



SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program 2010 Forest Trends: Navigating “Legality” in the Global Supply Chain

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.

Navigating “Legality” in the Global Supply Chain

Forest Trends will receive \$10,000 for the fourth Potomac Forum on Illegal Logging & Associated Trade in the fall of 2010, which will help U.S. suppliers, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, navigate legality in the global supply chain.

Supporting the SFI Standard

The project will support SFI 2010-2014 Standard requirements related to avoidance of controversial sources, including Performance Measure 12.1: “Program participants shall ensure that their fiber sourcing programs support the principles of sustainable forestry, including efforts to thwart illegal logging” and Performance Measure 13.1: “Program participants shall avoid controversial sources and encourage socially sound practices.”

Project Partners

SFI Inc. has sponsored previous Potomac Forums – other sponsors have included the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Forest Service and the World Bank.

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-2-

Project Details

In addition to the Potomac Forum, Forest Trends will also produce a policy brief to help U.S. suppliers comply with market and policy demands for legal, wood products, such as the amended Lacey Act in the United States, emerging European Commission legislation and global public procurement policies.

The project will help stakeholders in producer countries and the United States, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, understand the two years of experience in Lacey Act implementation, and how it is affecting North American trade. It will raise understanding about the role of certification standards in cost effectively complying with the multitude of market and policy demands for non-controversial, or legal, wood products. The project will also explore how forest certification programs may assist with meeting these demands as one tool companies can use to illustrate due diligence when procuring forest products.

About Forest Trends

Non-profit Forest Trends (www.forest-trends.org) works with collaborators all over the world to advance and refine solutions to preserving the world's forests and to improve local livelihoods. It analyzes strategic market and policy issues, catalyzes connections between forward-looking producers, communities and investors, and develops new financial tools to help markets work for conservation and people.

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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