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At the conclusion of the 2003 XII World Forestry Congress in Quebec City, Canada, delegates endorsed a declaration calling for a number of actions and strategies the global forest community must take up to reduce forest loss and degradation and to ensure sustainable development. This special edition of Connections examines how Model Forests have responded to these challenges by pursuing the actions and strategies outlined in the XII World Forestry Congress Final Statement.

Broadly speaking, of the five strategic categories included in the Final Statement, the call for collaborative partnerships is of particular relevance to all members of the International Model Forest Network (IMFN); the strength of a Model Forest lies in its voluntary, broad-base of supporters linking forest industry and owners, governments, communities, researchers, farmers, indigenous peoples, youth groups, recreationists, and others within a given landscape over a long period of time. And through these partnerships, thousands of Model Forest stakeholders around the world are translating sustainable natural resource management priorities and policy into action on the ground.

We have selected examples from 10 of the more than 50 Model Forests around the world ranging from indigenous reindeer herders in Sweden pursuing good governance models to reduce conflict over access to natural resources, to local level criteria and indicator work in Canada being shared with Model Forest colleagues in Argentina, to enhanced capacity development in Cameroon. Importantly, these examples demonstrate not only the advances Model Forests have made in the past six years, but also how they will continue to act as vital fora where the balance between ‘forests and development’ – this WFC theme - can be achieved.

OUR VISION

To support, through Model Forests, the 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.

Knowledge, Partnerships, Research, Training: A Management Experience for Local Economic Development in Chile

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The mission of the Araucarias del Alto Malleco Model Forest (BMAAM) is to contribute to the sustainable development of the landscape where it is located, particularly its economic aspect. All of its strategic plans have identified local economic development as the crux of subsequent action. The 2009 – 2012 plan defines specific actions with regards to non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in particular due to BMAAM's experience in this increasingly important area. For this reason BMAAM is developing the Land Innovation Program entitled "Development, Diversification and the Productive Linkage of Three NTFPs: Pine Nut, Morchella and Musk Rose, in Lonquimay, IX Region, Chile".

A prior series of actions resulting in knowledge, partnerships, trust and experience are the foundations of the program. In other words, the development of this initiative is not a fortuitous event, but the result of previous work and the interaction of various interests, capacities and expertise.

Between 2003 and 2007, BMAAM, the University of Chile and the Chilean Forest Agency (CONAF), developed the Piñón Project, which produced scientific information regarding the characteristics, product development, forest management status and conditions, marketing potential and cultural significance of the pine nut. Some expectations about its potential began to emerge and the first local value-added initiatives began to take shape. In 2006, representatives from BMAAM visited Aluminé and Villa Pehuenía in Argentina to learn about the initiatives, production and sale of pine nuts there. Subsequently, women were trained in the production of pine nut-based products and catering services with ethnic gourmet food.

In a six-to-seven-year period, various actions were developed aimed at achieving sustainable economic use of the resource. These actions led to the current NTFP program being developed by BMAAM, which is expanding to include other products.

The organizations involved in the program include the University of Chile, the Municipality of Lonquimay, La Frontera University, ASEMAFOR Ltda., and seven enterprises ranging from small companies to family initiatives. Given the complexity and comprehensiveness of the program, and the challenges associated with coordinating such a varied partnership, the Model Forest created a Board of Directors specifically to provide governance for the NTFP program and become its final decision-making authority.



Photo credit: Brian Bonnell

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- bridges with other actors and sectors
- policies based on best available science and information
- competencies to address issues of complexity and multiple objectives
- recognition of the considerable capital of culture, knowledge and good practice of indigenous peoples and local communities
- management of forests and trees at local and regional scales, interfacing with human settlements, agroforestry systems, non-wood forest resources and other natural resources systems

Bridges Across Traditional and Scientific Sectors Leads to Reduced Conflict in Sweden

Leif Jougda, Vilhelmina Model Forest/Swedish Forest Agency

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Issues of environmental sustainability and land access rights for indigenous Sami people dominate forestry discussions in northern Sweden today. Traditionally, the Sami are migratory reindeer herders and reindeer grazing can be greatly affected by large-scale forestry; while the forest companies consult with the Sami communities about their planned activities, long-standing conflict has made it difficult for the Sami to protect their grazing ranges. Furthermore, a steadily increasing number of new proposals for forest activities have intensified instability in forest and reindeer husbandry planning.

