

FOREST + PEOPLE + NATURE



2022 SFI PROGRESS REPORT



INSIGHTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Inspiration and optimism describe how we at the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) see 2023 and beyond. We continue to strive toward forest-, nature-, and people-positive outcomes by working collaboratively to advance sustainability across forest landscapes. In doing so, we are helping these diverse ecosystems adapt to climate change and other disturbances, to sequester atmospheric carbon dioxide and store it as carbon in trees and wood products. And as a result of these efforts, we are helping to contribute to a healthy economy and strong, prosperous communities.

Last year, we took important steps in our sustainability efforts by bolstering the SFI Forest Management Standard with Climate Smart Forestry and Fire Resilience and Awareness objectives. We know SFI standards positively impact biodiversity—studies have shown that certain species at risk are found in more abundance on SFI-certified forests than on adjacent lands. Healthy, biodiverse forests conserve soil and water, facilitate carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling, and support pollinators and natural insect pest predators like birds. And we know that well-managed forests are crucial in providing clean, abundant drinking water.

SFI is committed to creating positive change and we have the scale and networks across the U.S. and Canada to make that change.

We continue to focus on advancing Indigenous rights, recognition, and relationship building. A great example of this is our partnership with Sault College to create a series of nine online courses. These courses include such topics as Acknowledging Traditional and Treaty Territory, Understanding and Upholding the Duty to Consult, Developing an Indigenous Relations Training Program, and many more!

I'm also excited about the new SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard, developed in partnership with Arbor Day Foundation, Tree Canada, the International Society of Arboriculture, the Society of Municipal Arborists, and American Forests. I'm inspired by the thought that the standard can be a catalyst to ensure that everyone has access to trees in their communities—where they live, work, and play. These trees help combat climate change by capturing greenhouse gases and mitigating the heating of cities, while improving public health and well-being, providing recreation space, and so much more.

Through Project Learning Tree (PLT), we reached over 2 million students in 2022, via more than 11,000 educators that we helped train on how to use PLT environmental education resources. We also helped to place more than 1,300 young adults into PLT Canada Green Jobs, which brings our total to over 7,000 work placements since 2018. To top it all off, we've managed to ensure gender balance across all our job experiences, including over 1,000 Indigenous youth we helped place from over 100 communities.

I'm so pleased that we recently introduced the SFI-PLT-MANRRS *Black Faces in Green Spaces: The Journeys of Black Professionals in Green Careers* guide. This first-of-its-kind resource, which we developed in partnership with Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), highlights 22 Black Americans who share their personal stories about finding their passions and overcoming challenges, and who hope to inspire the next generation about exploring their own careers in the forest and conservation sector. The project was overseen by an SFI-MANRRS Advisory Committee, and Black-owned businesses were hired as consultants, designers, content writers, and photographers.

As you'll see in these pages, SFI helps certified organizations address important sustainability themes, from carbon, climate, and wildfire resilience to Indigenous Peoples' rights, environmental education, and growing a diverse workforce.

Supporting such themes in collaboration with our vast and engaged network is a huge part of why I love my job. I look forward to hearing from you and working collaboratively to advance forest-positive, people-positive, and nature-positive solutions now and in the years to come.



Kathy Abusow
President and CEO

SFI certification offers powerful tools and guidance to help producers of forest products make responsible supply chain decisions, achieve responsible forest management goals, and demonstrate to customers that they take sustainability very seriously.



SFI STANDARDS

GOAL: To advance sustainable forestry and responsible purchasing globally through certification standards and certified products.

350 MILLION ACRES CERTIFIED TO THE
140 MILLION HECTARES SFI FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

27% OF **FORTUNE 100** COMPANIES USED AN SFI ON-PRODUCT LABEL IN 2022

78% OF SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS REPORTED STEADY OR INCREASED DEMAND FOR SFI-CERTIFIED PRODUCTS—MORE THAN ANY OTHER FOREST CERTIFICATION STANDARD

NEARLY 800 SFI CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

The SFI data collected for this report is based on survey responses from SFI-certified organizations to understand their collective impact. Submission of an organization's annual survey response is a requirement of the SFI Forest Management and SFI Fiber Sourcing Standards. An individual organization's conformance to the SFI standards is verified using audits by a third-party, independent, and accredited certification body. You can view individual certified organization audit reports at <https://sfidatabase.org/search/search-for-audits>.

