



**International
Model Forest
Network**

PARTNERS



**CANADIAN
MODEL
FOREST
NETWORK**



Report of the **IMFN Global Forum**

June 16–20, 2008 | Hinton, Canada

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Opening Prayer with
Chief Jimmy O'Chiese,
Foothills Ojibway

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the International Model Forest Network Secretariat,
Natural Resources Canada—Canadian Forest Service.*

Executive Summary

The 2008 International Model Forest Network (IMFN) Global Forum was held in Hinton, Canada, from June 16 to 20. The forum, which takes place approximately every three years, is an opportunity for IMFN members to meet face to face so that they can network, share knowledge and identify ways to support and strengthen model forests' contributions to the sustainable management of forested landscapes. More than 150 delegates from 31 countries and various organizations attended the event, which was co-hosted by the Foothills Research Institute, the Canadian Model Forest Network and the IMFN Secretariat. The next IMFN Global Forum will take place in Spain in 2011.

Discussions throughout the week illustrated that model forests have experienced many successes. However, the proceedings also highlight challenges that must be addressed to improve potential and visibility, such as building strategic partnerships. How to tackle those challenges, while still strengthening capacity and managing growth, was one of the many topics discussed during the event.

The primary focus of the five days was to increase networking between model forests. The event's mixed format included plenary presentations, working group discussions, workshops, a knowledge fair and a field tour. A series of capacity-building workshops allowed participants to learn about and discuss a range of topics of interest to model forests. Throughout, there was ample opportunity for formal and informal dialogue on subjects relevant to the local, regional and international levels. This dialogue allowed participants to build links across boundaries and to take an active part in shaping the future direction of the Network, therefore strengthening their sense of ownership and membership.

Throughout, there was ample opportunity for formal and informal dialogue on subjects relevant to the local, regional and international levels.

During the event, participants identified four strategic areas that should guide the IMFN's future work and partnership development: community sustainability, climate change, knowledge sharing and environmental services. Model forests can act as platforms for research and policy implementation for these topics of global reach and local applicability. The knowledge generated can then be shared across the Network, and beyond it, accelerating innovation in these areas.



Group Photo

Participants expressed enthusiasm for new Network initiatives and members, welcoming the launch of new model forests and the Mediterranean regional network. However, they also expressed concern about quality and credibility assurance in the face of continued growth. Delegates called for more fluid knowledge management and a body of evidence that shows the tangible results of model forests at all levels, from grassroots to international.

The Global Forum demonstrated that, despite the wide geopolitical and cultural diversity across the Network, many of the challenges that members face are shared across boundaries. The IMFN, as a learning- and knowledge-based organization, provides a framework within which to collaboratively address those challenges. A face-to-face meeting of the membership was an important step in moving forward with this objective.

Introduction

The IMFN continues to be the world's largest experiment in sustainable forest management. Since the 2005 Global Forum in Costa Rica, the IMFN has undergone a number of significant changes.

As announced during the Global Forum, Canada will also collaborate with other northern countries—including Sweden, China, Russia, the United States and Finland—in a new Circumboreal Initiative, the first of its kind for the IMFN.

At the international level, the Network's membership has expanded to include 51 sites (in existence or under development) in more than 20 countries, involving thousands of partner organizations. The IMFN Secretariat also experienced an important change as it moved from the International Development Research Centre to Natural Resources Canada—Canadian Forest Service, where it was originally conceived. Support to the Secretariat continues to be Canada's cornerstone contribution to the Network.

At the regional level, the Canadian Model Forest Network has entered a new phase. Its partnership with the Forest Communities Program of the Canadian Forest Service has given it new opportunities, including the integration of four new sites into the Network and the closing of operations in one. As announced during the Global Forum, Canada will also collaborate with other northern

countries—including Sweden, China, Russia, the United States and Finland—in a new Circumboreal Initiative, the first of its kind for the IMFN.

The former Latin American and Caribbean Model Forest Network evolved into the Ibero-American Model Forest Network after Spain joined the regional board of directors in 2006. This region has experienced the most growth, with five new countries and ten new model forests. Partners in central Africa continue to develop the African Model Forest Network Initiative, and northern Europe and Russia are collaborating in the Baltic Sea Initiative. The Mediterranean Model Forest Network was introduced at the 2008 Global Forum, and Russia announced that it will begin a national model forest program. The Regional Model Forest Network-Asia has been developing a collaborative vision and plan that includes identifying a common area of focus: ecological goods and services and their application.

This unprecedented change and evolution within the IMFN highlights the importance of bringing Network members and partners together regularly to reflect on the past and set out strategic directions for the future. Aside from being an excellent networking event, the 2008 IMFN Global Forum provided a chance to demonstrate tangible results and planned achievements on the ground, and to collectively reflect on the IMFN's contributions to sustainable development.



Water Tanker
Demonstration During
Field Tour of Foothills
Research Institute

Overview of the Event

More than 150 delegates from 31 countries attended the Global Forum, which was co-hosted by the Foothills Research Institute, the Canadian Model Forest Network and the IMFN Secretariat. The goal was to offer IMFN members opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing and to work toward a number of pre-defined objectives:

- Enhancing networking among members of the IMFN
- Increasing members' sense of ownership of the Network
- Identifying research questions and priority areas
- Reflecting on the local and international contributions and impacts of model forests
- Gaining a better understanding of the IMFN's contribution to global efforts for sustainability

By asking participants to identify key areas of interest before the event, using collaborative online tools, then asking them to define the IMFN's strategic directions during the event, the Global Forum promoted a greater sense of Network ownership among members. It also made the Network more relevant to participants' interests and priorities, emphasizing that the initiative belongs to its members, and that it is up to them to steer its future.

The structure of the week provided time for reflection, learning and discussion. The Forum's opening keynote presentations reviewed the IMFN's position relative to other international initiatives concerned with the sustainable management of forested landscapes, and presented suggestions for greater Network visibility. This theme set the stage for the sessions that followed.

