SFI CONSERVATION IMPACT SOUNDING BOARD WORKSHOP

Thursday May 18, 2023
(Following the SFI Annual Conference)
The Westin Bayshore - 1601 Bayshore Dr., Vancouver, BC V6G 2V4

Why should you attend?

1. Explore how SFI's Conservation Impact Project research helps address your Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) requirements through nature-positive solutions.
2. Interact with current SFI Conservation Grant recipients on projects involving eDNA, climate-smart forestry, Indigenous Peoples' perspectives in conservation research, and fire resiliency.
3. Learn to leverage SFI conservation research to communicate the environmental benefits of forest management and your SFI certification.
4. Offers insights into guiding SFI's future conservation research to ensure its usefulness for ESG reporting, provides guidance for certified organizations and verifiers to fulfill SFI standards, and examines other topics of concern.

> **Not yet registered?**
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> Register for the FREE Conservation Sounding Board Workshop
> **here**

More information on the history of the SFI Conservation Impact Sounding Board is provided at the end of this agenda.

AGENDA

Sounding Board Workshop

Join us to discuss emerging trends, tools, and projects related to nature-positive solutions and ESG. All sessions are interactive—and participants are encouraged to offer observations and recommendations.

1:30 – 1:40 p.m.	**Welcome & Introduction to SFI's Conservation Impact Project and Overview of the Workshop –** *Lauren Cooper, Chief Conservation Officer, SFI*

I. The Nature-Positive Challenge

An overview of new developments in ESG around enhanced disclosure requirements and related terms such as "nature-positive" and "regenerative." Includes discussion of how tools and techniques such as eDNA may make meeting these requirements feasible.

1:40 – 2:00 p.m.	**The ESG Landscape** – *Daniel O'Brien, Partner, Sustainable Business Solutions, PwC Canada; member of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)* • Sets the stage by discussing his role on the TNFD and the Data Catalyst Initiative (DCI), and the key issues related to nature-related data to help combat the twin global challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. • Shares insights on the role of certification in addressing the TNFD disclosure framework for the forest sector.
2:00 – 2:20 p.m.	**Tools to Meet the Future** – *Dr. JJ Apodaca, Lead Scientist and Founder, Tangled Bank Conservation; Executive Director, Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy* • Describes the work of Tangled Bank Conservation and how companies like it can support others in meeting future biodiversity assessment needs. • Shares information on eDNA technique and how it can be utilized to effectively meet diverse assessment and reporting needs.

II. Meeting the Challenge

This session offers examples of SFI conservation work that employs new and innovative techniques and demonstrates the practical application of these emerging tools to address ESG and issues, meet SFI-certification requirements, and collaborate with Indigenous Communities to better integrate traditional knowledge into sustainable forest management.

2:25 – 2:50 p.m.	**Conservation Impact Grant: eDNA Effects of Pre- and Post-Fire Forest Management on Aquatic Biodiversity: An Evaluation of Fire Resiliency and Recovery -** *Dr. Ashley Coble, Forest Watershed Scientist, NCASI*

	• Showcases research into using eDNA to evaluate the status of aquatic biodiversity in areas certified to SFI's Forest Management Standard compared to areas no-certified areas. • Provides an example of how eDNA can benefit sustainable forestry operations.
2:50 – 3:15 p.m.	**Conservation Impact Grant: Assessing the Effectiveness of Enhanced Riparian Management in Penticton Indian Band Area of Responsibility** – *James Pepper Director, Penticton Indian Band (PIB) Natural Resources* • Shows how SFI is continuing to advance Indigenous rights, recognition, reconciliation, and relationships. • Examines a project linking the Indigenous worldview of the Penticton Indian Band's Riparian Standard with the SFI Forest Management Standard. • Elevates innovative work that joins assessment methodologies based on direct engagement with Sylix Elders and Knowledge Keepers with more "conventional" approaches based on scientific knowledge.
3:15 – 3:30 p.m.	**BREAK**

III. Striving for Metrics and Impact

This session provides an opportunity to have a dialogue about your conservation priorities and the work of the SFI Conservation Impact Project. How can you communicate about these topics? How can SFI best address these topics in the future? How do ESG, nature-positive, and regenerative goals and aspirations relate to sustainable forestry? What types of research would be most useful to you? What tools do you need?

