

Margowitan Model Forest

Where forests and communities prosper

Member of the Regional Model Forest Network – Asia since 2004

Landscape snapshot

Margowitan Model Forest spans volcanic mountain ranges, with rivers winding through its lowland and upland areas.



Landscape highlights

The Model Forest is a popular destination for hiking and camping, with several well-known mountains.

Mount Arjuno-Welirang
(3,339 metres above sea level)

Mount Lawu
(3,265 metres above sea level)

Mount Wilis
(2,563 metres above sea level)

East Java, Indonesia

Ngawi
Madiun
Ponorogo
Magetan



AREA
451,321 hectares

covering 4 regencies:
• Madiun • Ponorogo
• Ngawi • Magetan



HUMAN POPULATION
3,309,705 inhabitants
across 963 villages



Forest profile

~ 77,990

hectares
of **production**
forests



Forest types

~ 1,693

hectares
of **nature**
reserves

~ 39,209

hectares
of **protection**
forests



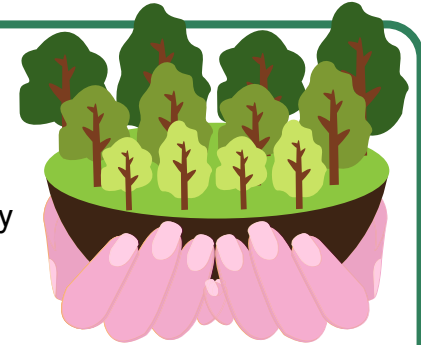
- Within Perhutani's 118,893 hectares of forest, certain areas are co-managed with local communities



- A total of 2,327 hectares of community forest is managed by 18 village communities from the municipalities of Madiun, Ngawi, and Ponorogo.



- There are 379 community-led village forestry institutions, known locally as Lembaga Masyarakat Desa Hutan (LMDHs) with over 70,000 members. LMDHs are locally governed organizations that steward forests to sustain nature and improve lives.



Biodiversity highlights

At least 49 protected species thrive here.

27 flora species



Dendrobium
capra orchid



Indian
rosewood



bilian

22 fauna species



Sunda
pangolin



green
peafowl

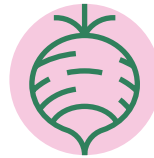


Javan
leopard



Notable achievements

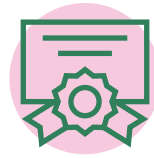
Agroforestry



- 800 hectares of konjac cultivation in Madiun Regency
 - key agricultural export to East Asia generating up to USD 7,000 per year per farmer



- 60 hectares of degraded forest lands transformed into multi-forestry business
 - cash crops integrated into weeping paperbark plantations with shared profits between Perum Perhutani and local farmers



- 4 Forest Management Units in Margowitan Model Forest have received mandatory and voluntary Sustainable Forest Management certificates

The Margowitan Model Forest: Production forests for people and nature



Established in 2004, the Margowitan Model Forest covers 118,893 hectares of forested areas in four municipalities, including 77,990 hectares of production forests planted with teak, mahogany, pine, and other valuable timber species.

Its management is based on a collaborative partnership between the state forest company Perum Perhutani, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, local farmer cooperatives and the local government. This forestry approach, locally known as 'pengelolaan hutan bersama masyarakat' (managing forests with communities), has been practiced since 2001 to combat forest degradation and reduce local poverty through sustainable forest management, with an emphasis on active community participation.

Over the years, the Margowitan Model Forest has promoted harmony between ecological conservation and economic welfare. Currently, there are 379 community-led village forestry institutions (or LMDHs) that have entered into agreements with Perum Perhutani for sustainable livelihood activities within state-owned forest areas. The protected plantations, for example, offer land for local people to cultivate cash crops, forming thriving agroforestry systems and land-use practices that integrate sustainable forestry with agriculture.

Agroforestry at Margowitan generates sustainable income and livelihoods, easing pressure on timberlands. One of the most sought-after crops is the konjac tuber. With high demand in East Asia, its sale can provide annual returns of up to USD 7,000 per farmer.

In 2019, Perum Perhutani and 92 local farmers began a co-operative scheme for multi-forestry business. Around 60 hectares of degraded forest areas were planted with weeping paperbark and cash crops such as corn, rice, avocado, and orange.

The Margowitan Model Forest also creates an ecosystem of mutual support where local initiatives reinforce each other's long-term sustainability. In Magetan, for example, a women-led dairy cooperative of 75 members helps boost local dairy sales. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they signed a USD 368,000 contract to produce brown sugar ginger milk for the local government. Their income is further supported by visitors from Mojosemi Forest Park and Lawu Green Park, who purchase dairy products directly in their village. Local ecotourism provides the cooperative with access to a wider market, strengthening community-led growth through sustainable ecosystem services.

Current work



Reducing forest disturbances: Forest fires and illegal logging have declined over the past decade, thanks to increased community awareness and restoration programmes.



