

THE SFI SMALL-SCALE



FOREST



MANAGEMENT MODULE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

A NEW PATH FOR CERTIFYING SMALL COMMUNITY FORESTLANDS IN CANADA

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities is a new option for certifying small-scale forestlands in Canada. This innovative SFI module is designed to increase the supply of certified fibre from small forestlands and woodlots across Canada, including small-scale forestlands owned or managed by communities, counties or municipalities.

The SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities is based on the requirements of the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. But it's scaled down to reflect the forest management objectives on small forestlands and woodlots in Canada. The module includes measures to broaden practices to address the conservation of biodiversity, the use of forestry best management

practices to protect water quality, soil productivity and reforestation, and the use of forest management and harvesting professionals.

The module can also accommodate communities or municipalities managing forests with a focus on conservation or recreation objectives. Similarly, communities or municipalities considering participation in carbon-offset projects will want to consider the module for certification of their forests.

Community engagement is central to SFI's work. We collaborate with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, conservation groups, landowners, educators, governments, universities, resource professionals, the forest sector and brand owners. All these partners share a commitment to future forests and understand that by working together we can have the greatest impact.

FLEXIBLE APPROACH — INDIVIDUAL OR MEMBER OF A GROUP

The module is designed for individual small-scale forests or groups of small-scale forests coming together to obtain sustainable forest management certification. The module allows members to benefit from the economies of scale afforded by working with a group of forest owners and managers of forest licences. Working as a group, members can benefit from improved forest management while sharing the cost of implementing the module and earning third-party certification.

Under the scope of the SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities, the area of an individual member's forest is capped at 20,000 hectares in total forest growing area. This individual member size-cap can be exceeded when recreation or conservation areas are included.

Examples of small-scale forests eligible for the module include forestlands owned or managed by municipalities, counties or Crown forests licensed to communities. Large forestlands owned or managed by communities seeking certification to SFI would be expected to certify to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.

SMALL-SCALE FOREST-MANAGEMENT MODULE REQUIREMENTS

A Forest Management Plan

The area under the module must be covered by a forest management plan. This management plan will address, among other items, the long-term sustainable harvest level and will include measures to avoid conversion to non-forest use. The plan should be appropriate to the size of the managed forest, the forest management objectives and the scale and intensity of management.

Member Commitment

Members of the certification organization must sign a commitment to implement and maintain the module requirements applicable to the forestlands under the module.

Annual Monitoring Program

The module requires an annual monitoring program to ensure conformance with the requirements of the module. The monitoring program focuses on, among other items, commercial harvesting operations, reforestation, protection of biological diversity and water quality and the construction of roads and trails.

Independent Certification

To count as certified forest content, fibre from forestlands under the module must be third-party certified by a certification body accredited by the Standards Council of Canada or the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board.

GETTING STARTED

The SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families, and Communities is ready for implementation. To learn more, contact:

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ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® INC. (SFI)

SFI® Inc. is a sustainability leader that stands for future forests. We are an independent, non-profit organization that provides supply chain assurances, delivers conservation leadership, and supports education and community engagement. SFI believes caring for forests improves everyone's quality of life. Learn more about how SFI is using group certification modules to grow certified forests: sfiprogram.org.

