



Forest Stewardship Council

Preserving the value of forests to mitigate the effects of climate change

The Earth's boreal, temperate and tropical forests are irreplaceable. They have always been and always will be an essential link in global value chains. Universal common assets, vital places shared by all, they are both vectors of cultural and emotional values and an essential factor in climate regulation and economic and social development. The world's forest cover nevertheless continues to shrink at an alarming rate, contributing significantly to rising CO₂ emissions. The capacity of forests to capture and store the carbon we produce is therefore reduced in equal measure.

We are convinced that the world's forests have a major role to play in mitigating climate change and enabling the environment to adapt. It is therefore necessary to ensure that deforestation is completely halted, natural forests are protected and all types of forest are responsibly managed.

What we need at this point is a global agreement at COP21 (UN Conference on Climate Change) in Paris. This agreement should be supported by effective action and firm commitments on the part of all stakeholders, in particular national governments. This is the only way of mitigating climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for us all.

To achieve this objective, we are calling on the governments present **to take firm and effective decisions concerning the world's forests:**

- ✓ by making clear and transparent commitments to an ambitious reduction in CO₂ emissions, to include the forestry and land-use sectors;
- ✓ by actively supporting the struggle against deforestation;
- ✓ by adopting public policies promoting responsible management of all types of forest, rigorous forestry certification and the use of certified products;
- ✓ by actively supporting activities which take into account all the services rendered by forests: carbon capture, production of drinking water, climate regulation, etc.;
- ✓ by re-establishing the active participation of all the actors concerned – including local and native communities – in the development of collective solutions.

Thanks to its forest certification system, FSC provides an efficient way of preserving and sharing the value of forests with all members of society. Faced with climate issues and an increase in world demand for timber, FSC offers a credible long-term response to conserving the environment, increasing people's well-being and meeting the growing needs of the whole forestry/timber industry. FSC is working on both the supply and demand for certified products and has proved its worth in responsible forest management. This voluntary initiative is supported by a growing number of actors, including governments worldwide, in particular through responsible public procurement policies.