

MANDATE

The IFTF is mandated by its members to protect fur sector interests and promote innovation, high standards and a positive, factual image of fur and the fur sector around the world.



ORGANISATION

The Federation is governed by a Council, which comprises up to four delegates from each member country as well as fur auction house representatives. Every two years a new Executive Board is formed, comprising 11 elected Council delegates and four nominated auction house representatives. The Board formulates policy and is responsible for financial matters. The Executive Board elects the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer. There are several Committees appointed by the Board to recommend programmes and oversee their implementation. All Board and Committee positions are honorary and unremunerated. The administration of the Federation is located in the UK, under an Executive Director.

COMMITMENT TO MEMBERS

The IFTF advises, informs and supports its members on all issues that affect the fur sector, nationally and internationally. It particularly helps members with political, media, fashion, consumer, welfare and conservation matters and the Origin Assured™ Programme through a wide variety of communications, materials and meetings.



Picture from the Japan Fur Association.

COMMITMENT TO HIGH WELFARE STANDARDS

The IFTF promotes strict codes of practice that meet or exceed established and accepted standards for animal welfare for both wild and farmed fur. The IFTF supports governments in creating and implementing sound animal welfare legislation and international standards, such as the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). IFTF has contributed significant funds over the years in support of a wide range of research into animal welfare and conservation projects.

COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

The IFTF fully supports the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the body which regulates trade in threatened and endangered species. Since 1985 the IFTF has been a voting member of the World Conservation Union/IUCN, the largest conservation organisation that helps find pragmatic solutions to the world's most pressing environment and development challenges. Wild or farmed, fur is a natural, renewable resource that is gentle on the planet.



*An Inuit sews a kayak from sealskin.
The IFTF and IUCN support the sustainable use of natural resources.*

COMMITMENT TO CONSUMERS

In 2006, the IFTF and its industry partners introduced the independently monitored Origin Assured (OA™) Label. This aims to assure consumers that, when they buy an OA™ labelled fur garment, the fur comes from a country where national or local welfare regulations or standards are in force. In a separate initiative to improve consumer information, the IFTF has long encouraged labelling to identify fur species.



COMMITMENT TO FASHION

Fur is a beautiful, natural product, necessarily a good investment because it is hand crafted at every stage. A fur will last for years and the IFTF is committed to promoting modern fur's versatility, utility and beauty to the designers and consumers of today and tomorrow.



REMIX is IFTF MIFUR's international competition for young fashion designers held annually in Milan.



A fur farm in Norway, in an area that cannot support large farms.

COMMITMENT TO REASON

IFTF believes that all consumers should be free to exercise their right to choose to buy animal derived products such as leather, silk, cashmere or fur, providing that their production is mindful, responsible and sustainable. Equally, communities worldwide should be free to hunt and farm responsibly and to work with and trade in renewable, sustainable resources.



A fur shop in Iceland.

THE FUR TRADE SMALL BUT IMPORTANT

The fur trade comprises hunting communities and many small farms and family businesses, craftsmen and women, manufacturers, dressing companies, co-operatively owned or publicly floated auction houses, designers and retailers. It is a small but global industry. Worldwide retail turnover in 2007 was just over \$15,000,000,000 (\$5,000,000,000 within the EU).

The fur trade provides jobs and cash income in remote, hard to farm areas such as the deserts of Namibia, the ice floes and fjords of the Arctic Circle, the great wilderness of North America as well as being ideal for the small, family-run farming economies of Eastern Europe and the Baltic States. In several northern European countries, US and Canadian states and provinces fur farming is an important part of the agricultural sector. The fast-developing economies of China and Russia are also growing producers of and markets for fur. The IFTF works with its members in all countries to educate and support their efforts to ensure high animal welfare standards, good conservation practice and where appropriate, encourage their governments to adopt and implement international standards.

For more information

www.iftf.com
www.originassured.com
www.fur-style.com
www.nikapika.com



THE INTERNATIONAL FUR TRADE FEDERATION

The International Fur Trade Federation (IFTF) is an independent and neutral federation of national associations and organisations representing all fur sector interests worldwide. Formed in 1949, the IFTF now has 42 member organisations in 35 countries (as at 2009) across all continents. This includes 20 members in the EU: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Outside the EU, members represent Argentina, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine and USA.



WWW.IFTF.COM