3:30 – 3:50 p.m.	**Communicating Conservation Impact for Nature-Positive Outcomes** – *Dr. Darren Sleep, Lead Scientist, SFI* • Provides examples of SFI conservation-related research that can help tell your ESG story as it relates to climate, biodiversity, and/or water. • Demonstrates successful messaging tools and resources. Discusses other ways SFI can help certified organizations tell their stories and share the forestry community's collective impact.
3:50– 4:20 p.m.	**Dialogue session: The Future of Conservation Impact –** *Leonardo Viana, VP Conservation Collaboration, SFI* • Provides feedback to the SFI conservation team about key issues. • With the arrival of new a Chief Conservation Officer and Chief Scientist, there is an opportunity boost SFI's Conservation Impact work. This session looks at future SFI activities for building on our "Decade of Success" by further demonstrating the impact and scale of SFI certification, programs, and initiatives. • A discussion of how to increase clarity around topics like nature-positive, regenerative forestry, and ESG. This includes associated challenges (e.g., data limitation) as well as opportunities (e.g., improved communication about

	benefits), around SFI's three thematic areas of research (climate change, biodiversity, and water)
4:20 – 4:30 p.m.	**Next Steps and Closing**

ABOUT SFI'S CONSERVATION IMPACT PROJECT

To facilitate good decision-making and to help make the case for the value of sustainability, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) began work in 2015 to quantify the conservation benefits of sustainable forest management. By clarifying beneficial conservation outcomes, SFI demonstrates the link between well-managed forests and the benefits they generate for each of us every day.

Forests certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard cover more than 351 million acres (142 million hectares) in the United States and Canada. Additional benefits accrue from millions of additional acres/hectares affected by the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. To ensure relevancy to key stakeholders, SFI focuses Conservation Impact Project research in three thematic areas: climate change, biodiversity, and water quality and quantity.

The Conservation Impact Sounding Board was formed to bring together partners engaged in or knowledgeable about SFI's conservation impact work to help SFI clarify and enumerate its conservation contributions. Effective measurement of conservation impact is founded in credible science that resonates with key audiences. The Sounding Board encourages participation by a wide range of stakeholders. Workshops feature an interactive format to stimulate discussion and explore concepts that build understanding of the conservation attributes of sustainably managed forests.

About SFI's Conservation Impact Workshop Speakers:

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO SFI'S CONSERVATION IMPACT PROJECT AND OVERVIEW OF THE WORKSHOP

LAUREN COOPER
Chief Conservation Officer
Sustainable Forestry Initiative

DR. HEALY HAMILTON
Chief Scientist
Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Lauren Cooper joined the SFI team as Chief Conservation Officer in April 2023 but is no stranger to SFI. Lauren hails from Michigan State University where she is a doctorate student in Forestry and Human Dimensions and led their Forest Carbon and Climate Program. As a former SFI grantee, she has collaborated with SFI on creating e-learning content about connecting managed forests with carbon and climate benefits for this program. Lauren has served as a convener, moderator, and facilitator for numerous high-level climate events, workshops, and climate education. She also brings international experience working with Indigenous communities in North and South America. She currently serves as a steering committee member with the Women's Forest Congress and on the Forest-Climate Working Group Lauren provides leadership to SFI's conservation pillar through internal and external network collaborations and leads development of SFI's climate-smart forestry and fire resiliency and awareness in the standards.

Dr. Healy Hamilton joined SFI's Senior Leadership Team as Chief Scientist in April 2023 but has been a long-respected partner with SFI. Healy previously served as Chief Scientist for NatureServe, and has collaborated on numerous SFI grants and projects, with particular focus on scientifically assessing biodiversity within SFI's certified forest land. Healy's impressive track record of leading high-profile and impactful research projects includes developing the most comprehensive and detailed map of species extinction risk, in collaboration with the Environmental Systems Research Institute and The Nature Conservancy. She is also an elected member of the Executive Committee for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature U.S. National Committee. Healy holds a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley, and an MA in Environmental Studies from Yale University's School of the Environment. As SFI's Chief Scientist, Healy works collaboratively and strategically across SFI's pillars to support scaling conservation impact and serves as a science liaison with the wider conservation and scientific community, to further the role of sustainable forest management in species recovery, climate-smart forestry, and conservation outcomes.