Participants learned about various topics of interest during a series of capacity-building workshops. These workshops were designed to generate information for model forest practitioners on how to take new action, or strengthen existing action, in key areas including carbon accounting, resource mobilization and strategic planning.

During a half-day session participants identified strategic directions for the Network. Among other things, they validated model forest principles and attributes; discussed the roles of local, regional and international networks; and identified priority themes for the IMFN to pursue. The goal was to emerge with a clear sense of direction for the Network, a direction dictated by members and Network supporters.



Russian Delegates

A knowledge fair enabled participants to discuss their work in relation to 20 thematic posters. Sharing experiences and lessons learned, participants identified opportunities for collaboration and joint project development under the different themes. They were also encouraged to strengthen their networking by using online and other collaborative tools.

During the Global Forum additional meetings took place to advance several projects, including the Circumboreal Initiative and development of a knowledge management plan. As well, a field tour of the Foothills Research Institute (formerly the Foothills Model Forest) allowed participants to experience first-hand how a model forest works on the ground.

Overview of This Document

The six parts of this document are based on the agenda and events of the Global Forum. The opening keynote presentations are summarized in Part 1. Part 2 reviews the capacity-building workshops and provides information on the facilitators. Part 3 includes a summary and analysis of the session on strategic directions, highlighting the four priority areas identified by participants. Part 4 describes the knowledge fair and includes a sample of the discussions that took place. Part 5 presents an analysis of the event and some general observations, while Part 6 sums up the event with concluding comments.

The annexes contain additional information on the Global Forum: the agenda, a list of participants and a list of slide presentations made during the event.

PART 1. Opening Keynote Presentations



Your Model Forests—Your Global Forum

Mr. Jim Farrell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada—Canadian Forest Service

In his opening remarks, Mr. Farrell, speaking on behalf of Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, emphasized Canada's continued support of model forests and recognized their global importance. Canada supports the IMFN by hosting the Network Secretariat at the Canadian Forest Service in Ottawa, and the country views model forests as implementers of key components of international treaties and agreements. Examining a current map of the IMFN, Mr. Farrell

congratulated participants on the Network's expansion, stressing that this is the work of members and something they should feel ownership of. Mr. Farrell thanked participants for attending the Global Forum and wished everyone an enjoyable visit to Canada.

For a copy of Mr. Farrell's presentation, please visit www.imfn.net.



The 2008 IMFN Global Forum

Mr. Peter Besseau, Director, International Model Forest Network Secretariat

Mr. Besseau posed three questions: 1) Why are we meeting? 2) What have we achieved since our last meeting? 3) What can we aspire to achieve during this Global Forum?

In answer to the first question—"Why are we meeting?"—Mr. Besseau explained the importance of coming together to assess progress and learn about the collective and individual impacts of model forests' work. Many policies on governance, climate change, ecosystem services and other topics have been developed based on the input and experiences of model forest practitioners. He underlined that there is

great value in allowing the Network to collectively reflect on its impacts, strengths and weaknesses in order to identify and advance strategic initiatives.

Mr. Besseau said that the process of coming together, face to face, to network, share knowledge and learn from one another is essential to the IMFN's success and should be facilitated by the Secretariat, whose role is to lead, add value and build capacity. The Global Forum is also about taking ownership of the Network, gauging how members understand it and encourage them to be active participants in the

(Mr. Besseau) urged delegates to take advantage of the forum's opportunities and to participate in networking, knowledge sharing and mutual learning throughout the week.

network's development. Finally, coming together provides a chance to celebrate the uniqueness of the IMFN, the world's largest experiment in sustainable forest management.

Responding to the second question—"What have we achieved since our last meeting?"—Mr. Besseau examined the IMFN map, noting the Network's tremendous growth since the last Global Forum in 2005. Some argue that this growth has occurred at the expense of quality. Others say that growth should be

constrained until the Network is fully functional. But growth represents an opportunity to exert influence at the policy level. Therefore, Mr. Besseau stressed the importance of reflecting on how the IMFN grows, and in particular issues of quality and coherence at the site level, as well as the question of where it grows and how its members can take advantage of strategic opportunities that arise from growth (e.g., new talent and how to engage it).

Achievements since 2005 include advances in the priority areas identified at the last Global Forum:

- Governance: IMFN Secretariat moved to the Canadian Forest Service
- International Networking Committee established
- Support provided to new sites and regions

- Visibility of the Network increased
- Credibility and evidence of impacts: a body of evidence under development (including posters created for the Global Forum) to highlight model forests' contributions to priority issues such as climate change, biodiversity and energy
- Continued definition of the IMFN's niche in the international landscape of sustainable forest management initiatives
- Expansion of strategic alliances (FAO, CUSO, IUCN and others)
- Expansion of the Network
- Internationalization of the model forest concept

In addressing the last question—"What can we aspire to achieve during this Global Forum?"—Mr. Besseau outlined a number of topics, including ownership of the Network, the new International Networking Committee, IMFN expansion, development of strategic alliances and Network initiatives. He urged delegates to take advantage of the forum's opportunities and to participate in networking, knowledge sharing and mutual learning throughout the week.

For a copy of Mr. Besseau's presentation, please visit www.imfn.net.



Mapping the International Model Forest Network in the Landscape of International Initiatives and Organizations Concerned with Sustainable Forest Management: An Analysis of the Current Situation and a Focus on the Future

Dr. Peter Bridgewater, Chair, UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and former Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Dr. Bridgewater provided an overview of the IMFN's position in relation to other international initiatives that deal with the sustainable management of forested landscapes. He began by examining the Network's strengths and weaknesses, including the following:

- Independence and strong stakeholder ownership (key strength)
- Failure to capitalize on the Network's strengths in the international arena and to make the most of opportunities offered by organizational diversity (key weakness)

It is important, said Dr. Bridgewater, to find congruence among international organizations' objectives and goals. It is also important to build links with initiatives, such as the Ramsar Convention and the Millennium Development Goals, whose aspirations are in sync with the IMFN's.

