![Sustainable Forestry Initiative logo]

SFI CONSERVATION IMPACT WORKSHOP

Friday June 7, 2024
(Following the SFI Annual Conference)

In-Person: Loews Atlanta Hotel – 1065 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA
Virtual: Register for access information

About:

This year, the SFI Conservation Impact Workshop has a thematic focus on the development and application of biodiversity data and tools to support the conservation objectives of the SFI standards. The morning is divided into two sessions:

- **Part I** will survey a range of Certified Organizations and some of their many partners to demonstrate approaches for accessing and applying biodiversity data in sustainable forest management and procurement. We will discuss topics such as new knowledge products on species and habitats of concern, data collection and sharing, and tools for ease of data use and reporting. The program includes hearing from SFI staff, Certified Organizations, NatureServe, Natural Heritage Programs, and experts from organizations such as Atlanta Botanic Garden and SkyTec LLC, as well as panel discussions with open audience Q & A, interactive surveys, and opportunity for commentary.
- **Part II** will provide an update and invite feedback on the evolving direction of the SFI Conservation Impact Project.

Why should you attend?

1. Understand available resources and applications from various perspectives of biodiversity data implementation in relation to forest management and fiber sourcing certification requirements.
2. Explore how SFI's Conservation Impact Project research and partnerships can help address your sustainability needs and provide nature-positive solutions.
3. Learn to use SFI conservation research to communicate the environmental benefits of forest management and your SFI certification.
4. Contribute perspectives to guide future SFI conservation research and collaborations to ensure usefulness for certified organizations and verifiers in fulfillment of SFI standards.

Not yet registered?

Register for *both the 2024 SFI Annual Conference and the Conservation Impact Workshop* OR only **the stand-alone, free, and open-to-all Workshop**.

If you have already registered for the conference but didn't register for the Workshop, please use **this link** to register.

SFI CONSERVATION IMPACT WORKSHOP AGENDA

I. Back to Basics on Biodiversity	
Multi-perspective panel that demonstrates approaches for accessing and applying biodiversity data in sustainable forest management and procurement. We will discuss topics such as new knowledge products on species and habitats of concern, data collection and sharing, and tools for ease of data use and reporting.	
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	**Welcome & Introduction to SFI's Conservation Impact Workshop and Overview of Biodiversity Landscape –** *Healy Hamilton, Chief Scientist, SFI*
9:15 - 9:30 a.m.	**Natural Heritage Programs and the Management and Conservation of FECV on SFI-Certified Forests –** *Joe Lemeris, GIS/Data Manager, South Carolina Heritage Program* • Share data and tools for SFI certified organizations to address G1/G2 Species and communities • Highlight examples across other regional and national data sets and programs on biodiversity
9:30 - 9:50 a.m.	**Perspective from SFI Certified Organizations –** *TBD* • Provide insight on approaches to address biodiversity, related to priority species and FECV, on SFI certified forestlands and connections to the SFI standard.
9:50 - 10:00 a.m.	**Importance of Conservation Lands in the Southeastern US –** *Dr. Emily Coffey, VP Conservation and Research, Atlanta Botanical Garden* • Discuss regional biodiversity data application and needs including the identification of Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Needs (RSGCN) for southeastern plants, spatial conservation priorities, value and efficiency of surveys and data exchange
10:00 - 10:10 a.m.	**New Tools and Technologies for Advancing the Efficient Identification and Monitoring of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV) –** *Andy Carroll, CO Founder and CTO, Skytec LLC* • Showcase advancement of tools and technological solutions to address conservation and natural resource management
10:10 - 10:50 a.m.	**Panel Discussion on Biodiversity Data to Support SFI Conservation Objectives -** *Moderated by Healy Hamilton, Chief Scientist, SFI* • A panel discussion bringing together the biodiversity perspectives on tools, reporting, and approaches through prompted questions and audience Q&A
10:50 – 11:00 a.m.	**BREAK**
II. Conservation at SFI: Conservation Updates and Feedback Forum	
This session provides an overview of the future of SFI Conservation Impact program as it heads into a new strategic direction and invites active audience participation and discussion.	
11:00 – 11:15 a.m.	**Overview of Conservation Impact Project and Theory of Change Strategic Direction -** *Lauren Cooper, Chief Conservation Officer* • Brief status overview of past and current research projects • Future direction of the Conservation Impact program and update on Theory of Change

