WHO WE ARE

VISION
A world that values and benefits from sustainably managed forests.

MISSION
To advance sustainability through forest-focused collaborations.

At the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc., we believe that sustainable forests are critical to our collective future. SFI® is a leader in sustainable forestry through our work in standards, conservation, community, and education.

As an independent, non-profit organization, we collaborate with our diverse network to provide solutions to local and global sustainability challenges. SFI works with the forest sector, brand owners, conservation groups, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, governments, and universities.
SFI’s work is supported by four pillars of interconnected activity

**STANDARDS**
SFI standards and certified products advance sustainable forestry and responsible purchasing globally.

**COMMUNITY**
Local communities value and benefit from sustainably managed forests through collaboration with the SFI network.

**CONSERVATION**
SFI’s conservation programs deliver credible and effective forest-focused solutions to sustainability challenges.

**EDUCATION**
SFI’s education programs expand the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to sustain forests and the environment.
SFI STANDARDS AND CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING GLOBALLY

SFI’S CONSERVATION PROGRAMS DELIVER CREDIBLE AND EFFECTIVE FOREST-FOCUSED SOLUTIONS TO SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES
LOCAL COMMUNITIES VALUE AND BENEFIT FROM SUSTAINABLY MANAGED FORESTS THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH THE SFI NETWORK

SFI EDUCATION PROGRAMS EXPAND THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SUSTAIN COMMUNITIES, FORESTS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SFI believes there are many opportunities to advance sustainability through the values, goods, and services provided by sustainably managed forests. Forests provide an important opportunity to bring communities together to promote trust, advance conservation priorities and create new economic opportunities. Forests sustain rural, Indigenous and urban communities. Forests provide a window on the world for youth and educators to learn about the natural environment through the Project Learning Tree network. Forests also provide an opportunity to catalyze landscape-scale climate solutions because they sequester carbon and store carbon in the building products made from trees. Forests provide an opportunity to maintain and recover biodiversity and sustain a variety of conservation values including clean water. But to seize these opportunities, forests must be sustainably managed and forest products must be responsibly sourced.

For all these reasons and more, the theme of this year’s report is **Forests of Opportunity**.

To continue to make sure we all benefit from the opportunities that forests provide we are launching a new strategic direction that will guide our work over the next five years. This plan is supported by our four pillars: Standards, Conservation, Community, and Education. Our work in these pillars, and importantly, the connections between them, will help us seize the opportunities in front of us and create new opportunities for all of us.

To continue delivering on this promise, I’m pleased to introduce SFI’s new vision and mission.

**VISION:** A world that values and benefits from sustainably managed forests.

**MISSION:** To advance sustainability through forest-focused collaborations.

**THIS IS WHAT SFI DELIVERS.** SFI is a collaborative community committed to high standards, conservation of our forests, sustainable communities, and an understanding that environmental education can empower a world that values and benefits from sustainably managed forests. With so many opportunities for us all, it’s important we come together and take collective action in order to deliver results for forests and for ourselves.

**Kathy Abusow**

**PRESIDENT AND CEO**

**SFI INC.**
STANDARDS

CONSERVATION

COMMUNITY

EDUCATION
Through innovation and strategic partnerships, SFI is committed to taking a leadership role in local and global initiatives relating to sustainable forest management. We engage and communicate proactively with customers to ensure they understand the value of SFI standards and our commitment to continuous improvement. SFI is growing certification across all three SFI standards in existing and emerging markets through the standard revision process, technology and innovation, and strategic partnerships.
FORESTS OF OPPORTUNITY

Forest management standards are an opportunity to reduce risk in the supply chain and generate innumerable benefits such as clean water, clean air, enhanced biodiversity, recreational opportunities, and green jobs.

THREE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

The SFI Forest Management Standard is the largest single forest certification standard in the world. Among its requirements are measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, workers’ rights, including gender equity, and forests with exceptional conservation value.

The SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard is designed for manufacturers that don’t own forestland. It distinguishes SFI from all other forest certification programs in that it governs how SFI Program Participants procure all the wood fiber that is used in their manufacturing facilities.

The SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard is an accounting system that tracks forest fiber content through production and manufacturing to the end product. This standard also has measures to avoid controversial sources in the supply chain.

All three certifications require third-party independent certification audits by competent and accredited certification bodies.
INNOVATION IN CERTIFICATION

THE SFI SMALL-SCALE FOREST MANAGEMENT MODULE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES applies in Canada and is designed for individual small-scale forests and for groups of small-scale forests co-operating for the purposes of obtaining sustainable forest management certification. The K’ómoks and Qualicum First Nations piloted the module in 2018 and successfully certified in January 2019.

THE SFI SMALL LANDS GROUP CERTIFICATION MODULE

SFI and American Forest Foundation (AFF) collaboratively developed the SFI Small Lands Group Certification Module, which is a cost-effective way for mills or wood-procurement organizations certified to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard to serve as group managers and engage small landowners in certification under one group certificate. This module applies in both the U.S. and Canada. Lands certified in the United States will be certified under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), and lands certified in Canada will be certified to SFI.
THE TREND TOWARD RECOGNIZING ALL FOREST CERTIFICATION STANDARDS IS ON THE RISE

More and more buyers, including governments, businesses and individuals, are asking for wood products from responsible sources. Products certified to SFI standards, by independent third-party auditors, are recognized by many leading sustainability groups around the world.

