



International Model Forest Network

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Enrico Rossi, Presidente della Regione Toscana
segreteria.giunta@regione.toscana.it
antoniodavide.barretta@regione.toscana.it
paolo.tedeschi@regione.toscana.it

Piazza del Duomo, 10
50122 Firenze FI

Marco Remaschi, Assessore Agricoltura e Foreste
marco.remaschi@regione.toscana.it
Via di Novoli 26
50126 FIRENZE
ITALIA

RE: Support for Tuscany Region Becoming Secretariat to the MMFN

Dear Dr. Rossi, Dear Dr. Remaschi,

I am writing to you from the Secretariat to the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) in Ottawa, Canada. We are very pleased to learn that, through Tuscany's Council Resolution no. 357, the Tuscany Region is interested in taking on the role of regional secretariat to the Mediterranean Model Forest Network!

Regrettably, we cannot attend MedForum 2019 where the transition from Spain to Italy will take place but wish to warmly welcome your team to the IMFN. We have known Toni, Elisabetta and Stefano of Fiorentina Model Forest for some time now and have consistently been impressed with their level of professionalism, dedication and interest in the Model Forest approach. We have every confidence the Tuscany Region will fulfill the secretariat role with the energy, ideas and vigour the region requires to continue to flourish.

Allow me a few words to confirm what the role of a regional network secretariat entails. As you know, through the network structure, Model Forest stakeholders and participants are committed to local, regional and international knowledge sharing and networking. By design, Model Forests and regional networks are intended to 'speed up' sustainability programming, processes and policy influence. They do this by exchanging experiences and lessons learned, strengthening local capacity to engage in the sustainable management of natural resources, and sharing their achievements and challenges with others.

Regional Model Forest networks define, articulate and manage a regional program of work by those who know the area best. These regional programs may be formal or informal and reflect

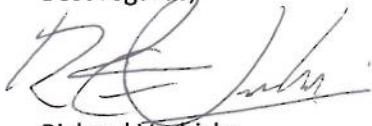
the priorities, strengths and opportunities that are unique to a particular region. In this context, the MedForum 2019 program which focuses on *Forest-based solutions: Model Forest impacts in the Mediterranean and Beyond* is of strategic importance to inform and help the regional secretariat fulfill its functions which include:

- Networking between Model Forests within a region
- Assistance in resource expansion
- Regional communications, advocacy, capacity development and program support
- Regional partnership development
- Documentation, monitoring and evaluation
- Review and approval of new Model Forest members in the Regional Network (in coordination with the IMFN Secretariat)

I look forward to learning about the outcomes of the MedForm meeting and building a long and enriching relationship with the Tuscany Region in Italy – as a strong ally and voice for Mediterranean Model Forests as well as the IMFN as a whole. In that sense, I would like to propose a call in the very near future to get to know each other better and deepen our cooperation. In the meantime, a member of my staff, Ms. Christa Mooney, remains the main contact for Model Forests in the Mediterranean region and stands ready to provide any technical assistance needed as you take on this new role.

Thank you again for your support!

Best regards,



Richard Verbisky
Head, IMFN Secretariat
Natural Resources Canada- Canadian Forest Service
580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Richard.Verbisky@canada.ca
Skype: Richard.Verbisky