Income generation: Porang plantations and community-run forest recreation areas provide livelihoods through agriculture, handicrafts and local employment, boosting prosperity and inspiring similar initiatives beyond the Model Forest.

Future priorities



Resource mobilization: Expand stakeholder involvement and introduce Model Forest concepts to new regions.



Ministry support: Secure national focal point and backing from the Ministry of Forestry.



Exposure: Promote successes and products nationally and internationally.

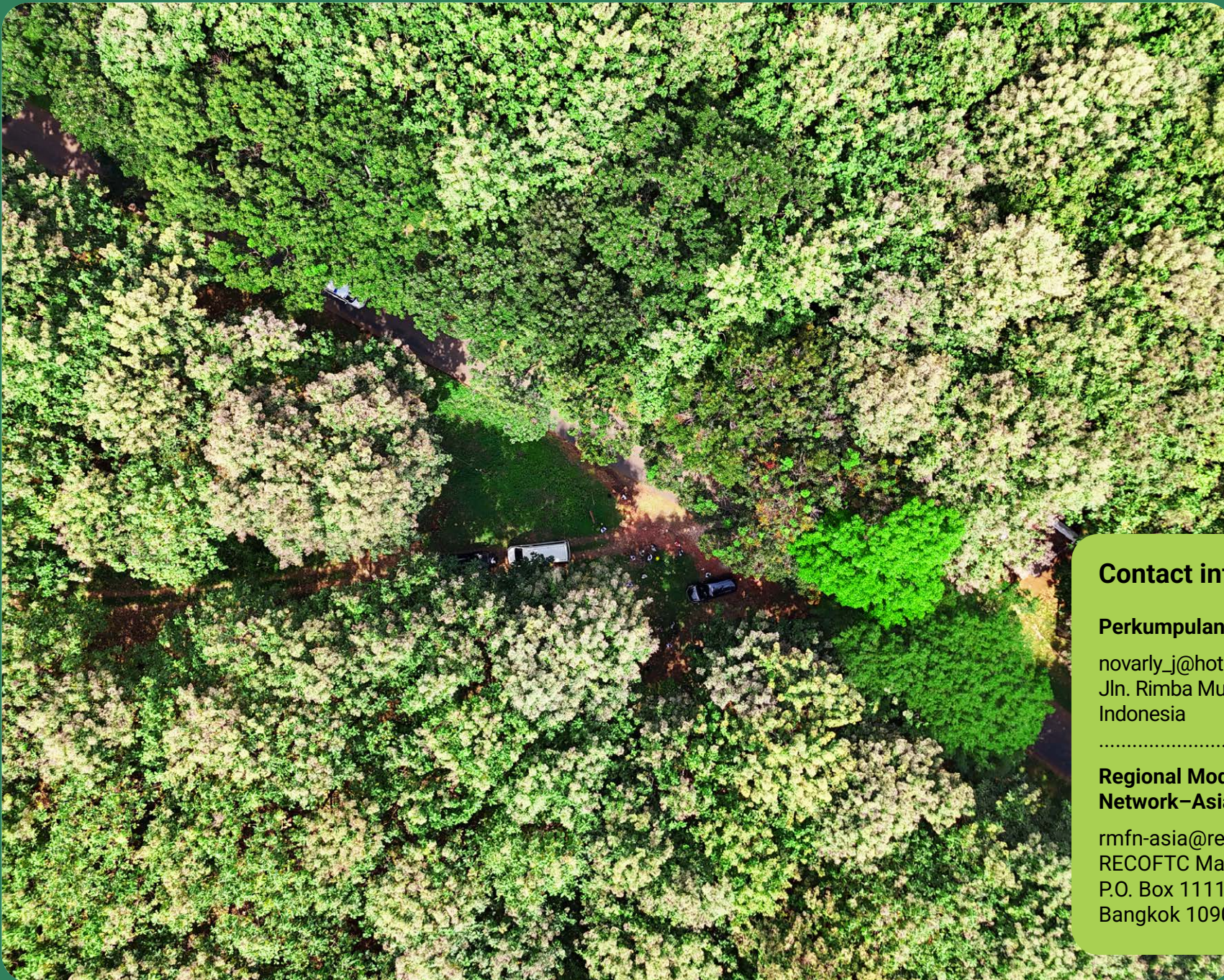


Donor engagement: Attract funding for future programmes.

IMFN Climate 2025-2026 and REVIVE-Asia 2026-2029

Through collaboration and funding support from the International Model Forest Network (IMFN), the Model Forest is implementing the Field School project, a capacity-building initiative designed to help communities comply with new forest regulations and increase environmental awareness among youth.

The Model Forest is also a pilot landscape under the Post-fire forest and landscape restoration: Strengthening community-led nature-based solutions for food system transformation in Asia (REVIVE-Asia) project. REVIVE-Asia aims to advance inclusive and financially viable nature-based solutions models and partnership approaches for food system transformation and climate resilience in Model Forests in Asia.



Vision

Working together with multiple stakeholders to support sustainable forest management practices on the ground.

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