

Dr. Suzanne Simard

Professor of Forest Ecology in the Faculty of Forestry & Environmental Stewardship at the University of British Columbia, Lead of Mother Tree Project and Program.

Short Bio

Word Count: 75

Dr. Suzanne Simard is a Professor of Forest Ecology at the [University of British Columbia](#) and leads the [Mother Tree Project and Program](#). Her research—showing that forests are cooperative, connected networks—has revolutionized forest ecology. Her [TED Talk](#) has reached millions, and her bestselling book *Finding the Mother Tree* continues to capture global interest. Named one of [TIME's 100 most influential people in the world](#) in 2024, she champions regenerative forestry rooted in Indigenous knowledge.

Long Bio

Word Count: 290

Dr. Suzanne Simard is a Professor of Forest Ecology at the [University of British Columbia](#) and the leader of the [Mother Tree Project and Program](#). Her pioneering research has revolutionized forest ecology by revealing that forests are not collections of isolated trees but deeply interconnected communities.

Dr. Simard is best known for identifying “Mother Trees”—large, highly connected trees that act as central hubs in underground mycorrhizal networks, facilitating nutrient exchange and supporting regeneration, biodiversity, and resilience. Her ongoing research investigates how these relationships foster forest adaptability and recovery, especially in the face of climate change.

Launched in 2015, the Mother Tree Project is a large-scale scientific experiment across a 900-km climate gradient, examining how the retention of old trees affects carbon storage, biodiversity, and regenerative forestry. From the outset, the project has been rooted in a collaborative research model that integrates Western science with ancestral Indigenous knowledge. A vital advocate for Indigenous-led stewardship, Dr. Simard emphasizes the central role of traditional ecological knowledge in guiding sustainable forest management and healing human relationships with nature.

An internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Simard has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications and shared her work globally—shaping fields from forestry and conservation to filmmaking and education. Her TED Talk, [How Trees Talk to One Another](#), has reached more than 10 million viewers, and her award-winning book *Finding the Mother Tree* (Penguin Random House, 2021) has inspired readers worldwide with its blend of science and storytelling. In 2024, she was named one of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world for her profound impact on conservation and forest advocacy.

Through research, collaboration, and storytelling, Dr. Simard continues to empower communities to restore and protect forests by embracing both scientific and Indigenous ways of knowing.