

International Family Forestry Alliance

The International Family Forestry Alliance is a network of national family forest owners' organisations worldwide, supporting this Memorandum. The Alliance was formally launched on July 1st, 2002, and by August 21th the following organisations have confirmed their support for the Memorandum dated July 1st, 2002:

Hauptverband der Land- und Forstwirtschaftsbetriebe Österreich, Austria
Société Royale Forestière de Belgique, Belgium
Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners, Canada
Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)
The Danish Forest Association, Denmark
The Estonian Private Forestowners Association, Estonia
Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK), Finland
The French Private Forest Owners Unions Federation, France
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Waldbesitzerverbände e.V., Germany
The Greek Forest Owners Association, Greece
The Forest Owners Association of Latvia (KSMAA), Latvia
Groupement des Sylviculteurs a.s.b.I., Luxemburg
The Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation, Norway
Confederation of Organizations of Private Forest Owners of Spain (COSE), Spain
The Federation of Swedish Forest Owners, Sweden
American Tree Farm System, US

The first official meeting of IFFA will take place in Washington D.C. during week 49, 2002.
Contact person for IFFA autumn 2002 is:

Robert S. Simpson, Director, American Tree Farm System
E-mail: BSimpson@TreeFarmSystem.org

MEMORANDUM

Dated July 1st, 2002

Vision

The International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA) provides a forum for focusing the voice of family forestry worldwide. Its purpose is to:

- communicate the values and challenges of family forestry
- communicate family forest owners' important contribution to sustainable and multifunctional forestry
- inform consumers about the natural, renewable, and recyclable products from the forests, which provide a positive effect on the World's climate and quality of life
- make society aware of the family forests' contributions of pure water, clean air, productive soil, abundant wild life, forest landscape and recreational opportunities

Objectives

Family forest owners recognise the importance of sustainable forest management (SFM) and respect the need to balance economic, social, ecological and cultural aspects of forestry.

The International Family Forestry Alliance's objectives are to:

- function as an informal alliance of family forest owners' organisations world wide, in support of the memorandum
- communicate the common values of family forest owners
- communicate family forestry's legal ownership of land and strong connection to local communities
- promote the existence, development and advantages of family forestry and advocate supportive programs and policies
- highlight forests as a natural, renewable and recyclable resource, with a significant contribution to the environment and quality of life
- provide information, recommendations and advice to international forest policy processes
- be recognised as an important stakeholder and be consulted by the United Nations and other international policy-making bodies affecting SFM on family forests
- provide a forum for the exchange of experience, ideas and information, and for mutual support among family forest owners' organisations.

Working Methods

The International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA) will use the following working methods:

- IFFA will be an informal alliance of forest owners' organisations supporting the memorandum
- Official Alliance activity: The annual meeting
- No membership fee or Board of Directors
- No formal secretary. Preparations for the annual meeting will be the responsibility of the organiser of the next annual meeting (a contact person will be identified). The organising association will chair the meeting, develop and distribute an agenda at least three weeks prior to the meeting (after input from members) and record and distribute minutes from the annual meeting
- Network members will contribute resources to the Alliance on a voluntary basis
- The annual meeting can establish working groups and task forces on matters of common interest, with mandate and time frame
- Special projects can be initiated by members of the Alliance to assist the progress of the Alliance's work; for example, research and development (R&D) work
- E-mail will be used as an important working tool

Challenges 2002-2004

The International Family Forestry Alliance will focus energies on matters of common international interest impacting the long term sustainability of family owned forests. Salient challenges for IFFA during the next three years include:

- Raise the awareness of family forestry in international forums
- Identify key messages to promote the values of family forestry
- Ensure that family forest owners' options to continue sustainable forest management are not reduced, and the costs of credible certification are kept to the lowest level possible
- Identify possible alliance partners inside and outside the forestry sector and initiate dialogue with them
- Participate in relevant international policy-making bodies affecting SFM on family forest ownerships
- Identify common matters where R&D would assist the Alliance in achieving its objectives; seek funding from Foundations and other sources to finance the research
- Facilitate information and knowledge exchange
- Represent IFFA at important meetings bearing impact on family forestry

Background information

Family Forest Ownership Characteristics

Family forest owners are characterised by:

- small-scale management compared to large-scale state and industrial enterprises
- owners having a variety of ownership goals and facing a variety of circumstances
- strong stewardship values demonstrated through multiple-use forest management
- owners having a strong attachment to their forests, which have often been in their families' ownership for several generations
- owners providing multiple forest products and benefits to society
- owners managing their forests with a long-term perspective, keeping in mind that their investments will benefit future generations
- families, including all ages and genders, deriving income from their forests
- local ownership, contributing to economic and social sustainability of communities