GREEN BUILDING

13 GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEMS

including LEED and Green Globes offer credits for products certified to SFI

NEARLY 300 PROJECTS ARE REGISTERED

for the LEED Alternative Compliance Path, which recognizes materials certified to the SFI standards
SFI FOREST PARTNERS PROGRAM

The SFI Forest Partners® Program, which includes National Geographic, Meredith, Macmillan Publishers, Hearst Enterprises and Boy Scouts of America, makes multi-year commitments to increase certification throughout the forest supply chain.

364 MILLION ACRES
147 MILLION HECTARES
CERTIFIED TO THE SFI FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD AND
TENS OF MILLIONS MORE
POSITIVELY INFLUENCED BY THE
SFI FIBER SOURCING STANDARD
UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Well-managed forests support the UN Sustainable Development Goals and at SFI we are committed to doing our part to contribute to the goals. Our work touches all 17 of the goals, but there are several in particular where we have the greatest impact.

GOAL 6: ENSURE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

GOAL 12: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

GOAL 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

GOAL 15: SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

GOAL 17: STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SFI LABELS

SFI on-product labels help customers and consumers identify exactly what they are buying. These labels indicate the product comes from an organization certified to an SFI standard.

In 2018, Metsa, a leading European producer of paperboard, became the first company to use the SFI Label Recognizing Global Standards.

OVER 25% OF FORTUNE 100 COMPANIES USE THE SFI ON-PRODUCT LABEL INCREASING YEAR OVER YEAR

42% OF 80,000 U.S. CONSUMERS RECOGNIZE THE SFI LOGO according to a 2017 Natural Marketing Institute survey
A GLOBAL REACH

SFI’s international recognition is increased by the endorsement of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). PEFC has also endorsed the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). In turn, SFI recognizes both ATFS and CSA certified content in its supply chain.

SFI ACCOUNTS FOR ALMOST

25% OF GLOBAL CERTIFIED FORESTS

AND 40% OF PEFC CERTIFICATIONS WORLDWIDE

SFI IS LOW RISK

LESS THAN 2% of supply procured by SFI Program Participants in the U.S. and Canada comes from offshore – making it compliant with the Lacey Act and the EU Timber Regulation, which carry stiff penalties for procuring illegally harvested timber.

PRODUCTS THAT ARE CERTIFIED TO SFI STANDARDS ARE SOLD IN MORE THAN 120 COUNTRIES
SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS RESULTS FROM ANNUAL SURVEY

Top 3 reasons why SFI Program Participants choose to become certified:

- MEET CUSTOMER SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES
- PROOF POINT FOR RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT
- MEET ORGANIZATION’S SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Top 3 reasons why SFI Program Participants use the SFI logo:

1. COMMUNICATES OUR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
2. PROUD TO BE AFFILIATED WITH SFI
3. PROOF POINT FOR RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

83%+ of SFI Program Participants representing all sectors in SFI’s 2018 Market Survey reported steady or increased demand for certified products over the last 12 months.

67% reported increased or same demand for SFI chain-of-custody.

72% reported increased or same demand for SFI certified sourcing.
STANDARDS

CONSERVATION

COMMUNITY

EDUCATION
CONSERVATION

SFI is working to be a global leader in forest-based conservation. We collaborate on conservation initiatives in sustainably managed forests and support research focused on climate, water, and biodiversity. Our vast footprint across the landscapes certified to SFI or affected by SFI Fiber Sourcing provide leverage to identify, measure and promote critical conservation outcomes. Our diverse partnerships with world-class environmental organizations, and the SFI Conservation Grant Program make this work possible.
**FORESTS OF OPPORTUNITY**

Conservation efforts in responsibly managed forests create an opportunity to deliver effective solutions to sustainability challenges relating to clean air and water, biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable products.

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**SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS INVEST IN RESEARCH**

Since 1995, SFI Program Participants have directly invested nearly $1.7 billion in forest research. In 2018, about 80% of these investments were allocated to conservation-related objectives.

Other research areas include: Air quality • Bioenergy research • Sustainable management education • Recreation • Bioenergy research • Market expansion • Cultural and archaeological assessments

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**NO OTHER FORESTRY STANDARD HAS A RESEARCH REQUIREMENT**

Sustainable Forestry Initiative
In 2018, SFI Program Participants reported 423 DIFFERENT CONSERVATION & RESEARCH PROJECTS and DIRECTLY INVESTED NEARLY $50 MILLION in research. THAT’S SOMETHING WORTH CELEBRATING.

PROJECTS ON THE GROUND: In 2018, SFI Program Participants engaged with over 600 organizations in multiple sectors including research, conservation, government, academic and community.

MORE THAN 600 UNIQUE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

27% GOVERNMENT PARTNERS
19% CONSERVATION PARTNERS
14% ACADEMIC PARTNERS
14% COMMUNITY PARTNERS
6% RESEARCH PARTNERS
20% OTHER

Other includes: Brand owners • Consultant firms • Consultant groups • Non-SFI landowners • Other SFI Program Participant associations
THE SFI CONSERVATION IMPACT PROJECT

To facilitate good decision-making, and to help make the case for the value of sustainability, SFI is working to quantify the conservation benefits of its work, and the connection between sustainable supply chains and important conservation outcomes. Our goal is to help make the link between well-managed forests and the public benefits that affect us all.

The motivations to measure conservation values are diverse: brand owners seek to understand the impact of their sourcing, conservation stakeholders can engage more effectively if they understand the values that certification can provide, and improved tracking will better equip SFI to provide sustainability related metrics and contribute meaningfully to conservation outcomes.

