



**International  
Model Forest  
Network**

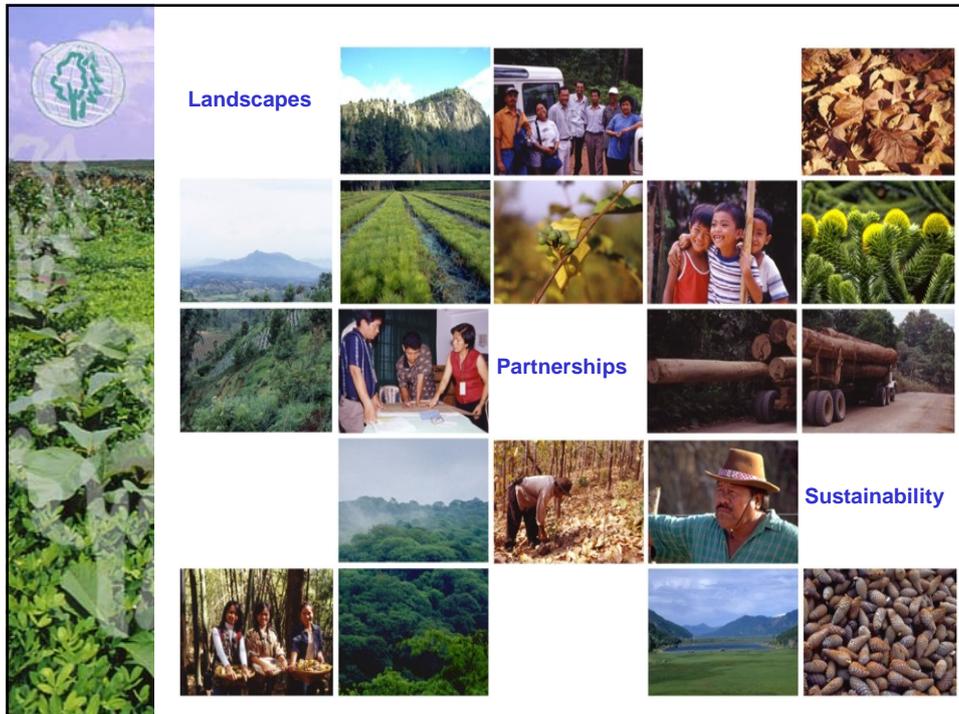


## The International Model Forest Network...2008

*Developing collaborative opportunities for advancing sustainability*

**Fred Pollett, Associate  
International Model Forest Network**

May 8, 2008  
CSD-16 presentation





## An idea conceived in 1989...

- ❖ Following the Brundtland Report
- ❖ Sustainability seen as a global issue
- ❖ Forest management was being seriously challenged
- ❖ Strategies needed for sustainable forest management
- ❖ Model Forests, although initiated in Canada, began as a global concept
- ❖ Model Forests were designed as a process to assist the transition to SFM



## 20 years on...

- ❖ Climate change is impacting forest landscapes on a global scale with varying consequences; adaptation strategies are tied to vulnerabilities—uncertainties—complexities
- ❖ Activities and disturbances (natural and man-made) on forest landscapes impact climate change
  - » Example: Mountain Pine Beetle in western Canada
    - Forests shift from a sink to a source—the cumulative impact of the beetle outbreak in the affected region during 2000–2020 will be 270 Mt carbon (or 990 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)
    - Carbon accounting and management is fast becoming a reality of forest landscapes
- ❖ Bioenergy is a quickly emerging component in forest landscape sustainability strategies
- ❖ Food and water security are tied to ecosystem management and ecosystem services



## Original Model Forest concept...

- ❖ Create a global network of model forests
  - » Landscape-level research and demonstration platforms
- ❖ Put social into the sustainability equation
  - » Develop innovative on-the-ground sustainable management strategies
- ❖ Develop linkages within the network to learn & share knowledge and accelerate innovation in SFM
- ❖ Use this knowledge to influence policy and practice at all levels
  - » Local, national, regional and global



Margowitan Model Forest Indonesia



Formoseño Model Forest Argentina



## Establishment...

### 1990

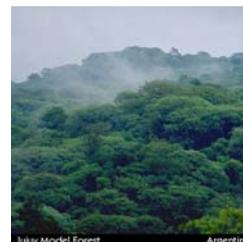
- ❖ The first Model Forests established in Canada through competitive process
  - » Originally 10 – now 14

### 1992

- ❖ International community was asked (UNCED-Rio) to consider the Model Forest approach to help develop sustainable strategies

