Introduction to the Canadian Model Forest Network:

A Primer for TRANSFOR Participants

August 2005

MODEL FOREST NETWORK
RÉSEAU DE FORÊTS MODÈLES

Natural Resources Canada | Ressources naturelles Canada

Canada

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SUMMARY

The principle behind the Model Forest Program is simple: demonstrate how partners, representing diverse forest values, can work together to achieve sustainable forest management using innovative, region-specific approaches. By contrast, to put such an idea into practice has been an ongoing challenge for more than 10 years, both in Canada and around the globe. Learning how to work together, to achieve measurable results and then to implement and share what has been learned – this is the fuel that drives the dedicated partners, volunteers, researchers and staff that are found in every Model Forest.

During the TRANSFOR field course (August 15 – September 2, 2005), participants will have the opportunity to visit 5 Canadian provinces and witness a wide variety of forest landscapes and management practices. Along the way they will visit three of Canada's Model Forests. This primer is intended to provide a brief introduction to these Model Forests, and to the Canadian and International Model Forest Networks as a whole.

Note:

If you are reading this primer in its digital format (pdf) you will note a number of hyperlinks inserted throughout the text. Follow these links to find out more about the highlighted subject matter, or simply visit the Canadian Model Forest Network website at www.modelforest.net to access information and links for all of Canada's Model Forests. (This document is optimized for on-screen viewing. Unfortunately, some graphics will be of low resolution when printed.)

INTRODUCTION

During the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, Canada demonstrated international leadership in environmental stewardship by launching Canada's Model Forest Program, one of the world's largest experiments in sustainable forest management. Today, the **Canadian Model Forest Network** continues to bring together organizations with diverse views on how forests should be managed. With core funding and leadership from Natural Resources Canada's **Canadian Forest Service**, this diversity of opinion and spirit of collaboration has advanced the knowledge and practice of sustainable forest management (SFM). **Model Forests** include among their partners: forest companies, environmental groups, woodlot owners, academics, Aboriginal communities, parks, government agencies, energy and mining companies, recreational groups, non-governmental organizations, trappers and anyone who has an interest in SFM. Together, these partnerships address the challenge of balancing the extensive range of demands placed on forests today with the needs of future generations.

WHAT IS A MODEL FOREST?

A Model Forest is a place where the best sustainable forest management practices are developed, tested and shared across the country. It is an ideal laboratory for conducting research, developing tools and providing educational opportunities at the local and regional level. Canada's Model Forests are living laboratories where leading-edge techniques and approaches to sustainable forest management are researched, applied and monitored. Model Forests are important because they bring divergent views together. They create communities. Each partner in a Model Forest contributes and shares their values, expertise and experience with others. In doing so, they create a shared environment where views on how better to achieve SFM are refined and put into practice. For example, Model Forests put landowners in closer

contact with researchers and policy makers, allowing everyone to learn about better SFM practices from differing points of view.

HISTORY

The Canadian Model Forest concept began to take shape in the early 1990s amid a wave of national and international commitments to SFM.

The Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, produced *Forest Principles*, a document with a plan to guide SFM around the world. At the same time, **Canada's National Forest Strategy** and the **Canada Forest Accord** were also launched with the concept of SFM as the backbone. In 1991, after a call for proposals, more than 50 applications were submitted to the National Advisory Committee on Model Forests. Ten sites were chosen and, in 1992, Canada's Model Forest Program was established.

Model Forest sites were chosen based upon a competitive bidding process. Some important factors used in choosing Model Forest locations included the number of partners and supporters, the level of support from the local forest industry, First Nations representation and the type of forest ownership (i.e., private or public land) that characterized the proposed sites. To arrive at the final list of Model Forests, the strengths of the various proposals were balanced with the need to select sites that represented the different forest types across the country. Many Canadians live in forested areas and are directly affected by forestry practices. As such, it is important to form partnerships that bring various environmental, cultural and economic organizations and values together.

The first ten years of Model Forests (Phase I, 1992-1997, and Phase II, 1997-2002) were characterized by the development of effective working relationships within the local partnerships and by demonstrating Model Forest innovations. The program is now in its third five-year phase (2002-2007) and Model Forests are presently focused on increasing implementation of SFM both within and beyond their boundaries. The objectives for Phase III of the program are:

1. to increase the development and adoption of sustainable forest management systems and tools within and beyond Model Forest boundaries;
2. to disseminate the results and knowledge gained through Canada's Model Forest Program at local, regional and national levels;
3. to strengthen Model Forest Network activities in support of Canada's sustainable forest management priorities; and
4. to increase local-level participation in sustainable forest management.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are necessary to address and satisfy the diverse needs of the people who live in the Model Forest. Partnerships bring people together to sort out conflicting ideas and, in many cases, also bring funding to the Model Forests, which helps to support the project work.