Guided by the Conservation Impact Sounding Board and supported by SFI Program Participants, we are using grant projects to build understanding of the conservation attributes of SFI managed forests and forests affected positively by SFI Fiber Sourcing relative to water, climate change and biodiversity. The Sounding Board helps ensure conservation impact results are founded in credible science and also resonate with key audiences.

Two Sounding Board meetings in 2018 attracted a wide range of participants, including many prominent conservation organizations.

SFI CONSERVATION GRANTS

The SFI Conservation Grant Program fosters partnerships between organizations interested in improving forest management, understanding the role of SFI forests and SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard in advancing conservation outcomes, and clarifying the connections between critical outcomes and responsible management and procurement.

Since 2010, SFI has awarded 120+ SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grants, totaling more than $4.4 million, to foster conservation and community-building projects.
THE SFI CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANT PROGRAM

WHEN LEVERAGED WITH PROJECT PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

TOTAL INVESTMENT EXCEEDS $16 MILLION

GRANT HIGHLIGHT

BIRD CONSERVATION GOES CONTINENTAL WITH ABC – LINKING MANAGED FORESTS AT AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE

Examining the needs of a wide variety of birds helps build understanding of broader ecosystem health and sustainable forest management, which provides wider environmental benefits like clean water and carbon storage. This collaborative project between SFI, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), and six SFI Program Participants is producing data and establishing methodologies to demonstrate the conservation values of forestlands certified to SFI. It is also measuring the conservation values associated with the application of the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. The project operates across five pilot areas in the U.S. Southeast and incorporates robust bird and habitat data from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s eBird citizen-science database.

SFI CONSERVATION GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

MEASURING THE CONSERVATION VALUE OF FORESTS CERTIFIED TO SFI IN A BI-NATIONAL PILOT AREA IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

This collaborative project involving NatureServe, SFI, and three SFI Program Participants builds on previous work to establish biodiversity metrics to quantify conservation values at a large spatial and ecological scale. This work will help clarify the contribution of forests certified to SFI across multiple biodiversity-related values including landscape condition, connectivity, and imperiled species. Results from past work showed that forestlands certified to SFI in three study areas provide important biodiversity and conservation values, with a mix of ecosystem types and successional stages supporting a diversity of conditions and habitat for a wide range of species.

SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PARTNERS: Resource Management Service, Hancock Natural Resource Group, J.D. Irving

THE CANADIAN FOREST CARBON ASSESSMENT

Climate change is consistently recognized as one of the world’s greatest environmental challenges. This project, led by the Saskatchewan Research Council, and directly supported by SFI and three SFI Program Participants, will provide a roadmap for conducting a comprehensive carbon-stock assessment for the entire land base certified to SFI in Canada. Given the scale of lands certified to SFI, this project has the potential to offer land managers, and stakeholders throughout the forest product supply chain, data to build understanding of forest carbon at grand scales. By quantifying carbon storage in different forest ecosystems using national and regional data, and examining forest management practices that influence carbon stocks, this project will set the stage for a new level of understanding of the value of managed forests in mitigating climate change impacts.

SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PARTNERS: Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd., Tolko, Weyerhaeuser

LINKING CLIMATE CHANGE, FORESTS, AND CERTIFICATION

The Michigan State University Forest Carbon and Climate Program, with the support of SFI, two SFI Program Participants, and the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee, undertook a study to assess the relationship between the SFI Program standards and climate and carbon values in managed forests. This analysis found that climate-smart forestry concepts, management practices, and other best practices were embedded in the SFI standards, training materials, and SFI Program Participant behavior. Climate-smart forestry incorporates adaptive forest management to build resilient forests, and uses active forest management to enhance productivity and all the other benefits that forests can provide.

SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PARTNERS: Weyerhaeuser, International Paper
QUANTIFYING IMPACTS OF SFI’S FIBER SOURCING STANDARDS IN GEORGIA

This collaborative project, involving the University of Georgia, SFI, and the Georgia SFI Implementation Committee, analyzed the role of SFI’s Fiber Sourcing Standard in influencing the implementation rate of forestry best management practices (BMPs) within the harvest areas of mills certified to the standard. These practices ensure the protection of water quality downstream, helping to sustain both ecological and human communities dependent on those services. Results suggest that BMP implementation rates are higher within the supply areas of mills certified to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, and that increases in BMP implementation over time can be linked to SFI’s logger education efforts.

COLLABORATING ON WOODLAND CARIBOU RESEARCH

One of the ways SFI is contributing to the conservation of species at risk in Canada is through collaborating on woodland caribou research. The woodland caribou, a subspecies of reindeer that ranges across Canada’s vast boreal landscape, is considered threatened through much of its territory. In recent years, the importance of caribou conservation has come to the fore, owing to the complex relationship relative to human and natural disturbance, predators, and climate change. fRI’s partnership work with SFI has helped clarify the varied and important relationships between caribou and their habitat, building understanding and developing tools to help conserve caribou across the boreal forest.

SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PARTNERS: West Fraser Timber, Weyerhaeuser
SFI understands that many diverse communities rely on forests for their well-being, including for the recreational and health benefits they provide. Working with our grassroots network and a diversity of other partners, including Indigenous communities and the SFI Community Partnerships Grant Program, we help communities value and benefit from their relationship with forests.
FORESTS OF OPPORTUNITY

Working with local communities is an opportunity to improve lives and build mutual understanding about the benefits of sustainably managed forests.

SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES

34 STATE, PROVINCIAL, AND REGIONAL SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES

These committees support training of resource and harvesting professionals, outreach to family-forest owners and environmental education.

