



Landscape Governance and Model Forests

 International Model Forest Network

Peter Besseau
February 6, Interlaken, Switzerland

imfn.net

General features of good governance



- Rights and responsibilities well defined and respected
- An active culture of participation and civic discourse
- Transparency in process and decision-making
- Fairness
- Accountability
- *And when its not there, the inverse (+/-) applies*



When and in what way is governance a problem:



- When in some measure it is absent
- When it exists but is poorly developed
- When it is developed adequately but is not respected or used
- When it is well-developed but the purpose for which it was designed change significantly

Model Forests represent a construct for landscape-scale governance in place since 1992 domestically and since 1994 internationally.



- Its origins were in a governance-based conflict in Canada in early 1990s:

“the war in the woods”

Model Forest Attributes:

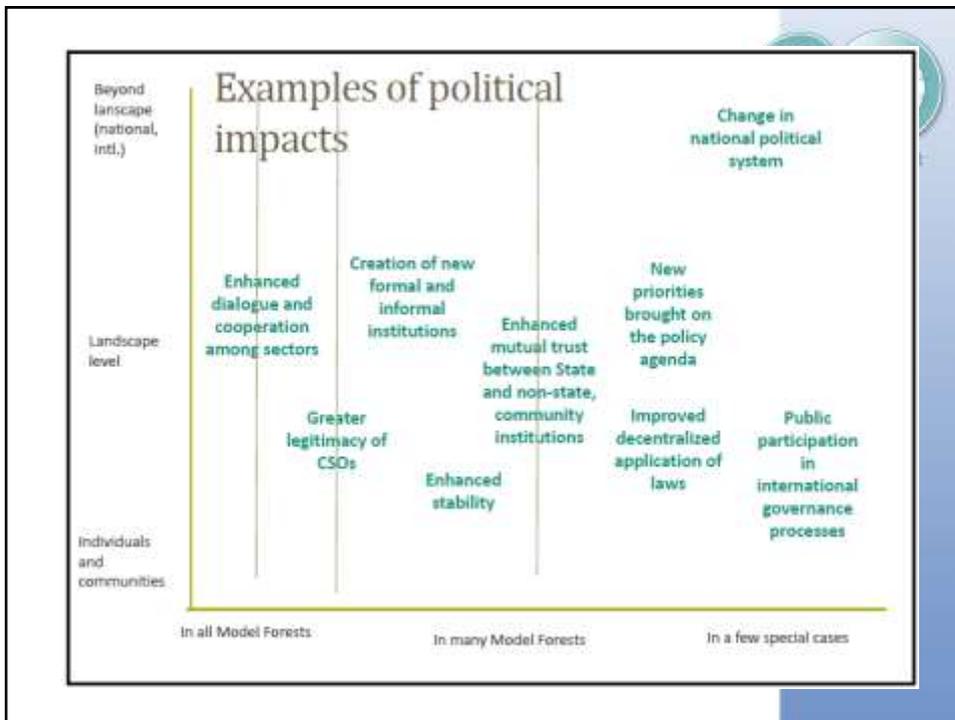
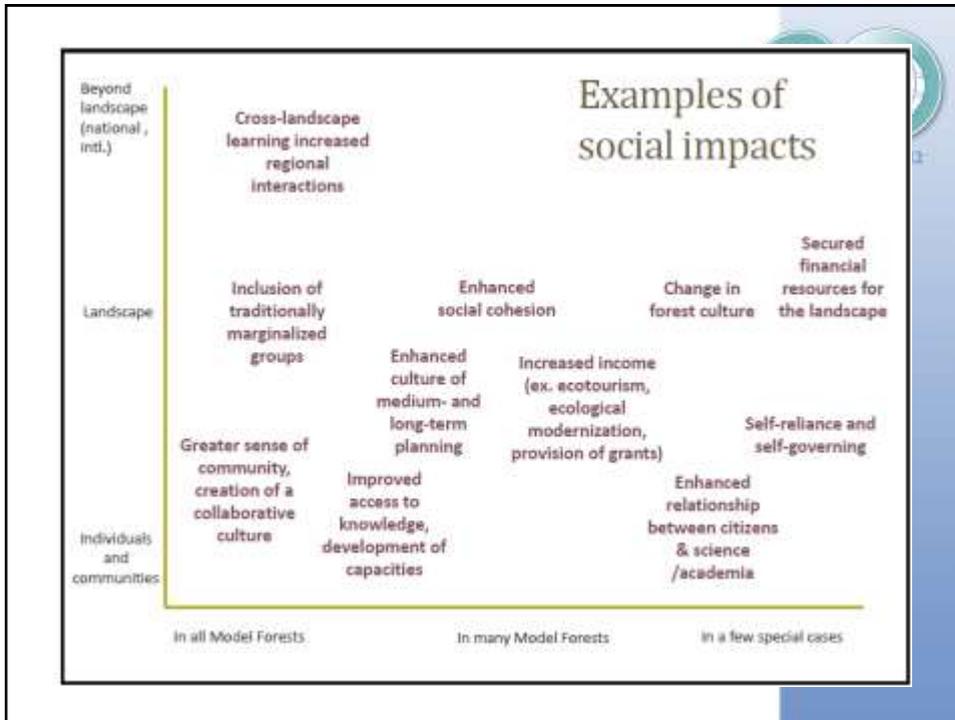


