

Canada's Model Forests

Sustainable Forests
Through Partnership



Canada's Model Forest Program

In 1992, the Government of Canada – through the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) – launched Canada's Model Forest Program. The Program is one of the world's largest experiments in sustainable forest management.

It was created to address the challenge of balancing the wide range of demands we place on our forests with the need to respect and safeguard their beauty and abundance for future generations.

What is a Model Forest?

A model forest is an area where the latest forestry techniques are researched, developed, applied and monitored. It operates through a grassroots partnership that includes a variety of stakeholders who hold different values for the forest.

Canada's Model Forest Program currently involves 11 model forests ranging in size from just over 100,000 hectares to nearly 8 million hectares.

CANADA'S MODEL FOREST PROGRAM

FOREST REGIONS OF CANADA

- Boreal - Predominantly Forest
- Boreal - Forest and Grassland
- Boreal - Forest and Barren
- Great Lakes - St. Lawrence
- Montane
- Coast
- Columbia
- Deciduous
- Subalpine
- Acadian
- Grassland
- Tundra



CANADIAN MODEL FOREST NETWORK

- 1 McGregor Model Forest
 - 2 Foothills Model Forest
 - 3 Prince Albert Model Forest
 - 4 Manitoba Model Forest
 - 5 Lake Abitibi Model Forest
 - 6 Eastern Ontario Model Forest
 - 7 Waswanipi Cree Model Forest
 - 8 Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest
 - 9 Fundy Model Forest
 - 10 Nova Forest Alliance
 - 11 Western Newfoundland Model Forest
- ③ Forestry Centres and Headquarters of the Canadian Forest Service



Natural Resources Canada / Ressources naturelles Canada

Program Objectives

- To increase the development and adoption of sustainable forest management systems and tools within and beyond model forest boundaries.
- To share knowledge gained through the Program at local, regional and national levels.
- To strengthen model forest network activities in support of Canada's sustainable forest management priorities.
- To increase opportunities for local-level participation in sustainable forest management.

Building Partnerships

Model forests build partnerships with a wide range of individuals and organizations whose interests in the forest may vary, but who share the common goal of sustainable forest management. Partners include:

- Scientists
- Aboriginal communities
- Environmentalists
- Forest industry
- Community groups
- Landowners
- National parks
- Academic institutions
- Governments
- Recreation enthusiasts
- Others interested in sustainable forest management

A Shared Understanding

Partners invest significant time, effort and resources learning about and appreciating each other's views and expertise.

This allows for consensus-driven partnerships, where decision-making is shared to achieve social, environmental and economic sustainability in forest management.



From Local to National

Each model forest is managed by a partnership made up of local individuals and organizations. Their goal is to make sure that the forest continues to be a healthy and dynamic part of their community.

Successes at the local level can then be shared with other model forests through Canada's Model Forest Network (CMFN). The Network is currently overseeing three national initiatives – each an important part of Canada's Model Forest Program.

National Initiatives

The CMFN's three national initiatives include private woodlots, local level indicators and Aboriginal involvement.

The Private Woodlot Initiative focuses on issues specific to privately owned forest areas. These account for more than 12%* of Canada's commercial productive forest land. The Initiative highlights private woodlot sector work within model forests and shares this information with other interested organizations.

* *Canada's National Forest Strategy (1998-2003)*

The Big Picture

Local level indicators (LLIs) are a way to measure changes in a forest over time. They range from measurements of water quality to forest conditions to the **state of employment** in forestry-based communities.

The current focus of the LLI initiative is developing a carbon accounting tool for forest managers at the operational level.



Aboriginal Participation

In 1997, an Aboriginal Involvement Strategic Initiative was launched to increase First Nation, non-status Indian and Metis communities' participation in Canada's Model Forest Program.

Through this CMFN initiative, various projects have been adopted to address the needs of Aboriginal communities. Current efforts include working with Aboriginal communities to increase knowledge of local level indicators of sustainable forest management and research on best practices in traditional culture studies.

Model Forests Abroad

The success of Canada's Model Forest Program has attracted worldwide attention. An International Model Forest Network is now in place, with 20 model forests in 15 countries. Several other countries have also expressed an interest in joining the Network.

Through this global connection, sustainable forest management solutions can be shared and adapted in countries all over the world.

Success Story: SFM Training for Front-Line Forest Workers (Western Newfoundland Model Forest)

Partners of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest identified the need for environmental awareness and sensitivity training for front-line forestry workers in the region.

Pooling their resources, the team created a comprehensive training manual for all front-line forest workers in the province, as well as a train-the-trainer workshop. Both products have been well received and have proven very effective in meeting the partners' needs.

Success Story: Brokenhead Ojibway Partnership Programs (Manitoba Model Forest)

The Manitoba Model Forest and one of its managing partners, the Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation, have been involved in a number of projects and programs to improve eco-tourism opportunities at the site of the Brokenhead Ojibway Historic Village.

To date, the partnership has: worked to reintroduce traditional plants in the surrounding forest; constructed a greenhouse to aid in traditional plant propagation; built an interpretive centre; and held workshops to help educate tourists and community members on the traditional activity of tapping maple trees for syrup.

Success Story: Hardisty Creek Watershed Restoration Project (Foothills Model Forest)

In partnership with a local environmental organization, the Foothills Model Forest is working with upstream and downstream landowners to restore a local watershed.

With shared goals of public education and watershed restoration, the project steering committee is working to incorporate ecological evaluations and hands-on restoration into the high school curriculum. Restoration activities will address fish migration barriers at stream crossings and impacts from previous development adjacent to streams.

Contact Information

To learn more about Canada's Model Forest Program, contact:

Model Forest Secretariat
Canadian Forest Service
580 Booth Street, 7th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4
Telephone: (613) 992-5874
Fax: (613) 992-5390
E-mail: modelforest@nrca.gc.ca

Website: www.modelforest.net