



Red Iberoamericana
de Bosques Modelo

RIABM

Ibero-American Model Forest Network

Model Forest and Food Security in Ibero-America

The growing threat of climate change and economic globalization has been in public debate often provoking questions of food security, an issue closely linked to social and environmental factors. Model Forests are a platform that seek the participation and partnerships between organizations and institutions to move towards sustainable development offering a possible way of addressing the challenges of food production in the region.

Food security for the most vulnerable populations can only be addressed by ensuring more sustainable production systems that offer real solutions to the externalities of climate change and economic globalization.

Experts in the field say that complex problems such as those associated with food systems, closely linked to environmental and social variables can only be adequately addressed through a participatory approach and with a long-term vision based on a review of the traditional systems' food crops and agricultural practices.

Model Forests are areas for sustainable development offering a forum for the management of projects and initiatives that explore how to ensure food security throughout Latin America and the world.

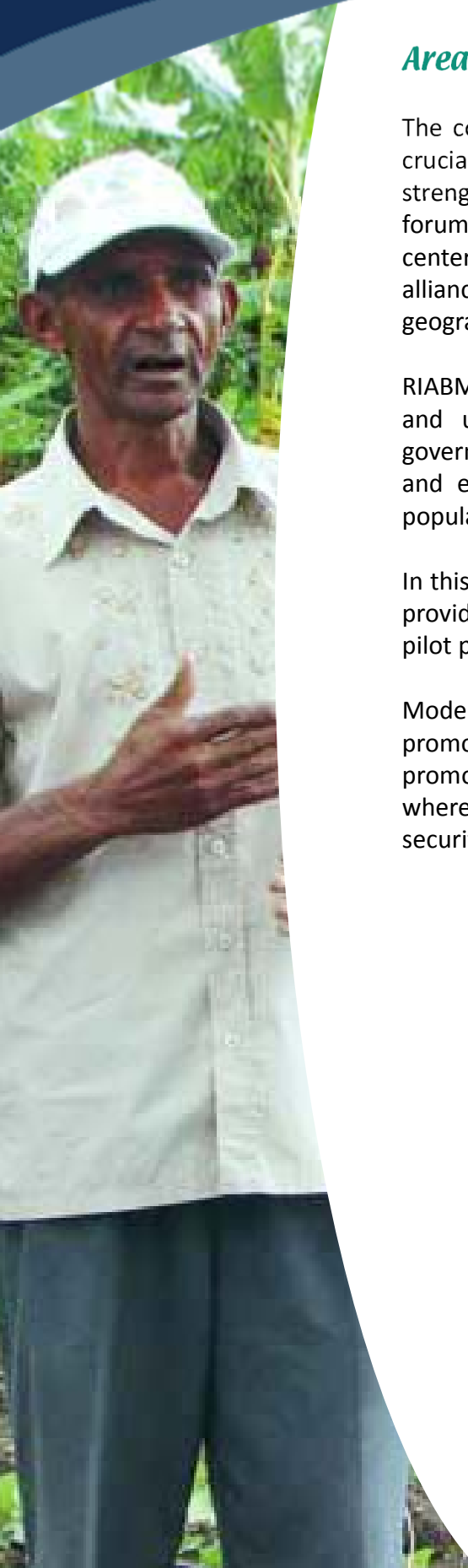
The Ibero-American Model Forest Network's (RIABM) development initiatives focus on addressing the global food crisis must meet basic criteria for replication at the landscape level, cultural acceptability and must not place additional burdens on working woman in the field. The vision is that such projects generate alternatives for agricultural communities while valuing traditional knowledge and practices for distributing and consuming their own food locally

Miembro de



Nuestros socios





Areas of Governance and Food Security

The contribution of Model Forest to local, regional and global food security is crucial. Model Forest territories in Latin America have been moving towards strengthening participatory governance structures, which constitute a strong forum where civil society, NGOs, governments, international agencies, research centers, the private sector and other stakeholders can discuss and create alliances to support sustainable forestry and agricultural management in large geographical areas.