So why is the IMFN not better known among key sustainable forest management players? The Network has been growing internally for more than a decade. While gaining critical mass was important, now that the threshold has been reached, the IMFN must establish strong

links with, and support from, other like-minded organizations or it will continue to suffer low visibility and impact.

Dr. Bridgewater suggested that the IMFN ensure some standardization of its strategic objectives with those used by other international organizations that deal with similar issues. In other words, the performance of model forests, and of the Network as a whole, should be measured against the targets and goals of established intergovernmental organizations and their sustainable forest management programs.

The challenge lies in choosing the correct partnerships and putting in place memoranda of cooperation that are program-specific and open to review. Here Dr. Bridgewater presented his idea of "one door leading to many rooms." Large organizations such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the FAO and the IUCN are linked to many other partners. It is advisable to make use of these "portal" organizations, said Dr. Bridgewater, or others that will provide instant access to many members with similar interests.

Minimizing differences
and establishing strategic
partnerships ... have brought
success so far and must
continue to do so for the
Network to flourish.

Another key area of work to consider is funding and fundraising. Dr. Bridgewater pointed out that the Global Environment Facility, and environmental organizations such as WWF and the Nature Conservancy, have substantial funding available that could support model forests. It would be very beneficial for the Network to develop relationships with these organizations.

Model forests should also capitalize on topics of current global importance, including climate change, the ecosystem approach, ecosystem services and indigenous knowledge. The Network must show an international audience that model forests are about implementation and putting policy into practice—a valuable but scarce trait in the international arena.

Dr. Bridgewater suggested that a number of sites designated as World Heritage forest sites, Wetlands of International Importance and Biosphere Reserves could be proposed as model forests and added to the Network. It is worth examining others' objectives to see if there are areas for mutual support. Agreements, if they lend extra legitimacy, are also worth pursuing.

Dr. Bridgewater ended by saying that the future for model forests and the IMFN is bright. A number of avenues exist that could prove very fruitful if pursued wisely. Key messages about the Network and model forests must be widely disseminated and publicized — the more they are mentioned, the more international support there will be. Minimizing differences and establishing strategic partnerships are critical focuses. They have brought success so far and must continue to do so for the Network to flourish.

For a copy of Dr. Bridgewater's presentation, please visit www.imfn.net.

PART 2. Capacity-Building Workshops

The capacity-building workshops at the 2008 IMFN Global Forum were designed as introductory sessions on a range of themes of interest to model forests. The topics were selected through an online survey conducted by the IMFN Secretariat. Where possible, model forest experiences in the thematic areas were used as examples.



Team Process for
Assessing Progress

Workshop and Facilitator(s)

Description

**Effective Resource Mobilization:
The Concepts, the Strategies and the Tools**
*Kafui Dansou, Consultant (former member
of the IMFN Secretariat)*

Why is effective resource mobilization not just about money? This workshop reviewed the fundamentals of effective resource mobilization and helped participants better understand the steps that lead to financial sustainability.

**Strategic Planning in Model Forests:
Participatory Approaches**
*Stacy Barter, Consultant (former CUSO
cooperant in the Alto Malleco Model Forest)*

This interactive workshop examined approaches to strategic planning in model forests and introduced participants to various strategic planning tools and processes.

**Introduction to Monitoring
and Evaluation (M&E)**
Dr. Ricardo Ramirez, University of Guelph

This session focused on matching the plurality of model forest goals and stakeholders with an M&E methodology that integrates quantitative, qualitative and narrative approaches. The workshop reviewed the relevance of conventional approaches (results-based management) and introduced emerging qualitative approaches such as “outcome mapping” and “most significant change.”

Workshop and Facilitator(s)

Description

Assessing and Developing the Eco-cultural Tourism Potential of Your Model Forest

Patrick Twomey, Eco-cultural Tourism Guide and Consultant (former CUSO cooperant in the Chiloé Model Forest)

This workshop linked the concepts of cultural tourism with ecotourism. Participants were given the basic tools for analyzing their potential and, more importantly, their realistic “eco-cultural” tourist market.

Biodiversity Restoration Using Analog Forestry Methodology

Jean Arnold, Executive Director, Falls Brook Centre

Participants who took this workshop were introduced to the basics of applying analog forestry to their field work. Analog forestry is a useful tool for forest extension workers and managers of landscape planning to have in their toolbox of restoration applications.

Forests, Climate Change and Carbon Accounting

Drs. Werner Kurz, Stephen Kull and Michael Magnan, NRCan–CFS

Participants gained a general understanding of climate change, the potential impacts on forests and the role forest management can play in mitigating climate change. They also learned about the science of forest carbon accounting, the operational-scale Carbon Budget Model of the Canadian Forest Sector and what would be involved in applying the model in their country.

Team Process for Assessing Progress and Deriving Lessons Learned

Hugo Bastidas, Centre for Intercultural Learning

In this workshop participants learned about a tool for self-monitoring and identifying lessons learned. Using the tool, they practised being learning practitioners and came to appreciate the accomplishments and strengths they offer that can be applied to their work. The tool and the workshop used the steps in the learning cycle: identify significant experience, derive learning from it and plan for its application in the future.

The Model Forest Development Process: From Site Selection to Multi-stakeholder Governance Processes

Brian Bonnell, IMFN Secretariat

This session was designed for those new to the model forest concept. It reviewed the principles and attributes of a model forest, as well as the general process for establishing a model forest and becoming involved in the IMFN.

PART 3. Strategic Directions for the IMFN

An important objective of the 2008 IMFN Global Forum was to develop a greater sense of ownership of the Network among its members. To help address this objective, the forum included a half-day strategic work session that allowed participants to provide input on the directions, visions and goals of the IMFN.

The strategic session had several purposes: to allow participants to articulate their overall vision of the Network, to enable IMFN members to define strategic areas of focus and programming priorities, to generate information for use in IMFN strategic planning and to develop ideas for possible Network initiatives.