At the heart of each Model Forest is a group of partners who have different perspectives on the social, economic and environmental dynamics within their forest – perspectives that are necessary to make more informed and fair decisions about how to manage the forest. The real "model" in these forests is the way the different partners – forest companies, Aboriginal communities, maple syrup producers, woodlot owners, parks, environmentalists, universities, government agencies, recreational groups, community associations, hunters and trappers – have integrated their own interests into the common goal of developing approaches to SFM that do not sacrifice one interest for another.

MODEL FOREST OPERATION

Each Model Forest is run by a not-for-profit organization and, except for a small administrative staff, most of those involved in the Model Forest donate their time and expertise and/or bring additional financial support. The internal structure of each Model Forest differs, but most are governed by a Board of Directors and use committees to oversee project initiatives. A General Manager heads the Model Forest staff, which is normally comprised of forest, geomatics and communications specialists.

Although the Model Forest organization itself does not have jurisdiction over the land it uses as a testing ground, those who do have jurisdiction are participants. By being involved from the outset in developing new approaches and solutions to SFM, those with land management responsibilities are more likely to adopt Model Forest innovations.

New ideas, concepts and approaches are created and tested in what are, in essence, living laboratories. Model Forests have launched hundreds of projects – each responding to the needs of partners – tackling areas such as aquatic resources, climate change and carbon accounting, criteria and indicators, traditional ecological knowledge, forest practices, socio-economics and wildlife habitats. Model Forest partnerships are at the root of some of today's most innovative solutions to challenges in SFM.

FUNDING

The **Government of Canada**, through Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service contributes approximately $500,000 Cdn/year to each Model Forest. These contribution agreements require that Model Forests secure at least $250,000/year in additional funds from partners and other sources. Most Model Forests far exceed this

minimum requirement. Funding from sources other than the federal government increases the regional influence of each Model Forest, encourages broader and more committed partnerships, and allows Model Forests to operate on a larger scale. On average, for each dollar the Government of Canada invests, Model Forests receive one dollar in cash plus one dollar in services from partners and other sources. In addition to the core contributions to each Model Forest, Canada's Model Forest Program has an annual operating budget of approximately $2 million. This is used for program coordination, joint activities between Model Forests and Special Project Areas.

WORKING TOGETHER

When people from different cultures, regions and economies join together in a common cause, amazing things happen. From partners working together at the level of individual Model Forests to national initiatives stretching across this vast country, the power of partnerships is demonstrated in the CMFN. Putting knowledge into practice is an underlying objective of all of Canada's Model Forests. Broad participation ensures that CMFN knowledge and tools have an excellent chance of being adopted by Model Forest partner organizations and beyond.

Canada's Model Forests make significant efforts to go beyond their boundaries to reach out to people and organizations at the provincial level. However, Model Forests also realize that they have much to contribute and to learn about SFM within a national context. By working together as a network, Canada's Model Forests have established four special initiatives to address topics that are relevant to all – regardless of forest region or province. Included are the **Private Woodlot**, **Climate Change**, **Aboriginal** and **Local Level Indicator** Strategic Initiatives. These national initiatives conduct research, develop educational materials and tools, and host workshops. Everyone in the Network shares a wealth of information – from traditional and contemporary skills and knowledge to the latest in scientific and technological discoveries.

THE CANADIAN MODEL FOREST NETWORK

There are **11 Model Forests in Canada**. From west to east, they are:

1. McGregor Model Forest
   Location: Central British Columbia, with offices in Prince George, BC
   Size: 7.7 million hectares
   Forest type(s): Sub-boreal, montane, subalpine, and Columbian (principal tree species include spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, western redcedar, western hemlock)
2. Foothills Model Forest*
   Location: Western Alberta, with offices in Hinton, Alberta
   Size: 2.75 million hectares (includes Jasper National Park)
   Forest type(s): Boreal, montane, and subalpine (principal tree species include subalpine and balsam fir, spruce, lodgepole and jack pine, white birch, trembling aspen)
3. Prince Albert Model Forest
   Location: Northern Saskatchewan, with offices in Prince Albert, SK
   Size: 360,000 hectare (includes Prince Albert National Park)
   Forest type(s): Boreal (principal tree species include spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, white birch, trembling aspen)
4. Manitoba Model Forest
   Location: South-eastern Manitoba, with offices in Pine Falls, MB
   Size: 1.05 million hectares
   Forest type(s): Boreal (principal tree species include spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, white birch, trembling aspen)
5. Lake Abitibi Model Forest
   Location: North-eastern Ontario, with offices in Cochrane, ON
   Size: 1.2 million hectares
   Forest type(s): Boreal (principal tree species include spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, white birch, trembling aspen)
6. Eastern Ontario Model Forest*
   Location: Eastern Ontario, with offices in Kemptville, ON
   Size: 1.5 million hectares (includes St. Lawrence Islands National Park)
   Forest type(s): Great Lakes-St. Lawrence (principal tree species include red and white pine, eastern hemlock, yellow birch, maple and oak)
7. Waswanipi Cree Model Forest
   Location: North-western Quebec, with offices in Waswanipi, QC
   Size: 3.3 million hectares
   Forest type(s): Boreal (principal tree species include spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, white birch, trembling aspen)
8. Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest
   Location : South-eastern Quebec, with offices in Rimouski, QC
   Size: 113,100 hectares
   Forest type(s): Great Lakes-St. Lawrence, boreal (principal tree species include pine, eastern hemlock, birch, maple, oak, spruce, balsam fir, trembling aspen)
9. Fundy Model Forest*
   Location: South-eastern New Brunswick, with offices in Sussex, NB
   Size: 420,000 hectares (including Fundy National Park)

