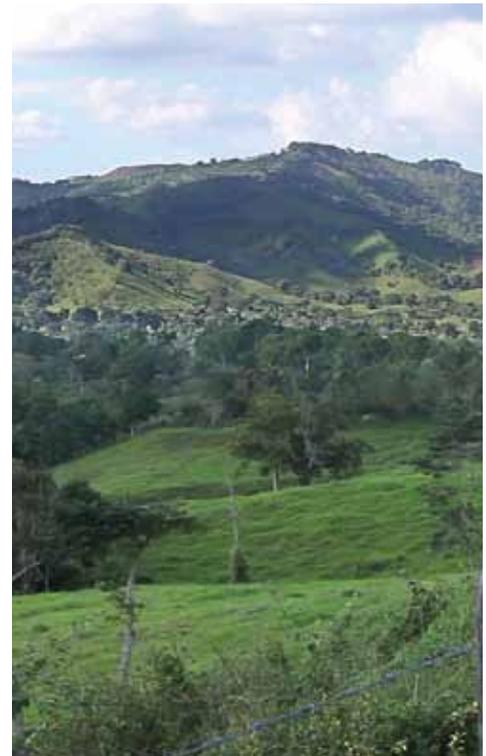
Similarly in the Colinas Bajas region of the Dominican Republic, land degradation due to overgrazing, successive slash and burn agricultural systems and a lack of conservation measures has brought about a number of negative consequences, including high levels of poverty. The Colinas Bajas Model Forest, with the support of the Canadian Embassy and the Ibero-American Model Forest Network, was able to engage the Department of Corporate Social Responsibility of the Puerto Viejo Dominicana Corporation, a joint venture between the Canadian mining companies Barrick Gold and Goldcorp. The result of this outreach was the 2012 launch of a five-year initiative between the mining company and the Model Forest to promote intensive responsible resource management and conservation with a strong emphasis on community development. The project focuses on the development of a biological corridor between the mining concession, Los Haitises National Park and several protected areas that are located within the central mountain range. The project builds on 25 years of experience in forest landscape restoration through agroforestry systems established in the region by Model Forest partners. Planned activities include the production and planting of seedlings for forest protection and commercialization, local economic

development through the establishment and improvement of small forestry and agroforestry enterprises, rural tourism, capacity building and development of basic community services.

“The mining company Barrick Pueblo Viejo, supports a project aimed at increasing the forest cover from 54 to 60% over the next five years on the Colinas Bajas Model Forest area. We have also already planted 2,000 hectares of cacao.”

— Mamerto Valerio, coordinator
Colinas Bajas Model Forest

What these examples illustrate is the catalytic effect that the Model Forest platform can have for the private sector via a process and framework enabling businesses and industry to connect with local stakeholders. They build relationships and develop collaborative programs as a part of their CSR strategies and contribute to responsible resource management. This can lead to significant positive impacts for those involved.





ENHANCING LOCAL ECONOMIES THROUGH RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Developed with contributions from Jean-Claude Njomkap, Research, Innovation and Project Development Coordinator, African Model Forest Network Secretariat

Responsible resource management initiatives in Model Forests are helping communities develop new products and access markets. Local stakeholders have been able to explore ideas, gain new knowledge and build relationships with the private sector, NGOs, academia and others. This has enhanced their socio-economic development while promoting the sustainable management of local forest resources.

Worldwide, there are a large number of people who generate income by commercializing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as honey, mushrooms, fruit jellies, teas, medicinal products and handcrafts. However, limited access to knowledge, technology or markets frequently reduces their capacity to sustainably use and market the resources. In the Campo Ma'an and Dja et Mpomo Model Forests in Cameroon, these challenges are being addressed through a responsible resource management approach. Model Forest

partners have trained women in business creation and management, provided equipment and support to establish small businesses and engaged women in identifying common needs and priorities. The women involved have diversified their livelihoods through the production and marketing of river shrimp, snails, medicinal plants and various agricultural and non-timber forest products.

“The Model Forest has offered a unique opportunity to develop entrepreneurship in women and to enhance the value for traditional knowledge and natural resources. It contributed to improve communication and contacts between women’s groups from different areas.”