UNIQUE GRASSROOTS NETWORK

includes private landowners, independent loggers, forestry professionals, local government agencies, academics, scientists and conservationists

SINCE 1995

SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS have contributed nearly $75 MILLION FOR SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES
In 2018, 96% of all fiber supplied to SFI Program Participant mills delivered by trained harvesting professionals.

**1995**
34% → **2018**
96%

**10,628**

Resource and harvesting professionals participated in training in 2018, to ensure understanding of water quality, biodiversity and other sustainable forest practice requirements. (Cumulative total since 1995: 203,012*)

*This total may include individuals who have completed training programs more than once. Data provided by the Forest Resources Association.*
SFI recognizes forest operations may have an impact on Indigenous communities around the world. Indigenous Peoples have long relied on forests for cultural, spiritual and material needs. SFI standards are all the more powerful because they were developed in collaboration with Indigenous communities.

**INDIGENOUS RELATIONS**

SFI recognizes forest operations may have an impact on Indigenous communities around the world. Indigenous Peoples have long relied on forests for cultural, spiritual and material needs. SFI standards are all the more powerful because they were developed in collaboration with Indigenous communities.
COMMUNITY

OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP) is a six-week land-based employment, education and training experience for Indigenous youth, aged 15 to 22, that replicates various work environments in the natural resources sector. Since 2018, the SFI and Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT Canada) networks have contributed over $1.48 million to Outland, supporting OYEP’s growth from three to six camps, employing 175 Indigenous youth annually. PLT Canada has funded 261 Indigenous youth in the summers of 2018 and 2019 in Outland camps.

SFI Program Participants who support OYEP: Resolute Forest Products, Domtar, Weyerhaeuser, Eacom Timber Corporation, Georgia-Pacific, BCTS, Canfor, Carrier Lumber, Conifex, Dunkley Lumber Ltd., Paper Excellence, Sinclair Group, West Fraser, Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., Millar Western, Vanderwell Contractors

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL BUSINESS

SFI has a memorandum of understanding with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business to assist in growing our relationship, engagement and outreach with Indigenous communities by encouraging SFI Program Participants to seek certification under their Progressive Aboriginal Relations program and support a dual-logo process.

Objective 8 of the SFI Forest Management Standard recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples’ rights and traditional knowledge. This includes understanding and respecting traditional forest-related knowledge, protecting spiritual, historical and cultural sites, and using non-timber forest products.
EVERY YEAR MILLIONS OF HUNTERS AND ANGLERS, HIKERS, BIRDWATCHERS, CAMPERS AND OTHER OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS USE FORESTLANDS THAT ARE CERTIFIED TO THE SFI STANDARD.

95% OF
364 MILLION ACRES
147 MILLION HECTARES
IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE OUTDOORS
HEALTHY FORESTS, HEALTHY PEOPLE

Spending time in a forest is good for your health. Research shows benefits like lowered blood pressure and blood glucose levels, and a reduction in stress hormones. Now science shows that it doesn’t just feel fresher and better – inhaling phytoncide, an essential oil emitted by trees, seems to boost the human immune system.

SFI AND BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and SFI have a shared mission to help kids become the next generation of forest stewards. SFI has helped engage Scouts with a conservation trail at the Scouts’ National Jamboree, attended the Scouts’ sustainability summit, and donated race kits for Pinewood Derby cars. The sustainability merit badge highlights certification to SFI and is a required merit badge for Eagle Scout.

24TH WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

More than 50,000 Scouts from over 150 countries gathered from July 22 to August 2, 2019, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia for the World Scout Jamboree, and SFI was there working with local and international partners, like the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the SFI Forest Partners Program, to share the story of forest sustainability. Scouts were able to learn more about and experience SFI. The Summit Bechtel Reserve is certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard.

MORE THAN
100,000
ACRES OF BSA HIGH ADVENTURE BASES ARE CERTIFIED TO SFI
Since 2008, SFI Inc. and SFI Implementation Committees have partnered with Habitat for Humanity. SFI partners with both Habitat for Humanity International and Habitat for Humanity Canada and works on both sides of the border to improve quality of life, raise awareness of sustainable forestry, and encourage green building using products certified to SFI.

SFI and Habitat for Humanity Canada have a memorandum of mutual support to encourage affordable housing. As part of this agreement, SFI funding and volunteers support collaborative solutions including Habitat Canada’s Indigenous Housing Partnership. This partnership also goes beyond just helping individual families – the wider community benefits from the addition of affordable housing.
SFI COMMUNITY GRANTS

The SFI Community Partnerships Grant Program helps communities across the United States and Canada grow their relationship with forests and improve their quality of life. Through these grants, SFI brings together a diverse range of organizations to engage and educate youth, train and educate current and future forestry practitioners, promote Indigenous values, and support underserved communities, like African American family forest owners, through forestry. Projects assist local communities through forest education programs and green building projects for low-income families in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.
PARTNERING WITH THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY FOR BIRDS AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Fostering a better understanding of the conservation value of managed forests for bird populations delivers myriad benefits. These benefits include enhancing sustainable forest management techniques and building support for the role of managed forests in bird conservation. This project, led by the American Bird Conservancy, and directly supported by SFI, the Louisiana SFI Implementation Committee, and two SFI Program Participants, delivered a workshop in Louisiana to facilitate an open discussion of forest management and bird habitat conditions among SFI Program Participants, forest owners, and wildlife, forestry, and harvesting professionals.

SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PARTNERS: International Paper, West Fraser Timber Company

CREE FIRST NATION OF WASWANIPi PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE AMERICAN MARTEN

Indigenous youth are Canada’s fastest-growing demographic group. At the same time, many of these Indigenous youth feel unsure of the opportunities they will be able to enjoy as adults. This project, led by the Cree Trappers Association and the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi, and directly supported by SFI and the Quebec SFI Implementation Committee, is helping youth see how the Cree way of life still connects very strongly to the land. It is passing on the values that teach the Cree to take only what they need from the land and ensure the continued existence of forests, rivers, and wildlife. The program is also introducing Cree youth to scientific concepts and encouraging them to consider careers as wildlife and resource professionals.

GEORGIA LANDOWNER ACADEMY SUPPORTS AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN GEORGIA

This program, led by the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center, in collaboration with SFI and the Georgia SFI Implementation Committee, is focused on using forestry to help address the challenges families face relating to heirs’ property. Heirs’ property is the untold story behind blight and generational poverty throughout Georgia. Heirs’ property refers to a home or land that passes from generation to generation without a legally designated owner. This unstable form of ownership limits a family’s ability to build generational wealth. Managed forestry can help landowners prosper in retirement and through multiple generations. It can also be a powerful tool to help resolve heirs’ property issues and ownership questions and offers a means to help preserve the important social and cultural heritage of African American land ownership.
FORESTRY PROFESSIONALS ACROSS CANADA RECEIVE WORLD-CLASS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This project, funded in part by SFI, provides an effective way to support ongoing training of forest professionals who in many cases work in remote areas with limited access to professional development. Forest practitioners who are involved in on-the-ground resource decision-making or who do not have direct access to professional development opportunities will greatly benefit from the Canadian Institute of Forestry’s National Knowledge Exchange Program. The program also has a strong focus on engaging and educating youth, because many of the targeted forestry professionals are in the early stages of their careers.

PARTNERING WITH WOW TO PREPARE WOMEN FOR ACTIVE ROLES IN MANAGING WOODLANDS

In collaboration with SFI, a Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) Network in South Carolina is recruiting, engaging, and teaching female participants about sustainable forest management. Preparing women to take a more active role in management of family forests will provide the skills needed to manage forests sustainably. In the United States, private families and individuals own 58% of the nation’s forested land, and for 22% of private family or individual woodland ownership, a woman is the primary decision-maker. Evidence suggests that women will play a large role in the future of forests, making final end-of-life land use decisions that could lead to conservation or development.
SFI is a leader in environmental education through professional development and curriculum resources that use trees and forests as a window on the world. Project Learning Tree® (PLT), our environmental education initiative, takes students outdoors to learn and connects youth to nature in urban, suburban, and rural settings. We inspire educators and youth leaders to take action for sustainable forests and a sustainable planet, and to introduce young people to green careers.
FORESTS OF OPPORTUNITY

SFI’s education programs are an opportunity for educators and youth leaders to expand the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to sustain communities, forests and the environment.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE

PLT is an award-winning environmental education program designed for educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through college and university – we are developing the critical-thinking, problem-solving, and effective decision-making skills the next generation needs to sustain our forests and natural resources. SFI and PLT are working to ensure educators and youth leaders understand and value the benefits of forests and what our environment needs to remain healthy and sustainable.

PLT HAS REACHED

138 MILLION STUDENTS THROUGH 765,000 EDUCATORS SINCE ITS FOUNDING
PLT PROGRAM MODEL

The PLT program is characterized by three equally important components:
- high-quality instructional materials for grades PreK-12
- carefully designed professional development
- an extensive distribution and support network

HOW TO THINK, NOT WHAT TO THINK

By teaching students how to think, not what to think, about complex environmental issues, PLT helps young people learn the problem-solving skills they need to make informed choices about the environment. We are also helping to prepare a 21st century workforce faced with devising solutions to increasingly complex environmental issues, like climate change and green energy.

PLT provides educators with high-quality professional development, hands-on activities, and multi-disciplinary supplemental curriculum that can be easily integrated into lesson plans for all grades and subject areas to help teach youth about trees, forests, and the environment.

Through the community action components of many PLT activities, plus PLT’s service-learning programs GreenSchools and GreenWorks!, PLT encourages students to improve their school, home, and neighborhood based on what they learn in the classroom.

PLT’s GreenSchools program inspires students to apply STEM and investigative skills to create greener and healthier schools – and save schools money.

55% OF PLT’S LESSONS TAKE STUDENTS OUTDOORS
THE PLT NETWORK

The PLT network consists of education and natural resource partners with a common purpose – helping children learn. Our partners support our goals to reach the next generation.

PLT is delivered in all 50 states and internationally through a large and diverse network of partners.

INTERNATIONAL PLT NETWORK

FORMALIZED LICENSING AGREEMENTS IN CHILE, JAPAN, MEXICO, URUGUAY

PLT IS DELIVERED IN ALL 50 STATES

U.S. PLT NETWORK

45% GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
21% ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS AND NON-PROFITS
18% FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS
16% UNIVERSITIES

FOR EVERY $1 SPENT BY SFI/PLT $3.50 IS LEVERAGED

$1 $3.50
STATE AGENCIES’ SUPPORT FOR PLT AND SFI

PLT STATE AGENCY PARTNERS

STATE AGENCIES THAT HAVE CERTIFIED TO SFI

Over 30% of U.S. acres certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard are publicly owned across 15 states.

CONNECTING THROUGH CURRICULUM

In 2018, PLT launched Teaching with i-Tree to support educators in using the online i-Tree software created by the U.S. Forest Service and partners. Hands-on activities help middle and high school students analyze the environmental benefits and calculate the dollar value of trees. The new curriculum is also available in French, Spanish, and Mandarin, plus PLT created four associated activities for families.