* Foothills, Eastern Ontario and Fundy Model Forests will be visited during the course of the TRANSFOR field tour.

Forest type(s): Acadian (principal tree species include red spruce, balsam fir, yellow birch, maple)

10. Nova Forest Alliance
    Location: Central Nova Scotia, with offices in Stewiacke, NS
    Size: 458,000 hectares
    Forest type(s): Acadian (principal tree species include red spruce, balsam fir, yellow birch, maple)

11. Western Newfoundland Model Forest
    Location: Western Newfoundland, with offices in Corner Brook, NF
    Size: 923,000 hectares (including Gros Morne National Park)
    Forest type(s): Boreal (principal tree species include spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, white birch, trembling aspen)

In addition to the 11 Model Forests, there are also three Special Project Areas:

a) Vancouver Island Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Project
   This project is based in Vancouver Island, British Columbia, but is also conducting research on the potential for NTFP use across Canada.

b) Prince Edward Island Model Forest Network Partnership
   This project area covers the entire landbase of Canada's smallest province. Its mission is to offer programs and services to enhance the awareness of the environmental (ecological) and economic potential of sustainable forest management in PEI.

c) Labrador/Nitassinan Ecosystem-based Forest Management Plan
   Located in eastern Labrador, this special project area is supporting the Western Newfoundland Model Forest (WNMF) Partnership as they act as facilitator in implementing a unique management plan, one involving the Innu Nation and the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources.

