International **Forestry Students'** Association

# IFSA STRATEGY 2022 - 2026

**IFSA Strategy 2022-2026**

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# Foreword

## IFSA Strategy 2022-2026

The IFSA Strategy describes the association's goals and the actions needed to achieve them, while also providing a framework for monitoring the progress made year by year. The current strategy, which is dedicated to the years 2022-2026, is the 4th strategy for IFSA. The previous strategies were published for the periods of 2008-2011, 2012-2014 and 2018-2022.
The goals of the strategy are to express what IFSA is and what we want to achieve. At the same time, the IFSA strategy aims to develop a roadmap on how to achieve our goals. This is particularly important since IFSA has a high turnover rate between the officials, which makes achieving long term goals difficult. Hence, it is crucial to have a strategy that can provide continuity on the work done by the IFSA officials.

The structure of the strategy evolved over time in order to find one that works best in the long term. The key innovations of this strategy are adding a robust indicator framework for monitoring progress and moving the implementation details of the action points to the yearly strategy work plan.
The 2018-2022 strategy was the first one that included the indicators to monitor the progress of IFSA, but due to the lack of detail and the fact that they weren't connected to specific strategy sections, it was hard to effectively monitor them. The new strategy has a much more detailed indicator structure, with each action point having at least one indicator.
The 2022-2026 strategy is mainly focusing on addressing the question of what we want to achieve as IFSA and why, while giving only general guidelines on the type of actions that we can implement. The detailed implementation plan is instead compiled at the beginning of each term with the strategy work plan. In this way, the actions taken by IFSA to achieve the strategy goals can be adapted according to the context, opportunities and available capacity.

Magdalena Jovanovic

*President 2021/22*

Simone Massaro

*Executive Secretary 2021/22*

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# Vision and Mission

## Vision

IFSA's vision of "a world that appreciates forests" describes the dream of having all the people and societies on earth recognize the full worth of forests and fully understand forests, grasping their implications and being grateful for their multi-fold contributions to humanity.

Forests may be understood in different ways and appreciated for different reasons. At IFSA we value the importance that forests represent for all of our members - the social, environmental, and economic values that are the pillars of sustainability. Appreciating forests for their provisions of natural beauty, timber, shade, water purification, non-wood forest products, habitat, biodiversity, recreation, carbon sequestration, energy and much more, IFSA members are releasing this vision.

This vision leaves flexibility for different groups to be considered "a world", e.g. Local Committees (LC), IFSA, groups formed based on a common thematic interest related to forests, the whole world including all people and societies. "A world" can be interpreted at different scales and sizes of groups of people.

## Mission

To enrich our members' education through international events, networking and intercultural exchange.

## Who are we?

IFSA is a globally organised and locally operating students' organisation connecting forest and related science students to their peers and forest-related organisations and policy platforms.

We seek to create global cooperation among students of forest and related sciences, to broaden knowledge and understanding, and to create a space for youth in international forest processes. Through our network, we facilitate student meetings, enable participation in scientific debate, and support the involvement of youth in decision making processes regionally and globally.

# About the IFSA Strategy

The strategy gives the overview of the overall aim that IFSA intends to work towards in the next four years, the type of actions that should be implemented and a framework to monitor and measure the progress. However, the strategy doesn't provide an actual implementation work plan, as the details are left to the IFSA Board and Officials.

## Implementation

In order to ensure an effective implementation of the strategy, two documents need to be developed for every IFSA term: the strategy work plan and the strategy progress report. These documents are necessary to guide IFSA`s work towards achieving the strategy goals and objectives.

### Strategy Work plan

The GA agenda should include a discussion on the IFSA Priorities for the new term which are then used to develop the strategy work plan. The newly elected Board and Heads of Commissions, with the support of the outgoing Board are responsible for developing the work plan.

The work plan includes a section for each goal, subsequently divided into strategy action points, and an additional section for general projects to maintain IFSA as an organisation. For each action point there is a list of activities and/or projects that include the following details:

- Name of the project
- Timeline
- Responsible person (only one)
- Team(s) involved

In case the activity is relevant for more than one action point it should be included only in the main one, or split into two different action points.

The work plan should be presented to the IFSA Members and Officials at latest a month after the end of the IFSS.

The strategy work plan should then be converted into an action plan for each department/commission/sub-commission.

In case new activities are developed during the year they should be added to the work plan.

