



IUCN & IMFN | MODEL FORESTS AROUND THE WORLD

China's Lin'an Model Forest, Zhejiang Province

From degraded to thriving: how China's Lin'an Model Forest reversed decades of forest loss.



Member since
1999



Area
312,000 ha



People
540,00+



Villages
270 admin. villages • 47 communities • 13 towns

82.6% of Lin'an District is now forested — a transformation driven by community action, innovation, and inclusive leadership.

Restoration success

76.55%

Forest cover achieved by 2010 — up nearly 2% from 2005

From decades of timber dependence and degraded land to China's "Hickory Capital" and "Hometown of Bamboo".

Lin'an's recovery was driven by one shift:
diversified, community-led forest management.

3

 major NTFP economies

now anchor the landscape:

Hickory • Bamboo • Tea

Diversifying away from timber built a forest economy that raised farmers' incomes and drove ecological recovery at the same time.

Restoration in action

Women lead production and restoration: Women farmers are at the centre of NTFP production systems, restoration activities, and value chains.

Training programmes: These build skills, leadership capacity, and income diversification across the community.

28-partner governance committee: A partnership model spanning research institutes, government, NGOs, private companies, and local villages.

China's first carbon flux towers: Erected by Zhejiang Agriculture and Forestry College, they measure carbon absorption and emissions over the long term.

Bamboo-climate: Located within the Model Forest, it studies climate change effects on bamboo growth to support long-term supply chain sustainability.



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

Pierre-Jonathan Teasdale
Executive Director
International Model Forest Network

Meeting global restoration goals



The Lin'an Model Forests is a **working proof point** that local governance can translate global ambition into landscape results:



Operationalising UNCCD restoration commitments:

Forest cover increased nearly **2%** in five years through NTFP planting and Forestry Property Right Reform.



Gender-responsive restoration works:

Evidence globally shows that greater gender parity in environmental decision-making leads to more effective conservation, increased climate resilience, and higher CO2 reductions.



Outcomes trackable:

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