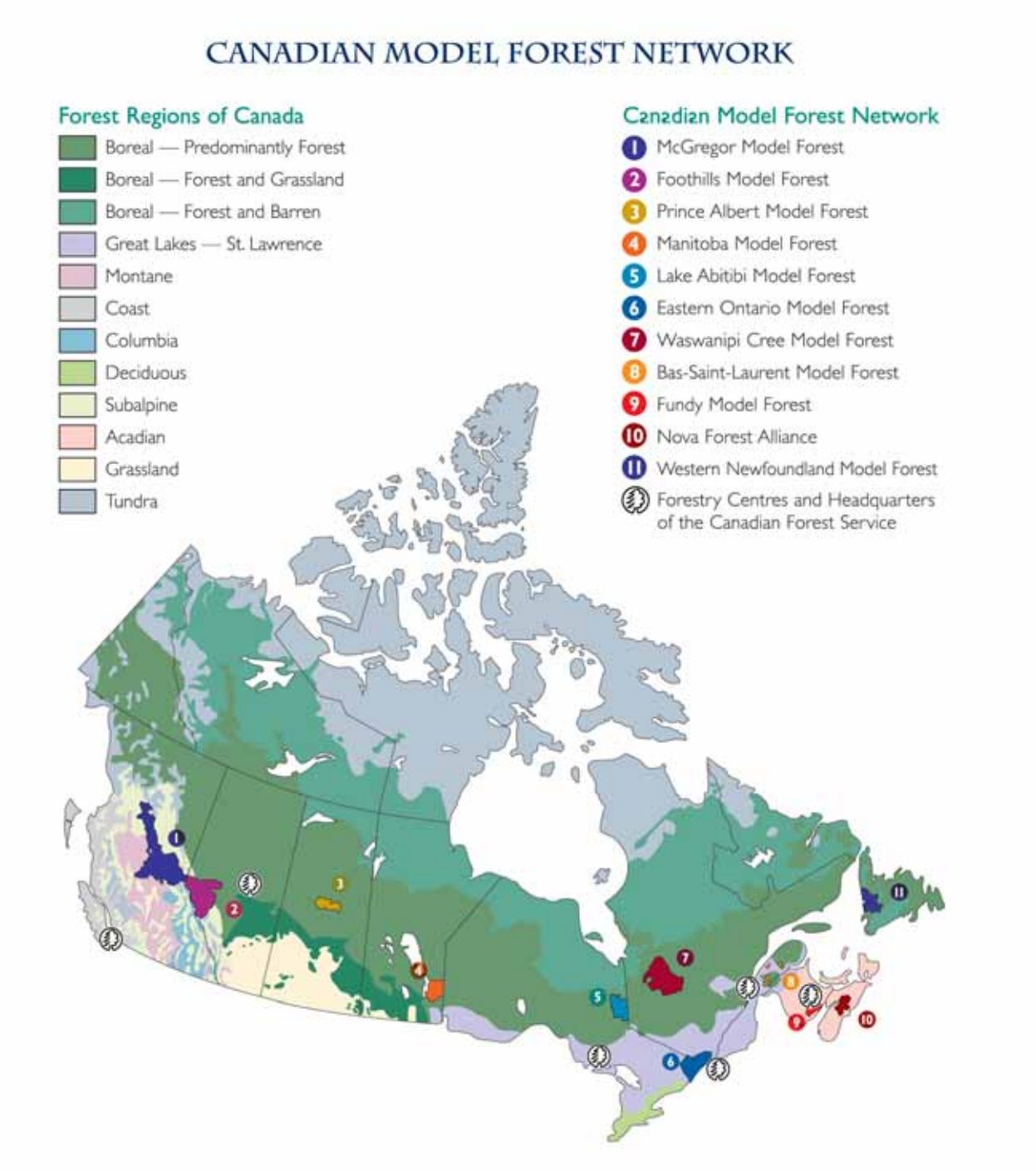


Figure 1: Map showing Canada's Model Forests and the major Canadian forest regions

A PREVIEW OF THREE MODEL FORESTS

Canada's Model Forests collaborate on projects as a Network and have many parallel areas of interest, whether they are forest and community adaptation to climate change, involving Aboriginal interests or wildlife research. The Model Forests also share similar objectives for advancing sustainable forest management locally, nationally and internationally. However, despite many convergent activities, it should be emphasized that each of Canada's Model Forests are unique. Each is located in a different region, and therefore operates in its own unique social, ecological, climatic and topographical context. In addition, Model Forest partnerships are all different and this unique mix of partners greatly influences the activities of the individual Model Forests. And finally, each Model Forest has established its own governance structure, such that decisions are made in different ways across the country.

However, to emphasize differences can sometimes be divisive. In the case of the Canadian Model Forest Network, the diversity and uniqueness represented by each site is part of the strength of this program and contributes greatly to its success. Participants in the TRANSFOR field course will have the opportunity to witness this diversity first hand as they visit three Model Forest sites: the Foothills, Eastern Ontario and Fundy Model Forests.

FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST

The **Foothills Model Forest** (FtMF) is one of Canada's largest Model Forests and is located in west-central Alberta, a three-hour drive west of Edmonton. It covers roughly 2.75 million hectares (27,500 square kilometres) and encompasses Jasper National Park, Willmore Wilderness Park and the forest management areas of Hinton Wood Products, a division of West Fraser Mills Limited. The Model Forest offices, which house a staff of researchers, GIS analysts and administrative personnel, are located in Hinton, AB (population 10,000). Within the Model Forest boundaries are three forest types—boreal, montane and sub-alpine—and many natural resource activities including timber harvesting, petroleum and coal extraction, tourism and recreation.

In the FtMF, many individuals and organizations have joined forces to learn, understand and share new ways to manage the landbase. A few are "sponsoring partners", including Natural Resources Canada, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Jasper National Park and Hinton Wood Products, a division of West Fraser Mills Limited. Other participants are management partners, project partners, program partners or simply advocates of the FtMF. These various partners all work together to oversee the work of the FtMF.

The Foothills Model Forest has four objectives for Phase III:

1. To demonstrate sustainable forest management.
2. To develop and implement mechanisms that result in a wider understanding and application of accrued knowledge and technology for sustainable forest management.
3. To deliver communications and outreach programs that improve understanding of and support for sustainable forest management.
4. To support and influence policy that improves the practice of sustainable forest management.

The FtMF has a well-established and respected research program. In the current phase of funding, the FtMF has placed particular emphasis on research related to wildlife and natural disturbances. One of the major, long-term program areas of the FtMF is grizzly bear research. Grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) are used by ecologists as an indicator species of biodiversity and ecosystem health. When managing for biodiversity, trade-offs may be required between conservation and human use of natural environments. In the FtMF of west-central Alberta, industrial resource development and other human activities increase the likelihood of habitat loss or fragmentation which can lead to grizzly bear death.

