

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

Regional Model Forest Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean

Expected date of initiation: October 2002

Expected date of completion: March 2005

Partners Involved:

Governments: Canada (CIDA), Chile, Argentina

Intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Major groups:

Other:

§ Other countries pursuing participation in this regional collaboration initiative (e.g., Dominican Republic, Mexico);

§ International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS)

Leading Partner:

Lead Canadian Partner in the initiative: International Model Forest Network Secretariat

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

This collaborative initiative will support the development and establishment of a Regional Network of Model Forests in Latin America and the Caribbean. Model Forests are about translating higher-level policy goals into achievable and locally relevant models of sustainable use and best practices for the conservation of all forest resources. They use locally-based partnership to find working solutions to forest resource management issues through capacity building, improved decision-making and governance systems, economic diversification, integrated resource management, and poverty alleviation.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

The international expansion of the Canadian Model Forest concept, which was announced at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, is very closely aligned with the objectives of Agenda 21 and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The new collaborative effort towards the creation of a Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean will promote an approach which incorporates economic, environmental, social issues at both the policy and field levels, and address key issues related to: development and poverty alleviation, improved decision-making processes and governance, better forest resource management, conservation of biological diversity, innovation and partnerships for sustainable development, and sustainable communities.

Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

The Regional Centre would:

- provide technical support to promote and strengthen model forest development in the region;
- document and demonstrate best practices for sustainable forest management and sustainable economic development opportunities for local communities;
- substantially strengthen the transfer of technology from Canada to the region and among countries and projects in the region;
- secure new country and institutional partners and donors.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

Specific targets would be achieved by March 2005, and include:

- a Regional Centre established and functioning effectively;
- up to 6 new model forests initiated or in development, and activities and projects established and underway,
- network members have acquired and are using new knowledge and skills relating to sustainable forest management and sustainable development;
- communications and Network strategies developed and functioning to support network participants.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

The Regional Centre would be coordinated through a management structure, which would include a Board of Directors, and a small Regional Secretariat headed by an Executive director. The Board of Directors would be composed of one representative from each Latin American and Caribbean country that is participating in the project, as well as one representative from each donor and supporting agency.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

The following level of financial and technical support is expected:

- Canada (CIDA): \$1.5 million Canadian dollars
- Chile and Argentina: \$285,000 Canadian dollars each
- Countries pursuing participation (Dominican Republic and/or Mexico): \$285,000 dollars each
- UNDP Chile: \$250,000 Canadian dollars

At present, CIDA, UNDP, Chile and Argentina have confirmed their commitment, and resources will be made available before or by the commencement date.

The Regional Centre anticipates, on the basis of discussions in progress, that FAO and IICA will be active contributors to the growth and expansion of the regional model forest network.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

Specialized expertise would be provided to model forest partners, through the Regional Centre, with a view to build capacity at the local level on issues of sustainable forest management and sustainable development, including economic development, decision-making systems, cross-sectoral partnership development, communications, measuring sustainability etc...

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

The Regional Centre would support exchanges of knowledge, know-how and appropriate technologies within the Latin America and Caribbean Network, and with the Canadian Model Forest Program and other existing Model Forest sites around the world. This would be facilitated through the development of specialized workshops, network-wide technical/scientific collaboration activities, exchange of experts and participation in the international model forest network forums.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description:

The Model Forest concept is directly supportive of the United Nations Forum on Forests and related international conventions (e.g., biodiversity, climate change and desertification). It is also very closely aligned with the development and implementation of National Forestry Programmes, the Montreal Process on criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, and the G8 Forest Action Programme. It supports the development theory embodied in the World Bank's Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF), which is "to seek a better balance in policy making by highlighting the interdependence of all elements of development – social, structural, human, governance, environmental, economic and financial".

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:

(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, newsletters, etc)

It is anticipated that monitoring visits will be undertaken annually, and progress reports produced every four months to coincide with the meetings of the Board of Directors of the Regional Centre. Project technical reports would be prepared upon completion of the various sub-projects by the lead technical specialist, and submitted to the Regional Centre. In addition, the Regional Centre would develop communications materials (printed materials, radio, television, and web-based) to inform of progress and disseminate information on knowledge generated.

It is expected that a participatory evaluation will be conducted prior to the completion of the project.

Other relevant information:

Based upon ongoing exchanges with Peru, Costa Rica, Panama and Ecuador, among others, proponents anticipate that the regional network has excellent prospects for further expansion within the three-year project period.

Web-site (if available): More information on the Model Forest concept can be obtained at <http://www.idrc.ca/imfn>

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