

# Foresters without Borders, Australia

## Charter

***Foresters without Borders, Australia is a non-government, humanitarian, independent, not-for-profit organization open to all professionals in forest management.***

**All participants in its activities agree to honour this Charter.**

### **Preamble:**

*Foresters without Borders* are to assist in the global application of sound forest management which includes, but is not limited to, the management areas of: land; fire; commercial and non-commercial production; recreation; natural and cultural values; and water.

*Foresters without Borders* will apply the practical application of scientific, economic social and cultural principles to the establishment and management of forests and land issues including natural forests, woodlands, rangelands, plantations, natural ecosystems, agroforestry, urban forests, wetlands or farm forestry. Lands may be within public or privately owned estates, community forests, national parks and reserves of all descriptions, within urban, rural and remote locations.

A unique characteristic of forestry is its focus on the long term sustainability of the forest. This requires that foresters deal with short term variables, such as the current environment, but also consider the long term view such as sustainability.

*Foresters without Borders* is concerned with balancing human needs with the ecosystem as a whole, integrating all components of a forest system to achieve the goods and services desired by the communities in a sustainable manner. Forest management problems often require a multi-disciplinary approach, so *Foresters without Borders* will work with other experts, professionals and the community.

### **Purpose:**

*To provide knowledge and expertise to support sustainable forest management, build capacity and develop effective networks that improve the wellbeing of communities that depend on forests within Australia and globally.*

### **Vision:**

- *Communities value their Forests for being well managed for sustainable forest use, improving the environment, and protecting communities and their assets;*
- *Foresters without Borders makes a long term difference for communities through shared knowledge and partnerships; and*
- *Participating foresters grow in their profession through using their expertise, creativity and experience in helping those involved in growing, managing and utilising the sustainable goods, services and values that come from forests and trees in landscapes.*

## **Governance:**

*Foresters without Borders* is a Special Interest Group (SIG) run by the Institute of Foresters, Australia Ltd. (IFA).

The IFA is registered nationally as a Company Limited by Guarantee (ABN 48 083 197 586) operating under a Constitution. The IFA has registered the business names, *Foresters without Borders* and *Foresters without Borders Australia*.

*Foresters without Borders* will have a skills based Management Committee, with a Chair, and members appointed by the Board through an agreed process. The *Foresters without Borders* Committee will report to and be accountable through appropriate delegations to the IFA Board. Its operations will be consistent with the good governance principles provided by the Australian Securities Investment Commission.

Additional details on the rules of engagement and the operation of the group will be provided in separate documents, including governance arrangements in other countries

*Foresters without Borders* will be open to the participation of forest professionals and other associated professionals from around the world.

## **Culture:**

### **(i) Principles:**

- Strongly committed to enhancing the benefits that come from sustainable forest management.
- Operate with communities by invitation;
- Operate irrespective of gender, race, religion, creed, or political convictions.
- Observe and practice neutrality, independence, confidence, accountability, transparency, integrity, competence and impartiality
- Supports the right to humanitarian assistance
- Respecting the needs, aspirations, knowledge, laws and customs of the local communities.
- Seeks to empower communities and develop enterprise, as ongoing responsibility and accountability for forest management will remain with the local community
- All activities will respect IFA Code forestry professional code of ethics

### **(ii) Values**

#### **Community**

We are a community of people who share a common vision. Through collective action, leadership, and community-generated change we will learn more, achieve more and have fun together.

#### **Sustainability**

We strive to address the needs of communities without compromising the needs of future generations. We care about people and the natural resources on which we all depend.

#### **Respect**

We build relationships based on mutual trust and respect. We believe all relationships thrive on honesty, transparency and a two way sharing of knowledge and culture.

### **Learning**

We create new opportunities for learning, enterprise and lasting change. We have a passion for continuous learning and seek to embrace and harness new experiences, creativity, wisdom, ideas and expertise.

### **Quality**

We strive for quality, professionalism, technical, and scientific excellence in everything that we do. We create positive and long lasting impacts in the world.

### **Leadership**

We show leadership and take an ambitious and brave approach to creating and sustaining change.

## ***Foresters without Borders in action:***

*Foresters without Borders* bringing together passionate people who are committed to achieve lasting impacts through a holistic approach to humanitarian forestry where communities and relevant authorities are supported in their decision making and ongoing ownership.

- Our strength is our knowledgeable people – we pride ourselves on our diversity of skills, backgrounds, cultures and experience.
- We provide assistance to populations to improve economic and social wellbeing and to victims of natural or man-made disasters.
- We learn together, work together and socialize together – inspiring collective action.
- We contribute our time and resources with humility and generosity to advance the vision of *Forestry without Borders*.
- We are innovative and sensitive towards the communities we assist – we imagine a better future and work together to make it happen.

*Foresters without Borders* will work on projects that:

- Have been identified by local communities to be of value;
- Are well conceived, planned and implemented, taking into account the safety and welfare of all participants;
- Align skills with the project's needs;
- Integrate local advice and guidance from partner communities on their culture and needs; and
- Provide for local ownership and responsibility for the ongoing implementation of the project.

Activities may include:

- Advising on sustainable forest management;
- Post disaster land rehabilitation and direct community assistance;
- Integrating biodiversity conservation, local needs and production;
- Balancing competing objectives for forest and land management;
- Advising on fire management;
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change;
- Advising on water and catchment management;
- Building capacity and developing networks;

- Skilling communities in forest, fire and catchment management;
- Supporting the adaptation of the most recent knowledge arising from forestry and fire research;
- Identifying markets for forest products and services including carbon, water, tourism;
- Aiding the identification of forestry solutions to enhance livelihoods and foster rural development as well as to support other humanitarian aid programs;
- Sharing outcomes globally to enable other communities to indirectly benefit from *Foresters without Borders* activities;
- Helping communities establish and implement monitoring systems; and
- Development of sound production techniques and systems for forest products.

The activities of *Foresters without Borders* will be conducted after invitation from the local community and may be in conjunction with, or support for, other professional assistance being provided to a community in need.

As volunteers, members understand the risks and dangers of the missions they carry out and make no claim for themselves or their assigns for any form of compensation other than that which the association might be able to afford them.

## **Partnerships and alliances**

*Foresters without Borders* may operate on stand-alone projects with communities. However, when greater benefit can be derived for communities by working with other organisations, *Foresters without Borders* will work with them providing there is consistency with this Charter. This may mean aligning *Foresters without Borders* projects in a collaborative manner with projects by other organisations or working together with other organisation on a project.

## **Measures of success**

Measures of successful implementation of *Foresters without Borders* may include:

- Selecting and placing participants into projects;
- *Foresters without Borders* is well respected;
- Sustained involvement of sponsoring and supporting partners. Community partners indicate appreciation and ongoing support for the *Foresters without Borders* initiative and the individual engagements;
- Projects continue to meet agreed objectives, well after the *Foresters without Borders* participants have left;
- Projects are completed safely; and
- Funding meets the demand for projects.

Approved by the IFA Board August, 2015