Over time, it became clear to all involved that solutions could only be reached through extensive coordination across geographical areas that are larger than a single stand or estate, and by active participation by stakeholders in policy-making processes. Searching for more constructive dialogue on forestry practices in the area local and national governments, private land owners, forest industry, the Sami and other stakeholders formed the Vilhelmina Model Forest in 2004.

To improve communication about land use in reindeer husbandry, Vilhelmina Model Forest, the Swedish Forest Agency, researchers, and reindeer herding communities initiated a process of developing Reindeer Husbandry Plans (RHP). The goal of these plans was to provide clear and understandable information to improve consultation procedures with other land users by collecting, compiling and displaying traditional ecological knowledge. In addition, the RHP would help the reindeer herding community in strategic planning and through improved communication and coordination between reindeer owners. One specific example of a valuable complement in day-to-day reindeer husbandry work was in the introduction of global positioning system (GPS) collars on reindeer. The reindeer's positions are then displayed on web-based maps or cell phones in real-time providing important data on habitat use and reindeer movement.

The work to develop RHPs is now completed or ongoing in 14 out of the 51 Sámi reindeer herding communities across Sweden. Two of these fall within the boundary of Vilhelmina Model Forest. To date, more than 100 reindeer herders have received training in satellite image interpretation, geographic information systems, GPS and field inventory techniques. The results so far demonstrate that the information available in an RHP fundamentally supports knowledge-based communication and has improved planning processes.

With both the traditional and scientific sectors using available tools and taking advantage of new knowledge the RHP project demonstrated that it is possible to build capacity, support participatory processes, improve dialogue and mitigate conflict between historically disparate groups.



*Photo credit:
Vilhelmina
Model Forest, Sweden*

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- formulate and enforce legislation that relates to sustainable forest management
- recognition of the considerable capital of culture, knowledge and good practice of indigenous peoples and local communities
- management of forests and trees at local and regional scales, interfacing with human settlements, agroforestry systems, non-wood forest resources and other natural resources systems
- bridges with other actors and sectors

Diverse Partnerships, Local Governance Build Enhanced Capacity for Sustainable Natural Resource Management in Cameroon

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Cameroon was the first African country to start discussing the Model Forest concept in 2003. The following year the Government of Cameroon launched a participatory site selection process in close collaboration with the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), the International Model Forest Network Secretariat, CIFOR, IUCN, CIDA, and FAO. The two pilot sites — Dja and Mpomo, and Campo-Ma'an — which came out of this process in June 2005 as the first African Model Forests, have been working since to develop innovative forms of governance and shared visions of sustainable development.

Each Model Forest has established a management structure headed by a board of trustees composed of the representatives of all stakeholder groups in the landscape, including rural women and indigenous people, community groups, municipalities, NGOs, public projects and services, as well as logging, mining, and conservation interests. A recent request by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife to work the concept into the current reform of Cameroon's forest law reflects the important role that Model Forests can play in binding together diverse components of forest and decentralization policies on the ground.



Photo credit: Campo Ma'an Model Forest, Cameroon

In the African context, Model Forests are long-term change vehicles owned and governed by local stakeholders themselves; they can thus better mobilize their own resources as well as use and benefit from external facilitation, resources and training in ways directly useful to them; this gives them the ability to go beyond the usual short-cycle project schemes while making the best use of such projects whenever appropriate.

The increasing range of partnerships resulting from this is already bearing fruit through joint training and project development opportunities with the International and African Model Forest Network Secretariats, Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest in Canada, International NGOs and other partners in Cameroon and the region.

It is expected that the Model Forest Network in Cameroon, Central Africa and the broader African Region will expand in the coming years, fostering

enhanced capacity of Model Forest stakeholders to develop viable forest and rural enterprises from a range of natural resources and environmental services available to them.

