

POLICY NAME:	<i>GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND VIRGIN WOOD FIBER PROCUREMENT POLICY</i>
DEPT/GROUP:	<i>FOREST RESOURCES</i>
POLICY SCOPE:	<i>FIBER PROCUREMENT OPERATIONS</i>
POLICY REGION:	<i>GLOBAL</i>
DATE:	<i>REVISED OCTOBER 2023 WITH SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 EFFECTIVE DATE</i>
OWNER:	<i>SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, VIRGIN AND RECYCLED FIBER</i>

WestRock is committed to procuring virgin wood fiber from responsible sources. WestRock maintains certifications to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®)*, the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) FSC-C104002, FSC-C124388, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) PEFC/29-31-216, Brazilian Forest Certification Program (CERFLOR) standards and the American Tree Farm System® Group Certification process.

Responsible procurement of virgin wood fiber and sustainable forestry practices are integral to WestRock’s pulp, paper and lumber manufacturing operations. In addition to our certifications, WestRock supports and promotes sustainable land stewardship best practices that integrate the growing and harvesting of trees with the protection and conservation of soil, air, and water quality; biological diversity; wildlife and aquatic habitats; recreational and aesthetic properties; and forests with high conservation value. WestRock will strive to:

Procure and Manage Responsibly:

- Use and promote land stewardship best practices aimed at protecting working forests and eliminating deforestation or the conversion of native vegetation with significant environmental and social value within our virgin wood fiber supply chain.
- Obtain virgin wood fiber for WestRock paper manufacturing operations from responsible and well-managed sources.
- Maintain fiber sourcing, controlled wood, certified sourcing, and chain-of-custody certifications using third-party auditors.
- Purchase virgin wood fiber from responsible sources and manage our own forestlands in a manner intended to:
 - Avoid illegal logging, or the trade in illegal wood or forest products;
 - Protect against violations of traditional and human rights in forestry operations and recognize the rights of indigenous peoples to provide or withhold Free, Prior and Informed Consent to actions impacting their titled or customary lands;
 - Respect the rights and safety of workers;

- Prevent degradation of primary or old growth forests or forests with high conservation value;
 - Avoid conversion of forests to plantations or non-forest use when the conversion is not considered limited and legal or threatens high conservation values; and
 - Prevent the introduction of genetically modified organisms into our forestry operations.
- Use a risk-based process to review our wood fiber procurement system and our suppliers' actions to determine their conformance with this Policy.

Promote and Utilize Sustainable Forestry:

- Support the viability of working forests, regeneration of forests after harvest and the establishment of new forested lands.
- Utilize measures that help ensure our compliance with applicable environmental laws, rules, and regulations.
- Use the best available scientific information to utilize practices which promote long-term forest productivity and viability and protect biological diversity of plant and wildlife species.
- Source fiber from certified and responsible sources by encouraging forest landowners to certify lands to accredited certification programs.
- Publicly document certification audit results.

Participate in Outreach and Education:

- Engage in education programs and training efforts to encourage landowners to:
 - Use scientific, credible sustainable forestry practices.
 - Regenerate forests after harvest and establish new forests on non-forest lands.
 - Maintain and improve long-term forest growth and soil productivity.
 - Protect water bodies and the land that borders them.
 - Protect special sites and biological diversity.
 - Incorporate aesthetic consideration into activities where visual impacts are a concern.
 - Control invasive exotic plants, animals, and insects.
 - Manage lands of special significance in a manner appropriate to their unique qualities.
 - Manage harvest residue which considers economic, social, and environmental factors and other utilization needs.
 - Reduce wildfire risk.
 - Use qualified logging professionals.
 - Implement guidance for forests with exceptional conservation value



- Collaborate with communities and other stakeholders on projects that benefit working forests, strategic watersheds, and biodiversity.

This Policy shall be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure effectiveness.

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