### Strategy Progress Report

The strategy progress report is a document presented by the IFSA Board at IFSS at the end of the term.

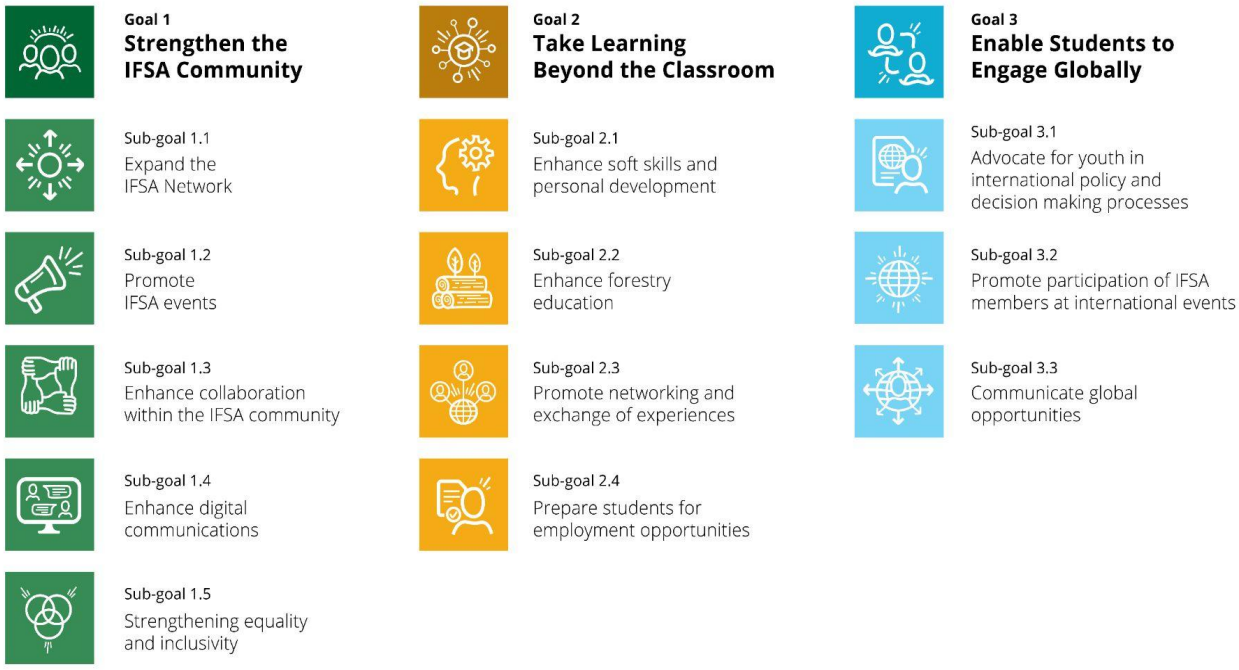
It includes two parts:

- **Work Plan report**. This is the work plan developed at the beginning of the term, where for each action and project it includes whether they have been implemented and a short summary of their outcome.
- **Indicators report.** This is made by the values of all the indicators for the IFSA Term.

## Structure

The strategy is structured in the following way:

- **Goals** are the strategic areas where IFSA is investing.
- **Sub-Goals** are the specific aims that IFSA is planning to achieve. The descriptions include a rationale for their relevance.
- **Action points** are concrete activities that IFSA is planning to execute to achieve the sub-goals. The description includes concrete examples of projects and activities that can be implemented and what their requirements are. The action points are not tied to a specific project, but describe the general concept. This is to ensure that they remain relevant even though a specific activity may be cancelled.
- **Indicators** are the way to monitor the implementation of the action points, assess their impact. They are the key to measure the effectiveness of the strategy implementation and to compare IFSA across different years. The indicators detailed definition, how to collect and analyse the data is described in the Indicators Guide - a supplement to IFSA Strategy 2022-2026.



## Implementation period

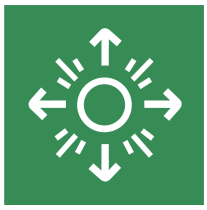
The current strategy is valid for 4 years, hence till 2026. After two years (2024), the current strategy can be revised to adapt it to the new IFSA developments and to fix issues that arise. The revision process should be limited to editing descriptions and if necessary, action points.

