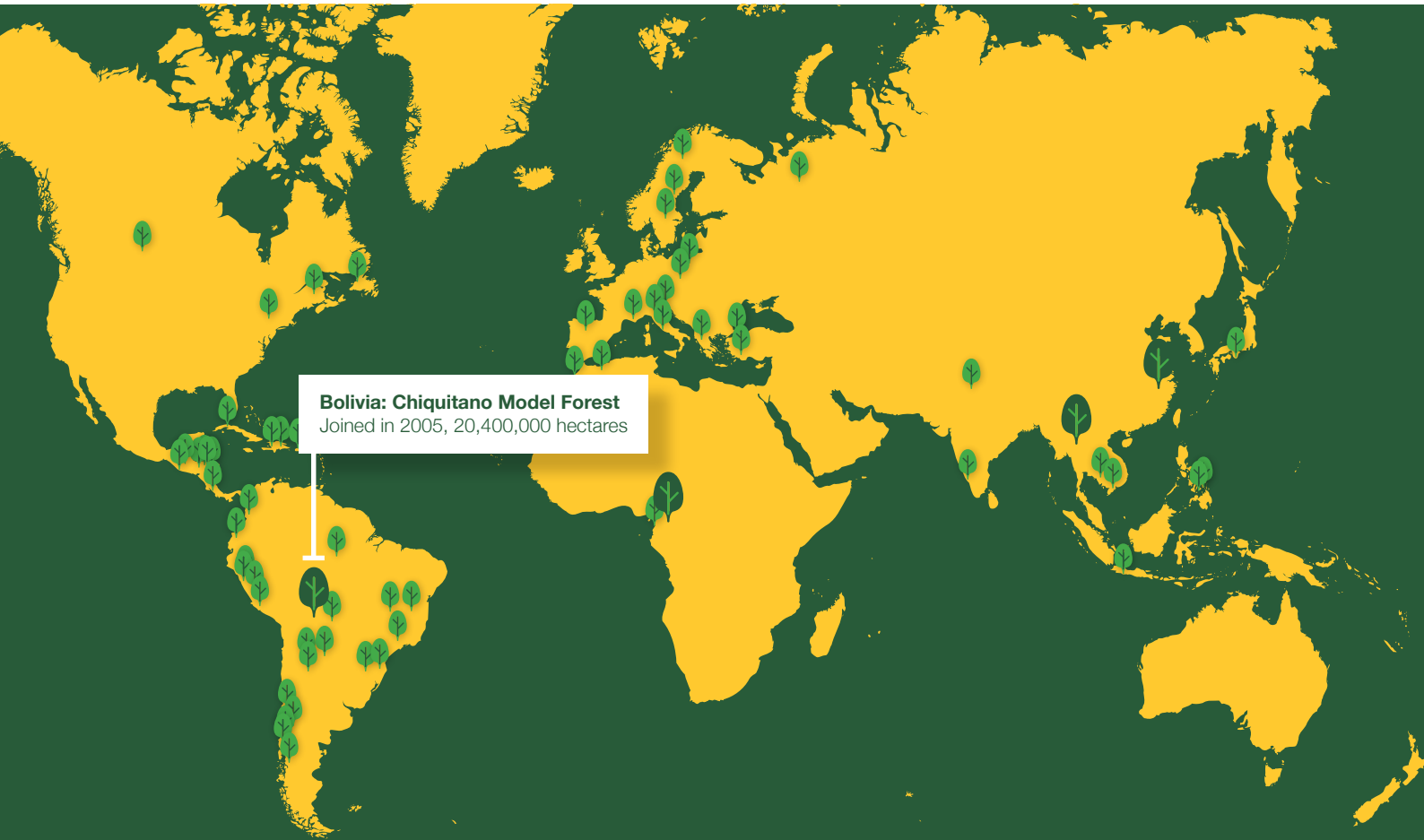


# Model Forests Around the World: Bolivia



**Bolivia: Chiquitano Model Forest**  
Joined in 2005, 20,400,000 hectares

**The Chiquitano Model Forest in Bolivia is a multi-cultural, multi-ecosystem landscape that encourages and develops alternative approaches to participatory, sustainable management of natural resources.**

Joining the IMFN in 2005, the Model Forest's ecosystems are under pressure from illegal settlements, the expansion of agricultural activities, unsustainable practices, forest fires, illegal logging, mining, and climate change. Despite these threats, the ecosystems in the Model Forest maintain ecological integrity and functionality, providing ecosystem services and sustainable use opportunities like water filtration and ecotourism. By acting as a platform for different stakeholders to collaborate, the Model Forest encourages sustainable development in harmony with environmental conservation.

## Key Facts

- The Model Forest encompasses 5 National Protected Areas, 5 municipal reserves, 10 Natural Heritage Conservation Units, 20 Private Reserves of Natural Heritage, and Indigenous territories.
- The Model Forest contains the **largest and best-preserved tropical dry forest in the Americas** and is home to at least 823 species of vascular plants and 931 species of vertebrate animals. Of those, 160 plant species and 93 animal species are utilized by the local population for food, medicine, and materials.
- The Model Forest facilitated **collaboration between Indigenous communities and private landowners** surrounding Marfil Lake to create an integrated management natural area to protect the lake and its resources.
- The **local Indigenous population constitutes approximately one third of the inhabitants**, including indigenous Chiquitanos, indigenous Guarayos and indigenous Ayoreos.
- Families in the Model Forest predominantly **rely on forestry, cattle ranching and agriculture for their livelihoods.**

# Community-First Governance Model

The area is administered by 14 municipalities and has 42 settlements with more than 200,000 inhabitants, including several Indigenous groups. The General Assembly, Chiquitano's decision-making body, consists of voluntary representatives from regional and local governments, civil society organizations, local organizations, and productive sectors. The Board of Directors is elected by the Assembly to represent and make decisions regarding the Model Forest in internal and external fora, and at local, national and international levels. This community-forward governance model ensures that local input is prioritized when making decisions and establishing policies.



Photos are sourced from the Chiquitano Model Forest, Bolivia, with credit to Claudia Belaunde Cano, FCBC.

## Progress on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals



**In addition to contributing to SDGs 13 and 15, the Model Forest contributes to SDG 5: Gender equality.**

The Latin-American Model Forest Network, which includes the Chiquitano Model Forest, has developed a Gender Equity and Equality Strategy that works to strengthen the Model Forest's governance model and directly address the linkages between gender equity and development issues such as poverty, climate change, conservation, food security, peace processes and gender violence. The strategy advocates using inclusive language, promoting women's empowerment and equal representation in decision making processes, and making space for the voices of traditionally disadvantaged groups. This is one example of how the Chiquitano Model Forest helps progress the SDGs.

## Partners

This publication has been produced with financial support from the Government of Canada's Global Forest Leadership Program and through the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) Secretariat's IMFN Climate initiative which supports efforts to scale up forest and landscape restoration, enable inclusive landscape governance, and equip the next generation of forest leaders to address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The **International Model Forest Network (IMFN)** is a voluntary global community of practice whose members and supporters work toward the sustainable management of forest-based landscapes and natural resources through the Model Forest approach.

The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. By harnessing the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organisations and the input of some 16,000 experts, IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.



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