



# LEADERSHIP FOR EQUITY & INCLUSION

## Why Is This Important?

**Forests play an intrinsic role in our lives**, whether through land ownership, industry, conservation, public agency, academia, or other roles. Forest products appear during all stages of life and are increasingly emphasized as a central tenet of a responsible, sustainable future. Forestry is essential to us all, yet women in the forest sector are significantly underrepresented, deliberately underserved, and have been historically excluded. This is evidenced by the forest sector having less than 20% participation by women.

If you can see it, you can be it. Thus, intentionally identifying and promoting more women to leadership positions is a true win-win for the sector. Equity and inclusion are a path forward – they are the best way to diversify the talent and creativity needed to address the most critical forestry issues and amplify the opportunities for positive change in the forestry sector.

Big ideas and creative execution demand a wide range of thoughts and talent.

In addition, the sight of a diverse leadership - at the Executive Suite and Board levels - is a source of inspiration and motivation for a more diverse talent pool of women to consider the forestry sector as a career goal or next step.

## How Will We Do This?

**WFC seeks to be intentional and proactive** in our efforts to unleash the power of female leadership in forestry. We will do this by welcoming and mentoring individuals of all ages, colors, and backgrounds. We will also consider the role of policy in developing pathways for transformative and emboldened women leaders in the sector.

We seek to provide all women a space to be heard, listen, and act for the benefit of forests and the sector. We strive to be an open and inclusive group – trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming participants are welcome, as are women of all ages, perspectives, backgrounds, geographic locations, professional levels, abilities, and education. When we come together to magnify our strengths, we enlarge our circles and amplify our voices.

The rewards of addressing the gender diversity gap create room for innovative problem solving to combat the most pressing challenges of the forest sector and the forest to which we are all connected.