The idea behind this strategy is to have a framework to connect the different IFSA projects and to monitor the progress through indicators. The indicators become much more valuable if they are collected over a long time period, hence the new strategy after 2026 should limit as much as possible the number of changes.

# Goal 1 Strengthen the IFSA Community

We believe in the power of community - changing hearts, minds, and action through building new and needed connections. IFSA represents a collection of locally organised committees (LCs) and individual members hence, improving their inter-connection and communication, and ensuring equality and sense of belongingness is at the heart of IFSA. Consequently, our first objective is to build the community – connecting members with each other on local, national, regional and global levels.

## Sub-Goal 1.1 Expand the IFSA Network



'Expanding the Network' does not only stand for increasing in numbers, but also raising general awareness about IFSA and its activities among forestry and related students, forestry faculties staff, and professionals in the forestry field. Through this Sub-Goal we strive to achieve the physical increment of the IFSA world, engagement and empowerment of underrepresented regions, and inspire members and society by expanding our outreach.

### Action points

#### 1.1.1 Increase membership globally

**Description**
Expanding the IFSA community is achieved by searching for and motivating new students to join IFSA and to establish LCs. This is especially important in regions with lower participation rates, in order to strengthen our global impact.

**Indicators**
1.1.1.a Number of countries with at least one LC

1.1.1.b Number of LCs

1.1.1.c Number of members

1.1.1.d Active-to-passive members ratio

### 1.1.2 Identify and showcase successful LC-led projects

**Description**
Sharing inspirational LC-led projects and events is vital in inspiring the rest of the IFSA community to take action. These successful and inspiring projects need to be identified and showcased, and this can be achieved through activities such as the LC Project of the month.

**Indicators**
1.1.2.a Number of LC projects

1.1.2.b Number of articles on LC projects published on the IFSA website

1.1.2.c Number of entries in LC project of the month

## Sub-Goal 1.2 Promote IFSA events

To make the IFSA events as impactful and successful as possible, it needs to be promoted at all scales - LC-led, regional, and global - to connect the members between themselves and increase their knowledge about IFSA in general. For that we aim through this Sub-Goal.

## Action points

### 1.2.1 Ensure organisation of Statutory IFSA Meetings

**Description**
The IFSA Statutory Meetings (IFSS and Regional Meetings) are key for the development of IFSA, ensure communication between LCs and promote networking. Therefore, IFSA should aim at having a Regional Meeting in every region and IFSS taking place yearly and at the same time expand the number of participants at those events.

**Indicators**
1.2.1.a Number of Statutory meetings (Regional Meetings + IFSS)

1.2.1.b Number of participants at Regional Meetings and IFSS

1.2.1.c Evaluation of the Official events

### 1.2.2 Organise and Coordinate Regional and global events

**Description**
In order to develop the cooperation within IFSA and enhance the potential of the Membership Department, it is important to increase regional and interregional activities.

This includes the implementation, coordination and planning of potential activities and projects, such as interregional calls or coffee hours.

**Indicators**
1.2.2.a Number of events coordinated by the Membership Department
1.2.2.b Number of participants at the events coordinated by the Membership Department

### 1.2.3 Promote, Coordinate and Support LC-led events

**Description**
Supporting and empowering LCs in organising events allows to significantly increase the number of IFSA activities and help the development of the LCs.

LC-led events, both online and in person, that are aimed at multiple LC are in particular relevant for IFSA.

IFSA can support the LCs by sharing knowledge on how to plan events, coordinate events from different LCs and promoting the events on IFSA channels. In addition, IFSA can financially support those activities through the development fund.

**Indicators**
1.2.3.a Number of online LC-led events with multiple LCs
1.2.3.b Number of participants in online LC-led events with multiple LCs
1.2.3.c Number of in-person LC-led events with multiple LCs
1.2.3.d Number of participants in in-person LC-led events with multiple LCs
1.2.3.e Number of LC-led events with multiple LCs financially supported by the IFSA Development Fund

## Sub-Goal 1.3 Enhance collaboration within the IFSA community

Strengthening the IFSA community means strengthening its action and impact. In order to develop the IFSA network and ensure effectiveness of our work, it is important to maintain interaction between individual members, transfer knowledge and experience between LCs and improve connections and cooperation between Officials.

## Action points

### 1.3.1 Promote interactions between individual IFSA members

**Description**
The IFSA network is ultimately built on individual connections, however there are often limited venues to interact with other IFSA members. Projects that result in meaningful 1:1

connections between IFSA members, like the "Pen Pals" or the "Language School" should be promoted.

