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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

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SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program 2010 World Resources Institute: The Forest Legality Risk Tool

In 2010, Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Inc. introduced its Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program furthering its long-standing commitment to research and bringing together diverse partners, including SFI program participants, conservation groups, and several government agencies, to deliver conservation benefits across North America and tackle illegal logging issues globally.

Independent non-profit SFI Inc. invited applications for collaborative projects that help to implement the SFI 2010-2014 Standard, make it stronger, and show how SFI certification delivers tangible benefits on the ground and complements existing government initiatives in North America. Applicants were encouraged to address topics of current importance such as the role of certified forests in emerging bioenergy and carbon markets, improving wildlife habitat management, avoiding controversial sources of fiber such as those resulting from illegal logging, and delivering community benefits through activities involving partners such as government agencies, Aboriginal communities and universities.

In May 2010, the SFI program announced a commitment of \$675,000 to support nine projects, including \$307,500 for 2010 alone. Through the involvement of partners, these projects will leverage additional resources and achieve a total value of almost \$2.7 million.

The Forest Legality Risk Tool

World Resources Institute (www.wri.org) will receive \$30,000 each year for three years, for a total of \$90,000, to create the Forest Legality Alliance Risk Tool, an open access, map-based, global information hub so users can conduct due diligence on forest trade.

Supporting the SFI Standard

The project will support the SFI Legality Requirements and Policies for Avoidance of Illegal Logging (Section 7 of the Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program), Objective 12: "To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by avoidance of illegal logging", and Objective 13: "To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by avoiding controversial sources."

Project Partners

The project is one activity of the Forest Legality Alliance, which is made up of many retail, industry, government and conservation organizations.

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Project Details

The Forest Legality Alliance Risk Tool will help to reduce the proportion of wood and forest products of illegal origin imported into the United States. In the long term, demand for illegally harvested wood in tropical and other biodiversity-rich forests is expected to decrease, and this will improve the reputation of forest products globally as a responsible choice.

The target audience is forest stakeholders who make decisions regarding investment and procurement in which the risk of illegal logging is an important factor – such as importers and traders of forest products; investors in forest management and supply chains; and certifiers and verifiers of forest management and supply chains. The first phase of the project will focus on countries that are exporters to the United States, such as China, Indonesia, Honduras and Peru.

About the World Resources Institute

The non-profit World Resources Institute's mission is to move human society to live in ways that protect Earth's environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations.

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program (www.sfiprogram.org). Close to 200 million acres/80 million hectares are certified to the SFI forest management standard across North America, making it the largest single forest standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers the percentage of certified, uncertified and recycled content in a product. Unique SFI fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands in North America, whether certified or not. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

The SFI program is grounded in science and research, and based on conservation and community partnerships. Since 1995, SFI-certified organizations have invested more than \$1.1 billion US for research activities that improve the health, productivity and responsible management of forest resources. The program also responds to diverse local needs across the United States and Canada through a unique network of 37 SFI Implementation Committees. SFI Inc. values and facilitates this research and outreach work through awards and support for collaborative activities.

For more information:

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