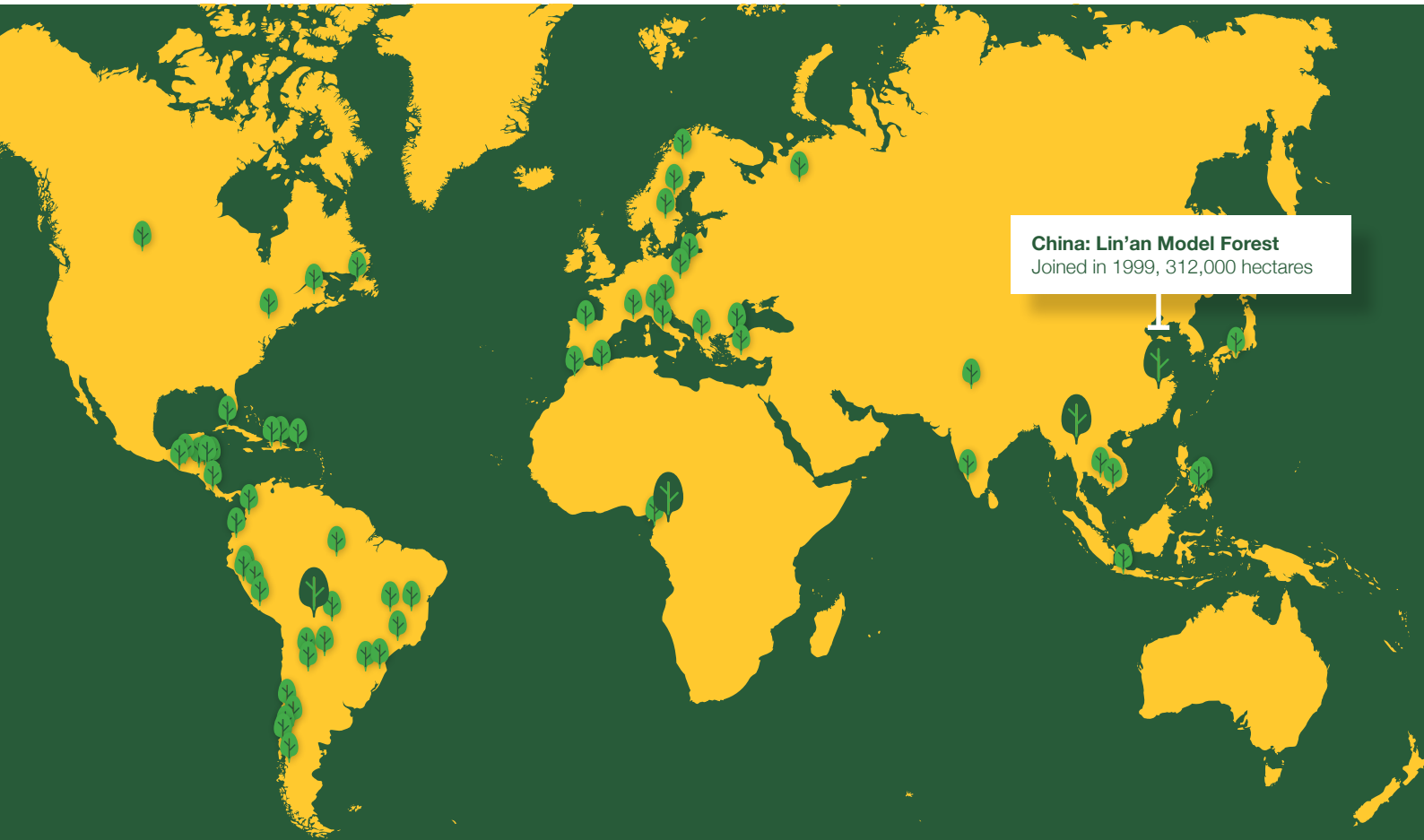


Model Forests Around the World: China



The Lin'an Model Forest in Zhejiang Province, China is rich in forest resources and promotes sustainable forest management through extensive collaboration amongst diverse stakeholders. Approximately 83% of the land in Lin'an County is forested, with this land covering 261,900 hectares; the total standing forest stock in the whole region is 18,217,000 m³.

