



Information Note 1

Background

The IMFN Secretariat is pleased to announce that the Foothills Model Forest and the Canadian Model Forest Network will host the 2008 International Model Forest Network Global Forum in Hinton, Alberta, Canada.

In the two and one-half years since our meeting in Costa Rica, the IMFN has undergone unprecedented change and expansion. We now have 49 sites in existence or under development with many more exploring the concept, substantial progress on the development of a proposed Mediterranean Model Forest Network and an emerging Russian national network, an independent Canadian Model Forest Network, new sites in Latin America, sites in Cameroon acting as pilots for an eventual Congo Basin network, a strengthened Regional Model Forest Network for Asia, development of a Circumboreal Initiative and continued advancement of the Baltic Sea Initiative. All of these developments represent new opportunities for learning, innovation and progress toward the sustainable management of forest-based landscapes and natural resources.

Model forests have been registering significant impacts in areas ranging from forest certification to fire management to poverty alleviation, policy influence and education. The 2008 IMFN Global Forum will be an opportunity not only to network and learn from each other, but more importantly to demonstrate tangible results, or planned achievements, on-the-ground. Through five days of interaction we will draw upon your experiences and views to work toward building a stronger and more dynamic Network.

In planning for this meeting, a variety of interactive online tools through which you will be able to actively help develop the agenda and propose workshop themes have been created. Based loosely on the "open space" concept for meetings, through the Global Forum online collaborative tools noted below all model forest representatives and supporters are invited to share their valuable thoughts and expectations with organizers before the event, thereby maximizing their experience.

We look forward to a vigorous week of activities that will strengthen and support ongoing expansion of the International Model Forest Network. In the weeks ahead, the Secretariat will forward further details of the program along with registration materials.

Objectives

The Global Forum is an opportunity for Network members to identify ways to support and enhance the contributions model forests are making to the sustainable management of natural resources and forested landscapes from local to international levels. In particular, the Global Forum will allow Network members to

1. To enhance networking between and among members of the International Model Forest Network
2. To increase members' sense of ownership of the International Model Forest Network
3. To identify "research" questions and Network Initiative priority areas
4. To reflect upon the contributions and impacts of model forests locally and internationally
5. To gain a better understanding of the IMFN contribution to global efforts for sustainability

Dates and Venue

June 16 – 21, 2008
Hinton Training Centre, Hinton, Alberta, Canada

Provisional Program

Monday, June 16

- Registration
- Opening Plenary (Keynote speakers)
- Panel presentation (Regional model forest updates)

Tuesday, June 17

- Capacity building workshops
- Discussion Forum

Wednesday, June 18

- Capacity building workshops
- Knowledge fair (Poster and collaboration session)
- Launch of new IMFN website
- Launch of IMFN Toolkit

Thursday, June 19

- Field trip of the Foothills Model Forest
- Reception

Friday, June 20

- Thematic Discussions (e.g., Circumboreal, I-CURA, Knowledge Management)
- Closing plenary

Online Consultation

An online consultation process will be implemented beginning in February in the form of a brief survey. This will be used to get your input on the agenda (specifically, i) topics for capacity building workshops, and ii) topics for the thematic stations to be used at the knowledge fair). In addition to the online component, each model forest will be encouraged to hold local discussions to provide feedback and input on the consultation process. The organizing committee is exploring other online tools the Network can use to generate interest and discussion on the Global Forum both prior to and during the event. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Marketplace and Poster Session

A Knowledge Fair has been scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, June 18. Its purpose is to provide time and space for model forests to demonstrate model forest impacts and to identify opportunities for information sharing and collaboration.

The proposed overall theme will be the impacts model forests have registered in a variety of pre-determined subject areas. Participants will be asked to prepare and discuss evidence (or the lack thereof) that support their claims of success. Information Note 2 will provide greater detail regarding what you can do to prepare for this session.

In general, the session will be organized in the following manner:

- 1) A series of "thematic stations" will be developed. At each, a specific topic of interest to model forests (e.g., biodiversity, adaptation to climate change, ecotourism) will be highlighted along with a brief overview of those model forests actively involved, or interested in, that topic. Tools such as flipcharts will be available at each station to facilitate discussions. A series of questions to stimulate discussion will also be developed and distributed prior to the Global Forum.
- 2) A publication containing an information sheet on each model forest will be distributed prior to the event. A template outlining the information we require from each site (for both the thematic station and information sheet) is under development and will be distributed to you shortly.

