



News Release

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Cooperative Agreement Promotes Biodiversity on International Paper Forestlands

STAMFORD, Conn. – August 21, 2003 -- International Paper is the first paper and forest products company in North America to formalize an agreement with NatureServe, a non-profit conservation group, to identify, protect and manage “Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.” Under the multi-year agreement, which covers all of IP’s 9 million acres of forestland in the United States, the parties will share information about the company’s forestlands and develop new information via inventories, assessments and training.

“One part of International Paper’s commitment to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program has been to lead the paper and forest products industry by example in the area of biological diversity protection,” said Dr. Sharon G. Haines, IP’s director of sustainable forestry and forest policy. “We already have a long history of working with state natural heritage programs to identify imperiled species on our forestlands. This agreement will build on that record by facilitating the sharing of information between IP and the entire NatureServe network. It will allow us to complete thorough ecological inventories and develop appropriate conservation management plans in all 17 states where we own forests.”

The NatureServe network includes natural heritage programs in every state that collect data about plants, animals and ecosystems. By working closely with NatureServe and these state programs, IP will have access to the most comprehensive data available about imperiled species and ecosystems found in the Western Hemisphere. The sharing of scientific information and tools will help guide effective conservation on the company’s forestlands throughout the U.S.

“We’re pleased that International Paper is committed to using NatureServe data to identify and help protect important places for biodiversity on their lands,” said Mark Schaefer, president and CEO of NatureServe. “We encourage other paper and forest products companies to do the same.”

The cooperative agreement builds on years of ongoing cooperative work between International Paper and state natural heritage programs. The agreement will help IP to meet the biodiversity

protection provisions of the SFI® Standard, the forest certification standard that is followed by most major paper and forest products companies. The Sustainable Forestry Board incorporated NatureServe standards and data into its certification procedures as one means to identify “Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value” and strengthen biodiversity protection. Companies seeking SFI certification must identify and protect on their forestlands all species and ecological communities assessed as imperiled or critically imperiled by NatureServe and its natural heritage member programs.

NatureServe is a non-profit conservation group dedicated to providing the scientific information and technology needed to guide effective conservation action. NatureServe represents a network of 76 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers in the United States, Canada, and Latin America that collect and analyze information on plants, animals, and ecosystems. NatureServe is a leading source for detailed scientific information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. Visit us on the web at www.natureserve.org.

International Paper (<http://www.internationalpaper.com>) businesses include paper, packaging and forest products. As one of the largest private forest landowners in the world, IP manages the woods with great care in compliance with the rigorous standards of the SFI program. The program is an independent certification system that ensures the perpetual planting, growing and harvesting of trees while protecting wildlife, biodiversity, plants, soil, air and water quality. In the U.S. alone, IP professional foresters and ecologists protect more than a half million acres of unique and environmentally important habitat on company forestlands through conservation easements and land transactions to environmental groups. And, IP has a long-standing policy of using no wood from endangered forests. Headquartered in the United States, the company has operations in over 40 countries and sells its products in more than 120 nations.