THE ESG LANDSCAPE

DANIEL O'BRIEN

Partner, Sustainable Business Solutions, PwC Canada;
Member of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial
Disclosures (TNFD)

Daniel O'Brien is a Partner with PwC Canada with a practice focused on Sustainability and Climate Change. He also represents PwC globally as a member of the Task Force for Nature Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) and leads the data working group. His career has focused on working with organizations to understand and manage environmental risk and support strategy to adapt and align with the future economy. He works with companies across sectors, advising on nature-related risk and carbon reduction strategies, energy management programs, low/ zero emission transportation, and environmental management systems. Dan is a Registered Professional Biologist and an accomplished landscape ecologist with research and consulting experience in spatio-temporal landscape modeling, satellite image analysis, natural disturbance, habitat supply and population modeling, and analysis of landscape connectivity.

TOOLS TO MEET THE FUTURE

Dr. JJ Apodaca

Lead Scientist and Founder, Tangled Bank Conservation;
Executive Director, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Dr. JJ Apodaca is the lead scientist and founder of Tangled Bank Conservation and the Executive Director for the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy. He received his B.S. in Biology at the University of South Florida in 2004 and his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Alabama in 2010. He has worked on numerous conservation projects across the country, helping some of the most imperiled species in the United States. His research combines multiple fields and methods (i.e. conservation genetics, habitat-modeling, life history studies, etc.) in order to develop and inform optimal conservation and management decisions. JJ is currently a partner on a 2021 SFI Conservation Grant.

CONSERVATION IMPACT GRANT: EDNA EFFECTS OF PRE- AND POST-FIRE FOREST MANAGEMENT ON AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY: AN EVALUATION OF FIRE RESILIENCY AND RECOVERY

DR. ASHLEY COBLE

Forest Watershed Scientist
NCASI

Dr. Ashley Coble is a senior scientist with NCASI where her research focuses on forested aquatic ecosystems. She has a PhD from Michigan Technological University in Aquatic Ecology, a MS from Northern Arizona University in terrestrial biogeochemistry, and a BA from Mount Holyoke College in Biology.

CONSERVATION IMPACT GRANT: ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENHANCED RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT IN PENTICTON INDIAN BAND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

JAMES PEPPER

Director
Penticton Indian Band (PIB) Natural Resources

PENTICTON INDIAN BAND

James Pepper DT., BSc., MSc., R.P.Bio has been working with First Nation communities in the field of Natural Resource Management for over 20 years. Mr. Pepper's primary focus has been to support the development of sustainable, community-driven Natural Resource Departments for First Nation communities that focus on community social, cultural, environmental and economic concerns. Currently, James is the Director for the Penticton Indian Band Natural Resource Department, a robust department whose 40+ staff implement many hundreds of unique projects across the Territory every year.

COMMUNICATING CONSERVATION IMPACT FOR NATURE-POSITIVE OUTCOMES

DR. DARREN SLEEP

Lead Scientist
Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Dr. Darren Sleep is SFI's Lead Scientist and is responsible for providing scientifically technical insight and leadership across all of SFI's pillars, partner collaborations, and relevant conservation issues. He serves on several regional, national, and international scientific advisory boards and brings expertise on wildlife management, species at risk, and forest science-policy integration to SFI, along with a passion for conservation, and communicating about science with the public. Darren holds graduate degrees from the University of Regina and University of Guelph.

DIALOGUE SESSION: THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION IMPACT

LEONARDO VIANA

VP Conservation Collaboration
Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Leo Viana is SFI's Vice President, Conservation Collaborations and provides leadership to SFI's Conservation Impact Project, SFI's Conservation Grants Program, and generates collaborative partnerships and promotion of conservation-related benefits of SFI-certified sustainably managed forests. He earned a graduate degree in ecology, conservation, and wildlife management from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil and brings over 20 years of experience working around the world toward the conservation of biodiversity.