



COMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY
5-9 NOVEMBER 2018 | VANCOUVER | CANADA
BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH FORESTS

Forests and the circular economy

6 November 2018, 14:00 - 17:00, Plenary

Background and objective of the panel discussion

There is an increasing interest in integrating economic concepts with environmental ones to provide enhanced benefits to society and the environment. Several terms have emerged to describe this integration, including “bio-economy,” “green economy,” and “circular economy.”

Despite their different operationalization strategies, the three concepts are linked by the common idea to reconcile economic, environmental and social goals. They are currently mainstreamed in policy making as key sustainability avenues supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Green economy can be considered an “umbrella concept” as regards environmental sustainability, which includes elements of circular economy and the bio-economy, such as eco-efficiency or nature-based solutions. Circular economy and the bio-economy appear to be more resource focused, while green economy is also more inclusive of social aspects. Various synonym concepts: “industrial ecology”, “green growth”, “bio-based economy” are also used to describe these ideas.

Forests and forest-associated industries are strategic to unfolding the potential of green, circular and the bio-economy. Being resource-based, material (contrary to service) sector, it has inputs, outputs and environmental externalities resulting from the production processes. In addition, forest sector has a pivotal role in climate regulation, water resources management, biodiversity and cultural values preservation as well as development of local communities.

Circular economy, which will be the focus of this session, revolves around principles of integrating technological innovation (including eco-design), recycling and eco-efficiency. In the forest sector, these principles are incarnated by Sustainable Forest Management - implying resource saving, and the prominent role that wood-based products play in substitution of non-renewable materials.

However, while the forest sector provides resource-efficient products with highly rated environmental performance, including durability, the new products cycles need to consider other functions of forest services in order to avoid unnecessary pressures on ecosystems. For instance, while residual biomass can be transformed into biochemical compounds with the support of new technologies, consideration of other potential uses of such residual streams is crucial in determining whether such transformation at a large scale can be sustainable in the long term. Certain proportion of forest biomass, for example, may better serve sustainability by being left in the forest and contributing to the local ecosystem.

The potential role that forests can play in the circular economy needs, therefore, to be placed in the context of all



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forest values. For that reason, apart from emphasising circularity aspects, such as eco-design, the use of innovative bio-resources and closing the loop from waste to resource, this session will also consider social consequences of new business models and the question of integration among green, circular and the bio-economy, as a way to achieving the sustainability of the forest sector in the long term.

The programme will feature:

- Presentation of green economy, circular economy and bio-economy concepts;
- Examination of the role of forest in the circular bio-economy;
- Case studies of how circular economy principles are being implemented in the forest sector;
- Discussion on what the implications of circular economy on the forest sector are and what role the forest sector can play in a circular economy.

Delegates will be invited to contribute to the discussion by showcasing their own experience on the topic.



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Programme and tentative timetable

Introduction and presentation of key concepts

14:00 - 14:40 **Introduction by the moderator**
Ms. Kathy Abusow, President and CEO, Sustainable Forest Initiative Inc.

Circular economy and the bio-economy – concepts and implications for the forest sector
Mr. Pekka Leskinen, Head of Bioeconomy, European Forest Institute

Innovation and eco-efficiency at the core of circular economy

14:40 - 16:20 **Panel discussion**

Case study: Making circularity new business ethics
Mr. Paolo Scommegna, Gruppo Mauro Saviola

Case study: Designing new fibres for life
Mr. Robert van de Kerkhof, Chief Commercial Officer, Lenzig AG

Case study: Innovating for sustainable future
Mr. Lars Sandberg, Project Manager, Innovation, BillerudKorsnäs

Forests and the circular economy

16:20 - 17:00 **Statement – Youth perspectives**
Ms. Rosa Corbet

Plenary discussion
Implications of circular economy on the forest sector

Conclusions and closing of the session

Further Information:
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Biographies



Ms. Kathy Abusow Kathy Abusow is President and CEO of SFI Inc., a non-profit sustainability leader dedicated to future forests. SFI works at the intersection of responsible purchasing of forest products, elevating the conservation value of managed forests, and engaging diverse communities to promote sustainability. Under Kathy's leadership, forests certified to the SFI® Forest Management Standard have grown to more than a 300 million acres/120 million hectares across public and private lands from Canada's Boreal to the US South.