The FtMF **Grizzly Bear Research Program** assesses grizzly bear populations, bear response to human activities, and habitat conditions to provide land managers with tools to integrate grizzly bear needs into the land management framework. The study area is approximately 9,900 km^2 and includes both alpine and foothills habitats. A

strong gradient in land-use activities and human disturbances exists across the study area. Currently, oil and gas exploration, forestry, mining, hunting, settlement, tourism and recreation dominate the human land use practices and activities.

Another major FtMF research focus is the **Highway 40 North Demonstration Project**. The goal of the Project is to test a natural disturbance approach to forest management planning. Natural disturbance research will be used as the basis for management planning and the development of a disturbance plan (a plan that uses natural disturbance research to guide operational activities). Operational decisions will be based on ecological science and the tools used to execute the plan may include harvesting, prescribed burning or road building. In Canada, this is the first known attempt to integrate a full suite of natural pattern elements into a single operational plan. The Project is making efforts to identify the timing and location of all cultural disturbances for the entire 70,000 hectares over a ten-year period.

Developing a collaborative, long-term plan for a large area enables the province, forest companies and the energy sector to plan and manage for more forest values. Foresters are talking to caribou biologists, and fire specialists are talking to oil planners. All are attempting to meet the needs of the ecosystem and the communities it supports.

The FtMF is also involved in a wide range of other program areas, including social science research, fish and watershed research, and education and interpretation initiatives. TRANSFOR field course participants will have a chance to find out more about this impressive Model Forest during their visit on August 20-22, 2005.

EASTERN ONTARIO MODEL FOREST

Stretching across 1.5 million hectares, from Algonquin Park to the Quebec border, from the Ottawa River to the St. Lawrence Seaway, the **Eastern Ontario Model Forest** (EOMF) is no ordinary woods. As the most populated landscape within the Canadian Model Forest Network (approximately 1 million inhabitants), the EOMF works to engage private forest owners, farmers, towns and a large urban centre in ongoing efforts to implement sustainable forest management within a settled landscape. The Model Forest offices, which house foresters, GIS analysts and administrative staff, are located in the town of Kemptville, approximately a half-hour drive from the City of Ottawa.

The EOMF is a group of dedicated individuals and organizations working together to sustain and ensure the health of the forests of eastern Ontario - now and for the future. This alliance of people concerned with the sustainability of eastern Ontario forests is truly the backbone of the Model Forest. The EOMF's vision has incorporated the philosophy of its First Nations partners by considering each decision and new technology bearing in mind how it will affect "seven generations". By learning from those who came before, and by considering those who come after us, the EOMF hopes that there will always be plenty of trees in their forests.

One of the EOMF's major, long-term projects is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. The EOMF believes that forest certification is one way of measuring and achieving sustainable forest management, and as such launched a certification project that achieved endorsement by the FSC in 2003. FSC certification, with independent standards and third party auditing provides a progressive context for landowners to bring their land under forest management. The EOMF's **group certification** initiative allows this at a reasonable cost to the participating landowners. The project is managed by the Eastern Ontario Certified Forest Owners, a group of individuals and organizations who have certified forest land or are seeking group certification. All group members are committed to the restoration, enhancement and conservation of forest ecosystems through sustainable management. Domtar Forest Resources of Cornwall, the Ontario Woodlot Association and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have contributed expertise to the project on a wide variety of forest issues, including best management practices and harvesting. The results of this project will be transferred to other interested agencies or groups across central and southern Ontario.

The EOMF is also involved in the **Eastern Ontario Urban Forest Network** (EOUFN). An urban forest *"includes a diversity of trees, shrubs and plants in river corridors, ravines, natural areas, parks, streets and backyards. It is the "green infrastructure" of the neighbourhood that makes it a pleasant and comfortable place to live. In eastern Ontario "urban" is meant to include all cities, towns, villages and hamlets that are interested in trees***"** (EOUFN, 2003). The mandate of the EOUFN is:

- the transferral of urban forest knowledge between communities, politicians, local organizations and individuals;

- to develop and communicate common messages;
- to educate municipalities, communities and the public of Eastern Ontario about urban forests;
- to promote municipal planning that recognizes and enhances sustainable urban forests in E. Ontario;
- and to raise the profile of significant woodlands.

The EOMF is also engaged in a host of other projects, including reporting on local criteria and indicators, GIS classification of significant woodlands, cross-border sharing of information related to SFM and a series of demonstration sites. It is also distinguished by a unique governance structure that allows members, including individual citizens, to elect the Board of Directors and to have an active voice in the goals and direction of the Model Forest.

TRANSFOR field course participants will find out more about this exciting Model Forest during their visit on August 27, 2005.