### Key Issues at that time

- ❖ Understanding the process
- ❖ The time needed in phase one (3-5 years) to establish a working model forest



Jujuy Model Forest Argentina



Ngao Model Forest Thailand



## Every Model Forest is unique but...

### These Principles are shared by all Model Forests

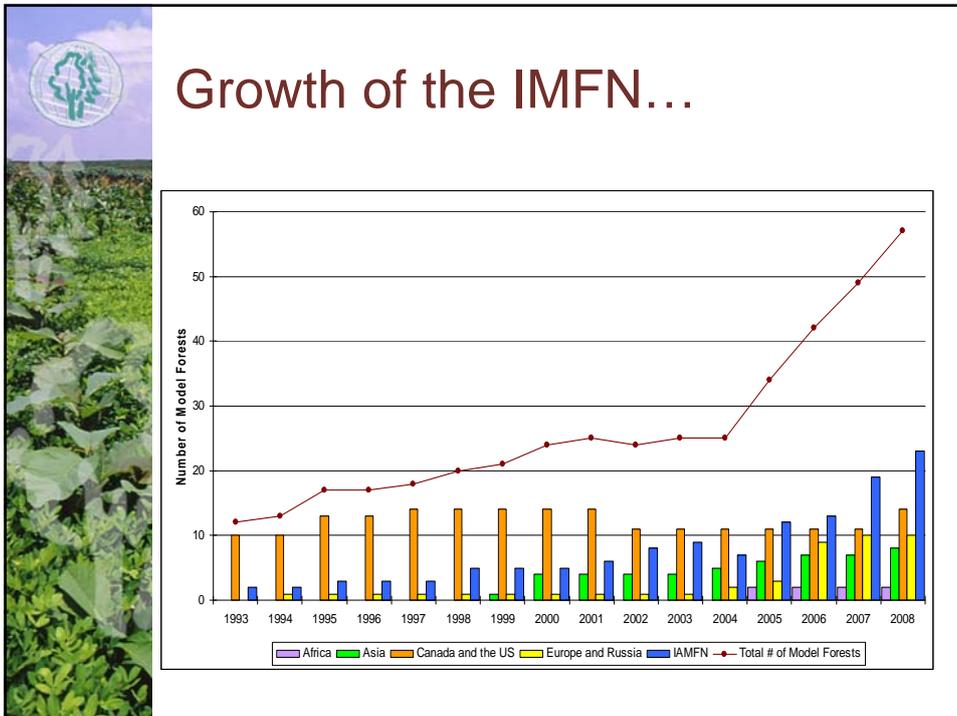
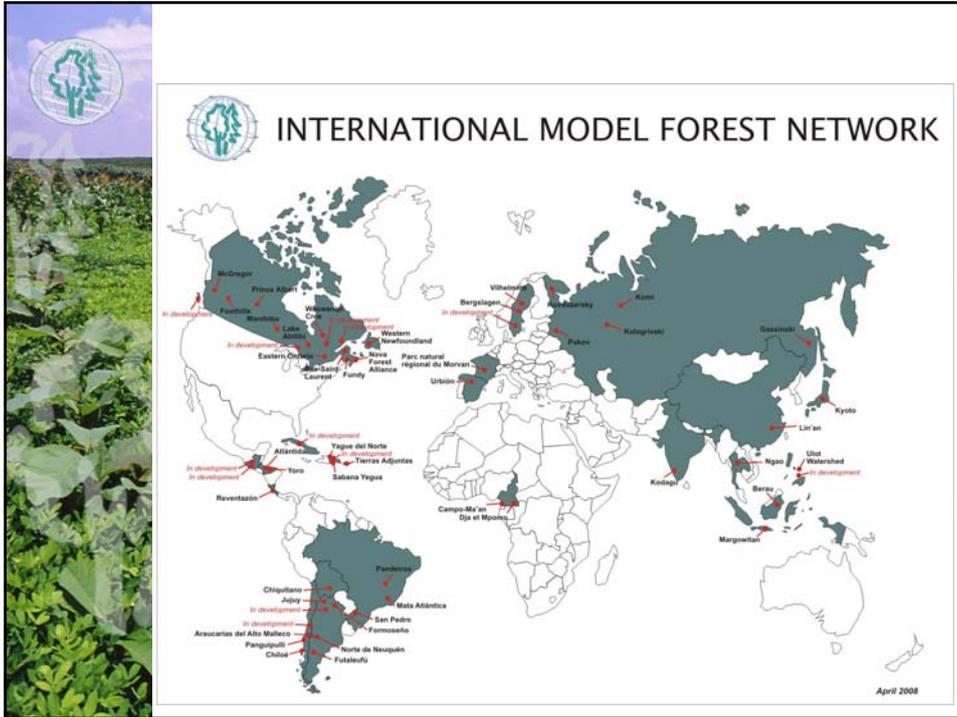
- ❖ Partnership-based (national, local, business, aboriginal, research, community, recreational, protected areas etc)
  - » Conflict resolution
- ❖ Commitment of partners to Sustainable Management
- ❖ Landscape level scale to reflect environmental, social and economic values
  - » Recognition of diversity
- ❖ Transparent and accountable governance structure
- ❖ Generation of knowledge and applied activities
- ❖ Commitment to sharing and exchange – networking
  - » A fundamental reason to be part of IMFN
  - » None of us have all the answers
  - » The power of one