**Indicators**

1.3.1.a Number of IFSA members involved in 1:1 exchanges (eg. Pen Pals)

### 1.3.2 Strengthen the bond between IFSA Officials

**Description**

The success of the association is attributed to the determination and hardwork of IFSA Officials. Therefore, fostering teamwork and healthy relationships among IFSA Officials through in-person meetings such as interim and department meetings and activities such as Jam of the week or Officials hangouts, is vital in ensuring motivation, growth and productivity.

**Indicators**

1.3.2.a Number of activities focused on Officials team building (eg. Officials Hangouts)

1.3.2.b Number of Officials attending in person meetings (eg. Interim)

## Sub-Goal 1.4 Enhance digital communications

Digital channels allow IFSA to effectively reach the members and maintain communication with members. IFSA aims at having platforms to share news and opportunities to a wide audience in a timely manner. The combined use of different platforms improves the resilience and outreach of IFSA communication.

## Action points

### 1.4.1 Develop and maintain the official IFSA communication platforms

**Description**

As an organisation, IFSA represents a diverse background of students from different regions and cultures united by their passion for forestry. Given that the youth play an important role in developing the future environment, we want to share our advocacies and experiences with everyday people with the goal of inspiring them to not only appreciate, but also to care for our forests.

IFSA social media platforms are key components to connecting us with the world. Growing IFSA's presence through the online platform ensures the effective sharing of knowledge across geographic borders. Through the IFSA social media accounts and projects (i.e. the Canopy Conversations podcast), we encourage discourse on different levels that can foster

good relationships among members, partners, and the general audience as a whole. The list of IFSA's online platforms are as follows

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- Discord
- YouTube

**Indicators**
1.4.1.a Number of social media interactions measured by platform specific analytic tools
1.4.1.b Number of followers, subscribers, and members on the different social media platforms

### 1.4.2 Share news from the IFSA network

**Description**
IFSA officials coordinate with LCs and partners to bring activities opportunities (i.e. Internships, LC events) to the IFSA community. News of such are submitted through the News Factory for members or through email exchange for partners. Approved content is published first on the IFSA website, and then to the social media accounts for the viewing of those who stay updated with the IFSA accounts.

Before IFSA's online presence can surge outside the IFSA community, its members must first establish an active network by engaging with the different communication platforms. The more interactions that occur in the, the better the reach of each post. Engagement builds the online presence and informs the general audience of news, events, and opportunities headed by IFSA, which in turn establishes the organisation's credibility and emphasises the organisation's aim for inclusivity of all sectors in the discourse of forests and the environment.

**Indicators**
1.4.2.a Number of published articles from the IFSA Website
1.4.2.b Number of Newsletter issues
1.4.2.c Number of people reached

### 1.4.3 Develop the IFSA Website

**Description**
The IFSA website is a key part for digital communication for the organisation. It serves as the main archive for all IFSA content including organisation documents, events, opportunities, educational materials, and more. The website's special features such as

TreE-House, TreE-Learning, and member-exclusive accounts allow its users to access content that connects them with the IFSA community.

With regards to this, it would provide a great way of highlighting the accomplishments of our LCs to build a network of information, receive news, and take inspiration for future projects and events. Having a dedicated page for the different regions allows members to learn about culture from different LCs and the strengths of its members when it comes to activities and projects.

**Indicators**
1.4.3.a Number of members verified on the IFSA website
1.4.3.b Total number of page views on the IFSA website
1.4.3.c Number of users logging in on the IFSA website

### 1.4.4 Develop the IFSA Podcast

**Description**
IFSA has a dedicated podcast titled "Canopy Conversations", which is available of the following platforms

- IFSA Website
- Spotify
- Google Podcast
- Apple Podcast

Canopy Conversations uses audio-based storytelling to include viewers in a discourse of relevant forestry and youth topics. This is done by the coordination of IFSA officials with guest speakers to converse about their experiences as members of different cultures and professions in forest-related fields. Our goal for Canopy Conversations is to inspire people to take interest in and learn more about the forestry course and its community.