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.	**Feedback: Conservation at SFI -** *Darren Sleep, Lead Scientist* • An open dialogue session to encourage audience participation and thought sharing on the intersection and role of SFI and certification on addressing key conservation topics and SFI's three thematic areas of research (climate change, biodiversity, and water) • Interactive exercise for participants to share feedback and ideas to SFI conservation team
11:45-11:55 pm	**Dialogue:** High level comments and observations
11:55 a.m. – 12:00 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 quantifying 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 363 million acres (147 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 Workshop (previously the '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 Workshop encourages participation by a wide range of stakeholders and feature an interactive format to stimulate discussion and explore concepts that build shared understanding of the conservation attributes of sustainably managed forests.

About SFI's Conservation Impact Workshop Speakers:

Andy Carroll
Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer
Skytec, LLC

Andy has over 20 years of experience in applying satellite monitoring, spatial data analysis, and emerging technologies in unmanned aerial systems to support natural resources management and conservation. His mission at Skytec is to innovate mapping and monitoring through automation of satellite-based monitoring and high-resolution unmanned systems. He has co-authored books, published multiple papers on conservation decision support systems and GIS applications, and taught introductory GIS courses over the years.

Dr. Emily Coffey
Vice President of Conservation and Research
Atlanta Botanical Garden

Dr. Emily E. D. Coffey is VP for Conservation & Research at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. She leads and collaborates with a dynamic team of conservation scientists and horticulturists to expand the activities in propagating and growing rare plants, and develop conservation initiatives for plants and ecosystems. Formerly assistant professor in biology at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, she received her PhD and her Masters of Science from the University of Oxford - UK and her Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Missouri. She is the co-Chair of the Southeastern Plant Conservation Alliance (SE PCA), the lead for the Global Conservation Consortium for Magnolias, and working group chair for the ex situ IUCN SSC Orchid Specialist Group. As head of the Garden's Conservation & Research Department, she oversees the Southeastern Center for Conservation, where she collaborates within diverse partnerships to conserve rare species from private and publicly owned land throughout the southeastern U.S.

Joseph Lemeris
GIS/Data Manager
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources,
Natural Heritage Program

Joe is directly involved in creating, managing, and applying the underlying data for identifying FECV. He manages the South Carolina Natural Heritage Data program for documenting rare, threatened, and endangered species in South Carolina. He works with biologists and managers across the state to create and manage surveys, conduct geospatial analysis, and create maps and disseminate data, and receives and responds to requests for environmental review pertaining to endangered species occurrence on or near proposed project sites. Prior to his work with the SCDNR, Joe developed integrative habitat and forestry restoration plans for South Carolina's state parks and has experience with GIS tracking analysis of collared wildlife, including big cats in Namibia.

From SFI

Lauren Cooper
Chief Conservation Officer
Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Lauren heads the SFI Conservation Pillar, providing conservation leadership internally as well as externally to our network of resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and governments. She develops best management practices for climate-smart forestry and fire resiliency and awareness, leads SFI participation in collaborative efforts to conserve forested landscapes and integrates Indigenous knowledge into SFI conservation programs. Lauren founded the Forest Carbon and Climate Program at Michigan State University, and she has international experience working with Indigenous communities in Peru, Mexico, Ecuador, and the United States. Lauren has served as a convener, moderator, and facilitator in high-level climate events, engaged in numerous climate working groups and has developed climate curriculum, educational materials, and plans. She currently serves as a steering committee member with the Women's Forest Congress and on the Forest-Climate Working Group. Lauren is passionate about building new relationships at the intersection of sustainability, forests, society, and climate.

Dr. Healy Hamilton
Chief Scientist
Sustainable Forestry Initiative

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.

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.