

Model Forests in Canada and Around the World

Model forests are about the health and productivity of forests but it goes beyond the trees and the forests — **model forests are about people**. They are about how people use and interact with the forests and related resources such as soil, water and wildlife. They are about communities that depend on the forests and the landbase for their livelihood and well being. They are about forests in a defined area where the forests may be under multiple use for economic benefits both for traditional wood products and non-wood products. Model forests may include preserved areas such as parks or conservation areas



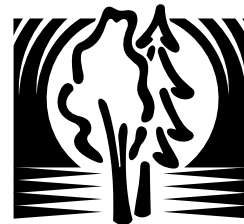
and, as well, lands that are not forested and being used for other production purposes such as agriculture.

Model forests are about community based partnerships and about learning to make decisions together. The partnerships are as broad based as possible and include, among others, local industries, environmental groups, community associations, indigenous peoples, landowners, and governments. The partnership shares a common vision of sustainable development and of sustainable forest management.

A model forest is a process in which the partnerships collectively make decisions about the use of forests and the related resources on the landbase for all their values. Model forests are large-scale experiments covering a landbase of significant size such as a watershed area.

Model forests are about networking. The model forest approach enables the groups that form the partnership to share their knowledge and understand better the sometimes conflicting practices used to manage the multiple forest values. They experiment and collectively find new approaches to meet their needs in the context of sustainable development, and to effect technology transfer. Networking occurs at all levels, including within the model forest itself, regionally and nationally within a given country, and globally.

Networking is an essential part of the model forest picture. This interaction provides for sharing knowledge and experience, and gives meaning — in the context of sustainable forest management — to the phrase “*think globally, act locally*”.



MODEL FOREST
NETWORK

RÉSEAU DE
FORÊTS MODÈLES

Canada's Model Forests

Initiated in 1992 by the Canadian Forest Service, Canada's network of model forests

stretches from the temperate rainforests of British Columbia to the boreal forests of Newfoundland and Labrador. There are 11 model forests covering over 22 million acres of land and representing all of Canada's forest regions:

- Long Beach Model Forest, British Columbia
- McGregor Model Forest, British Columbia
- Foothills Model Forest, Alberta
- Prince Albert Model Forest, Saskatchewan
- Manitoba Model Forest, Manitoba
- Lake Abitibi Model Forest, Ontario
- Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Ontario
- Waswanipi Cree Model Forest, Quebec
- Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest, Quebec
- Fundy Model Forest, New Brunswick/Nova Scotia
- Western Newfoundland Model Forest, Newfoundland

International Model Forest Network

The IMFN links practitioners in model forests around the world. Its mandate is to foster cooperation and collaboration in advancing the management, conservation, and sustainable development of forest resources. Its Secretariat serves as a channel for coordination, facilitation of networking, promotion, administration, technical advice and guidance.

The IMFN Secretariat is based in Ottawa at the International Development Research Centre [IDRC]. It is supported by the IDRC, the Canadian International Development Agency [CIDA], the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada.

Learning in the Model Forest

The Model Forest Program is an experiment that allows us to appreciate and understand the many benefits our forests provide to our society. At the same time, we work together to learn how to best manage them in ways that will ensure their health and viability for generations yet to come.

Educators and their students can be part of this experiment and learn with us as we go. Model forests and their partners provide a wide range of opportunities from teacher in-service programs, to field trips, to Internet links in model forests continents apart.

If you and your students are interested in learning more about the Model Forest Program educational services or if you would like to develop partnerships with students in other regions of Canada, or globally, contact your local model forest.

The challenge is to bring balance into the competing demands under the objective of sustainable forest management and to understand the consequences and trade-offs of actions and activities so that informed decisions can be made.

INTERNATIONAL MODEL FOREST NETWORK SECRETARIAT

Global Partnerships

Manitoba - Mexico Partnership

Students from Rockwood School and Little Black River First Nation, located in the Manitoba Model Forest, were linked with students from Nino Artillero in the indigenous community of Donaciano Ojedo, located in the Monarch Butterfly Model Forest in Mexico. Using the Internet, the children talked about their experience with monarch butterflies, a migratory species that summers in Canada and winters in Mexico.

The Model Forest is helping to facilitate partnerships between different regions of Canada, and between Canadian students and those abroad using the Internet. New technology is helping to create a global Village where children can become active participants in improving the forests they inherit.

New Brunswick-Chile: Collaborating to Build the Future

The Fundy and Chiloé Model Forests, even though on different continents, share a common belief in educating children about the importance of sustainable forest management. They have been exchanging information and ideas, and have joined forces to promote educational activities at both sites through their school partners. In this context, students in the Sussex Elementary School [Fundy] have contributed to helping students of the Quíao School [Chiloé] to re-discover the art of woodcarving and the use of wood as a multi-purpose material. As their teacher explains, ". . . [what is created] will depend on the skills, dexterity and talent of humans and what we will be able to do to increase the capabilities of future generations."