**Indicators**
1.4.4.a Number of subscribers to the podcast
1.4.4.b Number of listens per episode
1.4.4.c Number of episodes published per year

## Sub-Goal 1.5 Strengthening equality and inclusivity

Since the IFSA members are the core of the Association, we aim for a balanced gender and regional distribution in all our internal (officials) and external (delegates) areas. In addition, after going through a pandemic in 2020-2022, IFSA aims to ensure and improve inclusivity in the events held in person and internationally, like Regional Meetings, IFSS, Interim and Department Meetings. Therefore, having the best conditions to allow

people to join remotely allows everyone to have an impact on these events and get the best experience possible through hybrid events.

## Action points

### 1.5.1 Promote hybrid events

**Description**
The more people join an event, the more productive it can be. Depending on the situation, people from different parts of the world are not able to travel to the host country, and therefore they don't get the chance to get involved and participate. Now, with hybrid events, we give IFSA members a new opportunity to take part in more activities, and at the same time to interact with the in person audience.

**Indicators**
1.5.1.a Number of hybrid events

1.5.1.b Number of online participants at hybrid events

### 1.5.2 Advance gender equality

**Descriptions**
As an Association that has students working internally and sends students to international events to represent IFSA, gender equality in these opportunities is crucial. But the biggest challenge is to ensure that there is equality from the application process all the way to the moment officials and delegates get accepted.

**Indicators**
1.5.2.a Gender distribution among Officials
1.5.2.b Gender distribution among participants at Official IFSA events
1.5.2.c Gender distribution among delegates
1.5.3.d Number of activities organised on to advance gender equality

### 1.5.3 Ensure equal regional representation

**Description**
Similar to the previous point, when there are open calls for official positions or delegations, we need to ensure all regions are applying for these opportunities and when they are chosen, we have the biggest number of IFSA regions represented.

**Indicators**
1.5.3.a Regional representation among Officials
1.5.3.b Regional representation among delegates
1.5.3.c Regional representation among IFSS participants

# Goal 2 Take Learning Beyond the Classroom

We believe that transformative change happens outside of the classroom. In order to prepare today's students for tomorrow's challenges, IFSA seeks to create unique learning experiences in all activities. This also includes preparing students for future employment opportunities by developing their skills in various activities. The TreE-Learning platform was created with the idea of overcoming the shortcomings of formal forestry education. The main content is divided into two main categories, soft skills and forestry topics, with the addition of information about different careers in forestry, links to other useful online courses and material from past IFSA delegations.

## Sub-Goal 2.1 Enhance soft skills and personal development

It is essential for students to develop soft skills during their education to prepare them for their professional careers. Through capacity building activities for soft skills and personal development, IFSA aims to bridge the gaps in formal forestry education as well as meet the needs of students.

### Action points

#### 2.1.1 Produce soft skills content for the TreE-Learning platform

**Description**
IFSA aims to develop high quality content and increase the quantity of material and modules on soft skills available through the TreE-Learning platform, in order to better prepare students for their future careers and assist them in developing new and valuable skills.

**Indicators**
2.1.1.a Number of learning modules content produced on soft skills
2.1.1.b Number of viewers of TreE-learning modules on soft skills
2.1.1.c Number of certificates received from TreE-Learning modules on soft skills

#### 2.1.2 Organise workshops and trainings on soft skills

**Description**
Through IFSA-led programs and sessions at local, regional, and global level students can build skills from facilitation and public speaking, to event organisation and coordination. We seek to increase the number of workshops and trainings in order to improve the

mentioned skills of students, and evaluate the quality of the provided workshops through standardised evaluation forms.

**Indicators**
2.1.2.a Number of workshops or trainings on soft skills
2.1.2.b Number of participants at the workshops or trainings on soft skills
2.1.2.c Evaluation of the delivered workshops or trainings on soft skills

## Sub-Goal 2.2 Enhance forestry education

IFSA aims to provide students with unique learning opportunities to engage in forest science, forestry, and natural resource management in an international setting. A variety of activities and events are organised by IFSA to further students' non-formal education and to enrich their study experience.

### Action points

#### 2.2.1 Produce forestry content for the TreE-Learning platform

**Description**
From climate change to indigenous communities forestry, forestry content modules cover a wide range of topics. In order to increase the variety of modules and take advantage of the international resources of IFSA, we strive towards closer collaboration with universities and research institutes.

