

IUCN & IMFN | MODEL FORESTS AROUND THE WORLD

Bolivia's Chiquitano Model Forest

The Chiquitano Model Forest: the largest tropical dry forest in the Americas protected by the communities who call it home.



Member since
2005



Area
20,400,000 ha



People
200,000+



Villages
42 settlements • 14 municipalities

Indigenous communities —
Chiquitanos, Guarayos, Ayoreos
— make up approximately one third
of the population.

Restoration success

20 million
hectares under Model
Forest governance

The Chiquitano is the largest tropical dry forest in the Americas. Despite ongoing pressures the ecosystem has **maintained its ecological integrity**.

1,750+
species protected,
including endemic and
threatened wildlife

At least **823** vascular plant species and **931** vertebrate animals. Of those, **160** plant and **93** animal species are directly used by local communities for food, medicine, and materials.

The landscape also encompasses:
5 National Protected Areas,
5 municipal reserves,
10 Natural Heritage
Conservation Units, and
20 Private Natural Heritage
Reserves

Restoration in action

Multi-actor governance: Indigenous communities, private landowners, civil society, and regional governments aligned through a democratically elected Board of Directors.

Collaborative lake conservation: Indigenous communities and private landowners jointly manage **Marfil Lake** through an integrated natural area plan.

Sustainable livelihoods across forestry, cattle ranching, and agriculture, keeping over **200,000** people economically secure without sacrificing ecological integrity.

Gender Equity and Equality Strategy: The Latin-American Model Forest Network's framework promotes women's decision-making power and space for traditionally marginalised groups.

Meeting global restoration goals



The Chiquitano Model Forest is a working proof point that integrated governance can translate global ambition into landscape results:



Biodiversity protection at scale:

Ecosystem protection and restoration aligned with **CBD GBF Target 2**.



Ecosystem services sustained:

Intact forest cover across **20 million** hectares delivers water filtration, climate regulation, and ecotourism.



Proven governance model:

The community-first structure is a replicable template for landscape-level conservation across the region and beyond.



Outcomes trackable:

Progress is documented through tools like the IMFN's Restoration Barometer, which tracks restoration progress against 8 key indicators.



The IMFN acts as a bridge, connecting global goals to local impact, and local innovation to global progress.

Pierre-Jonathan Teasdale
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In partnership with