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- sustained political commitment
- bridges with other actors and sectors
- sustained and more effective international cooperation
- recognition of the considerable capital of culture, knowledge and good practice of indigenous peoples and local communities
- management of forests and trees at local and regional scales, interfacing with human settlements, agroforestry systems, non-wood forest resources and other natural resources systems

Making FSC Certification Accessible for Private and Community Forest Owners

Scott Davis,

Forest Certification Coordinator, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Canada

What started out as a small pilot project in the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) to engage 15 to 20 forest owners in Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification has expanded to include over 100 private forest owners, five community forests and an urban forest; together this forms the largest collection of privately- and community-owned forests that are FSC certified in Ontario.

The FSC is an international, membership-based, non-profit organization that supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. The EOMF works with government, landowners, industry,

indigenous peoples and other partners to develop new ways to sustain and manage forest resources. It provides a unique forum where forest users can forge a partnership and gain a greater understanding of conflicting views, share their knowledge, and combine their expertise and resources.

In 2000 the EOMF initiated a project to investigate the relevance and application of FSC certification on smaller privately owned woodlots in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence forest region of Ontario. The EOMF wanted to test the FSC system to determine if it could be applied to small family owned woodlots using the Great Lakes St. Lawrence standards. This project

grew to include neighboring community managed forests. Currently the EOMF Forest Certification Program manages 42,000 hectares of FSC certified forest through the SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance. The EOMF is the Resource Manager responsible for the FSC certificate on behalf of all participants.

Most recently, Renfrew County Forest became certified under the umbrella of the EOMF Forest Certification Program. It is a 6,400-hectare community owned

forest that includes wetlands, natural forest, and a network of managed plantations. The County's goal for the forest is to maintain a working forest that is managed properly to provide economic, social and recreational benefits to the residents of Renfrew County.

A recent 'innovation' under the Forest Certification Program has been the inclusion of maple syrup within the scope of the EOMF SmartWood certificate. Forest owners manage their maple operations according to established standards and are able to apply the FSC logo on their maple syrup.

The EOMF views this program as a valuable framework that can be transferred and adapted to other regions with similar landscapes and ownership patterns, and has created a certification 'toolbox' for use by forest managers interested in pursuing forest certification in on private and community owned forests in Canada and around the globe.



Photo credit:
Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Canada

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- a strong, responsible forest sector
- bridges with other actors and sectors
- competencies to address issues of complexity and multiple objectives
- management of forests and trees at local and regional scales, interfacing with human settlements, agroforestry systems, non-wood forest resources and other natural resources systems

Pristine Forests, Biodiversity and Partnership

Przemyslaw Majewski,

Silver Taiga Foundation and Komi Model Forest, Komi Republic, Russia

Located at the western base of the Ural Mountains in Russia, the taiga forest landscape covers 89% of Komi Republic (417,000 sq km). Because industrial logging began only 80 years ago many untouched landscapes, where high rates of biodiversity and pristine ecosystems are found, continue to survive. These landscapes are rare in Europe and therefore have a high conservation value. At the same time, they provide the base for local wood industries and serve as places for traditional use by local villagers. Differences between conservation and economic needs caused tension among forest stakeholders.

By the late 1990s, the need for forest inventory data and a neutral platform for debate among all forest stakeholders were two of the main reasons behind Model Forest development. As a first step, solutions to land use conflict were proposed and approved by all stakeholders of Komi Model Forest in its most fragmented, southern, part (the Priluzje region). Since that time, other pristine landscapes across Komi Republic have been gradually inventoried and a negotiation process, resulting in a “traffic light” system of maps where the red zone is protected, yellow indicates limited logging and green shows where forest exploitation is allowed, has greatly reduced conflict. This approach is considered by the Model Forest as a long-term solution. Currently the process has covered about 106 000 sq km.

In recent years, a system for biodiversity conservation in yellow zones has been developed and agreed to by Model Forest stakeholders, and subsequently approved by regional forest authorities. The system is based on imitating natural taiga dynamics. In 2009,

recommendations for biodiversity protection during logging operations in green zones and other exploited forests have also been developed and approved by Komi Republic authorities.

