

IUCN International Model Forest Network (IMFN) Project



The International Model Forest Network is the world's largest network dedicated to sustainable landscape governance. The IMFN covers 60+ Model Forests in 35 countries covering 73+ million hectares.

Model Forests are landscapes of forests, farms, protected areas, and other geographical components governed by six broad principles that combine the social, environmental, and economic needs of local communities with the long-term sustainability of these large landscapes.

The IUCN International Model Forest Network (IMFN) Project is a collaborative effort between the IMFN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Canada that aims to promote community-first forest and landscape restoration practices that benefit climate, biodiversity, and economies. Targeting Model Forests in Thailand, China, Bolivia, and Cameroon, this initiative focuses on scalable and innovative restoration techniques that enhance gender equality, education, and inclusive governance.

Key Facts

- The Chiquitano Model Forest in Bolivia spans 20.4 million hectares, making it one of **the largest and best-preserved** tropical dry forests in the Americas.
- Innovative, community-based strategies have enabled the Lin'an Model Forest in China to **enhance the local economy with sustainable ecotourism** and increase bamboo shoot production.
- In Cameroon's model forests, **local women receive training to produce and market non-timber products** like mushrooms, honey, oils, and plant-based cosmetics, promoting gender inclusivity in model forest governance.
- Thailand's Ngao Model Forest **merges traditional local knowledge with scientific insights** from government and academic institutions to shape forest management strategies.

Community Engagement in Model Forests

The community-based approach to sustainable management in Model Forests nurtures trust and transparency, increasing the willingness to implement innovative solutions. The Model Forest management process relies on voluntary participation from public, private and volunteer sectors, community organizations, academia, and research institutions. Stakeholders in the Model Forests define what sustainability means within their own context, identify a common vision and set of goals, devise a governance structure and strategic plan, then work together to achieve the goals set out in that plan.



Photos are sourced from the Ngao Model Forest, Thailand.

Model Forests Champion U.N. Sustainable Development Goals



The IMFN is aligned with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, a globally recognized blueprint for action. Model Forests protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of forests, encouraging sustainable development, alleviating poverty, promoting gender equality, mitigating climate change and protecting biodiversity.

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.



bit.ly/iucnimfn