FUNDY MODEL FOREST

The **Fundy Model Forest** (FMF) is located in south-eastern New Brunswick in the Acadian Forest region. Its offices are situated in the town of Sussex (population 4,200), which is approximately a 1.5-hour drive from the provincial capital city of Fredericton. The Model Forest encompasses 420,000 hectares and includes the following land tenure arrangements: private woodlots (63%), industrial freehold (17%), provincially-owned Crown forest land (15%), and Fundy National Park (5%). The forest resource of this landscape has had a significant impact on, and contribution to, the development of the area since the days of European settlement nearly 300 years ago. Over the years, the greatest challenge to the FMF partnership (which currently includes 38 organizations) has been the development of a sustainable approach to forest management across these various land tenure arrangements.

The majority of the FMF is privately owned in small holdings varying in size from 50 to 5,000 hectares. Many of these are managed in association with agricultural operations. There are more than 3,500 woodlot owners in the FMF area with a wide variety of interests and priorities. There is a growing interest in the development of alternative products from the forest and the pursuit of non-consumptive opportunities related to ecotourism.

One example of a project underway in the FMF is the American Beech Vegetative Propagation and Genetic Resistance Testing project. American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is an important component of late successional hardwood and mixed-wood forests of eastern North America. During the past century, almost all beech trees in the northeastern portion of the species range have been severely damaged or killed by beech bark disease.

To date, the northward spread of the disease has been limited by cold climate. However, with global warming, the diseased beech are likely to persist and spread further throughout the Maritime provinces, exacerbating already severe problems. The FMF proposes to develop the capacity for managing forest types having a component of beech through identifying impacts of harvesting methods on suckering and regeneration of diseased beech (and other species with which it competes) and by producing disease-resistant beech trees. Present forestry practices are moving toward eliminating the species from their natural ecosystems. The long-term strategy to develop and introduce disease-free trees has the potential of maintaining the species presence in its natural range, while also enabling commercial utilization.

Another important program area for the FMF is watershed-based woodlot management planning. The conservation of biodiversity in forests requires planning at a variety of scales including the genetic, species, population, community and landscape levels. A common perceived barrier to the achievement of biodiversity conservation on small private woodlots is the fragmented nature of land ownership. It is often believed that multiple land ownership precludes planning for the large scale, landscape-level spatial objectives that are an essential component of sound forest management. Landowners with diverse management goals may be less likely to cooperate to the degree

necessary to protect trans-boundary features such as wildlife habitat or water quality. However, a large portion of the total forestland in New Brunswick exists in small private holdings. Further, in southern New Brunswick, forest fragmentation is occurring most rapidly on small woodlots. If biodiversity is to be conserved at the landscape and regional level, it is critical to develop tools for involving these many landowners in large-scale conservation planning. This ongoing project, the purpose of which is to initiate community forestry on small woodlots, encourages the implementation of landscape ecological objectives.

The FMF is also involved in a wide range of other projects, including outdoor education for schoolchildren, research on wildlife indicator species, investigation of the impact of cutblock configurations on understory plants, and monitoring the health of aquatic habitats. TRANSFOR field course participants will find out more about this dynamic Model Forest during their visit on August 31 and September 1, 2005.

International Model Forest Network

The **International Model Forest Network** (IMFN) is a voluntary association of partners from around the world working toward the common goal of sustainable forest management (SFM) and use. The primary goal of this international program is to establish a global network of Model Forests that will represent most of the major forest ecosystems of the world. It also strives to ensure that all partners, regardless of political or economic status, can contribute to, and share in, the benefits of the Network as they work toward the sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE IMFN

When the Model Forest approach was proposed as an international initiative by Canada at UNCED in 1992, it resonated with people from a variety of cultures and political affiliations. It was innovative, practical and workable. It was also ahead of its time. After a period of program development and pilot project selection, the International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS) was established at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa in 1995. Other founding partners included Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC), Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service (NRCan-CFS), and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The goal of the IMFN was to support the development of a global network of Model Forests that would foster an international exchange of ideas on the concept of SFM, facilitate international cooperation in the application of SFM at the field-level and use these concepts and applications to support ongoing international discussion on the principles, criteria and policies related to SFM.

A decade later, the Network has grown to 36 Model Forest sites in 17 countries across 5 continents, and represents a global community of practice on virtually every aspect of SFM. With an aggregate partnership base totalling nearly 1,000 individuals and organizations, the Network also represents a powerful and cost-effective tool for sharing knowledge and innovation.

