

SFI HAS PROUDLY PARTNERED  
WITH AND INVESTED IN OVER

# 120 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

ACROSS CANADA  
AND THE U.S.

## SFI PROMOTES INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, RESPECT AND ENGAGEMENT

**SFI supports community-led forest-focused initiatives and partners with leading Indigenous organizations so that all communities are able to fully value and benefit from sustainably managed forests. Through growing and strengthening our relationships, SFI maintains strong alignment between SFI standards and the values, rights, and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.**

The SFI Forest Management Standard is aligned with Indigenous values, including rights, knowledge, and environmental considerations. SFI also partners with leading organizations like the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and Habitat for Humanity Canada's Indigenous Housing Partnership. To date, SFI has awarded nine grants focused on these values from the boreal forests of Canada to the rainforests of the Pacific Northwest.

Use of the SFI Forest Management Standard continues to grow across Canada and U.S., with communities using SFI standards to address cultural, economic and environmental interests. In Canada, the SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities also offers the opportunity to participate in a group certification and benefit from economies of scale.

Indigenous communities began certifying to SFI in 2010. Today, 39 Indigenous groups across Canada and the U.S. work on over 4-million hectares/ 10-million acres of land certified to SFI.

## INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES SUPPORT THE SFI FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

CERTIFICATION	COMMUNITIES	HECTARES	LOCATION
	<b>Capacity Forest Management</b> Namgis First Nation • Wei Wai Kum First Nation • Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation • Wuikinuxv First Nation • Lower Similkameen Indian Band • Mowachat/Muchalaht First Nation • Mamalilikulla- Qwe'Qwa'Set'Em • Sechelt First Nation	345,398	British Columbia
	<b>K'omoks and Qualicum</b> K'omoks First Nation • Qualicum First Nation	12,993	British Columbia
	<b>Miitigoog</b> Anishnabeg of Naongashing • Naotkamegwanning First Nation • Northwest Angle #33 • Ochiichagwe'Babigo'ining First Nation • Ojibways of Onigaming • Shoal Lake #40 • Wabaseemoong Independent Nation • Wabauskang First Nation	1,225,577	Ontario
	<b>Montreal Lake Business Ventures</b> Montreal Lake Cree Nation	230,344	Saskatchewan
	<b>Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.</b> Antoine Algonquin First Nation • Mattawa/North Bay Algonquin First Nation • Dokis First Nation • Nipissing First Nation •	844,030	Ontario
	<b>Ondaadiziwin Forest Management Inc.</b> Lac Seul First Nation	1,070,567	Ontario
	<b>Rainy Lake Tribal Resource Management Inc.</b> Couchiching First Nation • Mitaanigamiing First Nation • Naicatchewenin First Nation • Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation • Rainy River First Nation • Seine River First Nation	282,679	Ontario
	<b>Stuwix Resources Joint Venture</b> Cook's Ferry Indian Band • Coldwater Indian Band • Nooaitch Indian Band • Shackan Indian Band • Siska Indian Band • Upper Similkameen Indian Band • Lower Nicola Indian Band • Upper Nicola Band	79,000	British Columbia
	<b>TOTAL - 38 COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>4,090,588 HECTARES</b>	

## SFI CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANT PROGRAM

Since 2010, SFI has directly invested over \$300,000 in Indigenous community-led projects, supporting over \$2 million in leveraged funding involving 11+ Indigenous nation partners.

The **Tk'emlups First Nations** in British Columbia worked with their elders to describe cultural heritage resources, such as traditional foods and medicines, and trained youth to work with the forest sector to protect these resources.

The **Native Earth Environmental Youth Camp** is a youth camp devoted to sustainable science and traditional ecological knowledge run by the State University of New York in partnership with the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force.

On BC's central coast the **Heiltsuk** are using databases and geographic information systems to improve the understanding of location and importance of culturally-modified trees distributed throughout their traditional territory.



Cree First Nation of  
**WASWANIPÍ**



HEILTSUK FIRST NATION

TK'EMPLUPS



Adams Lake Indian Band



Pekuakamiunuatsh  
Takuhikan



Bonaparte  
Indian  
Band



Neskonlith



SIMPCW FIRST NATION  
People of the North Thompson River



The **Effingham River Restoration Project** is improving salmonid rearing habitats in British Columbia, while providing training opportunities for local Indigenous community members.

Quebec's **Laval University**, SFI and its partners supported Indigenous communities and forest companies to expand opportunities for Indigenous forestry workers.

**Monitoring Water Temperatures and Flows for Steelhead in Relation to Forest Management Practices**, from the Fraser Basin Council, will work to conserve steelhead trout in BC through improved forest management techniques.

The **San Carlos Apache Forest Resources Youth Outreach Program** is being supported by SFI to promote the link between sustainable forestry, cultural heritage and empowering tribal youth.

## CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

The Nanwakolas Council, a leadership group for 12 coastal British Columbia First Nations, worked with SFI Program Participant Interfor, to identify the qualities of western red cedar trees suitable for carving traditional canoes and poles, and for Big House construction. Suitable trees are at least three feet in diameter, 300 to 600 years old and free of large knots. Forestry professionals from Interfor and master carvers from area First Nations developed field criteria, which were then used by crews to identify appropriate trees. This partnership, respecting traditional lands and cultural needs, was awarded a SFI Conservation Leadership Award.

**Learn more:** [forests.org/indigenous](https://forests.org/indigenous)



**BETTER CHOICES  
FOR THE PLANET**



## PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



During the 2015-2019 standard revision process, SFI received comments from Indigenous people and held a dedicated workshop on addressing those comments and incorporating them into the standard.

Many SFI standard requirements reflect and support values and an approach to land management that are important to Indigenous communities:

**INDIGENOUS RIGHTS:** Objective 8 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.

**WATER:** Objective 3 requires protection and maintenance of rivers, streams, lakes and other water bodies, a top priority for Indigenous communities that rely on naturally functioning water resources.

**SPECIAL SITES:** Objective 6 calls for the protection of special sites and requires SFI Program Participants to manage lands that are ecologically, geologically, historically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities. This includes sites special to Indigenous Peoples.

**RESEARCH:** Objective 10 requires support for forestry research, science and technology. Indigenous land managers work with a variety of agencies to advance research and combine it with cultural ideals, objectives and values.

**TRAINING:** Objective 11 requires that SFI Program Participants train personnel and contractors so they can support sustainable forestry practices. Indigenous communities working in forestry value this opportunity to build capacity within their communities.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** Objective 12 encourages public involvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, which means providing opportunities for Indigenous communities to provide input about plans for traditional lands and their use.