The session was divided into two parts:

- Reviewing and discussing the principles and attributes of model forests, as well as the role of IMFN members, regional networks and the Secretariat
- Defining and discussing future program priorities for the IMFN

Principles and Roles

Principles

At the Global Forum IMFN members unanimously validated a new framework to encompass the six long-standing principles of model forests. The IMFN Principles and Attributes of Model Forests Framework, as it is known, outlines guiding principles for model forest development and operation. Though no two model forests are identical, the framework provides a common thread to unite the various sites across the Network.

The six principles in the framework are as follows:

- **Broad-based partnership:** each model forest is a neutral forum that welcomes voluntary participation of representatives of stakeholder interests and values on the landscape
- **Large landscape:** a large biophysical area representing a broad range of forest values, including social, cultural, economic and environmental concerns
- **Commitment to sustainability:** stakeholders are committed to the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and the forested landscape
- **Good governance:** the model forest management process is representative, participatory, transparent and accountable, and promotes collaborative work among stakeholders
- **Broad program of activities:** activities undertaken by a model forest are reflective of the model forests' vision and stakeholder needs, values and management challenges
- **Commitment to knowledge sharing, capacity building and networking:** model forests build stakeholder capacity to engage in the sustainable management of natural resources, and collaborate and share results and lessons learned through networking

For the complete framework, please visit www.imfn.net.



Model Forest
Strategic Planning

During the strategic session participants were asked to reflect on and discuss the guiding principles of model forests. The aim was to gauge the accuracy and applicability of the existing principles and to suggest new ones.

The principles most commonly identified were transparency, innovation, partnership, accountability, participation and openness—principles that for the most part are already contained or reflected in the framework. However, participants identified two principles that are not: independence and flexibility. These principles illustrate that although participants view each model forest as linked to other sites, they also value the adaptability and autonomy they are permitted in defining their own priorities and work programs independently of other sites. Different local conditions and needs lead to diverse model forests. The IMFN must therefore continue to be flexible in how it defines and applies the model forest concept.

Roles

Participants were also asked to identify the primary roles of model forests, regional networks and the IMFN Secretariat. The objective was to ensure that member' roles and expectations regarding participation in the IMFN are clearly understood.

The primary role of model forests, as identified at the session, is to document and share lessons learned with other model forests. This role implies a responsibility for generating and sharing knowledge across the Network. Other frequently cited roles for model forests included the development and demonstration of best practices, policy influence and accountability (e.g., to other model forests, the IMFN, governments, donors).

The roles identified for regional networks included the facilitation of information and knowledge exchange between model forests, resource mobilization and quality assurance (e.g., ensuring that model forests adhere to the principles and attributes, evaluating sites, developing regional membership criteria).

In discussing the role of the IMFN Secretariat, participants noted knowledge sharing and capacity building as a key function. Other roles included developing tools for sharing knowledge and information, ensuring quality control, communicating principles and attributes of model forests at the international level and establishing strategic partnerships in the international arena. This last point supported the suggestion in Dr. Bridgewater's keynote address that the IMFN should, under the Secretariat's leadership, expand its international strategic partnerships and collaborative agreements.

During the strategic session, participants also formally approved the mandate of the IMFN's recently formed International Networking

Committee. This strategic body, made up of representatives from each region of the IMFN as well as the Secretariat, facilitates networking at the international level.

Program Priorities for the IMFN

Participants in the strategic session were asked to identify and discuss key programming areas for the IMFN, or important themes at the local and global levels on which the IMFN should concentrate its future work. Participants were encouraged to focus on areas that are relevant to the local level, considering local conditions and needs, but that are also applicable to the regional and global levels, thus capitalizing on the benefits of belonging to a network with a global reach.

Members identified a long list of priorities, which were organized into five categories.

Poverty alleviation

Participants identified food security, sustainable economic development, and grassroots community development and stewardship. They noted that this thematic area is particularly important for model forests in the developing world. Links can be made between these model forests and model forests with similar local conditions to enable resource and knowledge sharing.

International collaboration and networking

In this category are issues of global reach that require international collaboration, including desertification, water management (both

scarcity and quality) and biodiversity conservation. Participants stressed that work in these areas should be coordinated with international bodies, agreements and conventions such as the FAO, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity. This theme also includes work to increase the IMFN's international visibility, such as expanding strategic partnerships and collaborative agreements and exerting influence at the international policy level. Work in this area could be undertaken by the membership, with support from the IMFN Secretariat.

Knowledge sharing

Key activities cited were capacity building, communicating successes and lessons learned, and creating a body of evidence about the IMFN's accomplishments to date, including its contributions to global efforts for sustainability.

Climate change

Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change were considered particularly important, given that climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the international community. Delegates highlighted collaboration and partnership as being inherent in this thematic area. The Network can access links and resources through existing agreements as well as through organizations in the international climate change arena, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



Fisheries Research,
Foothills Research
Institute, Canada

Ecosystem services

Ecosystem services is a topic of great importance and interest to model forests, as several have experience in the field. As an overarching topic, ecosystem services could be a portal through which the Network examines issues such as water management, eco-cultural tourism and the conservation and sustainable use of biologically diverse landscapes. Delegates suggested that this thematic area could complement climate change work.

After examining the above five themes, participants then organized them into four key programming priorities for the IMFN (to be known as Network Initiatives):

1. Climate change
2. Community sustainability
3. Ecosystem services
4. Knowledge sharing

Delegates then analyzed the priority areas in more detail, addressing questions such as: What are the rationale and importance of these topics to the Network? Are the topics suited to the IMFN? What could the IMFN offer on these topics? What niches could the IMFN and model forests fill in these areas?

Summary of Network Initiatives Discussion

Climate change

Global Forum delegates identified climate change as one of today's greatest international challenges—one that has far-reaching implications for sustainable livelihoods, water and food security, health and biodiversity. Delegates identified climate change as a priority topic for the IMFN because it has global reach and requires collaborative action across boundaries. The importance of this issue, and the emphasis the international community has placed on it, will make it easier to access human and financial capital to develop and implement activities for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The IMFN's comparative advantage would be to position model forests as a series of landscape-scale platforms for carrying out climate change studies and community adaptation strategies, and for monitoring them over the long term. A niche for the Network could be to approach work on climate change vulnerability and adaptation in terms of issues of shared importance, such as the effect on biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. Successful strategies and lessons learned could then be shared across the Network. Key partners for collaboration in this area include the UNFCCC Secretariat, FAO, IUCN and the national governments that host model forests.

