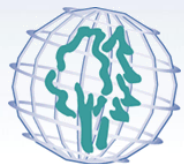




# Model Forests as an Approach to Social Forestry Internationally



International  
Model Forest  
Network

Ms. Lourdes Wagan  
ASEAN Social Forestry Network Meeting  
June 2013, Lao PDR

[imfn.net](http://imfn.net)

# What is a Model Forest?



A Model Forest is based on an approach that combines the **social, environmental** and **economic** needs of local communities with the long-term **sustainability** of large **landscapes** in which forests are an important feature.



Fundy Model Forest

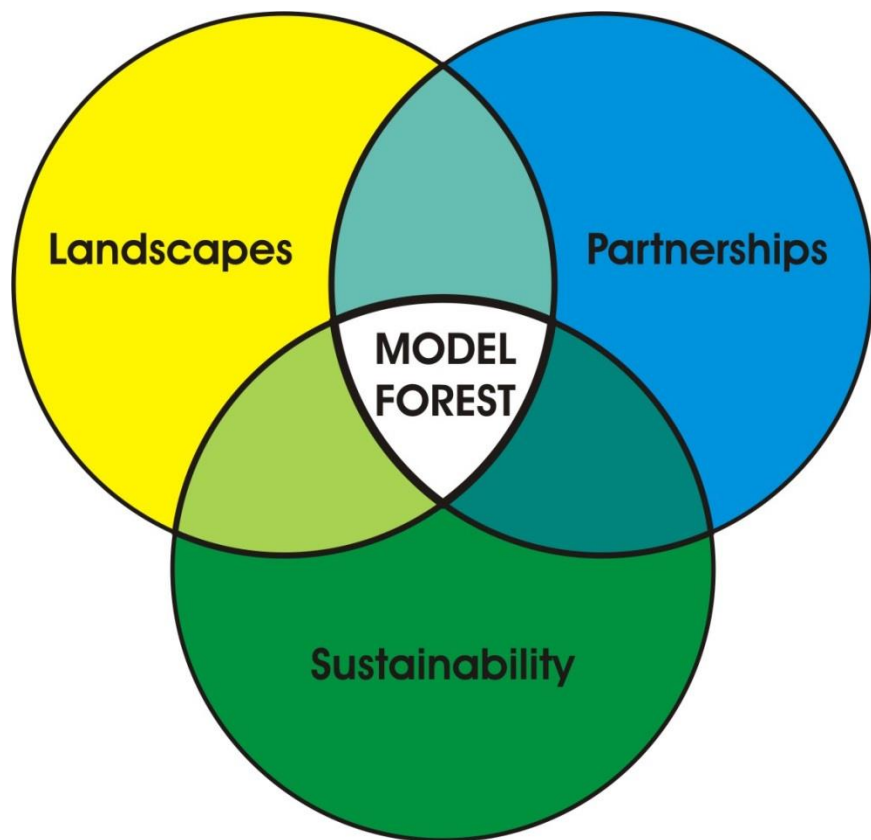
Canada



Margowitan Model Forest

Indonesia

# Key Model Forest Concepts



*A Model Forest is as much about the people who sustain themselves from the forest, the effects they have on its resources, and their human development as it is about trees and forest products*



# Model Forests involve... **PARTNERSHIPS**





# Model Forests encompass... LARGE, MULTI-PURPOSE LANDSCAPES



# Model Forests focus on ...

## Sustainability



- 🌱 Explore approaches to sustainable development
  - Links conservation of resources and the landscape, local economic growth, community involvement and needs of future generations
- 🌱 Develop, test and share **innovative** solutions to social forestry challenges faced by participants
- 🌱 Help achieve locally defined solutions to global and national sustainable development initiatives (i.e. REDD+)

Model forests are a **process**, not a **project** – it takes time to build trust between stakeholders

# Social Drivers and Canadian Origins



- ❧ In the early 1990's, Canada's forest sector was challenged by non-traditional groups to broaden access to planning and management of forest resource use to a much larger constituency.
- ❧ Canada established a network of 10 Model Forests in 1992 – currently includes 15 across the country.
- ❧ International Model Forest Program launched by Canada at Rio Earth Summit (1992).
- ❧ Now spanning 30 countries and active partnerships with like-minded organizations such as FAO, CIFOR, IUCN, Cuso International and others.