3 MILLION TREES WERE PLANTED EVERY DAY

BY SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS IN 2021



LESS THAN 1% OF FORESTS CERTIFIED TO THE SFI STANDARD WERE HARVESTED in 2021

SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS ENSURE THE FOREST IS REGENERATED AFTER HARVEST

SFI CERTIFICATION RELIES ON INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY AUDITS

A cornerstone of the SFI standards is third-party independent certification, which verifies that the requirements set out in the relevant SFI standard and supporting documents have been met. While SFI sets the standard, independent, third party-accredited certification bodies certify organizations to the SFI standards. Auditors from accredited certification bodies visit each organization to ensure operations in their forests, mills, plants, or other places of business conform to SFI's principles, objectives, performance measures, and indicators. After a successful audit against the SFI standards, public summaries are posted to the SFI website. These summaries include general descriptions of conformities, non-conformities, corrective action plans, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices.

SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS ARE **REQUIRED**

TO UNDERGO ANNUAL
SURVEILLANCE AUDITS BY



**AND ACCREDITED
CERTIFICATION
BODIES**



SFI IS ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS

SFI standards require SFI-certified organizations to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state, and local levels. Examples of social laws include civil rights, equal employment opportunities, gender equality, diversity, inclusion, anti-discrimination and antiharassment measures, workers' compensation, Indigenous Peoples' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety. SFI-certified organizations must also respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that meets the spirit and intent of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

SFI HELPS MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF WILDFIRES ON FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES

The new SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard includes a fire resiliency objective that requires forest managers to act to reduce fire risk and work closely with communities to better manage and prepare for wildfire across SFI's immense footprint. Project Learning Tree, an initiative of SFI, offers Nature of Fire, which features three learning activities that help educators of students in grades 6–8 investigate wildfire and ecosystem change. It is a valuable resource that can help organizations meet their objectives in community outreach and awareness.



1/3 OF SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS

RAISE AWARENESS OF

**THE BENEFITS OF
FIRE MANAGEMENT
THROUGH YOUTH EDUCATION**



SFI HAS AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The SFI standards revision process ensures credibility and transparency by allowing everyone to participate. The revision process follows international standards development guidelines and is based on principles of stakeholder engagement, balanced representation, consensus, continual improvement, and transparency.

SFI works to increase nature-positive outcomes, including climate and fire resiliency, species maintenance and recovery, and water quantity and quality. In addition, the SFI standard requires certified organizations to conduct a risk assessment to avoid using controversial sources.



SFI STANDARDS SUPPORT CLIMATE-SMART FORESTRY

Forests play a vital role in capturing atmospheric carbon, making sustainably managed forests one of the most, and often overlooked, nature-based solutions to the climate crisis. The SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard contains a climate-smart forestry objective that requires forest managers to identify climate change risks and tackle them head on through reducing emissions from their operations or increasing carbon capture.

A GLOBAL REACH IN COLLABORATION WITH PEFC

SFI's long partnership with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) strengthens both organizations. SFI's standards are endorsed by PEFC, an international organization that endorses national forest certification systems developed collaboratively by diverse stakeholders, tailored to local priorities and conditions. SFI's footprint comprises about half of the area covered by PEFC-endorsed standards worldwide. SFI and PEFC collaborate on a wide variety of topics, including market recognition.

SFI
IS **INTERNATIONALLY**
ENDORSED
BY **PEFC**

SFI IS ENDORSED BY PEFC TO SUPPORT GLOBAL REACH AND COLLABORATION



SFI CERTIFICATION
ACCOUNTS FOR

ALMOST
50%
OF PEFC
CERTIFICATIONS
WORLDWIDE

PRODUCTS CERTIFIED TO SFI
ARE SOLD IN MORE THAN

118 COUNTRIES

NEARLY 800 SFI-CERTIFIED
ORGANIZATIONS

HAVE POSITIVELY
IMPACTED NEARLY

1,800
COMMUNITIES

ACROSS THE U.S., CANADA,
AND GLOBALLY

SFI CONSERVATION

GOAL: To advance credible and effective solutions to environmental challenges through the SFI standards and leadership initiatives.