Because people and the forest-based communities they live in are central to the model forest concept, community sustainability is highly relevant to the IMFN.

Community sustainability

Because people and the forest-based communities they live in are central to the model forest concept, community sustainability is highly relevant to the IMFN. This thematic area promotes sustainable development at the community level—the level where people pursue better livelihoods, mechanisms for good governance, environmental sustainability and socio-cultural well-being—but does so from a landscape perspective. Within the IMFN, model forests that focus on community sustainability look simultaneously at the practices and actions needed at the local level to promote sustainability and at the global challenges previously identified (e.g., poverty alleviation, sustainable economic development, food security). Other topics in this area include participatory development and governance, and cross-cutting themes such as gender equity and indigenous participation and partnership.

According to delegates, potential niches for the IMFN in this area might include strengthening participatory sustainable development at the community level, and promoting good governance and environmental stewardship. Most model forests already work on issues directly related to community sustainability and test new approaches to community stewardship and development. Collaboration, and the sharing of successes and lessons learned, should be easier through the IMFN, thus accelerating progress in this area.

Delegates identified the FAO, UNDP, IDRC, RECOFTC and municipalities as potential partners for developing and implementing actions under the theme of community sustainability. These partnerships would affect communities in positive, tangible ways, while fulfilling the goals and objectives of international priorities such as the Millennium Development Goals and the Rio Declaration (Agenda 21).

Ecosystem services

Global Forum delegates chose this area as a priority because of its local applicability and global reach. The theme encompasses the provision of goods and services essential to meet basic human needs (e.g., clean water, oxygen, medicine) while promoting greater management and conservation of natural resources by acknowledging the value of nature and incorporating it into the market economy.

A few model forests already have experience in applying ecosystem services schemes. Delegates suggested that model forests could expand this knowledge base by acting as sites for the implementation of locally developed, locally driven initiatives related to ecosystem services. These could be small-scale initiatives that address both local needs and the global challenges that are important to the IMFN, such as water management, climate change and rural development.

Applying ecosystem services schemes within the IMFN would also yield tangible, measurable products that can be evaluated and documented. In this way, the Network could establish its contribution to international objectives in this area, helping to create a body of evidence about the IMFN's international impacts and relevance.



Grizzly Bear

Delegates found this thematic area well suited to the IMFN because it is a relatively new science with few players, therefore allowing for innovation and creativity. Model forests could serve as test sites for putting into practice this particular approach to sustainable resource management. One result might be the development of a global ecosystem services inventory, an initiative the IMFN could champion.

Furthermore, payment for ecosystem services could provide incentives for community members and local stakeholders to get involved in model forests. Greater involvement would ensure greater buy-in and support for participatory and collaborative approaches to the sustainable management of natural resources.

Knowledge sharing

Participants in the Global Forum named knowledge sharing as a key rationale for the Network's existence. A fundamental principle of model forests is to share experience and lessons learned. The IMFN provides a framework for transferring this knowledge and know-how internationally. It therefore follows that knowledge sharing should continue to be a priority for the Network.

Delegates suggested that Network niches in this area could include the production, synthesis and sharing of information related to the sustainable management of forested landscapes. The IMFN could also develop models for knowledge sharing that would work at local, regional and global levels and that could be replicated by others, thereby increasing the potential for scaling up impacts and reliability. The IMFN should be a world innovator in the creation of virtual platforms for sharing best practices in natural resource management and sustainable development. Finally, delegates acknowledged that providing information in an accessible and easily useable format, and improving tools and access to technologies for information sharing, should be a shared responsibility across the Network, requiring the participation of all members.

Future IMFN efforts will be guided by these four priority areas identified by Global Forum participants. Model forests can serve as platforms for putting local research and actions into practice. The Network can serve as a conduit for disseminating ideas and know-how and for building partnerships with other like-minded organizations. These attributes make the IMFN an efficient, cost-effective springboard from which to tackle challenges and foster innovation in the four priority areas.

PART 4. Knowledge Fair

To prepare for the Global Forum, Network members were asked to provide descriptions of activities they were working on, or wanted to learn more about, in relation to twelve specific themes. Based on their submissions, the IMFN Secretariat developed a series of posters illustrating model forests' work in the twelve thematic areas:

- Innovative practices and tools
- Biodiversity conservation
- Bioenergy
- Climate change vulnerability and adaptation
- Ecological processes and natural disturbances
- Ecosystem services
- Eco-cultural tourism development
- Education
- Indigenous peoples' involvement and participation
- Non-timber forest products
- Soil and water conservation and management
- Sustainable communities and economic development

In addition, eight more thematic posters were developed as information items to generate discussion and exchanges between model forests. The additional poster topics were as follows:

- Participative governance
- Knowledge management and communications
- Global agreements and local applications
- Tools for model forest development and collaboration
- Model forest research
- Model forests and conservation areas
- Criteria and indicators
- Involvement of women and youth in model forests

The posters were on display in the plenary hall throughout the Global Forum, so participants had ample time to review them before the knowledge fair, a half-day event on the third day of the forum.

During the knowledge fair, participants discussed the thematic areas with other IMFN members in order to 1) identify opportunities to share information and experiences and 2) identify possibilities for collaboration (e.g., joint project development). In this way, model forests discovered common challenges and interests, as well as opportunities for mutual learning and information sharing. Their exchanges identified concrete opportunities for action and innovation across the Network in the areas under discussion.



Knowledge Sharing

The idea behind holding knowledge fair rather than simply having a poster session was to offer space for computer displays, publications and other materials. More importantly, experts on each theme were asked to facilitate discussion at the individual stations, which were outfitted with flip charts and chairs so that the most salient points of conversation could be recorded in a comfortable environment.

