International Sustainable Forestry Coalition

Supporting the role of sustainable forest management in the climate, nature, social justice and circular bioeconomy transitions

Embargoed until: 7 September, 2023 at 00.01 BST

Launch of the International Sustainable Forestry Coalition (ISFC)

Ten leading forestry companies, managing almost 9 million hectares (22 million acres) of forests in 27 countries worth tens of billions of dollars, unite to help solve some of the world's largest environmental challenges.

Launch of Position Paper ahead of New York Climate Week

LONDON: 7 September 2023 – Prompted by the urgent call to action on climate change, biodiversity loss, reducing emissions by halting and reversing deforestation, some of the world's largest forestry companies are today launching a new initiative.

The group, known as the International Sustainable Forestry Coalition (ISFC), includes founding members Dasos Capital, F&W Forestry, Gresham House, Marubeni, Mitsui & Co., Ltd (Mitsui), New Forests, Oji Holdings Corporation, Rayonier, Stora Enso and UPM.

Collectively these companies manage almost 9 million hectares of forests in 27 countries being Australia, New Zealand, USA, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Ireland, UK, Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, France, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Uganda, Tanzania and Mozambique.

Executive Director of the ISFC Ross Hampton said, "ISFC's mission is to advocate for increasing the global provision of renewable materials in the context of a circular bioeconomy; supporting growth that is compatible with climate and nature recovery imperatives; embedding science-based principles in policy and incentives; and increasing benefits to rural and Indigenous Peoples.

"The ISFC is committed to help solve the challenges laid out in the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use, being progressed by the Forests and Climate Leaders Partnership (FCLP). The private forestry sector is a vital partner to mobilize capital at the scale required to deliver on these ambitions and the applicable United Nations Sustainable Development Goals."

Convening Chair of the ISFC, and Chair of nature-based real assets manager, New Forests, Dr. David Brand said, "For the forestry sector to play a greater role in the overarching sustainability transition it needs to engage more directly with the Climate Change and Biodiversity COPs, with initiatives such as the Forests and Climate Leaders Partnership and with other policy processes related to the conservation and sustainable management of forests.

"There is an expectation that the forestry sector needs to grow and contribute to a transition to greater use of sustainable, renewable, naturally decomposable materials in society; to a sustainable built environment; and to thriving rural communities. This will

require expanded investment, but also an approach that creates and perpetuates landscapes which effectively balance conservation and production functions."

The ISFC will undertake activities during New York Climate Week and at COP28 in Dubai.

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Notes to Editors:
The ISFC Position Paper can be downloaded here.
For more information about ISFC please visit www.isfc.world
Dr. David Brand and several other senior members of the ISFC companies will be present in New York during Climate Week (17-24 September) and available for media interviews.

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Quotes from Member Companies:

Mark McHugh, President, Rayonier said, "Sustainably managed working forests will play a vital role in supporting the transition to a circular bioeconomy. At Rayonier, we are committed to realising the full potential of our forests in meeting the needs of society, and we are pleased to join the International Sustainable Forestry Coalition with a view towards achieving this vision."

Jody Strickland, Chief Business Officer, EVP, F&W Forestry Services, said, "Forests are extremely important for providing both ecological services and sustainable, renewable products for a growing population. We believe the sustainable building materials and other cellulose based products produced from the trees we grow will play an increasingly important role in helping us transition to a more sustainable economy. At the same time, we need to continue to improve the way we manage forests to provide additional ecological benefits. Therefore, it is vitally important that the forestry sector come together to help meet the challenges of transitioning to a sustainable society. The International Sustainable Forestry Coalition provides a conduit for us to work together to meet the challenges that lie ahead."

Olly Hughes, Managing Director, Forestry, Gresham House, said, "The consideration of long-term sustainability risks and opportunities is a crucial aspect of our forestry management approach. Sustainability related risks include climate change and biodiversity loss. We believe that managing forests sustainably can help mitigate these long-term risks and maximise the long-term growth and health of these assets for the ultimate benefit of society as a whole.