630 DIFFERENT
CONSERVATION, COMMUNITY, EDUCATION &
RESEARCH PROJECTS
REPORTED BY SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS
IN 2021

WITH MORE THAN

840 UNIQUE
PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS
IN MULTIPLE SECTORS



- 24% GOVERNMENT
- 15% COMMUNITY
- 14% CONSERVATION
- 13% ACADEMIC
- 9% RESEARCH
- 8% INDIGENOUS
- 2% SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES
- 14% OTHER



SFI AWARDED NEW CONSERVATION GRANTS

for research into water quality, wildland fires, conservation of species at risk, biodiversity, and more.



SFI WORKS TO PROTECT WATER AND HEALTHY SOIL

Healthy, well-managed forests provide clean water for streams, lakes, and other water bodies, as well as public drinking water. Approximately 14.7 trillion U.S. gallons of water run through SFI-certified forests every year. That's enough to sustain Niagara Falls for more than six years. The SFI Forest Management Standard and the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard require the protection of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and healthy soils. *(Research conducted in collaboration with NCASI.)*

SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SPENT OVER
\$60 MILLION
ON RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIONS
RELATED TO



SFI-CERTIFIED FORESTS PROVIDE HABITAT



SFI STRIVES TO MAINTAIN AND PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY AND SPECIES RECOVERY

Studies have shown that several species of concern can often be found in more abundance within SFI-certified forests than within the surrounding landscape. SFI-certified organizations work to maintain or advance the conservation of biological diversity across their lands. These efforts include the conservation of forest plants and animals, aquatic species, threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old growth forests, and ecologically important sites. *(Research conducted in collaboration with the American Bird Conservancy.)*

SFI PUBLISHED A REPORT SUMMARIZING 10 YEARS OF CONSERVATION SUCCESS

in three priority areas: climate change and carbon, biodiversity, and water quality and quantity.

SFI'S IMMENSE FOREST LANDSCAPE STORES AN AMOUNT OF CO₂e ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THE TOTAL EMISSIONS OF ALL THE WORLD'S CARS OVER

38 YEARS



THREE RESEARCH PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS FROM SFI'S CONSERVATION IMPACT: A DECADE OF SUCCESS

CLIMATE CHANGE: SFI collaborated with American Forests to develop an approach to include soils in forest carbon calculations, because soils can account for a sizeable, at times unconsidered, amount of carbon storage. This allows for better understanding of whole-ecosystem carbon dynamics. One Conservation Impact study area showed that, when the cumulative harvest, including long-lived wood products, was added to the greenhouse gas balance, SFI-certified forests acted as carbon sinks.

BIODIVERSITY: SFI collaborated with the American Bird Conservancy to examine the needs of a wide variety of bird species in decline, and their presence on select SFI-certified pilot areas, to help build understanding of broader ecosystem health and sustainable forest management. Many of the focal species were more abundant within SFI-certified forests, including Prairie Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Wood Thrush.

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY: SFI collaborated with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to develop two management decision support tools to help plan activities around waterways to ensure protection of water quality and quantity. The Active River Area project helps identify riparian areas and freshwater conservation and restoration strategies and actions.

Such management decision tools matter due to the reach and scale of water resources flowing from SFI-certified forestlands. A collaborative project of SFI and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) determined that waterways on SFI-certified forestlands are collectively long enough to reach around the world 50 times, underscoring the importance of these forests to water supplies throughout North America.