About 150 delegates engaged in lively discussion over the course of the afternoon. Here are some of the outcomes:

- Representatives of the Komi Model Forest (Russia) and the Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada) discussed approaches to community involvement in harvesting and processing non-timber forest products.
- Representatives from the Russian Federal Forestry Agency and the Canadian Forest Service discussed the Canadian CBM-CFS3 (carbon budget) model for carbon accounting and its applicability to Russia and to UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol reporting.
- Representatives from the Ulot and Carood Watershed Model Forests (Philippines) shared their experiences concerning community sustainability and economic development with model forest representatives from around the world. This team also had an interesting discussion with Natural Resources Canada representatives on how Canadian organizations could provide help with developing small enterprises and preparing feasibility studies and business development plans.
- The Norte de Neuquén Model Forest (Argentina) and the Foothills Research Institute (Canada) identified areas of common interest to explore in the future. These included watershed management, indigenous involvement, mining, gas and reforestation. Exchange visits between the two model forests are scheduled for later in the year.
- Canadian and Russian model forests agreed to share information on cost-effective equipment for the small-scale production of biomass energy.
- The Regional Model Forest Network–Asia and the Sabana Yegua Model Forest (Dominican Republic) expressed a shared interest in implementing ecological goods and services projects. The Reventazón Model Forest (Costa Rica), which has wide expertise in this area, offered to share its knowledge and information.



Closing Plenary Panel

The (IMFN website) will include, among other features, a searchable database of model forest activities and contacts and a member discussion board.

The posters developed for the knowledge fair are a significant first step in demonstrating the important actions and contributions that model forests make to advance the sustainable management of forested landscapes and the objectives of international agreements and conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals.

The knowledge fair included a session on virtual collaboration tools for building and strengthening networks across distances. Participants saw how a number of online

tools could contribute to information sharing, joint document preparation and collaborative project management.

Also presented during the knowledge fair was the redesign of the IMFN website. The new site will include, among other features, a searchable database of model forest activities and contacts and a member discussion board. The site will offer a decentralized maintenance option, which will allow individual model forests to develop and maintain their own sites as part of the IMFN website at no extra cost.

For copies of the thematic posters, please visit www.imfn.net.

PART 5. Analysis and Observations

During the closing session of the Global Forum, regional representatives reflected on the week's events. As well, Dr. Ronnie de Camino Velozo and

Dr. Fred Pollett each presented a summary and analysis of the week, including suggestions for work to be done by the next Global Forum.

REGIONAL REFLECTIONS

Africa

Patrice Pa'ah, Dja et Mpomo Model Forest, Cameroon

The model forest concept has stimulated much interest and enthusiasm in Africa. African governments are becoming very interested in the model forest approach and its application on the ground. The week allowed those of us in the African delegation to make friends and contacts so we can share information and the delegates can learn from one another's experiences, successes and

failures. Our delegation also realized that we share many challenges across boundaries, and this opens spaces for collaboration. We found the week very productive and insightful, and we will surely apply the knowledge we received to our work with model forests in Cameroon. We hope to have a stronger, larger African Model Forest Network by the next Global Forum.

Asia

Lourdes Wagan, Ulot Watershed Model Forest, Philippines

The Global Forum was a great learning opportunity for the Asian delegation. We enhanced our network with new and potential members such as Japan and Korea. We shared ideas and enriched our vision of an emerging Regional Model Forest Network-Asia. Ecosystem goods and services will be a focus for our regional network,

and we will use collaborative tools such as websites to share our upcoming work with other model forests. We will continue to support our region's model forests in their efforts to abide by the principles and attributes of all model forests, thereby ensuring quality and sustainable growth.

Baltic Sea

Johan Svensson, Baltic Sea Initiative

For delegates from the Baltic region, the people and the landscape have been the highlight of the Global Forum. I feel a member of the global community for being part of this Global Forum. We came to Canada to strengthen networks and we feel we have achieved our goal. We

have made a valuable connection with the Mediterranean Model Forest Network, and we have officially launched and advanced the Circumboreal Initiative. We thank the organizers and hope to see you again soon.

Canada

David Winston, Canadian Model Forest Network

The most important aspect of model forests is their partnerships, their ability to work collaboratively to develop solutions to common problems. Strong partnerships exist within and between Canadian model forests. Throughout the week many partnerships developed as

people from all over the world identified common challenges and interests. If partnership is what a model forest is about, this meeting was successful in developing and strengthening more of them.

Ibero-America

Fernando Carrera, Ibero-American Model Forest Network

Much important work is being done by model forests and regional networks—the posters are a testament to this. The Global Forum was an opportunity to reflect on that work and to learn from others' experiences. It has been a very intense week, but also a very beneficial one. We are leaving Hinton with a lot of information, knowledge and

tools to assist us in the sustainable management of forested landscapes. Most importantly, we have strengthened our sense of ownership of the Network. We feel more a part of it today than we did a week ago. This will promote collaboration and unity as we face common challenges.

Mediterranean

Miguel Segur, Mediterranean Model Forest Network

Urbión Model Forest in Spain officially announced the launch of the Mediterranean Model Forest Network. This network includes the Region of Castilla y León (Spain), Region of Murcia (Spain), Region of Istria (Croatia), Corsica (France), Region of West Macedonia (Greece), Region of Sardinia (Italy), Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (France), Prefecture of Magnesia (Greece), Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

The Mediterranean region faces many difficult challenges that can be addressed only through a strong commitment to working together. I would highlight wildfires and human-induced biodiversity loss as

central issues. Addressing these issues in a partnership presents many challenges in itself, as our region displays high cultural and linguistic diversity, adding a layer of complexity to our collaboration. Regardless, governments and stakeholders must be engaged, and model forests must serve as testing sites where policy can turn into practice and innovation can flourish. A lot of support is needed for this process. Collaborative efforts must be communicated to civil society, as must the benefits of sustainable forest management be shared with communities across boundaries.