An interest in meeting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification standards, now wide-spread in Komi Republic, has been one of the main incentives behind the adoption of conservation measures by the forest industry. However,

the development of the Model Forest as a platform for forest stakeholders to enter into debate and gradually move from poor or distant relations toward partnership and cooperation was the key to success.



Photo credit: Komi Model Forest

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- participatory governance
- maintaining biodiversity
- profitable sustainable forest management
- mutual recognition of certification scheme

Canada-Argentina Collaboration on Developing Local Level Criteria and Indicators for SFM Through Model Forests

Dr. John E. Hall, Natural Resources Canada—Canadian Forest Service

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The Common Challenge of SFM

The common challenge of sustainable forest management (SFM) is to recognize and balance the many, and often competing, demands that are made of the forest from the local to the international levels and to find harmony so that options for forest uses, now and in the future, are not compromised.

Working toward the sustainable management of forest-based landscapes requires ongoing assessment of impacts and changes resulting from forest management practices and other activities. Establishing a baseline of criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable management practices is important

because it allows for the measurement of progress at different scales—from international to local. Criteria represent identified forest values that are important to enhance or sustain. Indicators can be scientific (such as an inventory of plant and animal species) or measured by qualitative, social advances (such as increased participation of women and indigenous peoples in decision-making processes).

Model Forests can be described as working scale laboratories that are managed by a group of stakeholders representing the various management authorities and land-use values at play within the



Photo credit: Courtesy of John Hall, NRCan-CFS

Model Forest landbase. No one is obliged to follow the recommendations Model Forests make, however with access to the broad base of Model Forest partners decision-makers tend to make more informed choices regarding the sustainable management of their forest landscapes. For these reasons, Model Forests are ideally suited as testing grounds for the development of C&I.

Developing Local Level Indicators

Canada and Argentina are long standing collaborators in the development of C&I for national level reporting as members of the Montreal Process. The Montreal Process is a group of 12 countries that represent about 80% of the world's Boreal and Temperate forests. Since the mid 1990s these countries have worked collaboratively to develop measures of SFM that each nation uses to report on its progress toward SFM at the national level. Taking a cue from the Montreal Process, Canada's Model Forests worked with the Canadian Forest Service from the mid 1990s to develop and

test local level indicators (LLI) of SFM that reflected the local circumstances for each Model Forest. A guidebook for LLI was later published for widespread promotion of the work.

Since 2007, the Argentinean national Model Forest Network (AMFN) and the Canadian Model Forest Network (CMFN) have combined skills to bring Canada's internationally recognized expertise and methodologies for the development of local level criteria and indicators to Argentina. Canadian experts have led three workshops to date; the AMFN followed each with a national working group meeting. Subsequent efforts on the part of AMFN program staff and site representatives have been effective in combining Canada's experiences with Argentina's network and local level perspectives and expertise to create a credible and achievable suite of local level indicators for monitoring Model Forest progress toward environmental, social and economic sustainability. Next steps include scaling up the C&I work in Argentina to the rest of the Ibero-American Model Forest Network next year.

C&I / LLI are tools to help SFM efforts advance and adapt to ever evolving norms by:

- setting the stage for how to gather and integrate information by jurisdiction and time period
- providing a means of managing a wide range of stakeholder values and expectations
- helping to point the way to improving practice in adaptive management
- enabling data collection and status reporting to be standardized so that a jurisdiction can track its progress over time and make improvements.

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- sustained political commitment and adequate financing
- sustained and more effective international cooperation
- competencies to address issues of complexity and multiple objectives
- management of forests and trees at local and regional scales, interfacing with human settlements, agroforestry systems, non-wood forest resources and other natural resources systems

Socio-Environmental Governance: The Case of Indigenous Communities in the Lachuá Model Forest, Guatemala

Kathia Acuña M.Sc., IUCN Advisor for the Lachuá Foundation, Guatemala

The Lachuá Model Forest corresponds to the Lachuá Ecoregion area and is comprised of 55 communities inhabited primarily by the Q'eqchi' indigenous peoples. These communities are located in the area of influence of the Laguna Lachuá National Park. In this context, the Lachuá Model Forest represents an initiative designed to create agri-environmental options for improving the quality of life of these communities so as to diminish social pressures placed on the Park, considering the lack of a buffer zone.