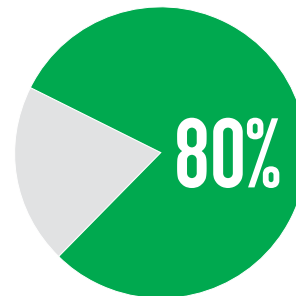
\$78 MILLION
IN FOREST RESEARCH IN 2021

NO OTHER FORESTRY
STANDARD HAS A
RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

\$1.9 BILLION
DIRECTLY INVESTED IN FOREST RESEARCH
BY SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS
SINCE 1995

DISTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH DOLLARS
(IN MILLIONS)

\$24	FOREST HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY
\$23	WILDLIFE AND FISH
\$4	WATER QUALITY
\$4	CLIMATE
\$3	INDIGENOUS RELATIONS
\$2	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
\$17	ALL OTHER RESEARCH AREAS



OF RESEARCH FUNDING IS LINKED
TO CONSERVATION-RELATED
OBJECTIVES



SFI COMMUNITY

GOAL: To advance collaborations between local communities and the SFI network to increase mutual understanding of the values and benefits provided by sustainably managed forests.

35

STATE, PROVINCIAL,
AND REGIONAL **SFI
IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEES**

across the U.S. and Canada.



30 SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES COLLABORATED

to establish best management practices relative to 2022 SFI Forest Management Standard requirements on Climate Smart Forestry and Biodiversity.

New resources were developed to support SIC coordination, including playbooks, virtual workshops, regional climate smart forestry workshops, and biodiversity fact sheets, all of which are designed to increase impact and efficiency.



SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES HAVE INVESTED NEARLY

\$36 MILLION

in local communities to support training of resource and harvesting professionals, outreach to family forest-owners, and environmental education since 1995.

98%

OF THE 350 MILLION ACRES/140 MILLION HECTARES CERTIFIED TO
THE SFI STANDARD ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR

OUTDOOR RECREATION



SFI INVESTS IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES

SFI is on a pathway of reconciliation, grounded in respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledges. We have partnered with and/or invested in more than 180 Indigenous communities across Canada and the U.S., including over 50 that are certified to SFI standards. And we have placed over 1,000 Indigenous youth from over 100 communities into PLT Canada Green Jobs. The SFI Forest Management Standard requires the training of personnel and contractors so that certified organizations recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

34,000 PEOPLE

IN SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS
WERE TRAINED



IN RECOGNIZING AND RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

50+

INDIGENOUS GROUPS

communities, businesses,
and partnerships across
Canada and the United States
have adopted the SFI Forest
Management Standard

**ACROSS MORE THAN
10 MILLION ACRES/
4 MILLION HECTARES**



SFI AND PLT CANADA HAVE
PARTNERED WITH AND/OR
INVESTED
IN OVER

180

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

PLT CANADA HAS PLACED OVER
1,000 INDIGENOUS
YOUTH

FROM OVER 100 DIFFERENT
COMMUNITIES INTO GREEN JOBS



SFI AND PLT CANADA PARTNERED WITH
SAULT COLLEGE TO CREATE

9

ONLINE COURSES

to support respectful relationship building,
understanding, recognition, and respect
for Indigenous Peoples' rights, traditional
knowledge, representative institutions, and
distinctive relationships with the forest.

SFI REQUIRES COMPREHENSIVE LOGGER TRAINING

Organizations certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard or Fiber Sourcing Standard must ensure that they work with qualified professional loggers who are aware of sustainable forestry principles and best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance, and retirement. They must also be aware of their responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperilled and imperilled species and ecological communities), and other measures to protect biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Finally, they must practice logging safety and ensure that other best practices are followed.

94% OF ALL FIBER SUPPLIED TO SFI-CERTIFIED MILLS



**WAS DELIVERED BY
TRAINED HARVESTING
PROFESSIONALS
COMPARED TO 34% IN 1995**

TRAINED HARVESTERS

34% → 94%

94% of all fiber supplied to SFI-certified mills in 2021 was delivered by trained harvesting professionals—compared to 34% in 1995

10,000

resource and harvesting professionals have been trained every year (on average) since 2015. Training ensures understanding of water quality, biodiversity, and other sustainable forestry requirements.

(CUMULATIVE TOTAL SINCE 1995: 231,600)



THE SFI URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD

RECEIVED OVER 800 COMMENTS
FROM OVER 100 INDIVIDUALS AND
ORGANIZATIONS



SFI recognizes the importance of access to green spaces and improving public health and wellness through our standards, initiatives, and partnerships.