## Features of a Model Forest...

- ❖ Landscape scale
- ❖ Breadth of partnership
- ❖ Focus on knowledge creation & its application
- ❖ Focus on integrated planning & management
- ❖ Link to policy at varying levels, i.e., National Forest Programs
- ❖ Strong focus on social dimension of SFM, while fully addressing economic and environmental components
- ❖ Importance of networking







## Networking themes (partial list) . . .

### For Most Model Forests

- ❖ Conservation of biodiversity and spatial landscapes
- ❖ Wildlife-forestry interactions
- ❖ Impacts and adaptation of climate change
- ❖ Economic development and diversification through sustainable practices
  - » Developing stronger communities
  - » Capacity building
- ❖ Conflict resolution in management of natural resources
- ❖ Eco-tourism
- ❖ Non-timber forest products
- ❖ Bioenergy
- ❖ Developing, monitoring and assessing local level indicators of sustainability



## Networking themes (partial list) . . .

### For Many

- ❖ Networking among Indigenous Peoples
- ❖ Circumboreal management strategies
- ❖ Rainforest management strategies
- ❖ Sustainable rural / forest-based communities
- ❖ Soil / Water conservation



Eastern Ontario Model Forest Canada

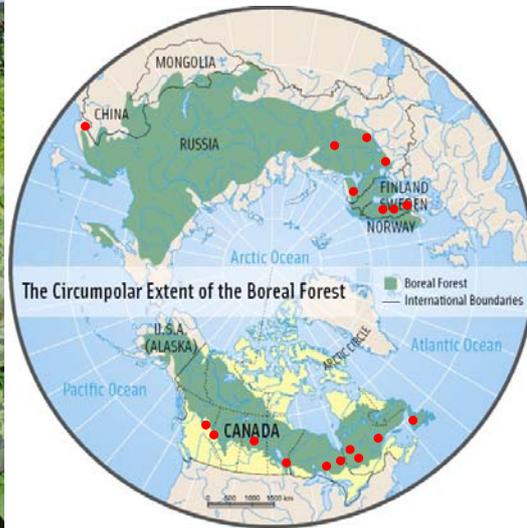


Futaleufú Model Forest Argentina





## Networking example: Circumboreal Initiative



### Principal Boreal Regions

Russia, 710 m ha  
Canada, 310 m ha  
USA (Alaska), 59 m ha  
Finland, 22 m ha  
Sweden, 14 m ha  
China, 13 m ha  
Norway, 8 m ha

(% of the world's forests)



## Why a thematic approach within the Network

- ❖ Global focus on the Boreal Forest
- ❖ Links to international policy conventions (CBD; UNFCCC)
- ❖ Existing network members in Canada, Russia and Nordic areas; includes expanded ties to the United States
- ❖ Model forests are the only international platforms (other than MAB) that offers a series of landscape-level sites and is trans-national and trans-global



Prince Albert Model Forest

Canada



## Value-added of a Circumboreal Initiative

### Program / Research / Policy Links

- » Indigenous peoples
- » Climate change / Kyoto Protocol
- » Convention on Biological Diversity
- » Sustainable management practices
- » Socio-economic issues
- » Training and education
- » Ecosystem services



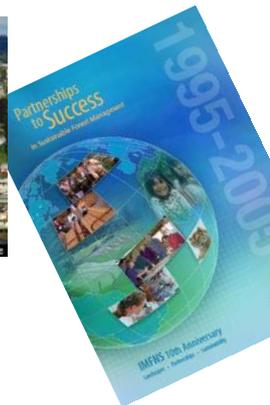
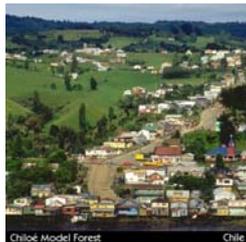
## Global IMFN assets...