Russia

Przemyslaw Majewski, Russian Model Forest Network

Russia attended the Global Forum as two delegations: as model forest representatives and as government officials. We are very pleased that our government is showing such interest in this program. Of the world's forests, 22 percent are in Russia. We have a responsibility to maintain them, and we therefore hope that our model forests will be

true model forests. We also need a strategy as a network, especially because we are expanding so quickly. The meeting was very useful. It was great to meet old friends and make new ones from places far away from Russia but with similar problems and challenges.



REFLECTIONS ON A VERY INTENSE WEEK

Dr. Ronnie de Camino Velozo, Chair, Ibero-American Model Forest Network

Dr. de Camino expressed his gratitude to the organizers of the Global Forum and his congratulations for a very successful event. He was pleased and surprised to see so many people, not only from different countries but also from different sectors, including communities, governments, NGOs and universities. This multiculturalism helped participants share experiences and find ways to work together across boundaries.

What everyone saw and experienced throughout the week is a testament to the importance of the IMFN initiative, said Dr. de Camino. It underscores that the movement is a huge opportunity for sustainable development in a world that is facing many challenges. Tackling these challenges requires the application of holistic approaches. Model forests are a powerful expression of ecosystemic landscape management that takes into consideration social, economic and environmental perspectives.

Many important suggestions were presented to the Network throughout the week, and they must be taken into careful consideration. Of particular relevance was Dr. Peter Bridgewater's presentation on demonstrating progress and showing the tangible results and accomplishments of model forests internationally. This issue presents both an internal and an external challenge. Ways must be found for each model forest to contribute to international

agreements and conventions on important topics such as climate change, biodiversity and poverty reduction. A body of evidence must be generated that shows the contribution of model forests in these areas. By providing international forums with information about model forests' work, the Network will become more visible.

Turning to growth, Dr. de Camino stated that the Network must grow with quality, which requires a serious effort by all involved. It is important to consider the starting point or baseline of model forests and define a way to measure success. Growth also requires horizontal and vertical integration and greater coordination.

Financing is necessary, not only from international sources but from member governments. As the IMFN continues to expand, regional networks must be strengthened and Canada's role in supporting the movement must be recognized but also reconsidered. It is imperative to find new partners through strategic planning, and to be clear about the Network's objectives and the costs and benefits that model forests provide to society.

With respect to strategic directions, Dr. de Camino proposed that model forests must grow through projects. Each regional network and model forest should develop a concise project portfolio that emphasizes its strategic directions. Network members should become

Most importantly, said Dr. De Camino, members must support each other. Solidarity should be the guiding principle for all.

politically involved in these priority areas. By acting collectively, members will be more successful in influencing policy and decision making.

As for capacity building, Dr. de Camino emphasized the need to reinforce the model forest teaching community, to have more knowledge exchange and transfer at the grassroots level. Delegates were privileged to

have been at the forum to exchange knowledge, he said, but it is imperative to develop similar workshops in communities to pass on

what was learned during the week. Doing so is crucial to achieve tangible results on the ground.

For the future, Dr. de Camino suggested that the IMFN work proactively on all of the above-mentioned categories and expand partnerships both inside and outside the Network. Objectives must be further defined, gaps must be identified, the duplication of efforts must be minimized. Most importantly, said Dr. De Camino, members must support each other. Solidarity should be the guiding principle for all.

For a copy of Dr. de Camino's presentation, please visit www.imfn.net.



THE 2008 IMFN GLOBAL FORUM—SUMMARY AND OBSERVATIONS

Dr. Fred Pollett, Member of the IMFN Advisory Committee

Dr. Pollett offered suggestions for what the IMFN should focus on between this Global Forum and the next. The Network has come a long way, he said. It is no longer Canadian but is truly international, composed of many new, talented members as well as experienced veterans. The work done up to the next Global Forum must be integrated and must involve new and old partners.

Echoing Dr. de Camino, Dr. Pollett emphasized that if the Network continues to grow, it is important to be prepared for that growth and

the opportunities and challenges it presents. It is important to develop quality assurance and monitoring systems. It is important for individual model forests to operate at the standards required by all. That is the responsibility of each member.

As the Network grows and regional networks become established, it is imperative to remember why the Network was set up: to hear the voice of the individual and the individual model forest. The sites must continue to play leading roles and to be respected; the bottom-up

The IMFN must celebrate its many achievements since the 2005 Global Forum.

... Building on these achievements ... is essential to ensuring the Network's success and international visibility.

“think pieces” on climate change, biodiversity, desertification, water management and poverty reduction must be generated. Finally, the Network needs a clear strategy for how to capture and advance research capabilities in model forests and how to bridge science with policy.

approach must be maintained. New model forests must receive orientation, and trained individuals in the model forest community should undertake this task.

With respect to accountability, the IMFN Secretariat, the International Advisory Committee and the International Networking Committee must report back to the membership regularly. Regional networks should do the same. Furthermore, strategies must be developed for how to expand partnerships and how to achieve greater global policy relevance. Policy-relevant

Other challenges to consider include the capacity of the Secretariat and its imperative expansion if it is to continue to effectively support the membership. Geopolitical considerations include consolidating an African regional network and including the United States and Australasia in the membership.

The IMFN must celebrate its many achievements since the 2005 Global Forum. Among them are the Model Forest Toolkit, the creation of the International Advisory Committee and International Networking Committee, the launch of the Circumboreal Initiative and the Mediterranean Model Forest Network, the Network's new members, the start-up of a body of evidence and knowledge management, and the successful delivery of the 2008 Global Forum. Building on these achievements, and acting on the many suggestions during the week, is essential to ensuring the Network's success and international visibility.

For a copy of Dr. Pollett's presentation, please visit www.imfn.net.

PART 6. Conclusion

The 2008 IMFN Global Forum brought together 150 delegates from 31 countries, representing national governments, IMFN partner organizations and model forest stakeholders. The event promoted a greater sense of ownership of the Network among its members, allowed veterans to discuss progress and lessons learned, and enabled new members to better understand the model forest concept and its application. The opportunity for dialogue and peer-to-peer, site-to-site exchange is the greatest value of the Global Forum and is instrumental in strengthening the Network's capacity to function as an effective partnership.