SFI SUPPORTS URBAN FORESTS AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Urban forests and trees are vital for community well-being, health, resiliency, and sustainability. They conserve biodiversity and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change like extreme heat. Urban forests and trees also support human health and well-being. They and their associated benefits should be accessible and available to everyone.

In collaboration with a wide range of partners, SFI has developed a new SFI Urban & Community Forest Sustainability Standard. Many organizations, including municipalities, universities, health care facilities, Indigenous Peoples, and corporations will be able to be certified to the standard. This will help ensure that everyone, including traditionally underserved communities, has sustainable urban and community forests for the long term.



SFI EDUCATION

GOAL: To advance environmental education, forest literacy, and career pathways using trees and forests as windows on the world.

145 MILLION
STUDENTS REACHED
since PLT began

TRAINED
11,000+ **EDUCATORS**
through 535 workshops
across 48 states
in 2022



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Hundreds of ideas for fun, easy-to-do, hands-on experiences to connect young children to nature.



Developed with support from Nice-Pak. Invites students to investigate how being outside provides many benefits.



Invites learners to investigate different tree species and discover how best to plan, plant, and care for trees in their communities.



50 hands-on, multidisciplinary activities to connect children K-8 to nature.

FOREST LITERACY



This online game helps young adults understand the value and benefits of forests and trees, and helps them learn about green careers from different people they meet along the way.



Translates the language of forests and sustainable forest management into concepts for everyone.

CAREER PATHWAYS



This guide introduces young adults to the many jobs in the forest and conservation sector through the lens of Black professionals currently working in the sector.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE, AN INITIATIVE OF SFI, ADVANCES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, FOREST LITERACY, AND CAREER PATHWAYS

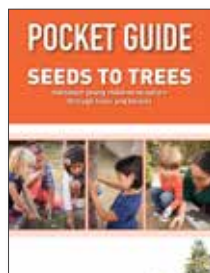
SFI, through its initiative Project Learning Tree (PLT), advances environmental education, forest literacy, and career pathways using trees and forests as windows on the world. PLT's flagship curriculum, *Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide*, offers 50 hands-on, multidisciplinary activities to connect children to nature and increase young people's awareness and knowledge about their environment. Since 1976, PLT has reached an estimated 145 million youth through environmental education, promoting nature-positive outcomes for generations to come.

SFI REACHES OVER 2 MILLION STUDENTS

EVERY YEAR
THROUGH PROJECT
LEARNING TREE



Features three PLT activities for educators of students in grades 6–8 that invite learners to investigate wildfire and ecosystem change.



Introduces nature to kids ages 3–6 through hands-on experiences by encouraging exploration and discovery through the lens of trees and forests.



For educators of students in grades K–2 that uses sensory exploration to understand objects, spaces, people and interaction.



For K–2 teachers, helps students explore, experience, and collect data to understand how trees grow, the roles trees play, and how humans and trees interact.



This video illustrates PLT's commitment to provide a lifetime of learning. By advancing environmental education, forest literacy, and green career pathways using trees and forests as windows on the world, we provide opportunities for all ages to connect with forests, whether age 3 or 30.

GROWING A DIVERSE & RESILIENT WORKFORCE



PLT CANADA PLACED
YOUNG ADULTS IN OVER

7,000+
GREEN JOBS
SINCE 2018



THANKS TO
400 EMPLOYERS
ACROSS THE SFI AND CANADIAN PARKS NETWORKS



HELPED PLACE MORE THAN **1,000**
INDIGENOUS YOUTH
FROM OVER 100 COMMUNITIES
INTO PLT CANADA GREEN JOBS

→ **1,300+**
YOUNG ADULTS
WERE PLACED IN 2022

CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE
**GENDER
BALANCE**
THROUGHOUT ALL GREEN JOB
PLACEMENTS
year after year



PLT CANADA RELEASED A NEW
GREEN JOBS VIDEO:
WOODLANDS SUPERVISOR



PREVIOUS VIDEOS INCLUDE:

CHIEF
FORESTER



SILVICULTURE
FORESTER



OPERATIONS AND
ROADS SUPERVISOR



PLT CANADA REACHED OVER

170 MENTORS AND MENTEES
IN 2022



pltcanada.org

SFI WORKS TO STRENGTHEN DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING IN THE FOREST SECTOR

Project Learning Tree, an initiative of SFI, inspires young people to engage, explore, and experience green careers. SFI and PLT, in partnership with Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), recently released *Black Faces in Green Spaces: The Journeys of Black Professionals in Green Careers*, which highlights 22 Black Americans who share stories about finding their passions and overcoming challenges, and offer advice for others exploring careers in the forest and conservation sector. See plt.org/journeys.



FEATURING 22 BLACK AMERICANS WHO SHARE THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS STORIES



SFI-MANRRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ebonie Alexander
Executive Director
Black Family Land Trust
(SFI Board Member)

Terry Baker
CEO
Society of American Foresters
(SFI Board Member)

Brandi Colander
Senior Vice President and Chief
Sustainability Officer
Enviva

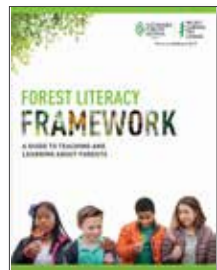
Sam Cook
Executive Director of Forest Assets
North Carolina State University
(SFI Resources Committee
Member)

Dr. Thomas Rashad Easley
Founder
Mind Heart for Diversity
Consulting LLC

Dr. Robert Raze
Professor
College of Education,
St. Petersburg College
(PLT EOC Member)

Leslie Weldon
Acting Chief Diversity and
Inclusion Officer
USDA

Beatra Wilson
Assistant Director
Urban and
Community Forestry, USDA
Forest Service
(SFI Urban Forestry
Committee Member)



Translates the complex language of forests, trees, forest practices, and sustainable forest management into concepts that everyone should know by the time they graduate from high school.



First-person stories from 12 First Nations and Inuit leaders working in the forest and conservation and parks sectors across Canada. Available in English, French, Plains Cree, and Ashinaabemowin.



Geared for educators working with middle-and high-school-aged youth in Canada. It contains four activities and supporting resources to engage learners in actively exploring green careers.

SFI EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL

The SFI External Review Panel is a distinguished group of independent experts representing U.S. and Canadian conservation, Indigenous, professional, academic, and public organizations.

The External Review Panel provides an ongoing, independent, quality-oriented review of the SFI program and advises the SFI Inc. Board of Directors on appropriate changes to help the program achieve its mission.

SFI FUNDING

SFI's operating revenue comes from a variety of sources, including conference attendance fees, sales of educational materials, government grants, service agreements, investment income, and fees from SFI-certified organizations. SFI-certified organizations include private landowners, forest product companies, managers of public lands, Indigenous communities and their businesses, conservation organizations, state and local public agencies, community interests, and universities. In 2022, SFI-certified organizations accounted for approximately 74% of revenue.

SFI-certified organizations are audited by independent certification bodies accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), ANAB and/or the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). SFI has no role in determining whether a certificate is granted—this decision is made independently by the certification bodies.

ERP MEMBERS

Alice Ewen (Chair)

Assistant Director Cooperative Forestry
USDA Forest Service

Scott Phillips (Vice-Chair)

State Forester
South Carolina Forestry Commission

Ann Bartuska

Senior Advisor
Resources for the Future

Nick Biemiller

Forest Conservation Director
Ruffed Grouse Society

Dr. Kate Edwards

Research Program Manager
Natural Resources Canada

Alison Gamble

Environmental Scientist
Shared Value Solutions, LTD

Nancy Gelinas^

*Dean of Forestry, Geography and
Geomatics*
Laval University

Sharon Jean-Philippe*

Professor of Urban Forestry
Herbert College of Agriculture
The University of Tennessee

Dominik Roeser*

Associate Professor Forest Operations
University of British Columbia

Roster as of March 2023

*Joined the ERP in December 2022

^Joined the ERP in February 2023

The External Review Panel (ERP) has reviewed the data used in this report, and believes it to be objective, meaningful, and credible, and fairly states the status of program implementation.