PLT, SCOUTS AND 4-H DEVELOP YOUTH LIFE SKILLS

PLT works with Boy Scouts of America and 4-H to support positive youth development goals. Many PLT activities are now linked to provide support for Cub Scouting Adventures, Scouts BSA Merit Badges, and 4-H Life Skills.
AWARD WINNING

PLT consistently receives prestigious awards and recognition. For example, PLT’s Energy in Ecosystems curriculum for grades 3 to 5 and PLT’s Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood curriculum have won Teachers’ Choice Awards for the Classroom from Learning® Magazine.

Many PLT State Coordinators, Workshop Facilitators, and Outstanding Educators are also recognized with individual achievement awards at the state and national levels including, for example, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators.

PLT is working with the U.S. Green Building Council to offer Change Maker and Green Builder Scholarships to PLT GreenSchools seniors.

PLT GreenSchools recognized as U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools in 2018

75 SCHOOLS
14 SCHOOL DISTRICTS
SINCE 2012
THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS FOR HELPING TO GROW PLT

NAAEE WITH FUNDING FROM U.S. EPA
INTERNATIONAL PAPER
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
WEYERHAEUSER
HANCOCK NATURAL RESOURCE GROUP
ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION
NEIMAN ENTERPRISES
ALBERT I. PIERCE FOUNDATION
PROJECT LEARNING TREE GREENWORKS! GRANTS

Every year since 1992, PLT has awarded GreenWorks! grants to schools and community organizations across the U.S. for environmental service-learning projects. Over 247,000 students have been involved in a variety of action projects they help design and lead to improve the environment. More than $1.2 million has been distributed to fund more than 1,200 PLT GreenWorks! projects in communities across the country.

In 2018, GREENWORKS! GRANTS explored these themes:

- PLANTING TREES
- RESTORING HABITATS
- IMPROVING WATER QUALITY
- PRESERVING WETLANDS
- DESIGNING AND BUILDING NATURE TRAILS
- CREATING SCHOOL GARDENS AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS
- GREENING SCHOOLS
- HELPING BIRDS, BEES, BUTTERFLIES, AND BATS

5,000 STUDENTS IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY through 28 GREENWORKS! PROJECTS across 20 states in 2018.

2018 EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

In partnership with the U.S. EPA & the North American Association for Environmental Education, SFI managed $295,000 including grants to 22 states for training educators and student teachers and reached over

474,000 YOUNG PEOPLE

AND

3,350 EDUCATORS

THROUGH THESE

EE360 GRANTS

MODEL PROGRAM INITIATIVE GRANTS

AWARDED TO

27 STATES

ALMOST

$225,000

TO INCREASE CAPACITY

OF PLT PROGRAMS
EDUCATORS GIVE PLT TOP MARKS

Top 5 reasons for using PLT

1. Teach about the environment 92%
2. Make learning fun 92%
3. Get kids outside 91%
4. Teach STEM topics 81%
5. Meet academic standards 67%

Top 4 student outcomes:

1. Increased knowledge about the environment
2. Increased engagement in learning
3. Better performance on science standards
4. Increased knowledge about forest management

Quality of PLT’s professional development

87% 86% 86%
Very high Worth the time and money Would recommend it to others

2018 Survey of Use prepared by PEER Associates
PROJECT LEARNING TREE CANADA

Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT Canada) believes in a society that values and benefits from sustainably managed forests and the great outdoors. PLT Canada is committed to using the outdoors to engage youth in learning about the world around them – in rural, Indigenous and urban communities – and to using trees and forests as windows on the world to inspire action and grow the next generation of future forest and conservation leaders.

PLT CANADA GREEN JOBS

Working closely with SFI and the Canadian Parks Council, the Green Jobs program was launched in 2018 with support from the Government of Canada. The program is administered by PLT Canada, to instill a passion for the outdoors and provide youth with the knowledge, skills and experience that will help them pursue careers in the forest and conservation sectors.

In the summers of 2018 and 2019, PLT Canada has placed approximately 2,000 youth in outdoor jobs in forest management, ecosystem and wildlife management, Indigenous forest-based programs, recreation and interpretation, conservation and research, education, and jobs with provincial and territorial parks.

PLT Canada has achieved gender balance in its job placements and by end of 2019 will have funded over 250 Indigenous youth in outdoor jobs – that’s over 10% of all total job placements.

AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE GREEN JOBS PROGRAM

90% OF STUDENTS FELT MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND ACTIONS THEY COULD TAKE TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE

Sustainable Forestry Initiative
THE GREEN RIDE FOR GREEN JOBS

PLT Canada’s Zac Wagman, Manager of Green Jobs, is cycling across Canada this summer on a wooden bicycle made by Montreal’s Picolo Vélo. He will travel more than 8,750 km in four months. Zac started on May 13, 2019, in Victoria, B.C., and he will finish on September 24 in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

Zac is meeting with Green Jobs employers in different communities across nine provinces. The ride is elevating the types of careers that exist in the forest, conservation and parks sectors, and the great outdoors by showcasing youth employed in the Green Jobs program across Canada. The Green Ride is raising awareness, and building and strengthening a network of youth and employers across Canada for engagement in future PLT Canada programming.
“Support from SFI matters because it’s helping us create opportunities for youth from West Coast communities to engage in local restoration efforts and learn about ecology and conservation.”

— TOM BALFOUR, PROJECT MANAGER, CENTRAL WESTCOAST FOREST SOCIETY

“Project Learning Tree is recognized for the quality, commitment, and extent of its network of national and state partners, as well as sponsoring organizations. I deeply value the partnership my agency holds with PLT as it enables us to contribute to meaningful and substantive accomplishments in education while broadening our outreach to diverse audiences.”