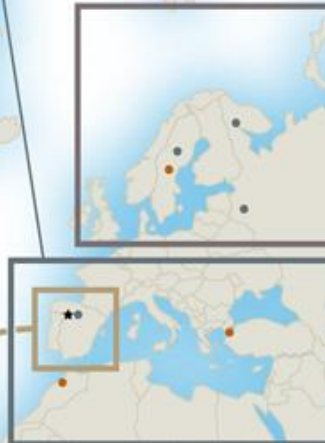
# International Model Forest Network

- member
- candidate
- ★ Regional Model Forest Secretariat
- ★ IMFN Secretariat

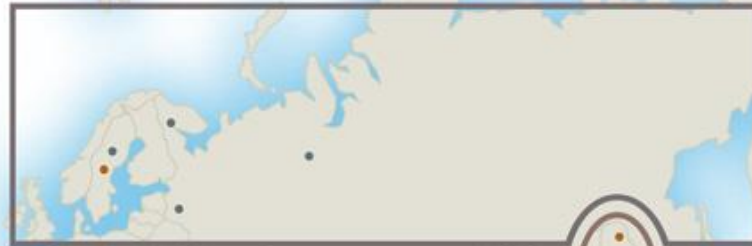
Canadian Model Forest Network



Mediterranean Model Forest Network



Russia and Northern Europe



Regional Model Forest Network - Asia



Ibero-American Model Forest Network



African Model Forest Network

# Regional Networks



# Regional Model Forest Network – Asia

- member
- candidate
- ★ RMFN-Asia Secretariat (Beijing, China)



# Areas of Impact in the Philippines: Watershed Management



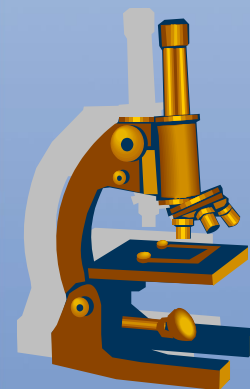
- 🌱 Multistakeholders Governance
- 🌱 Participatory Integrated Resource Management Planning
- 🌱 Forest landscape restoration and development e.g. Mined out areas, Agroforestry, timber & non – timber, mangrove
- 🌱 Forest Conservation and Protection e.g. Illegal loggers to champions of environment
- 🌱 Feeding back practical experiences to policy level



# Additional Areas of Activity and Impact Globally



- 🌱 Governance and participatory processes
- 🌱 Conflict mitigation
- 🌱 Sustainable economic opportunities
- 🌱 Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- 🌱 Biodiversity conservation, protected areas and the larger landscapes around them





# Model Forests: an Approach to Social Forestry



# Social Forestry & Model Forests: *Similarities*



- ✓ Concerned with social, economic and environmental well being
- ✓ Focus on community participation and empowerment
- ✓ Focus on long-term solutions
- ✓ Capacity building is key
- ✓ Political engagement is necessary to achieve long-term benefits
- ✓ Link between policy and practice is important



Araucarias del Alto Malleco Model Forest Chile

# Social Forestry & Model Forests: *Distinctions*



- MF is a globally defined understanding – SF defined by country
- Scale of operation – MF encompasses community forests, production forests, private land, protected areas, villages, waterways, etc.
- MF emphasis on transparent governance and broad voluntary partnerships
- MF emphasis on knowledge sharing and networking locally, nationally and internationally

*Tenure is not necessarily affected by participation in a Model Forest, but access to tenure holders and willingness to experiment and build capacity can reduce conflict and lead to change.*



# IMFN Links to International Priorities



- 🌱 Governance, participatory processes and conflict mitigation
- 🌱 Sustainable economic opportunities
- 🌱 Integrating protected area values into larger landscapes
- 🌱 Education and capacity building
- 🌱 Applied science and research
- 🌱 Networking & learning
- 🌱 Testing & demonstrating ecosystem management
- 🌱 Policy impacts



Convention on Biological Diversity / Ecosystem Approaches

National Forest Programs

APEC (20 million ha)

UNFCCC

REDD+

Food Security

# Why Join the International Model Forest Network?



## Save time and resources

Networking opportunities on questions of common interest

- E.g. good governance, food security or livelihood development

“Accelerated learning” through exchange of experiences and lessons learned:

- IMFN Secretariat
- RMFN-Asia members
- Model Forest Toolkit
- IMFN website



Ulot Watershed Model Forest

Philippines

# Supporting a Landscape Approach: Take Away Messages...



- 🌳 Model Forests are a ***process***, not a ***project***.
- 🌳 Every landscape is unique – both in terms of biophysical area and it's social context.
- 🌳 Stakeholders who have not been included in the design process will not feel as though they 'own' it.
- 🌳 Be prepared to learn and do things differently;  
Behavioural changes are a fundamental sign of success.



# SUMMARY



*Model Forests occupy the space between local communities and governments/decision makers.*

*They offer an approach to implementing broader social forestry values within a defined framework*



Newfoundland Model Forest Canada



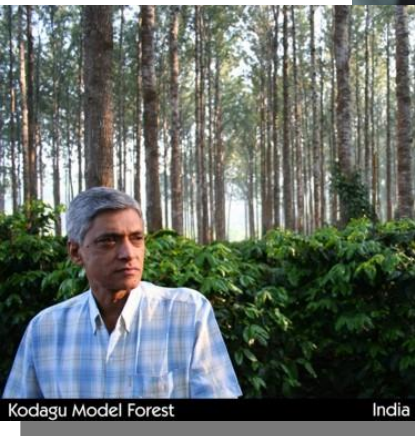
Lin'an Model Forest China



Kyoto Model Forest Japan



Manitoba Model Forest Canada



Kodagu Model Forest India



Formoseño Model Forest Argentina