We support the work SFI is doing on their new Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard. These forests are very important to our communities and our well-being. We appreciate that SFI is applying the same rigorous process that was used for the development of their other standards (e.g., Forest Management) in developing the urban forest standard. The External Review Panel will also review all the public comments received and their consideration and disposition by the SFI review task groups to help ensure all comments are treated fairly.

In last year's letter, we encouraged SFI to provide leadership and focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues and we are pleased to see alignment with SFI Standards on key ESG topics. The newly updated SFI survey and reporting will also capture key points on SFI-certified organizations' perceptions of the impacts of new standard requirements. These data will enable SFI and the standards users to learn from implementation of new standard provisions and adjust as necessary.

ERP Executive Secretary**Rick Cantrell**

President

BlackBriar Environmental LLC

The 2022 survey results suggest that the new standard is driving conservation impact, as evidenced by the new strategies that SFI-certified organizations are adopting to meet the new standard's performance measures. The ERP is excited by these results, but also recognizes that most SFI-certified organizations had not yet been audited to the new standard requirements at the time of the survey. We look forward to seeing the results of next year's survey and whether or not SFI-certified organizations' perceptions of the impacts of the new standard change after they have gone through the audit process.

The SFI Implementation Committees (SICs) continue to be an invaluable asset to the SFI program for local implementation. We encourage SFI to continue developing tools for the SICs to assist in implementing new requirements like climate-smart forestry.

SFI's relationship with Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) continues to be very important internationally and increasingly in North America. We encourage SFI to continue to strengthen that relationship while coordinating on key topics. The joint annual conference with PEFC being planned for May 2023 should present many opportunities for collaboration and in building stronger relationships.



SFI GOVERNANCE & SOUND DECISION-MAKING

SFI Inc. is governed by the 18-member SFI Board of Directors. Governance of SFI is structured purposefully to ensure equal voting power to environmental, social, and economic sectors.

SFI Board members include executive-level representatives of conservation organizations, academic institutions, educators, public officials, Black Americans, as well as those representing worker rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, forest owners, managers, and the forest products sector. The board's diversity, which is continuously evolving, results in more resilient decision-making and helps us better deliver on our vision of a world that values and benefits from sustainably managed forests.

The SFI Board sets SFI's strategic direction and is responsible for overseeing SFI's work in standards, conservation, community, and education. The Board is composed of leaders that represent environmental, social, and economic interests. The SFI Board approves the SFI standards following a multi-layered, robust, and transparent process of standards development, technical review, and consultation involving thousands of points of input.

With this intentional mix of voices our governance is inclusive, diverse, transparent, and accountable.

SFI'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS COMPOSED OF
LEADERS REPRESENTING
**ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC** INTERESTS

ECONOMIC



MICHAEL P. DOSS (CHAIR)
President and CEO
Graphic Packaging International Inc.



BRENT KEEFER
(SECRETARY-TREASURER)
Chief Executive Officer
American Forest Management, Inc.



ANNICA BRESKY
President and CEO
Stora Enso



JIM IRVING
Co-CEO
JD Irving Ltd.



DON KAYNE
Chief Executive Officer
Canfor Corporation and Canfor Pulp

ENVIRONMENTAL



TERRY BAKER
CEO
Society of American Foresters



JAD DALEY
President and CEO
American Forests



TRACY FARRELL
CEO, IUCN-US
Director, IUCN North America



CATHERINE GRENIER
President and CEO
Nature Conservancy Canada



DAN LAMBE
President
Arbor Day Foundation



MICHAEL PARR
President
American Bird Conservancy

SOCIAL



PATRICIA LAYTON (VICE-CHAIR)
Director - Wood Utilization + Design
Institute, Clemson University



EBONIE ALEXANDER
Executive Director
Black Family Land Trust, Inc.



JEFF BROMLEY
Chair
United Steelworkers Wood Council



ASHLEY HOFFMAN
Executive Director - Kentucky Association
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