

Charting a Course for Forest Sustainability: The Role of Forest Certification

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Why Use Certification as a model?

-  It may be the most powerful vehicle to promote all aspects of sustainability in the management of forest lands.
-  It is international in scope
-  Each certification standard must include elements that will promote environmental health, economic viability, and social equity.



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Let's look at the world

- 🌿 SFI – A U.S. Certification System
- 🌿 Not for long:
 - 🌿 Canada in 2001
 - 🌿 2006 ?



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Why is the SFI going international?

- 🌿 In today's world:
 - 🌿 We are no longer a U.S. or North American forestry Community
 - 🌿 The marketplace for forestry and forest products is worldwide



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Reaction in the marketplace

- 🌿 The certification world is coming down to two major recognition systems:
 - 🌿 First - The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
 - 🌿 And now – The Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)



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How does SFI fit in?

-  Any national certification system (no matter how strong) that is not internationally recognized will soon be irrelevant in the world marketplace.
-  We have chosen the PEFC vehicle



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Endorsement

- 🌿 A rigorous process
 - 🌿 200 pages matching SFI to PEFC Criteria
 - 🌿 An independent assessment (ITS Global – Australia)
 - 🌿 World – wide public review
 - 🌿 Vote of the PEFC Board and General Assembly



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The International Challenge: Where U.S. forestry falls short

- 🌿 Recognizing the importance of the social element within SFM
- 🌿 PEFC endorsement requires supporting the ILO (which is not ratified by the United States)



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The new SFI 2005-2009 Standard

Commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, antidiscrimination and antiharassment measures, workers' compensation.



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More

Indigenous peoples' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.



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Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.

-  *Program* that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable *Program Participants* to
-  understand and respect *traditional forest-related knowledge*;
-  identify and protect spiritually, historically, or *culturally important* sites

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Procurement

- ❖ Process to assess the risk that *procurement* takes place in countries without effective laws addressing the following:
 - ❖ workers' health and safety;
 - ❖ fair labor practices;
 - ❖ indigenous peoples' rights;
 - ❖ antidiscrimination and antiharassment measures;
 - ❖ prevailing wages; and
 - ❖ workers' right to organize.



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It took us a while to get it

- ❖ In fact, many foresters are downright uncomfortable about it – Forest Certification should be about forestry not “social stuff”
- ❖ The great social force inherent in Sustainable Forest management.
 - ❖ 1.6 Billion People rely heavily on forest resources for their livelihoods



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Forestry seen as the answer, not the problem

UN-FAO, "Without investment in people-centered forestry, other measures to tackle poverty and improve poor peoples livelihoods will be undermined"



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Forests Contribute to:

-  Poverty Alleviation
-  Food Security
-  commercial and employment opportunities
-  Development of good governance
 -  Partnerships
-  Environmental stability



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Your Agenda has a strong social component

-  Climate Change
-  Ecological Services
-  New York City Water Needs
-  Forests and ecological function during development



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One Take Away

-  Forestry is all about social benefits and supporting people. That's why it is viewed so positively in the rest of the world.
-  Let's not shy away from this – let's shout it from the roof tops.



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Thanks

Sustainable Forestry Board - *Diverse Perspectives*
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