



## Sustainable Forestry and Virgin Wood Fiber Procurement Policy

**Scope:** Global

**Effective Date:** July 12, 2017

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WestRock is committed to sustainable forestry practices and the responsible procurement of wood fiber which promote healthy and productive forests for future generations. WestRock is committed to maintain certifications to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Requirements for the (2015-2019) Program, the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) FSC-C104002, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification™ (PEFC™), Brazilian Forest Certification Program (CERFLOR) standards and the American Tree Farm System® Group Certification process.

Responsible procurement of wood fiber and using sustainable forestry practices are integral to WestRock's pulp, paper and lumber manufacturing operations. WestRock supports and promotes sustainable land stewardship 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 continually work to:

### **Procure Responsibly:**

- Obtain virgin wood fiber for WestRock paper manufacturing operations from responsible and well-managed sources.
- Maintain certified fiber sourcing, controlled wood and chain-of-custody certifications using third-party auditors.
- Avoid purchasing raw wood fiber from sources:
  - Engaging in Illegal logging, or the trade in illegal wood or forest products;
  - In violation of traditional and human rights in forestry operations;
  - That have an adverse impact to regions of high conservation value;
  - Causing significant conversion of high conservation value forests to plantations or non-forest use, unless the conversion results in net social or environmental gain; or
  - That introduce genetically modified organisms in forestry operations

### **Promote and Utilize Sustainable Forestry:**

- 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.
- Increase overall sourcing of fiber from certified and responsible sources by encouraging forest landowners to certify lands to accredited certification programs.

### **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; and
  - Implement guidance for Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.

Revision Date: July 12, 2017

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