



PLT is an initiative of SFI 

Memorandum of Understanding between Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences

I. PURPOSE

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. (SFI) and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) have agreed to strengthen and expand their relationship in support of mutually beneficial programs through a Memorandum of Mutual Understanding (MOU). Both organizations pledge to collaborate on shared goals of growing career pathways and environmental education for diverse communities by leveraging the Project Learning Tree programs and resources and its diverse network of partners.

II. PARTICIPANTS

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) believes that sustainable forests are critical to our collective future. SFI is a sustainability leader through our work in standards, conservation, community, and education. As an independent, non-profit organization, we collaborate with our diverse network to provide solutions at scale in the face of unique local and global sustainability challenges. SFI is the home of **Project Learning Tree® (PLT)**, an award-winning environmental education program designed for educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth of all ages and in all settings. PLT advances environmental literacy, career pathways and stewardship using trees and forests as windows on the world. This is done through high-quality professional development, hands-on activities, and multi-disciplinary supplemental curriculum, in addition to integrating career pathways exploration through resources and programming. PLT supports pathways to green careers by exposing young people to their local environment and the array of green jobs opportunities in their communities and beyond.

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) is a national society that welcomes membership of people of all racial and ethnic group participation in agricultural and related science careers. MANRRS offers students opportunities to enhance leadership and organizational and public speaking skills, and to experience professional critique of scholarly work in a "user friendly" environment. MANRRS professional members are often the only, or one of few, minority participants in their basic disciplinary societies or at their career locations. MANRRS provides them a network of counterparts from similar backgrounds with related interests and goals.

III. SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SFI and MANRRS and their offices will administer activities and resources in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner. Both SFI and MANRRS will regularly update each other and their networks about opportunities and activities covered by this MOU.

Activities may include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Partnering on the development of "The Journey of Black Professionals in Green Careers", a guide focused on elevating Black American perspectives, stories, journeys and experiences in

the green jobs sector. This work will include collaborating to determine distribution strategies to increase aware of the resource and sharing the resource through our extensive MANNRS, SFI, PLT networks.

- B. Partnering to create more opportunities for youth and young professionals to gain access to programs and resources, including webinars, skills development, and placement in green jobs in the forest sector and the SFI network specifically.
- C. Partnering to develop opportunities to create and deliver employer training in supporting Black Americans and diverse youth in the forest sector, leveraging tools built through this partnership.
- D. Providing young professionals with access to PLT resources that elevate their forest literacy and understanding of their green career pathways, to increase their knowledge of opportunities and employment in the forest and conservation sectors.
- E. Exploring the opportunity to partner or support the development of a PLT Green Mentor program in the US, elevating successes from the PLT Canada Green Mentor program, with a strong focus on building a diverse cohort to support Black Americans through meaningful mentorship.

IV. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

The responsible officials and points of contact for administrative matters pertaining to this MOU are:

SFI:

Kathy Abusow
President and CEO
1306 Wellington St West, Suite 400
Ottawa, ON K1Y 3B2

MANRRS:

Dr. Antomia Farrell
National Past President
1720 Peachtree St. NW, Suite 776 South
Atlanta, GA 30309

V. SIGNATORIES

By signing this agreement, the signatories indicate that they are authorized to act in a representative capacity for their respective organization as it relates to the intent of this agreement.

SFI Inc.



Kathy Abusow

August 2, 2021

Date

MANRRS



Dr. Antomia Farrell

August 2, 2021

Date