— Helene Eboto, Founder of the Women’s Platform of Campo Ma’an Model Forest (PLAFFERCAM)

(Continued on page 8)



FOREST AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION AS TOOLS TO PROMOTE RESOURCE CONSERVATION IN MODEL FORESTS

Developed with contributions from Scott Davis, Forest Certification Coordinator, Eastern Ontario Model Forest and FAO

Worldwide, the area of public and private forests certified as being sustainably managed continues to increase. Third-party forest certification, like the internationally-recognized Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), provide a system for evaluating and certifying forests adhering to a specific set of principles and criteria that indicate they are well managed. As a result, wood products, and sometimes non-timber forest products, coming from those forests receive a certification label. Forest certification systems contribute to responsible resource management by helping land owners and land managers balance environmental and socio-economic values to ensure sustainability of the forests as well as the industries and communities that depend upon them. With increasing market demand for certified fibre and non-wood products, especially in places such as Canada, United States and Europe, having certified forests and products becomes almost a necessity in order to access markets.

Achieving and maintaining forest certification can be expensive, and in many instances is prohibitively so for small land owners. Model Forests have developed approaches to help small woodlot owners and managers achieve forest certification through group certification processes. For example, over 12 years ago the Eastern Ontario Model Forest

(EOMF) in Canada implemented a Forest Certification Program to enable private and community forest owners to achieve FSC certification. Through the Program and with the Model Forest as the official certificate holder, over 55,000 hectares of private and community forests have been certified. In addition, the EOMF is also the first FSC certificate holder in the world to have maple syrup, a non-timber forest product, FSC-certified. The Model Forest is also sharing its knowledge and expertise through web-based tools, as well as by training forest managers to expand and implement the Program across the region and beyond.

In Russia, the Komi Model Forest acted as a pilot site for FSC certification in the Komi Republic. It developed a regional FSC standard and encouraged others to become FSC certified. In addition to over 2 million hectares of the Republic becoming FSC certified, the Model Forest experience was also vital for FSC certification of an IKEA project in the neighbouring region (100,000 ha). The Model Forest has also facilitated regular professional development courses on FSC certification for employees of the forestry service, logging enterprises and Russian forest certification expert auditors.

Chain of Custody certification

Chain of Custody (CoC) certification offers a mechanism to track materials along the “production chain” from the certified forest where the wood or non-timber forest product originate to the final product. It provides assurance to the consumer that the goods they purchase have been produced following environmental and other sustainability criteria. It is used by both primary and secondary forest-based product enterprises, such as sawmills and value-added manufacturers.

In the Sico-Paulaya Model Forest in Honduras, local cooperatives in the communities within the UNESCO Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve commercialized guitar parts that are CoC certified. The cooperatives mainly harvest mahogany based on approved forest management plans. The wood is processed into guitar parts that are then directly exported to Taylor Guitar Company in the United States. The pursuit of CoC certification, a responsible resource management endeavor, has improved coordination among different stakeholders and provided technical assistance and capacity building. It allowed the cooperatives to diversify their activities, improve the livelihoods of community members and reduce the occurrence of forest fires, invasive species (for agricultural production), and illegal logging and hunting.

Model Forests in Canada, Honduras, Russia and elsewhere have been supporting and promoting both forest and CoC certification thereby contributing to responsible resource management, forest conservation and the improvement of local livelihoods.

For more information about the certification activities of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, visit <http://www.eomf.on.ca>

(Continued from page 6 — Enhancing local economies...)

In the Dja et Mpomo Model Forest, relationships built between local communities and resource management agencies provided the communities with access to forest resources, particularly high value fallen trees. To help the communities take advantage of this opportunity, partners from the Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest in Canada provided equipment and training for the production of pens made from the fallen wood. As a result, the sustainable supply of raw material created new economic opportunities.

In Chile, the Alto Malleco Model Forest brought together university researchers, commercial advisors, entrepreneurs and municipalities to study the landscape and determine which local products could potentially be developed in a sustainable way. Early activities focused on inventorying and assessing the condition of Araucaria forests, the source of an economically valuable and culturally important pine nut. Other activities supported by the Model Forest included nutritional analysis of the pine nut, documentation of traditional knowledge related to pine nut collection and use, alternative products and identification of market opportunities for pine nut products. The project won the Bi-centennial Award from the Chilean government for initiatives notable for their originality, contribution to local communities and participation. Funding from the award was used to support local entrepreneurship with a strong focus on women in the region. Building on these successes, the Model Forest is now implementing a project focused on broader NTFP development, including mushrooms and rosehips.

These Model Forests and others support NTFP activities that are part of long-term responsible resource management initiatives. These initiatives are aimed at improving the livelihoods of local community members, including youth and women. They provide alternative income generation while contributing to the sustainable management of larger landscape and the natural resources found there.



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