Nominations for Attendance

Please nominate the National Model Forest Focal Point for each country and one (1) representative per model forest. The attached form has provisions for those countries with more than one model forest. When nominating representatives, please review the guidelines below. Persons nominated:

- Must be directly involved in model forest activities and be in a position to actively participate in (or facilitate) networking activities for the model forest after the Global Forum.
- Should have a well developed understanding of model forest concepts and be locally engaged in a model forest.

- Must be able to understand and speak English and/or Spanish and/or French and/or Russian. Translation for English, French, Spanish and Russian will be available.
- Be in sound health and able to undertake both classroom setting and field exercises, including considerable walking in the sun and/or rain.

Please note that last minute changes to participants cannot be accommodated as it is too difficult to arrange for visas and airline tickets. As with other workshops, additional participants from each model forest may attend if supported by partners or other organizations. Please note that this is also dependant upon availability of space in Hinton.

Registration

The 2008 IMFN Global Forum will require participants from Canada to register electronically. All other participants will be sent registration forms via email. The online registration tool will be available in March. A reminder to register, as well as the website address, will be sent at that time.

Please note there is a cost of CAD \$250 to register for the Global Forum. These funds will go toward costs for shuttle buses, field trips, computer lab rental, equipment rental and simultaneous translation services. Methods of payment will be explained in the next information note.

For more information

Email: imfn@nrcan.gc.ca

Website: www.imfn.net

Global Forum blog: <http://imfnglobalforum2008.blogspot.com/>

Visa Requirements

For those requiring visas, letters of invitation will be prepared and sent to you. For some countries, the visa application process for Canada can be lengthy so you are encouraged to confirm the visa requirements and apply early. Participants from the following countries require a visa to enter Canada (please confirm with the nearest Canadian embassy):

- **Africa:** Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria
- **Asia:** China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand
- **Europe and Russia:** Czech Republic, Russia, Turkey
- **Latin America:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras

Information on Canadian embassies worldwide can be found at:

*<http://www.international.gc.ca/>**

Attachments

Nomination Form

To be completed by the national model forest representative. Two candidates per model forest are to be nominated. Those not requiring travel support through the IMFNS should also be listed. The nomination form should be submitted by **February 22, 2008**.

Terms of Sponsorship

Explains the terms associated with receiving travel support from the IMFNS/Natural Resources Canada for attendance at the Global Forum.

Sponsorship Acceptance

Each participant receiving travel support from the IMFNS/Natural Resources Canada is required to complete this form indicating they accept the terms of sponsorship outlined in the file, "Terms_of_Sponsorship.pdf".

Travel Arrangements

Additional information on travel arrangements for those participants being sponsored by the IMFNS will be distributed shortly. Unless otherwise indicated, **transportation between the airport in Edmonton and the Global Forum in Hinton will be arranged for June 15 and June 21 only**. Once your arrival and departure information is known, please advise the IMFN Secretariat.

Exceptions: International Networking Committee members will arrive June 14. Iberoamerican Network Board members will depart June 23.

Pre- and Post-Global Forum Tours of the Canadian Model Forest Network

Options for a series of pre- and post-Global Forum tours to various model forests in Canada are being developed. Additional information on tour options will be provided in a separate information note.

Meals and Accommodation

Please note that there are only a limited number of rooms available on the Hinton Training Centre (HTC) campus and, therefore, some participants will be located in a nearby hotel(s). If you are planning to bring family members, it is requested that you stay in a hotel. Further details on hotels will be provided in the next information note.

Accommodation at the HTC is CAD \$60 per night for a single room and CAD \$40 per person for a double. Double occupancy is encouraged to allow the maximum number of participants to stay on site. Meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are included in this price.

Please indicate your accommodation preference and any special meal requirements on the registration form, as well as the number of family members who will accompany you, if any.

Facilities in Hinton

The HTC is a well-equipped campus. Residences include a small kitchen on each floor, and a lounge with a large-screen TV and games are available for use. We have also reserved a computer lab in the main building for your use during the week. Parts of the facility are also equipped with wireless Internet access. A bank, travel agency, medical centre, pubs and restaurants, swimming pools, library, gym and other facilities are available in the town of Hinton.

Tourism Opportunities

Hinton is located 3 hours west of Edmonton, in the Foothills of the Rocky Mountains and on the doorstep of one of Canada's most beautiful national parks—Jasper. For those participants considering arriving early or staying on after the Global Forum for personal reasons, nearby Jasper National Park offers spectacular tourism opportunities. Please note that you will be responsible for all arrangements and costs associated with any extra time spent in Canada before or after the Forum that is not associated with direct model forest activities. For information about Jasper National Park or the area surrounding Hinton please visit these websites:

- <http://www.jasernationalpark.com/> (English only)
- <http://www.town.hinton.ab.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?bhcp=1> (English only)