During the week participants expanded their understanding and capacity on a number of topics of interest to model forests. This new knowledge will serve to strengthen actions at the site level. The effects of the capacity-building process will be scaled up as new knowledge is transferred to other model forest practitioners who could not attend the forum.

The event also saw the collaborative identification of four strategic priorities for the IMFN: climate change, community sustainability, ecosystem services and knowledge sharing. These priorities will guide the IMFN's future work and will contribute to the Network's strategic plan.

Other important outcomes of the forum included the introduction of new initiatives, such as the Mediterranean Model Forest Network, and the formalization of recent developments, including the International Advisory Committee and International Networking Committee. Significant progress was made in moving forward with a knowledge management approach for the IMFN and with the Circumboreal Initiative, the first of its kind in the IMFN.

Despite these advances, participants recognized the shortcomings and challenges that lie ahead. The Network must be more effective at creating strategic partnerships with other like-minded organizations. It must strengthen its visibility and credibility in the international sphere. Further growth and expansion must also be carefully considered, in order to take advantage of opportunities while managing challenges.

The 2008 IMFN Global Forum laid the groundwork for the medium- and long-term focus of the IMFN. It also identified actions to be addressed before the next Global Forum in Spain in 2011. It is now the responsibility of the membership to act on these resolutions and to champion innovation and collaboration in the priority areas identified.

ANNEXE A. Agenda

Breakfast
0700 – 0800h

Lunch
1230 – 1330h

Supper
1800 – 1900h

Monday, June 16

Morning

OPENING PRAYER

- Chief Jimmy O'Chiese, Foothills Ojibway

WELCOMING REMARKS (to be confirmed)

- Mr. Jim LeLacheur, President, Foothills Research Institute
- Mr. Mike Jodoin, Deputy Mayor of Hinton
- Mr. Robin Campbell, MLA, West Yellowhead
- Dr. Ted Morton, Minister, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
- Mr. Jim Farrell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- Mr. Peter Bridgewater, IMFN International Advisory Council

IMFN UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Peter Besseau, Director, IMFN Secretariat

Afternoon

PANEL PRESENTATION:

REGIONAL MODEL FOREST NETWORK UPDATES

- IMFNS, Africa, Mediterranean, Europe, Ibero-america, Canada, Asia, Russia

SIDE PRESENTATIONS

- Centre for Non-Timber Resources, Royal Roads University — Micología en el Bosque Modelo Urbión, rm 210
- Mediterranean MF Network, rm 207

Evening

FREE TIME

Tuesday, June 17

Morning

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Afternoon

DISCUSSION FORUM:

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR THE IMFN

SIDE PRESENTATIONS

- Urbión Model Forest, rm 206

Evening

REGIONAL CULTURAL EVENING

Wed, June 18

Morning

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Afternoon

KNOWLEDGE FAIR

- Thematic poster session
- Online Collaborative Tools presentation

CMFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS (room 207)

Evening

FOOTHILLS RESEARCH INSTITUTE RECEPTION (19:00 – 22:00)

Thurs, June 19

Morning and Afternoon

FIELD TRIP:

Foothills Research Institute

Evening

RECEPTION

- Canadian Cultural Event

Friday, June 20

Morning

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

- Circumboreal, rm 207
- Knowledge management, gym
- CYTED project, rm 206

SIDE PRESENTATIONS

Afternoon

CLOSING PLENARY

- Regional reflections on week
- Summary, Fred Pollett
- Presentation of IMFN certificates

Evening

FREE TIME

Sat, June 21

Morning and Afternoon

MOST PARTICIPANTS DEPART

IBERO-AMERICAN MODEL FOREST NETWORK
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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ANNEXE C. List of Powerpoint Presentations

Your Model Forests: Your Global Forum

Mr. Jim Farrell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service

Mapping the International Model Forest Network in the Landscape of International Initiatives and Organizations Concerned with Sustainable Forest Management: an Analysis of the Current Situation and a Focus on the Future

Dr. Peter Bridgewater, Chair, UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee and former Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

IMFN Update and Welcoming Remarks

Mr. Peter Besseau, Director, International Model Forest Network Secretariat

Eco-cultural Tourism: Assessing and Understanding the Tourism Potential in your Area

Mr. Patrick Twomey, Ecotourism Specialist

Monitoring and Evaluation

Mr. Ricardo Ramirez, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ricardo Ramirez Communication Consulting

The Model Forest Development Process: from Site Selection to Governance Structures

Mr. Brian Bonnell, Senior Program Specialist, IMFNS

Effective Resource Mobilization: Concepts, Strategies and Tools

Ms. Kafui Dansou, Resource Mobilization Specialist and Consultant

Model Forest Strategic Planning

Ms. Stacey Barter, Community Development Specialist

Climate Change, Forests and Carbon Accounting

Mr. Werner Kurtz, Senior Research Scientists – Canadian Forest Service and Mr. Stephen Kull, Carbon Accounting Liaison Officer – Canadian Forest Service

Strategic Directions for the IMFN: Discussion Session

Mr. Peter Besseau, Executive Director, International Model Forest Network Secretariat

Virtual Collaboration

Mr. Brian Bonnell, Senior Program Specialist, IMFNS

Regional Reflections on the Global Forum and IMFN Strategic Directions

Mr. Miguel Segur, Mr. Chimère Diaw, and Mr. Al Gorley, International Networking Committee

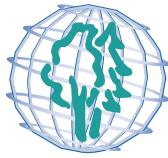
The IMFN Global Forum: Reflections on a Very Intense Week

Dr. Ronnie de Camino Velozo, Chair of the Ibero-American Model Forest Network

The International Model Forest Network...Global Forum...2008: Summary and Observations

Mr. Fred Pollett, IMFN International Advisory Committee

For a copy of these presentations, please visit www.imfn.net.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Report of the IMFN Global Forum | June 16–20, 2008 | Hinton, Canada