Highlights:

- In 1994, the IMFN was established with three Model Forests: two in Mexico and one in the Russian Far East, each “twinned” with a Canadian Model Forest.
- In 1996, the Chiloé MF was launched in Chile, closely followed in 1997 by the Lin’an MF in China.
- By 1999, the Government of Japan, through the FAO Trust Fund, sponsored the Regional Model Forest Project (RMFP–Asia) in SE Asia, consisting of four Model Forests (China, the Philippines, Thailand and Myanmar) with a three-year grant of US $1.6 million.
- In 2000, Indonesia joined the IMFN with the EU-sponsored Berau Forest Management Project. 2001 saw the completion of the RMFP–Asia first phase and

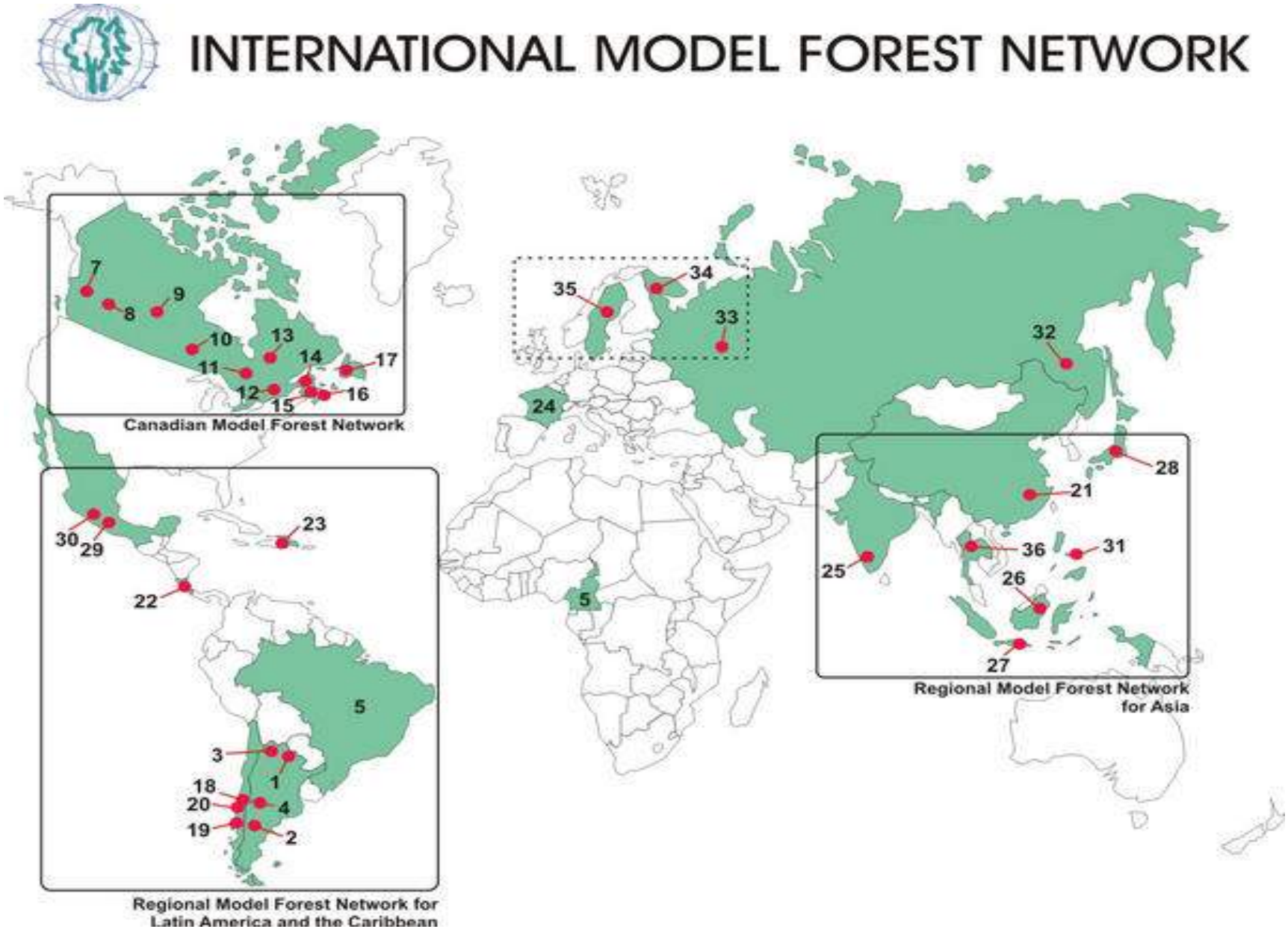
its continuation as a four-country initiative with support from the IMFNS and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

- 2001 also saw the Regional Model Forest Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (RMFC–LAC) established, consisting of eight Model Forests. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) established this Centre in Santiago for its first phase in 2002.
- 2004 saw the RMFC–LAC move to the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE) in Turrialba, Costa Rica, and the launch of the Vilhelmina Model Forest in Sweden, the first Model Forest in Europe.
- In 2005, Brazil identified two sites for development; Cameroon selected two sites for development; India's Kodagu Model Forest expressed interest in joining the IMFN; Japan joined IMFN with the Kyoto MF; Russia identified two European sites for development: Komi and Kovdozersky.