The Model Forest itself was born out of a recognition that strengthening local governance and mitigating conflict is key to this goal. In light of the fact that Guatemala has been severely affected by an armed conflict which lasted more than 30 years, the Model Forest has been fostering the development of various organizations, such as Community Development Councils. In addition, six

producer organizations have been founded to develop reforestation activities, cocoa production, apiculture production, ecotourism and crafts, among others. Furthermore, discussion fora have been organized in the Model Forest where decisions were made which helped mitigate some of the most pressing social and environmental conflicts.

Stakeholders also hope to capitalize on existing and new abilities and opportunities, such as finding markets for agricultural products, strengthening community authority as an expression of co-management of the ecoregion, protecting the environment, and expanding actions aimed at improving the life of the inhabitants.

Initially, the State's weak presence was a limiting factor in the Model Forest's progress. As a result, the highest levels of government were lobbied so that they would



Photo credit: Lachuá Model Forest, Guatemala

focus their efforts and resources on the Lachuá region. Today, cooperative agreements are in place allowing local governments to generate more investment in roadways, specialized support, and co-management of a protected area.

In summary, the Lachuá Model Forest has relied on a strategy which, by strengthening local social capital and bringing the State to the region in the context of governance, has succeeded in generating net benefits to the surrounding communities and to the region's environment.

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- sustained political commitment
- bridges with other actors and sectors
- competencies to address issues of complexity and multiple objectives
- recognition of the considerable capital of culture, knowledge and good practice of indigenous peoples and local communities

Interest in Governance, Bioenergy, Indigenous Involvement Spark Canada-Chile Model Forest Collaboration

Larry Stanley, RPF, Prince Albert Model Forest and Saskatchewan Energy and Resources, Canada
Alex Juorio, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Canada

In March 2009 Prince Albert Model Forest (PAMF) and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources (MER) completed a two week science and technology exchange and fact finding mission to Chile where representatives met with the Araucarias del Alto Malleco Model Forest (BMAAM), Chile's National Forest Corporation (CONAF), the Mapuche indigenous people, and a number of non-profit and commercial forestry operations. They discussed common areas of governance, value-added forest production, indigenous involvement in the forest sector and Chilean bioenergy developments, among other issues.

BMAAM initiated contact between the two sites when its General Manager, Washington Alvarado, conducted a 3-week knowledge exchange visit to PAMF in June 2008. PAMF and BMAAM both share large indigenous populations, have long supply chains to get forest products to market and have strongly resource-based economies. BMAAM is interested in PAMF's governance model and how it has created and continues to sustain a mature and successful partnership. PAMF wants to learn how the Chilean forest industry has adapted to set up smaller businesses that can rapidly adjust to new forest product demands.

In addition, Chile uses raw wood for most of its domestic heating and is interested in developing a pelletizing, briquetting and charcoal industry to offset significant urban air quality issues. Saskatchewan is now in the initial stages of expanding its own wood-based bioenergy industry as a transformation opportunity within its forest sector, and sees opportunities for bioenergy science and technology trade in the bioenergy field. Opportunities also exist in the areas of small and medium sized value-added processing companies in the forest sector, and increasing affordable, efficient housing for indigenous families.

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- recognition of the considerable capital of culture, knowledge and good practice of indigenous peoples and local communities
- management of forests and trees at local and regional scales, interfacing with human settlements, agroforestry systems, non-wood forest resources and other natural resources systems
- bridges with other actors and sectors
- sustained and more effective international cooperation

Mycology, Forest Management and Benefits Sharing Leads to Reduced Conflict, Increased Local Engagement in Urbion Model Forest, Spain

*Pilar Valbuena,
Urbion Model Forest, Spain*

According to the Valonsadero Research Center in Spain, Urbion Model Forest has the highest potential mycological production value in the Autonomous Region of Castilla and Leon. In this area, the productive area of public forests covers more than 125,000 ha and the estimated mycological value exceeds 10 million euros, that is a rate of approximately 76.58 €/Ha.