"We are delighted to have joined the International Sustainable Forestry Coalition to ensure that the opportunities for forestry to support global climate and biodiversity challenges are fully understood and make a full contribution towards a more sustainable future."

Masaru Namiki, General Manager, Living and Environmental Business Division, Mitsui, said, "At Mitsui, we are committed to driving initiatives that will make contributions to solving the material issues our world is facing today, of which one is to 'Create an Eco-Friendly Society'. While there is no doubt that forestry will play a key role in promoting sustainable growth of our society, realising its potential has only begun. It is our privilege to join the International Sustainable Forestry Coalition, and to work together with global leaders in unlocking the true values and benefits Forestry can bring."

Tsuyoshi Teragaki - Managing Executive Officer, COO, Forest Products Div. Marubeni, said, "We are aspiring to become a "Forerunner in Green Business" by addressing sustainability issues across all industries, and implementing sustainability initiatives—including decarbonisation, the circular economy, water resources, biodiversity, respect for human rights, and sustainable supply chains—is a prerequisite we have set for the Marubeni Group's business operations.

"We recognise that forests are renewable resources that provide various benefits for sustaining life on earth, and embrace economically viable forest management methods with the aim of ensuring the prosperity of present and future generations. Under the Forest Products Division purpose *"Open the way to a sustainable future through the power of people and forests."* We strive to contribute to the establishment of a circular economy by creating innovation in the utilization of forest resources and responding to the society's environmental needs that are becoming more diverse.

"By joining ISFC, we are honored to be able to contribute to the realization of a sustainable future together with forestry companies that share the same vision."

Sauli Brander, VP Global Affairs UPM, said, "Sustainable forest management, sustainable use of forest raw material, and the switch from fossil resources to sustainable renewable materials constitutes an enormous opportunity to combat climate change. We cannot achieve our common climate goals without recognizing the contribution of forests. UPM's business is based on the continuous growth of forests and increasing a net-positive impact on biodiversity. Our Forest Action Plan 2030 covers all fundamental aspects of sustainable forestry: climate, biodiversity, soil, water and social contribution.

"UPM's significant forestry footprint that covers Finland, Uruguay and the US enables us to be at the forefront of responsible wood sourcing, and to introduce new locally adapted solutions and best practices in forestry. We welcome international cooperation to support the whole sector in finding best solutions, together."

Olli Haltia, Chief Executive Officer of Dasos Capital, said, "Sustainably managed forests are a source for a wide range of products and services. In addition to wood, the global demand for forest-based biodiversity and carbon sequestration is rapidly growing. It is increasingly recognized that markets and market-based pricing for all forest-based ecosystem services should be developed symmetrically across the product portfolio.

"Forests form an important part of natural capital. To match the environmental, economic and social challenges of a global economy, we need internationally coordinated and

coherently adapted natural capital framework and standards to ensure dynamic and sustainable investment in global forest resources. We have been very pleased to join the International Forestry Coalition to enhance the development of forest-based natural capital and investment for evergreen future."

Toby Croucher, Senior Vice President Sustainability, Forest Division, Stora Enso, said, "At Stora Enso we are fully focused on sustainability as central to the way we work locally and nationally with all of our partners and stakeholders. However, it is imperative that the contribution of the forestry industry to societal and environmental goals and needs is supported and understood globally in the context of energy and material system transitions, and we are pleased to join the International Sustainable Forestry Coalition to support this critical dialogue."

Hiroyuki Isono, Group Chief Executive Officer of Oji Holdings Corporation, said, "Sustainably managed forests not only absorb carbon dioxide, but also mitigate floods, cultivate water sources, and prevent natural disasters in addition to their contribution to biodiversity, healing and people's health. The products derived from wood are made of renewable materials and able to substitute for plastic, films and fuel derived from fossil resources.

"We are delighted to join the International Sustainable Forestry Coalition where world forestry leaders work together as one to combat global problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss and forest degradation. The coalition will also attempt to clarify real value of forests as natural capital, to lead to a more sustainable society."

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