**Indicators**
2.2.1.a Number of learning modules content produced on forestry content
2.2.1.b Number of viewers of TreE-learning modules on forestry content
2.2.1.c Number of certificates received from TreE-Learning modules on forestry content

#### 2.2.2 Organise workshops and training on forestry topics

**Description**
Our goal is to increase the number of workshops and trainings, either in person, online or hybrid, and provide access to specialised modules on forestry related topics. By inviting different professionals with specialised knowledge, we will provide high quality content, tailored according to the needs of IFSA members.

**Indicators**
2.2.2.a Number of workshops or trainings on forestry topics
2.2.2.b Participants in IFSA workshops or trainings on forestry topics
2.2.2.c Evaluation of the delivered workshops or trainings on forestry topics

## Sub-Goal 2.3 Promote networking and exchange of experiences

Networking opportunities are considered a valuable skill set, necessary for professional and personal development. By creating a space where students can exchange experiences and learn from each other, as well as from experts in the field around the world, we are working towards making networking opportunities more accessible to all IFSA members.

### Action points

#### 2.3.1 Develop mentorship programs

**Description**
Membership programmes are developed to enable exchange of information and knowledge between professionals in the forestry sector and students. IFSA members are highly valued in the international setting and have high chances in their careers within the IFSA partner organisations. Career paths and experiences of IFSA Alumni as well as experienced professionals in the field can be shared through mentorship programmes, in order to inspire the IFSA community.

**Indicators**
2.3.1.a Number of mentees in the Mentorship Programs
2.3.1.b Number of mentors in the Mentorship Programs

#### 2.3.2 Create a space for cultural exchange

**Description**
IFSA is composed of members from various cultural backgrounds and experiences. We aim to foster intercultural exchange among our members by creating spaces where they can learn about the variety of cultures and languages.

**Indicators**
2.3.2.a Number of cultural exchange events (eg. Cultural Days)
2.3.2.b Number of participants in cultural exchange events (eg. Cultural Days)
2.3.2.c Number of Language Schools
2.3.2.d Number of mentors and mentees joining Language Schools

## Sub-Goal 2.4 Prepare students for employment opportunities

IFSA works towards preparing students for a smooth entrance into the worldwide job market in the field of forestry, environmental science and policy. Therefore it is important to prepare forestry students for employers' expectations about the applicant's qualification in both forest related knowledge and soft skills. Furthermore, forestry students need to know how to properly present themselves and their qualifications during application processes and job interviews.

### Action points

#### 2.4.1 Capacity building activities focused on employment

**Description**
By participating in activities focused on employment opportunities, such as the IFSA Job Fair, we aim to share information about available employment opportunities, expectations of employers and application procedures.

**Indicators**
2.4.1.a Number of events focused on employment
2.4.1.b Number of participants in events focused on employment

#### 2.4.2 Increase internship opportunities for IFSA members

**Description**
IFSA is establishing agreements with its Partner Organisations who provide internship positions for IFSA Members to provide practical working experiences for forestry students (e.g. IUFRO internship agreement in the IFSA-IUFRO MoU). Furthermore IFSA Members and/or Alumni publish experience reports and contact information on the IFSA website about their own recent internship positions to support other members in finding internship opportunities.

**Indicators**
2.4.2.a Number of internships students supported by IFSA
2.4.2.b Number of internships experiences submitted on the Internships webpage

# Goal 3 Enable Students to Engage Globally

As IFSA we have a big responsibility to not only take part but also represent the Youth of the World in Forest related policy processes and conferences. For achieving this, having more and better prepared delegations is fundamental for getting more access to future events. Through an active

and vigorous engagement of IFSA in these processes we will be able to provide more opportunities for our members, find new ways and places to engage and with this broaden and diversify our opportunity portafolio. It is key that we are able to communicate these opportunities broadly through the network and find innovative ways of funding to diversify our delegations and support our members.

## Sub-Goal 3.1 Advocate for youth in international policy and decision making processes

As the largest international organisation of forestry students and a representative of students in the forestry sector, IFSA advocates for voicing the interests of young people in regional and global processes. Youth is a valuable partner and an agent of change. In order to achieve our vision of a world that appreciates our forests, IFSA must be actively engaged in many international events, policy dialogues, technical discussions and decision making processes.

### Actions points

#### 3.1.1 Engagement of IFSA at international events

**Description**
IFSA's international engagement can come in many forms, most prominently, by organising IFSA-led side events or sessions, or having IFSA representatives as speakers at external events. In this way, we aim to increase the visibility of young people in the sector and share our message across the globe.