Under direction from the Government of Castilla and Leon, Urbion Model Forest started a project for the regulation and marketing of the mycological resources in Castilla and Leon, known as “MYAS RC”. Its objectives include the sustainability of mycological resources, compatibility with other forest uses and an increase in, and better distribution of, local income.

Prior to the project, there was an imbalance in the development of the mycological sector in the region: sustainability could not be assured, benefits and profits were flowed mostly outside the region and there were significant supply and demand issues.

While still ongoing, achievements to date include the ability to anticipate and mediate local conflict, comprehensive and integrated regulation of the sector, the realization that local actors must collaborate, provide their support and actively participate, training and information campaigns, the need for political will as well as support for research.

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- bridges with other actors and sectors
- policies based on best available science and information
- recognition of the considerable capital of culture, knowledge and good practice of indigenous peoples and local communities
- management of forests and trees at local and regional scales, interfacing with human settlements, agroforestry systems, non-wood forest resources and other natural resources systems



Photo credit: Miguel Segur

Land Use Planning as an Instrument for Managing Land and Natural Resources in Bolivia

Jenny Flores, Romy Cronenbold, Roberto Vides-Almonacid,
Chiquitano Model Forest, Bolivia

The Chiquitano Model Forest (ChMF) spans over 20 million hectares in Bolivia and is predominantly located in the department of Santa Cruz. Over the last few years this region has been strongly threatened by human intervention resulting from the development of roadway infrastructures and the expansion of agricultural and livestock lands, and as a result of national policies. This in turn generates social and environmental fragility and vulnerability. Hence, comprehensive land management along with sustainable management of the forest's natural resources through land use planning at the municipal level has become a priority for the local authorities.

Land use planning (*ordenamiento territorial*) is the process of organizing the use and occupation of land based on its biophysical, socioeconomic, cultural, and political institutional characteristics. It is supported by a national legal framework regulated by the Bolivian Ministry of Planning and Development which formulates policies for designing and implementing municipal plans for land use. The Municipal Land Use Plan (*Plan Municipal de Ordenamiento Territorial*) amalgamates a series of activities pertaining to land use and occupation designed to facilitate integral occupation thus generating development opportunities and social conditions conducive to gradually eliminating poverty within the framework of human intervention in relation to natural resources.

ChMF is supporting three municipalities (San José, Roboré and San Rafael) in implementing this tool, allowing their local governments to better manage and administer their region as well as to better control and protect biodiversity. In addition, there are six municipalities which are currently in the process of designing their own Municipal Land Use Plans involving a wide variety of actors and sectors (production, crafts, livestock raising, forestry, mining and agriculture). Thus, out of the ecoregion's 14 municipalities in the CHMF,

only five remain all of which have different levels of interest in developing their own Municipal Land Use Plans. Approximately 10 million ha. – 50% of the ChMF's territory – fall under the design and/or implementation of these comprehensive land management instruments.

On an ecoregional scale, the application of municipal land use planning allows for the identification of integrated lines of action and scenarios in order to generate operational actions in line with the trends in socioeconomic development marked by the change in land use, the development of roadway infrastructures, the expansion of mining activities and the state policies on colonization which constitute direct threats to the integrity of the ChMF's ecosystem. Each municipality comprising the ChMF has its own particularities and vision which is reflected in the design and implementation of its respective Municipal Land Use Plan. For example, San José de Chiquitos focuses on water and dry areas; San Ramón on mining and business; Concepción and San Ignacio de Velasco focus on the issues of forestry, agriculture and tourism; and Roboré (in reference to its protected areas) focuses on environmental services, livestock development and tourism. This process of land use planning supports the goal of integrating sectors and actors which will promote the Model Forest concept.

