

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA \$3.16 MILLION

The official development assistance of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) for fiscal year 2012–2013 totalled \$3,161,257 delivered through the African Model Forest Initiative (AMFI), a follow-up to Canada's commitments made at the 2008 Francophonie Summit in Quebec City.

The AMFI aims to improve the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources in francophone Africa, including the Congo Basin and Mediterranean region (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) through a well-established approach to integrated natural resource management and social engagement pioneered by Canada more than twenty years ago.

The AMFI supports good governance, human resource development, local economic development, and responsible resource use in the context of integrating resource decision making on very large landscapes. Bilateral assistance is provided to local, regional and national organizations to support local initiatives aimed at enhancing ecological and community sustainability through Model Forest development. Activities undertaken by the AMFI make a positive contribution in support of transparent and inclusive decision-making processes related to natural resource management and land use among both government and civil society stakeholders.

The African Model Forest Network (AMFN) was established in 2009 as a subset of the International Model Forest Network, the Secretariat for which is based at NRCan. The AMFN's mission is to facilitate the development of a pan-African network of Model Forests representative of the continent's wealth and diversity. The AMFN currently includes Model Forests at various stages of development in Algeria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Rwanda, and Tunisia. Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia are also involved in the Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN), which includes Model Forest initiatives in Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey. The MMFN and AMFI are two of six regional networks of the International Model Forest Network that represent a global learning network in support of sustainable resource management.

Through the AMFI, NRCan supports partnerships between the AMFN and Canadian Model Forests, universities and non-governmental organizations in areas of participatory governance, community and economic development, research and capacity building.

Between 2010 and 2012 NRCan actively supported, along with the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Government of Canada's Facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. NRCan views the AMFI program as a key contribution to the success of the Facilitation. The AMFI also works with Canadian organizations with the aim of integrating and complementing programming where possible. The Congo Basin is one of the regions with the most severe illegal logging problems in the world, causing serious economic, social and environmental problems.