- » Network in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC-Net)
- » Broad expansion of Model Forests in Europe, Mediterranean Basin and Russia
- » A multi-cultural Asian Network
- » Initiation of Model Forests in Africa's Congo Basin
- » Activity structure in 49 large landscape platforms
- » 1,000 plus volunteers globally
- » The emergence of strong international advocates
- » Increasing investments into Model Forests from donor agencies, governments and local partners
- » Inclusion of sites by key forestry countries/regions—Brazil, Canada, Congo, Russia and Sweden
- » A bank of knowledge, experience and a philosophy of sharing



## Impact of Model Forests

- Model Forests have had significant impacts at local and national levels, through which they contribute to global initiatives and conventions



## IMFN deficits...

- Lacking overall global visibility
- Few International Organizational Partnerships
- Not effectively linking its activities and outputs with global initiatives

*"I don't really know much about the IMFN..."*

Quote from a key player in Canadian Biosphere Reserves – A system of sites which have many similar attributes to IMFN.

*So why doesn't he?*



## It is recognized that...

- ❖ “The overall *strength* of the IMFN lies in its independence and strong stakeholder ownership”
- ❖ “The overall *weakness* lies in its failure to capitalise on existing initiatives and to find space in the landscape of organisational diversity, now equally as complex as the landscape of ecological diversities.”

*PB Bridgewater, 2008*



## MF in the international arena...

- ❖ One of four international landscape-level networks
  - » Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage Forests, RAMSAR
- ❖ Linkages being developed with MAB
- ❖ FAO representation on the IMFNS Board
- ❖ UNFF has recognized the model forest as a key organization in the global transition to SFM
- ❖ IUCN-World Commission for Protected Areas and other international bodies have expressed interest in cooperation with the IMFN
- ❖ Research
  - » Linked with CATIE (Latin America & Caribbean)





## Internationalization of the Model Forest concept...

- ♻️ Global Forum 2005 (Costa Rica)
- ♻️ International Advisory Committee
- ♻️ International Networking Committee
- ♻️ Global Forum 2008 (Canada)



## Near term focus...

- ♻️ Establish measures of Model Forest performance against established targets and goals for established International Government Organizations and their SFM programs
  - (example: CBD's ecosystem approach)
- ♻️ Explore collaborative opportunities and develop partnerships with key IGOs and NGOs and ties to relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements





## Summary

- ♻️ The model forest approach provides a framework through which meaningful and inclusive participation can occur in areas such as resource management, community sustainability and economic development
- ♻️ Model forests are about:
  - » A diversity of values on the [landscape](#)
  - » [Partnerships](#) working to address issues of sustainable management in large landscapes
  - » Developing and testing approaches to [sustainability](#)
- ♻️ The IMFNS and IAMFN have a wide range of experiences and resources to assist in model forest development



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



*“For the future, its bright –  
if IMFN builds on its strengths,  
minimises its weaknesses,  
and continues the spirit  
of optimism and partnership  
which has brought it  
success so far!”*

*PB Bridgewater, 2008*



## F.C. Pollett –CSD-16 05/08/08



### Model forests encompass... **Landscapes**

- ♻️ Clearly defined geographical area with significant forest cover (usually a watershed)
  - » Range in size from 85,000 to more than 7 million hectares
  - » Includes towns, rivers, farms, forests and protected areas
- ♻️ Landbase large enough to incorporate all of the forest's uses and values
- ♻️ **Representative** of the environmental, social, cultural and economic settings of an area



Margowitan Model Forest Indonesia



Jujuy Model Forest Argentina



## Model forests involve... Partnerships

- ❖ Built on a foundation of **cooperation**, understanding and **respect** between people and organizations representing a wide range of values
  - » Includes different levels of government; communities, NGOs, industry, academia, indigenous peoples, research organizations, youth and others
- ❖ Participants define a **process** for working together:
  - » In a forum based on consensus, transparency and voluntary participation
  - » To develop a shared vision of sustainability for the area
  - » To agree on specific actions and activities to support common vision
  - » To share ideas, knowledge and experiences



Ulot Watershed Model Forest Philippines



## Some key observations

- ❖ No authority over land management from tenure holders but still has impact
- ❖ Stakeholders work together to develop a strategy for working together to address SFM issues
- ❖ Model forests have influenced policy at the institutional, state and national levels
- ❖ Each site can develop a **locally relevant** program while having enough in common with others in the IMFN to allow networking to take place
- ❖ No two model forests are alike, but there is overlap in challenges being addressed and the tools being used to address them