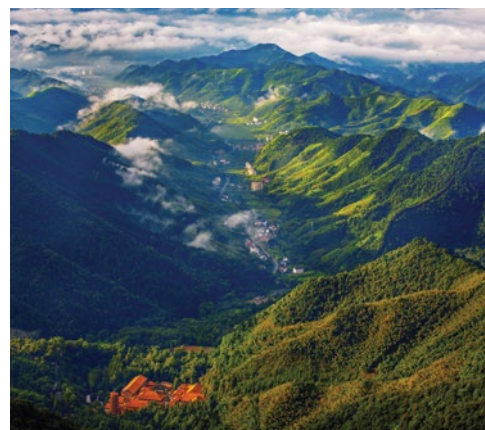
In the late 1980s, Lin'an County's timber-dependent economy was in decline due to forest loss and degradation. The situation was exacerbated by unsustainable tourism practices, a lack of information on the effects of forest loss for local stakeholders, outdated scientific and technical data, and few alternative economic opportunities for its mostly rural population. To reduce the local economy's reliance on timber, the Lin'an Model Forest has transformed the local community's perception and participation in forest utilization through the evaluation of forest ecosystem health in Lin'an, the study of forest ecosystem services, the sustainable management of NTFPs (non-timber forest products), and providing training and consultancy services to farmers and enterprise partners on NTFPs, forest certification, forest carbon, and more.

Key Facts

- The Lin'an Model Forest has **helped communities reduce their economic dependence on timber and diversify their economies** by forming an income structure centered around NTFPs such as hickory nuts, bamboo, and tea. The Model Forest provides trainings to enhance the skills and capacity of locals, which increases farmers' net income.
- By planting NTFP resources and implementing Forestry Property Right Reform, **Lin'an achieved a forest cover of 76.55% in 2010**, an increase of nearly 2% compared to 2005.
- The Lin'an Model Forest shares its successful experiences in sustainable forest management extensively with local communities in Lin'an, domestically across China and internationally through forest certification, forest carbon, and more.

Community-First Governance Model

There are over 540,000 people living in and around the Lin'an Model Forest, including 13 towns and 5 subdistrict offices, 270 administrative villages and 47 communities. The Lin'an Model Forest partnership committee, comprised of 28 partners, includes members from forest research and education institutes, the government sector, NGOs, private companies, villages, and other entities. The committee's strong ties with locals creates an environment of trust and ensures a collaborative approach to forest management and decision-making.



Photos are sourced from Lin'an Model Forest, China, with credits to Baisha Village and the Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Hangzhou Lin'an District.

Progress on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals



The Model Forest specifically contributes to SDG 13: Climate Action.

The Lin'an Model Forest and its partners actively engage in livelihood development options as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation research. This includes NTFP production and marketing opportunities, complementarity with understory crops to enhance food security, and research for measuring carbon storage and emissions. The Zhejiang Agriculture and Forestry College, a Model Forest partner, has erected China's first carbon flux towers to measure carbon absorption and emissions over the long term. In addition, a research facility in the Model Forest studies the effects of climate change on bamboo growth and production, which is critical to ensuring long-term supply chain sustainability.

This is one example of how the Lin'an 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.

The **Lin'an Model Forest** has an executive committee formed by the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the Lin'an Forestry Bureau, and the University of Agriculture and Forestry of Zhejiang Province.

RECOFTC is the current secretariat for the **Regional Model Forest Network-Asia (RMFN-Asia)**, which facilitates regional cooperation. RECOFTC is an international nonprofit organization operating in the Asia-Pacific region working towards a future where resilient communities with respected rights thrive in forest landscapes that they manage sustainably and equitably.



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