LOOKING FORWARD

As a long-term goal, the IMFN will serve as a foundation for international cooperation on the sustainable development of forest resources all over the globe. Participating Model Forests will share their knowledge and encourage large parts of the world's forested areas to undertake management and conservation methods that ensure their continuous benefits for humanity. Together Model Forests will continue to support and promote the management of the world's forest resources in a sustainable manner, reflecting environmental and socio-economic issues from the perspective of local needs and global concerns.

As part of its 10-year anniversary, in November 2005 the IMFN will host a Global Forum in Turrialba, Costa Rica. It is anticipated that representatives from all of the world's Model Forests and their host countries will be there, and that the IMFN will emerge with renewed energy and a renewed vision that will encourage Model Forests around the globe to address even greater challenges in sustainable forest management into the future.


INTERNATIONAL MODEL FOREST NETWORK
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Canadian Model Forest Network
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Regional Model Forest Network
for Asia
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Regional Model Forest Network for
Latin America and the Caribbean

Model Forests (by country):

Argentina	1. Formoseño	**Chile**	18. Araucarias del Alto Malleco	**Sweden**	35. Vilhelmina
	2. Futaleufú		19. Chiloé	**Thailand**	36. Ngao
	3. Jujuy		20. Panguipulli*		
	4. Norte de Neuquén*	**China**	21. Lin'an		
Brazil	5. two sites under development.	**Costa Rica**	22. Reventazón*		
Cameroon	6. two sites selected for development	**Dominican Republic**	23. Upper Sabana Yegua Watershed*		
Canada	7. McGregor	**France**	24. expression of interest		
	8. Foothills	**India**	25. Kodagu*		
	9. Prince Albert	**Indonesia**	26. Berau		
	10. Manitoba		27. Margowitan		
	11. Lake Abitibi,	**Japan**	28. Kyoto*		
	12. Eastern Ontario	**Mexico**	29. Mariposa Monarca		
	13. Waswanipi Cree		30. Sierre de Quila*		
	14. Bas-St-Laurent	**Philippines**	31. Ulot Watershed		
	15. Fundy	**Russia**	32. Gassinski		
	16. Nova Forest Alliance		33. Komi*		
	17. Western Newfoundland		34. Kovdozersky*		

(* = *under development*)

Canadian Model Forest Network – Contact List

Canada's Model Forest Program Secretariat
Natural Resources Canada
Canadian Forest Service
580 Booth Street, 7th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4
Tel: (613) 992-5874 Fax: (613) 992-5390
modelforest@nrcan.gc.ca

Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest
Université du Québec à Rimouski
300 allée des Ursulines, Room J-463
Rimouski, Québec G5L 3A1
Tel: (418) 722-7211 Fax: (418) 721-5630

Eastern Ontario Model Forest
P.O. Bag 2111
Kemptville, Ontario K0G 1J0
Tel: (613) 258-8241 Fax: (613) 258-8363

Foothills Model Forest
Box 6330
Hinton, Alberta T7V 1X6
Tel: (780) 865-8330 Fax: (780) 865-8331

Fundy Model Forest
701 Main Street, Suite 2
Sussex, New Brunswick E4E 7H7
Tel: (506) 432-7575 or 1-800-546-4838
Fax: (506) 432-7562

Lake Abitibi Model Forest
P.O. Box 129
Cochrane, Ontario POL 1C0
Tel: (705) 272-7800 Fax: (705) 272-2744

Manitoba Model Forest
P.O. Box 6500
Pine Falls, Manitoba R0E 1M0
Tel: (204) 367-5232 Fax: (204) 367-8897

McGregor Model Forest
P.O. Box 2640
Prince George, British Columbia V2N 4T5
Tel: (250) 612-5840 Fax: (250) 612-5848

Nova Forest AllianceP.O. Box 208
Stewiacke, Nova Scotia BON 2JO
Tel: (902) 639-2921 Fax: (902) 639-2981

Prince Albert Model ForestP.O. Box 2406
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 7G3
Tel: (306) 922-1944 Fax: (306) 763-6456

Waswanipi Cree Model Forest
Waswanipi, Quebec J0Y 3C0
Tel: (819) 753-2900 Fax: (819) 753-2904

Western Newfoundland Model Forest
Forest Centre
University Drive, P.O. Box 68
Corner Brook, Newfoundland A2H 6C3
Tel: (709) 637-7300 Fax: (709) 634-0255