— TINELLE BUSTAM, ACTING DIRECTOR, CONSERVATION EDUCATION, USDA FOREST SERVICE

“We are one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of office and school paper products. Our business consists of retailers – from big-box, to office superstores, drugstores, any mass market dollar stores. Sustainability is incredibly important to them and their customers. When consumers see an SFI label, there is an instant level of comfort that they are buying from a well-managed forest.”

— DEE ANDREWS, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS, NORCOM INC.

“Robust science, co-produced with on-the-ground operators, gives us the opportunity to contribute to meaningful conservation gains. SFI grants help support that.”

— FIONA SCHMIEGELOW, PROFESSOR, NORTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

“Fifteen years ago, my life changed. It happened when I met Pat Maloney, the Project Learning Tree State Coordinator in Maine. Throughout the years, she has worked to connect me to other teachers in Maine who have been able to accomplish things in their classrooms that I had only dreamed possible.”

— OLIVIA GRISET, FORMER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AND NOW THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MAINE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
“Obtaining certification to SFI is a good long-term decision for the benefit of our community and the future generations that will be managing the forests in the years to come.”

— NICOLE REMPEL, CHIEF OF THE K’OMOKS FIRST NATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

“While gaining market share may be a side benefit of certifying, it was not what motivated the forestry division to pursue certification. It is about leadership in sustainability!”

— LISA ALLEN, STATE FORESTER, MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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“The SFI Community Engagement Fund has supported many of our new programs, like the Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) Network. This gives us the opportunity both to prepare women for active roles in managing family forests and inspire women to engage in sustainable forest management practices.”

— EMILY OAKMAN, SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR OF LANDOWNER OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

“Collaborating with SFI offers unmatched scale in terms of major forest regions and forest types. We also get an opportunity to partner with a wide range of SFI Program Participants in grassroots, practical ways. Our partnership is helping declining birds such as the Prairie Warbler to find new habitat on managed forestland.”

— MICHAEL PARR, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY
The SFI Program Participants include OVER 800 ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED IN 49 U.S. STATES, 9 CANADIAN PROVINCES AND TWENTY FOUR OTHER COUNTRIES.

FOR A LIST OF SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS VISIT: SFIPROGRAM.ORG/PPS OR SEARCH OUR DATABASE FOR MORE SPECIFICS AT: SFIDATABASE.ORG
SFI FUNDING

SFI is primarily supported financially by fees from SFI Program Participants who use the program’s forest management and fiber sourcing standards. These SFI Program Participants include private landowners, forest product companies, managers of public lands, Indigenous groups, conservation organizations, state and local public agencies, community interests and universities.

In 2018, SFI Program Participants provided 78% of the funding for SFI. The remaining 22% came from federal grants, publications, service agreements, contributions, annual conference revenue, and other sources.

SFI funding is not tied to the certification decision. Certified SFI Program Participants are audited by independent certification bodies accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the ANSI National Accreditation Board and/or the Standards Council of Canada. SFI has no role in determining whether a certificate is granted – this decision is made independently by the certification bodies.
The External Review Panel (ERP) has reviewed the data used in this report, and believes it to be objective, meaningful and credible.

We are encouraged to see improvements in the overall SFI Program efforts on several fronts. The increased support and understanding of the needs of the SFI Implementation Committees is commendable. These local implementation committees do critical work for the SFI Program in landowner and logger education, monitoring and resolving reports of inconsistent practices, providing outreach to communities and the public, and more.

A pillar of the SFI Program is a commitment to continuous improvement which we believe has led to significant benefits of SFI across the board each and every year. The strategic positioning process the SFI Staff and Board are working through in 2018-2019 demonstrates this continuous improvement commitment and will help refocus SFI as new programs like Project Learning Tree are incorporated into the overall mission. As part of the strategic positioning, the future of this Panel is being considered and we envision there will be changes in the structure and function of the ERP moving forward. We will report more on this in next year’s letter.

We commend the SFI Program’s continued support of the SFI Conservation and Community Grants Program and the tremendous value this investment provides to scores of partners and to the SFI Program. The creative intellect and passion of those who propose new and innovative approaches to managing North America’s forests cannot be underestimated and the benefits of these investments will be seen for years to come.

SFI is now involved with over 40 Indigenous groups across the United States and Canada. This is directly related to the outreach efforts SFI staff have made and is a significant accomplishment. With many of these groups in Canada, we believe more outreach could be done in the United States to expand participation in the SFI Program.

We are pleased to see SFI working closely with the American Forest Foundation on the challenges of certification of small ownerships in the U.S. and encourage the SFI Program to do more in this area in the coming years.

The SFI standard revision process will begin later this year and we look forward to the opportunity to engage as independent reviewers of the work that will be done to gather, review and act on comments received on ways to improve the SFI standards. This is a necessary process to ensure the SFI standards remain relevant, effective and efficient and that continuous improvement leads to better managed forests.

Bill Hubbard
Chair of the External Review Panel
Assistant Director and Program Leader, University of Maryland Extension
The SFI External Review Panel is a distinguished group of independent experts representing U.S. and Canadian conservation, professional, academic and public organizations. The panel provides external input and operates independently from SFI.

The panel oversees the SFI standards review process and conducts an annual independent review of the SFI Program to ensure the annual SFI progress report objectively and credibly states the status of SFI Program implementation.