**Indicators**
3.1.1.a Number of IFSA-led sessions at International events
3.1.1.b Number of sessions at International events where IFSA is involved (eg. with a speaker)

#### 3.1.2 Represent youth interests in international policy and decision-making processes

**Description**
IFSA involvement in advocating for youth is not limited by engaging at International events, but it can be directly involved in the policy making process or advocate for youths. Examples are the IFSA involvement in the UNFF MCGY or the Open Letter on Gender.

**Indicators**
3.1.2.a Number of actions done by IFSA to represent youth interests (e.g. statement)

## Sub-Goal 3.2 Promote participation of IFSA members at international events

A key part in enabling students to engage globally is enabling them to participate in international events through established relationships with IFSA partners as well as accreditation in many UN processes. The participation ranges from in person and virtual participation at events to providing members with news and event related information, and allows members to represent their interest in a variety of global events. In this sense it is important to have a big outreach to the IFSA community and make use of the online tools.

### Action points

#### 3.2.1 Organise in-person delegations

**Description**
In-person delegations provide IFSA members the opportunity to engage with professionals, researchers and organisations in the forestry sector in a professional setting, form connections and develop skills such as public speaking, networking and professional communication. For this reason, our goal is to increase the number of in-person delegations, as well as the number of delegates that are given the opportunity to participate.

**Indicators**
3.2.1.a Number of in person delegations
3.2.1.b Number of in person delegates

#### 3.2.2 Organise online delegations

**Description**
Despite not participating in person, virtual participation at events is a valuable experience as it gives IFSA members access to a knowledge sharing space. IFSA aims to explore creative ways to engage the online delegates and enhance the online IFSA delegation experience, for those unable to be present.

**Indicators**
3.2.2.a Number of online delegations
3.2.2.b Number of online delegates

### 3.2.3 Share with IFSA members content of external events

**Description**
Being part of the IFSA delegation provides members with opportunities to serve the broader network by sharing the information and knowledge gained at the event. By creating content such as social media posts, articles and videos, IFSA aims to improve and increase reporting of relevant outcomes during events, and make information more accessible to the IFSA community.

**Indicators**
3.2.3.a Number of external events covered
3.2.3.b Number of social media posts about external events
3.2.3.c Number of articles on IFSA website about external events

## Sub-Goal 3.3 Communicate global opportunities

IFSA's global partnerships and engagements are carried out with a goal of providing IFSA members with valuable experiences and opportunities. For these opportunities to benefit IFSA members, it is crucial that information is shared consistently, creatively and easily across the entire network.

## Action points

### 3.3.1 Share news and opportunities from partners

**Description**
Our goal is to create a prominent platform for global events, opportunities, activities and news to be shared with the IFSA community. This includes developing and regularly updating a calendar of external events on the IFSA website and sharing news and opportunities provided by our partners.

**Indicators**
3.3.1.a Number of news or opportunities from partners shared
3.3.1.b Number of partners events added to the IFSA Calendar

# SWOT Analysis 2022-2026

## Strengths

- Identify as THE forestry students' network
- Diversity of IFSA members and officials
- Strong social network of forestry students
- Space for personal development
- Annual events

## Weaknesses

- Complex structure
- Lack of continuity between officials during changeover
- Difficulty in having officials with skills and motivation required by their position
- Unequal regional distribution (geographically still euro-centric)
- Poor marketing of IFSA's value, benefits and impacts
- Financial dependence on donors and grants
- Membership application and payments are complicated
- Sub-optimal democratic process (election system and vetting)

## Opportunities

- Alumni (e.g. funding, internships, jobs, advisory role etc.)
- Increase awareness about IFSA in universities and faculties
- Increasing invitations to speak on behalf of youth in International Processes
- Increased interest in cooperation and growing importance as a professional NGO
- More cooperation with peer partner organisations (e.g. EGEA, IAAS), which could increase training possibilities and contacts.
- Expand the IFSA network on digital channels

## Threats

- General change in the interest of forests (merging with other disciplines)
- No formal support from universities for LC's
- Instability of partner organisations (eg. change focal points or financial situation)
- Loss of motivation of members because opportunities are mostly for the ones that can afford it.
- Being 'used' by partners as face of youth without being genuine
- Disparity between students desire to contribute to IFSA and desire to benefit from IFSA