Lintan Model Forest China



Formoseño Model Forest Argentina



## Model forest operation

- ❖ Each model forest is defined by local stakeholders while core principles are maintained
  - » Governance / decision-making structure
  - » Vision and objectives
  - » Activities
- ❖ Activities implemented in three main ways
  - » Stakeholders implement
  - » Non-partner groups / consultants
  - » Staff hired (model forest becomes an organization)
- ❖ Stakeholder implementation of projects / activities provides a strong sense of ownership and greater potential for longer-term use / implementation of ideas



Margowilah Model Forest Indonesia



## Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Canada

- ❖ 1.5 million hectares of mixed forest, urban and agricultural land in eastern Ontario
- ❖ 90% of the land is privately owned, 34% is forested
- ❖ **Bog to Bog Landscape Demonstration:** Initiative intended to link isolated natural areas ('forest islands') with a series of natural corridors through voluntary landowner participation
- ❖ **Woodland Valuation System:** A system devised to assist municipalities in meeting natural heritage conservation requirements by helping identify significant woodlands
- ❖ **Sustainable Forest Certification Initiative:** Working with small landowners towards forest certification



Eastern Ontario Model Forest Canada



Eastern Ontario Model Forest Canada



## Chiloé Model Forest, Chile



Chiloé Model Forest Chile



Chiloé Model Forest Chile

- ❖ Located on the island of Chiloé and spans some 918 000 hectares, including Chiloé National Park and a large number of small privately-owned woodlots
- ❖ **Rural Tourism Project:** Support and training to develop agro-tourism activities provided to local farmers involved in slash-and-burn activities who are now caring for their forested lands for their tourism potential
- ❖ **Environmental Education:** Programs have been introduced in a majority of schools throughout Chiloé, highlighting the importance of sustainable management of forest resources



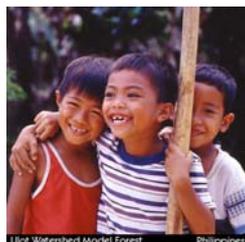
## Ulot Watershed Model Forest, Philippines



- ❖ 85,000 hectares on Samar Island
- ❖ **Enhancing environmental sustainability** by assisting local stakeholders in developing an integrated watershed management plan for the Ulot River watershed
- ❖ Plan will build upon the strengths of existing programs and resources, including the GEF Samar Island Biodiversity Project



Ulot Watershed Model Forest Philippines



Ulot Watershed Model Forest Philippines

- ❖ Bringing people together to examine issues related to the sustainability of the watershed's resources and values
- ❖ Plan addresses concerns in an integrated, cost-effective manner that spans existing political boundaries
- ❖ A pilot for watershed planning for more than 15 watersheds



## Ngao Model Forest, Thailand



- ❖ 175,000 hectares in northern Thailand
- ❖ **Improving Community Forests:** Local communities, government agencies and researchers brought together to improve local bamboo forests which were closed to harvesting. Forest conditions have improved, sustainable harvesting has resumed and other areas are copying the work done.
- ❖ **Local Capacity Building:** Field manuals and guidelines for local and national stakeholders were developed for: bamboo and charcoal processing; economic diversification of the Rain Tree; utilization and cultivation of paper mulberry; and edible insect rearing



Ngao Model Forest Thailand



Ngao Model Forest Thailand



## IMFN Secretariat



- ❖ Established in 1995
- ❖ Primary goal is to establish a global network of model forests that represent the major forest ecosystems of the world
- ❖ Works to ensure all participants can contribute to and share in the benefits of the Network
- ❖ Encourages facilitates the movement of model forest knowledge and experiences to accelerate innovation
- ❖ Based on 15 years of global experience, the IMFNS, in partnership with IAMFN and other network members, can provide technical assistance in
  - » Model forest development
  - » Networking and resource expansion
  - » Communications and advocacy at regional and international levels
  - » Partnership development and capacity building
  - » Strategic and operational planning
  - » Impact monitoring and evaluation
  - » Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management
  - » and many other areas





## Resources for model forest development

- 🌱 Technical assistance provided through guidelines, frameworks, workshops, field visits, trainings and sharing of experiences
- 🌱 Tools currently being developed or revised include
  - » Model Forest Development Guide
  - » Guide to Model Forest Governance
  - » Framework for Model Forest Strategic Plan Development
  - » Impact Monitoring and Evaluation Handbook for Model Forests
  - » Framework for Model Forest Annual Work Planning
  - » Principles and Attributes Framework for Model Forest Assessment