WFC 2003 Final Statement Pre-requisites met:

- sustained political commitment and adequate financing
- bridges with other actors and sectors
- management of forests and trees at local and regional scales, interfacing with human settlements, agroforestry systems, non-wood forest resources and other natural resources systems

Asian Model Forests Addressing Difficult Ecological, Economic and Social Issues Through Broad Stakeholder Engagement

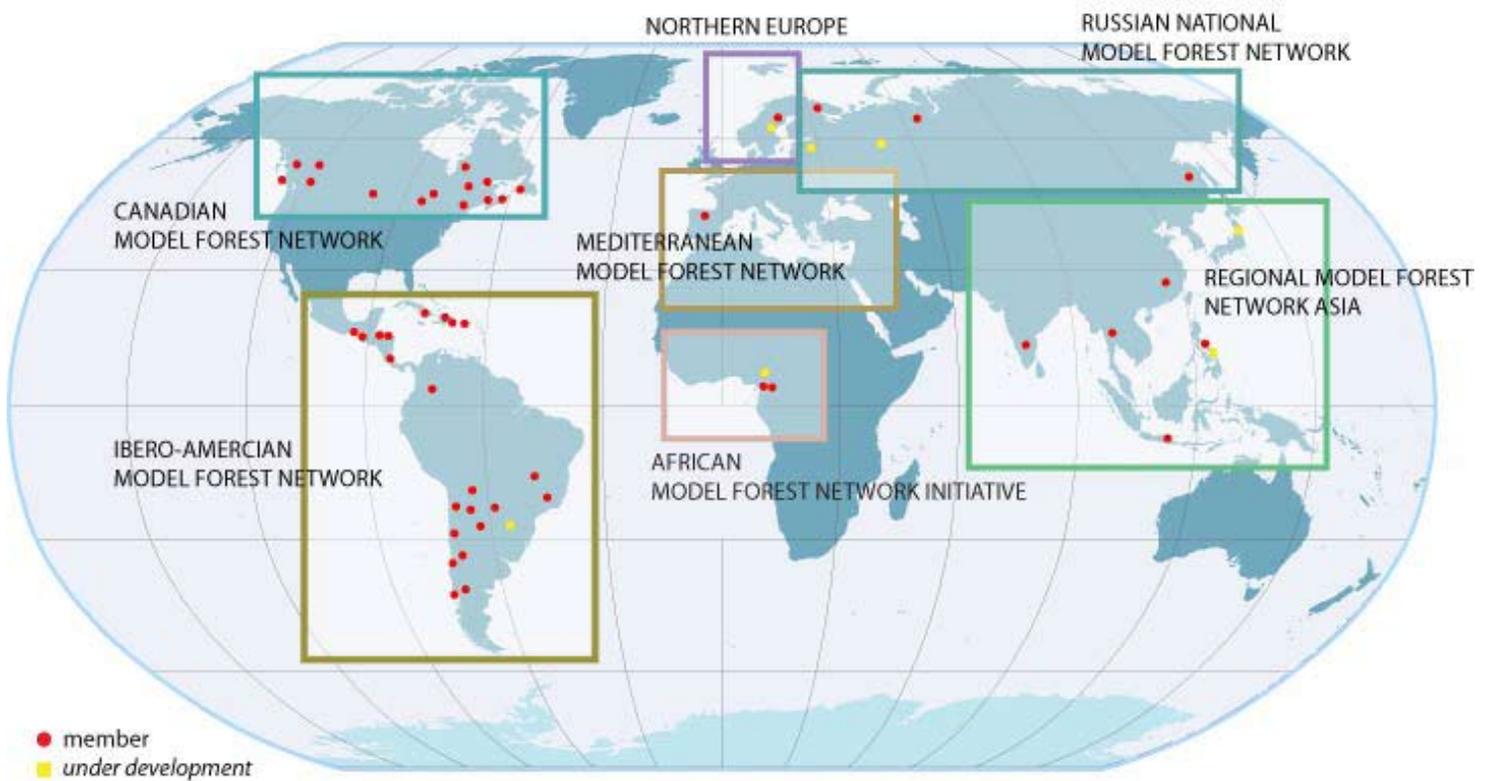
The five Model Forests currently established in Asia have been collaborating for many years as an informal regional network. At the regional level, they have identified ecological goods and services, and integrated landscape management as topics of common interest for research, knowledge sharing and project development. At the individual Model Forest level, stakeholders across Asia have made significant progress advancing a variety of actions and strategies called for in the Final Statement of the 2003 World Forestry Congress. Examples of their actions are summarized in the table below:

