



Global Landscapes Forum



In partnership with



International Model Forest Network



EASTERN ONTARIO MODEL FOREST
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FORESTS, PEOPLE, PLANET

Scaling Local Solutions for Global Impact

27 May 2025 | Kemptville, Canada

Hybrid event at the IMFN Global Forum



CONCEPT NOTE

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BACKGROUND

Forests cover nearly one-third of the world's land, providing vital resources such as food, medicine, fuel, fibers and building materials. They provide essential ecosystem services such as clean air and water, carbon sequestration, flood protection, nutrient cycling and pollination. Forests are also deeply embedded in the cultural, spiritual and economic fabric of many communities, whose livelihoods depend on these landscapes.

But despite the established importance of forests, they are continuing to degrade, with an estimated 4.7 million hectares lost each year between 2010 and 2020. Global commitments such as the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 emphasize halting deforestation, restoring degraded lands and promoting sustainable management practices. To achieve these goals, we need a holistic approach that aligns local, national and global actions, rooted in justice and equity, recognizing the deep interconnection between the well-being of forests and the people who depend on them.

The International Model Forest Network (IMFN) has paved the way in supporting integrated and participatory forest management initiatives. By fostering innovation and inclusivity, Model Forests are ensuring the long-term sustainability of forest ecosystems and the well-being of those who depend on them. Such initiatives offer an invaluable opportunity to explore sustainable land management through a collaborative and transparent process while balancing broader environment, social and economic needs. They serve as testing grounds where policy is shaped through real-world application, offering valuable insights into bridging multiple global policy goals in practice.

These initiatives demonstrate how to manage complex trade-offs while promoting co-

benefits such as emissions reductions, biodiversity protection, land restoration and social justice, offering a tangible pathway to synergizing objectives under the Rio Conventions, Sustainable Development Goals, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. With the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Brazil set to focus global attention on forests, these collaborative efforts are timely in shaping integrated approaches to climate, biodiversity and land restoration goals.

ABOUT THE EVENT

This GLF-led hybrid event at the IMFN Global Forum will build on the IMFN digital session at GLF Forests 2025: Defining the Next Decade of Action, which focused on global knowledge exchange, connecting regions and local forest management practices relating to forest-based climate risks.

It aims to incorporate the outcomes from this session into the discussions at the IMFN Global Forum, inviting GLF's global community of practice to connect with IMFN partners. It will build on calls to bridge policy and practice, strengthen partnerships and showcase how people-centered forest and landscape stewardship can provide scalable solutions to global environmental challenges.

The event will:

- Synthesize and deepen the learnings from the IMFN digital session at GLF Forests 2025, identifying drivers to catalyze community-led forest and landscape action;
- Showcase innovative local solutions from Model Forests and other integrated forest management initiatives, highlighting their contributions to national, regional and global policy goals, and opportunities to synergize the Rio Conventions;

- Explore pathways to build and strengthen the restoration economy through inclusive landscape finance solutions that promote cooperation, equitable access and community stewardship;
 - Foster and diversify partnerships between IMFN and the wider GLF community of Charter Members and engaged partners including youth, GLFx chapters, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, business and finance for knowledge exchange on forest stewardship and to promote cross-sectoral and intergenerational collaboration.
3. **Growing the restoration economy:** How can we create green jobs and alleviate poverty through forest stewardship by developing integrated landscape-level finance solutions? How can we redirect harmful subsidies to create positive impacts? How can we engage the private sector to drive landscape financing through innovative financial instruments?
 4. **Synergies and integration between global policies and local circumstances:** How are Model Forests synergizing the Rio Conventions in practice and achieving co-benefits? What feedback mechanisms are available for initiatives to share experiences and shape policy, and how can these be improved? How can synergies be created between forest policy and trade policy to benefit both forests and people while engaging key actors across the value chain?
 5. **Technology and AI:** What are some recent advancements in technologies and AI tools designed to support forest stewardship? How can we support communities in developing contextually relevant AI-driven solutions? How can we promote transparency, access to knowledge and data while tackling concerns over data ownership and power concentration?

TOPICS TO BE EXPLORED

1. **Inclusive, equitable and adaptive governance:** How have Model Forests and other initiatives approached building inclusive and appropriate governance structures while balancing various governance drivers and resolving conflict? What are some tangible steps that have been taken to ensure the inclusion of traditionally disempowered groups including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-Descendants? How is intergenerational leadership cultivated?
2. **Climate mitigation and adaptation:** What are some effective strategies and knowledge gaps for mitigating natural disasters and managing forest-based climate risks, such as wildfires and droughts, in a rapidly changing climate? How can local knowledge be integrated into climate risk management to enhance resilience in forest ecosystems? How can the co-benefits of land restoration, such as emissions reductions and biodiversity protection, be maximized in forest management?

WHO IS THIS EVENT FOR?

This hybrid event will bring together over 3,000 online and in-person participants worldwide, including representatives of new initiatives, IMFN partners and broader target audiences interested in restoration. It will leverage GLF networks, partners and the broader community, including youth and GLFx, GLF Charter Members and engaged partners.



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ABOUT GLOBAL LANDSCAPES FORUM

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world’s largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Climate Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and committed to the landscape approach. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihoods, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), in collaboration with its co-founders UNEP and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter members: CIAT, CIFOR-ICRAF, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, Ecoagriculture Partners, The European Forest Institute, Evergreen Agriculture, FAO, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, The International Livestock Research Institute, INBAR, IPMG, IPAM Amazonia, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, Rights and Resources Initiative, SAN, SouthSouthNorth, TMG-Think Tank for Sustainability, UNCCD, UNEP, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation part of Wageningen Research, World Farmer Organization, World Bank Group, World Resources Institute, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)

Funding partners



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In partnership with Canada