Bill Hubbard, Ph.D. (Chair)
Assistant Director & Program Leader
University of Maryland Extension, College AGNR

Bob Tomlinson (Vice-Chair)
Independent Natural Resource Professional & Retired MN DNR

Alice Ewen (Vice-Chair)
Acting Chief of Staff, State and Private Forestry
USDA Forest Service

Jeremy Bauer*
Regional Coordinator, Border Environmental Health
U.S. EPA

Jim Brown
Member, Jim Brown Consulting Forestry, LLC

Gary Bull, Ph.D.
Head, Forest Resources Management
University of British Columbia

Jad Daley
President & CEO
American Forests

Kathryn (Katie) Fernholz
President and CEO
Dovetail Partners

Scott Phillips
State Forester
South Carolina Forestry Commission

Mike Sullivan
Manager, Coastal Ecosystem Science Division and Director
SABS for Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Lena Tucker
Deputy State Forester
Oregon Dept. of Forestry

ERP Executive Secretary
Rick Cantrell
President
BlackBriar Environmental LLC

*Left panel in March 2019

June 30, 2018–May 1, 2019
The PLT Education Operating Committee is a committee of the SFI Board. It is responsible for providing leadership, direction and strategy development for PLT. This diverse committee works with educators, resource management professionals, youth leaders, citizen conservationists and others.
Laura Downey, Ph.D. (Co-Chair)
Executive Director
Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education
Kansas

Heidi McAllister (Co-Chair)
Assistant Director
Conservation Education
USDA Forest Service
Washington, D.C.

Janet Ady
Division Chief
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D.C.

Nicole Ardoin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Stanford University
California

Wanda Barrs
Tree Farmer
Due South Investments
Georgia

Daniel Benavidez
Superintendent
Zuni Public School District
New Mexico

Denise Buck
PLT State Coordinator Rep
Program Director
Pacific Education Institute
Washington

Andrew Burnett
Branch Chief (Retired)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D.C.

Peter Church
State Forester
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Massachusetts

Mary Ford
Education Program Manager
National Geographic Society
Washington, D.C.

Beth Marchand
Director of Marketing
Bearmark Digital
New Hampshire

Karen Ostlund, Ph.D.
Lecturer
University of Texas at Austin
Texas

Robert Raze, Ph.D.
Professor
St. Petersburg College
Florida

Thelma Redick
Conservation Content & Partnerships
Wildlife Habitat Council
Maryland

Susan Schultz
Independent Consultant
SMS Consulting
Indiana

Michelle Scribner
Program Director
Arbor Day Foundation
Nebraska

Rahul Singh
CEO & Founder
Anant Corporation
Washington, D.C.

Laura Six
Plant Ecologist
Weyerhaeuser Corporation
Washington

Ashley Smith
SFI Implementation Committee Rep
Director of Education Programs
Alabama Forestry Association
Alabama

Ada Takacs
PLT State Coordinator Rep
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan
SFI BOARD

SFI® Inc. is governed by the 18-member SFI Board, which sets SFI’s strategic direction and is responsible for overseeing and improving the internationally recognized SFI Program and SFI standards. The Board’s three chambers represent environmental, social, and economic sectors equally.

“The independence and diversity of the SFI Board of Directors is one of SFI’s defining characteristics and a foundation for our success. Each board member brings a range of remarkable skills and perspectives to our work. I’m excited about the opportunities we have to advance our mission on behalf of sustainable forests.”

Guy Gleysteen (SFI Chair)
Chairman,
GREENBLUE

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**ECONOMIC**

GREENBLUE

Graphic Packaging International Inc.

EACOM Timber Corporation

IRVING

J.D. Irving, Limited

Hancock Timber Resource Group

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**ENVIRONMENTAL**

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Conserving Canada’s Wetlands

Ecosystem Management Research Institute

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**SOCIAL**

Black Family Land Trust, Inc.

KACEE

Nicola Tribal Association

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat pour l’humanité Canada

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Sustainable Forestry Initiative
**ECONOMIC SECTOR**

Board members representing the economic sector, which includes the forest, paper and wood products industry or other for-profit forest ownership or management entities.

**Guy Gleysteen (SFI Chair)**
Chairman, GreenBlue

**Michael P. Doss**
President and CEO, Graphic Packaging Holding Company

**Kevin Edgson**
President and CEO, EACOM Timber Corporation

**Jim Irving**
Co-CEO, J.D. Irving, Limited

**Brent Keefer**
President, Hancock Timber Resource Group

**Jaime Yraguen**
President, Associated Oregon Loggers

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**ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR**

Board members representing the environmental sector, which includes non-profit environmental or conservation organizations.

**Karla Guyn, Ph.D. (SFI Vice-Chair)**
CEO, Ducks Unlimited Canada

**Jonathan (Jon) Haufler, Ph.D. (SFI Secretary-Treasurer)**
Executive Director, Ecosystem Management Research Institute

**Robert Abernethy**
President, Longleaf Alliance

**Dan Lambe**
President, Arbor Day Foundation

**Mike Parr**
President, American Bird Conservancy

**Gail Wallin**
Co-Chair, Canadian Council on Invasive Species

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**SOCIAL SECTOR**

Board members representing the social sector, which includes community or social interest groups such as universities, workers, family-forest owners or government agencies.

**Mark Rodgers, Ph.D., CEC, RODP (Immediate Past Chair)**
President and CEO, Habitat for Humanity Canada

**Ebonie Alexander**
Executive Director, Black Family Land Trust, Inc.

**Laura Downey**
Executive Director, Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education

**Lennard Joe**
President, Nicola Tribal Association

**Bettina Ring**
Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, State of Virginia

As of June 1, 2019