Model Forest	Activity Undertaken	WFC Action / Strategy	WFC Vision: Pre-requisite Met
Kodagu (India)	Promotion of Eco-tourism through Kodagu Heritage Interpretation Centre: The Centre was set up to facilitate visits by guests or residents of Kodagu to interpret the unique landscape, culture, conservation efforts and economic activities. The Centre will serve as a living exhibition to highlight all relevant developmental and environmental issues, as well as cultural activities in Kodagu.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize and respect the rights of owners, indigenous peoples, users and workers; and protect cultural values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridges with other actors and sectors Competencies to address issues of complexity and multiple objectives Recognition of the considerable capital of culture, knowledge and good practice of indigenous peoples and local communities
Ngao (Thailand)	Wise Uses of Residues from Forest and Agricultural Products: A set of guidelines for bamboo charcoal production using residues of bamboo from the production of bamboo sticks and other agricultural products was published and distributed. A bamboo stick and charcoal factory, a partner of Ngao Model Forest, is a demonstration site for this best practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the reconciliation of uses and activities for adding value to forest goods and services. Implement comprehensive education and extension programs designed to promote innovation at all levels and strengthen positive behaviour and attitudes toward forests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong, responsible forest sector Bridges with other actors and sectors Policies based on best available science and information Management of forests and trees at local and regional scales

Model Forest	Activity Undertaken	WFC Action / Strategy	WFC Vision: Pre-requisite Met
Margowitan (Indonesia)	<p>Field Education for Primary School Students: To increase the awareness of the stakeholders, in the Model Forest conducts workshops with primary school students on forest related-topics, particularly the benefits of forests. Students are directly involved in tree nursery and tree planting activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement comprehensive education and extension programs designed to promote innovation at all levels and strengthen positive behaviour and attitudes toward forests. • Encourage collaborative partnerships involving women, forest owners, indigenous peoples, nongovernmental organizations, local communities, industry and public agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridges with other actors and sectors • Management of forests and trees at local and regional scales
Ulot Watershed (Philippines)	<p>Rehabilitation of Mined-Out Areas and Renewal of Forest Resources: The project was implemented in partnership with the UNDP and a local mining company to protect forest areas, enhance forest cover and rehabilitate mined-out areas. Outcomes include the rehabilitation of 20 hectares of mined-out areas, a plantation of 6,800 pili seedlings (a nut tree), reduced soil erosion and increased local incomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote planted forests and planting of trees outside forest systems, including in urban areas, which make a contribution to sustainable development. • Encourage collaborative partnerships involving women, forest owners, indigenous peoples, nongovernmental organizations, local communities, industry and public agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained political commitment and adequate financing • Bridges with other actors and sectors • Management of forests and trees at local and regional scales
Lin'an (China)	<p>Focus on Marginalized Workers: With about 1700 disabled agricultural workers in Lin'an China, the Lin'an Model Forest has taken direct action to improve the economic situation of this marginalized group by providing training in bamboo shoot, hickory and tea cultivation and processing techniques. More than 600 disabled farmers in the region have received training and more than 30,000 households are growing bamboo, helping to alleviate poverty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage collaborative partnerships involving women, forest owners, indigenous peoples, nongovernmental organizations, local communities, industry and public agencies. • Establish effective governance arrangements for ensuring meaningful participation and equitable sharing of benefits, and for facilitating a diversity of models conferring tenure and access to resources reflecting local context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridges with other actors and sectors • Competencies to address issues of complexity and multiple objectives • Management of forests and trees at local and regional scales

International Model Forest Network

In a Model Forest a variety of people with differing interests and perspectives form a neutral partnership based on the following goal: to manage their own natural resources in a way that makes the most sense to them given their history, economic and cultural identities and in a way that does not jeopardize future generations. Each Model Forest also works with other sites in the International Model Forest Network to accelerate progress toward sustainability through knowledge sharing and technology transfer.



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