Since joining SFI, Kathy has led the development of several signature programs including:

- The SFI Forest Partners® Program, which is composed of National Geographic, Meredith, Macmillan Publishers, Pearson, Hearst Enterprises and Boy Scouts of America, and is investing in the future of our forests by making multi-year commitments to increase certification throughout the forest supply chain.
- The SFI Conservation and Community Grants Program which has, together with leveraged funds from partners, invested \$14 million in forest research in collaboration with conservation and community groups;
- Acquiring Project Learning Tree (PLT), an award-winning education program which educates teachers and youth about forests and the environment, as well as establishing PLT Canada, a non-profit that will grow future forest and conservation leaders through environmental education and a green jobs initiative.

Kathy has led, moderated, and spoken at well-respected international forums including the Greenbuild International Conference "Women in Green Power breakfast in DC", the Economist's World Forest Summit in Stockholm, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Fortune Brainstorm Green, and at TEDxWilmington where she gave a talk called [Be a Forest Hugger](#).



Mr. Pekka Leskinen is Head of Bioeconomy Programme and Professor at the European Forest Institute (EFI). Among others, the Bioeconomy Programme will advance knowledge on sustainable bioeconomy and bioeconomy markets. Prof. Leskinen has broad research experience in the fields of sustainable use of natural resources, life cycle assessment and multi-criteria decision analysis. Before EFI, he has worked as a Research Professor at the Finnish Environment Institute, and for joint professor position of Finnish Environment Institute and University of Eastern Finland, School of Forest Sciences.



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Mr. Lars Sandberg has a background in the Scandinavian forest and packaging industry working with Tetra Pak and Stora Enso. His main interest has been bio-based packaging and material development together with consumer research and new business innovation. In 2009 to 2015 Mr. Sandberg worked as senior consultant within user involvement in innovation, a business that now lives on as the innovation hub/wood product only store TRÄ. He has also had the good fortune to have guest assignment as Entrepreneur in Residence, one year in Vancouver 2015 with FPInnovations. Since March this year, Mr. Sandberg works with Scandinavian BillerudKorsnäs with special responsibility to develop and drive bio-based innovation strategy.



Mr. Paolo Scommegna est né à Trieste le 7 avril 1968. Après des études humanistes travaille pendant dix dans les services sociaux en suivant des projets pour l'insertion dans le monde du travail des personnes présentant des problèmes d'autisme et de santé mentale. En 2001 rejoint le Groupe Mauro Saviola en qualité de responsable de l'approvisionnement bois pour le Nord Est de l'Italie. En 2003 est envoyé dans le Sud Est de la France pour développer la filière d'approvisionnement. Après 10 d'activité est nommé directeur des deux filiales françaises dont l'activité est réunie. Depuis 2014 est membre de la Raw Material Task Force de EPF et participe à la vie associative de la même fédération. Depuis Avril 2016 est Président du GES BOIS (Wood Procurement Meeting) Brussels. Depuis 2016 pilote le développement commercial de l'approvisionnement du marché européen.



Mr. Robert van de Kerkhof is Chief Commercial Officer of Lenzing AG. In his role, Van de Kerkhof is heading the performance of Marketing and Sales, Corporate Sustainability and Supply Chain. A veteran in the fiber industry with over 25 years of experience, he is also the President of the Austrian Fiber Institute and Vice-President of CIRFS, the European Man-made Fibres Association. Van de Kerkhof's comprehensive expertise in the international textile industry came from his many years of experience at various international companies and business functions. Van de Kerkhof began his career as an Aeronautical Engineer at Fokker Aircraft, and since then, he has taken up roles in Ten Cate, DuPont de Nemours and INVISTA. In addition to building expertise in various manufacturing components, fibers and raw materials, over the years, Van de Kerkhof also held multiple leadership roles across different business functions. He has successfully led the growth of various business units, including marketing and sales, manufacturing, financial controlling, product development and strategic business development. He also has extensive experience in transforming organizations through technology innovation and value chain optimization. Van de Kerkhof is married with three children. He holds a B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering from Inholland Hogeschool Netherlands and an MBA in International Management