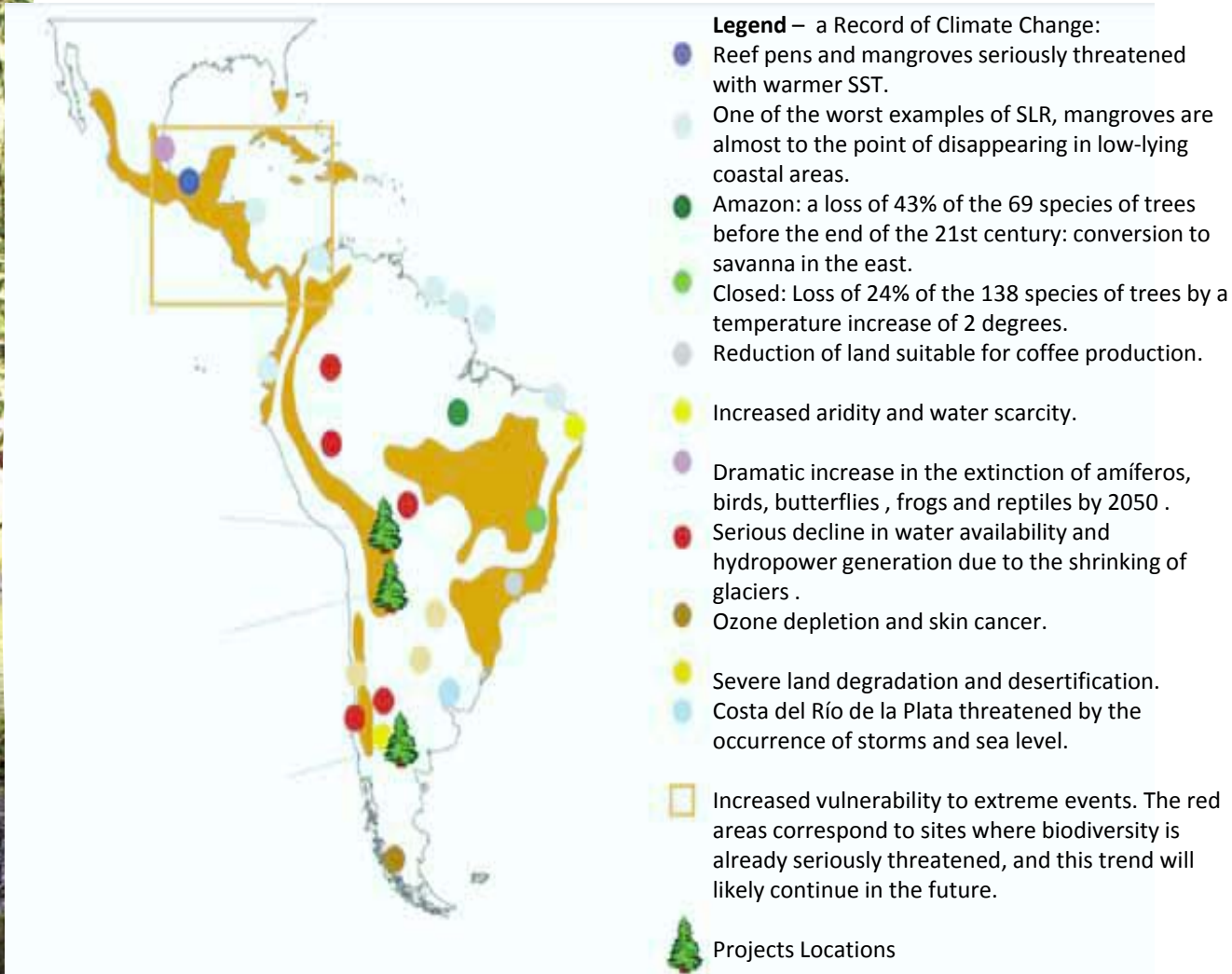
RIABM is comprised of several forest and agricultural areas covering both rural and urban areas and has developed their own models of participatory governance. Many of these areas also coincide with areas where climate change and extreme poverty underscore the need to ensure food for marginalized populations.

In this context, RIABM and other regional Model Forests in places such as Africa, provide territories with ideal governance processes to implement research and pilot projects on issues of food security and climate change (see Figure 1).

Model Forests and RIABM are strong agents for generating knowledge, promoting the exchange of experiences, facilitate impact on decision making and promoting sustainable rural development. They have become appropriate spaces where different actors can work together to build models of sustainable food security.



Figure 1. Location of some Model Forest (tree icon) in relation to the highlighted climate change in Latin America. Source: FFLA Regional consultation on climate change and poverty (Kakabadse et al and Dumas, 2009).



The Ibero-American Model Forest Network (RIABM) links areas where initiatives for the proper management of forests and natural resources are conducted. RIABM is a voluntary partnership between Model Forests backed by government representatives from each member country, which is attached to the Secretariat of the International Model Forest Network (SIABM). The Network currently links 29 Model Forest territories, thanks to the commitment of 15 member countries.

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