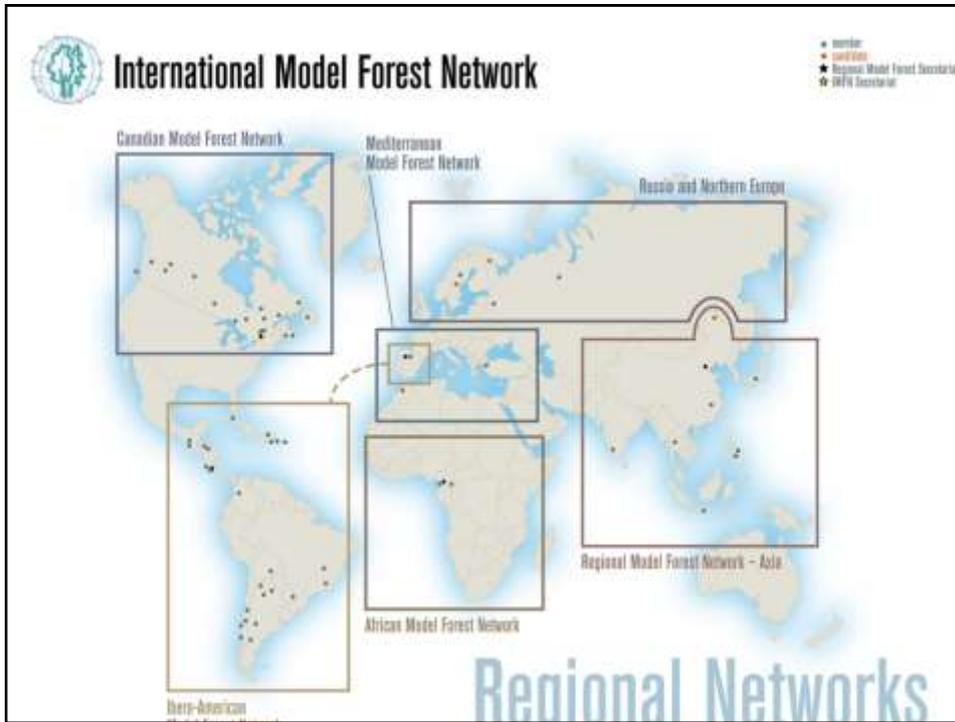
- Landscape scale
- Voluntary partnership as complex as the land-uses found in that landscape – interest based
- Commitment of all to sustainability
- Transparent accountable governance of the partnership
- Program of work reflective of partner values
- Commitment to share and learn from local to international levels in IMFN and beyond
- *(no power is surrendered or exchanged)*

What does this give us?



- A 20+ year experiment that is more practice-driven than theory-derived
- A structured but informal – *interest-based* - approach that can begin to fill the governance gap, create more promising ground for formal governance structures to take root, supplement existing structures.
- Adaptive Governance (Hatfield-Dodd, 2007) ...*the ways in which institutional arrangements evolve to satisfy the needs and desires of the community in a changing environment*
- Transformative Participation (White, 1996) ...*alters the structures, institutions, social relations and capacity gaps that are at the source of exclusion.*





Thank you!



www.imfn.net

