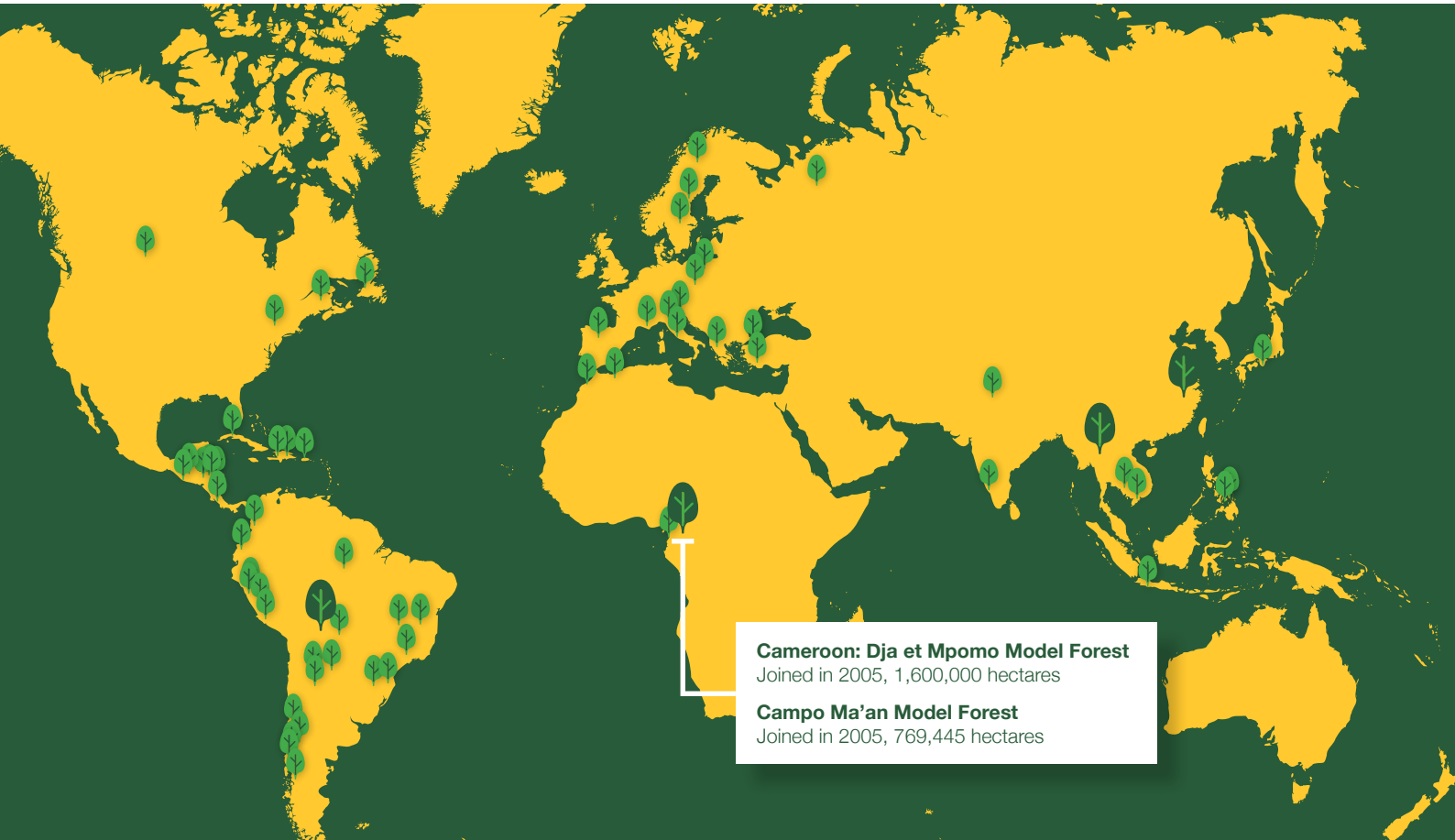


Model Forests Around the World: Cameroon



The **Dja et Mpomo** and **Campo Ma'an Model Forests** in Cameroon have been a part of the Network for nearly 20 years and account for over 2,000,000 hectares of land. Unfortunately, Cameroon's forests are subject to serious problems, such as deforestation, resulting from logging and farming, a lack of an effective forest management program, climate change and an increase in population. Such problems underscore the importance of the Model Forest Network in protecting Cameroon's natural resources and implementing sustainable forest management practices.

In addition, the African Model Forest Network (AMFN) has been striving since 2009 to empower women by placing them at the center of projects and providing them with training and guidance sessions. For example, in two Cameroon Model Forests, women have started to produce and market non-timber forest products such as mushrooms, honey, oils and cosmetics made from tropical plants.

Therefore, Model Forests serve as essential catalysts for amplifying social and environmental benefits throughout Africa, while addressing global crises like climate change at the same time.

Key Facts

- In Abong-Mbang, East Cameroon, a green social enterprise bio-fertilizer production center has emerged as a catalyst for enhancing food security, bolstering climate change resilience, and fostering community economic development among local stakeholders. **This initiative is part of the broader African Model Forest Network (AMFN)** through collaborative efforts with partners. The center has been instrumental in producing organic, or "bio," fertilizers, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices in the region.
- Within Cameroon's two Model Forests—Dja et Mpomo and Campo Ma'an—are 234 farm-schools, involving 1,948 producers across 226 villages. Remarkably, **60% of these schools are led by women and indigenous individuals**, serving as peer educators. These farm-schools function as vital learning spaces where local farmers collaborate to innovate, access microfinance, strengthen value chains, and improve market access, driving sustainable agricultural practices and economic empowerment within the Model Forest framework.
- In Campo Ma'an Model Forest, giant African snails are farmed to prevent overconsumption and poaching of wild populations. This initiative **protects wildlife while providing food and income sources for local communities**.

Community-First Governance Model

The Model Forests in Cameroon employ community-first governance models that empower local stakeholders, including women and Indigenous groups. 138 women's associations currently operate in and around Campo Ma'an National Park and the Dja et Mpomo Biosphere Reserve. Of these, 95 are engaged in some form of forest landscape restoration (FLR). However, rural women in the region face barriers to accessing land, credit, markets, and information. Indigenous Peoples also reside in this region and face challenges related to knowledge and resource access, as well as economic security. IUCN is working alongside the AMFN to improve equitable resource access and decision-making power for Cameroon's women and Indigenous communities alike.



Photos are sourced from the Dja et Mpomo and Campo Ma'an Model Forests, Cameroon, with credit to the local NGO Environmental Protection, Research and Development Support (PERAD) for the Dja et Mpomo Model Forest.

Progress on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals



The Model Forest specifically contributes to SDG 1: No Poverty.

Climate change has disrupted agrifood production systems in Africa. Therefore, the implementation of climate-smart agricultural and agroforestry practices is essential to improving productivity and the economic wellbeing of Cameroon communities, while building on the traditional smallholder-based landscape diversity and reducing deforestation. Through B-ADAPT (Eco-Agricultural Business for Adaptation to Changes in Climate), volunteers work with communities to increase agricultural productivity and build resilience amongst small businesses.

This is one example of how Cameroon's Model Forests help 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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