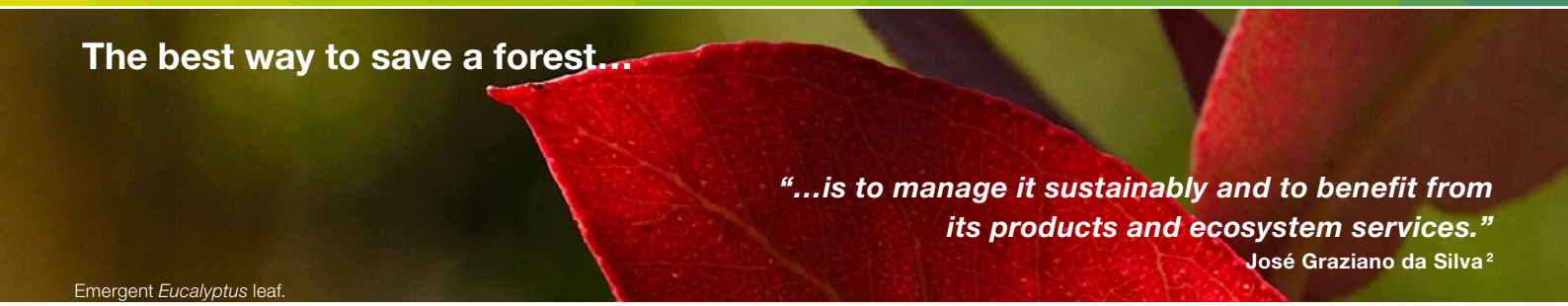
sappi
Inspired by life

1936
2016

Sustainability
FAQs

Forest certification

Global deforestation **3 million hectares** of **natural forests** are lost every year.	**Deforestation** accounts for **17–20%** of global GHG missions.	Only about **10%** of the **world's forests** are **certified**.[1]	**We do not** use woodfibre from endangered **tropical forests**.



Emergent *Eucalyptus* leaf.

What is forest certification?

Forest and plantation certification is a monitoring mechanism; tracing and labelling timber, wood, pulp and non-timber forest products. It evaluates the quality of management from environmental, social, and economic perspectives against a series of agreed standards.

The key to forest certification is the development of a **system** that combines **auditing** forest practices with **tracing** forest products.

Why are forest certification systems important?

To understand the importance of forest certification systems, we first need to understand the value and state of the world's forests.

Deforestation
Although the rate of deforestation has slowed somewhat over the past decade, each year, approximately 13 million hectares of the world's forests, an area the size of Greece or Nicaragua, are lost or degraded. These forests are usually endangered tropical forests.

Greenhouse gas emissions
An estimated 17-20% of the annual global greenhouse gas emissions are the result of deforestation and forest degradation. According to Greenpeace, deforestation accounts for more climate pollution than all the world's cars, trucks, trains, planes and ships combined.[3]

Deforestation also leads to the loss of forests' ability to sequester carbon. Forests capture heat-trapping carbon dioxide (CO_2) — a greenhouse gas — from the air and store it in their leaves, wood, roots and soils during the process of photosynthesis, acting as 'carbon sinks'. After our oceans, forests contain the world's second largest stores of CO_2.

Biodiversity and social benefits
Forests are diverse ecosystems and home to many endangered species that are at risk when habitat is lost.

Many indigenous communities depend on forests for resources (food, firewood, traditional medicines etc) and forests often form a significant part of their cultural heritage.

Certification gives assurance
Certification is an important tool, which environmentally and socially conscious consumers can use to choose responsibly sourced products that originate from woodfibre; allaying concerns about climate change and biodiversity issues.

It gives consumers the assurance that the products they are buying have been legally harvested in accordance with sound environmental practices and that social aspects such as indigenous rights have been taken into consideration in managing these forests.

Forest certification provides **assurance** to our customers that our products originate in **sustainably managed plantations** and **forests**.	We participate in **3** Internationally recognised forest products certification programmes **FSC®**[4] • **PEFC™** • **SFI®**.	Globally, **73%** of the **woodfibre** supplied to our mills is **certified**. Our **global goal** is to **increase** this to **79%**.

How does certification work?

There are two types of certification:

Forest certification assures that forests and plantations producing wood products are managed according to a set of criteria aimed at responsible management.

Chain-of-Custody (CoC) certification tracks and assures processed wood products originate from certified forests and plantations.

Certification is applicable to fibre (plantations and forests) and manufacturing sites. To maintain certification our operations are audited on a regular basis.

What is Change-of-Custody (CoC)?

CoC tracks the origin of a raw material at each stage of the production process — from beginning to end. The CoC is only valid if each link in the chain is checked. Once a link in the chain is broken, material loses CoC-certified status. To ensure an unbroken chain, each time the timber is processed, the processor must be certified, verifying that they have a system of tracking the timber or wood throughout the production process.

For forest- and plantation-based industries like ours, certifying the CoC requires verification that the wood used at each stage of the production process came from a forest or plantation certified as being sustainably managed. For the paper industry, the value of certification lies in being able to label the end-product as being derived from a sustainably managed forest or plantation, providing added value for the customer or retailer.

Why is forest certification important to Sappi?

Forest certification provides **assurance to our customers** that our products originate from **sustainably managed plantations** and **forests** and enables us to uphold our reputation as an **environmentally responsible company** that operates according to the principles of **sustainable forest management**.

Which certification systems does Sappi use?

Our goal is to use as much independently certified wood as possible, which is why we have pursued and achieved certification by the three most internationally recognised forest products certification programmes:

FSC®[4] Forest Stewardship Council®[4]
SFI® Sustainable Forestry Initiative® North America
PEFC™ Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification™.

In North America we include fibre sourced from the Certified Logging Professional and Maine Master Logger programmes.

Which certification system is best?

We **do not** endorse one certification as 'better' than another.

Why not just use one certification system?

The **supply** of FSC®-certified wood is **limited**. By achieving SFI® and PEFC™ CoC certifications in addition to FSC®-certification, we are increasing the likelihood that we will be able to offer our products as CoC-certified by at least one independent third-party.

Why isn't all the woodfibre Sappi uses certified?

Only about 10% of the world's forests are certified.[1]

Certification is expensive and at times **not financially viable** for the **small farmers** and **community growers** we support.

In **South Africa**, for example, FSC® certification for micro-growers such as those participating in Khulisa Umnotho, our tree-farming scheme for subsistence farmers, is a challenge. We are currently engaged in discussion regarding a group scheme for micro-growers.

In **North America**, our involvement in initiatives to promote third-party forest certification include:

- A partnership with Time Inc, Hearst Corporation and two of our competitors to help small- and medium-sized landowners in Maine achieve third-party forest certification.
- The Sustainable Forestry Programme, a certified FSC® group management scheme, dedicated to assisting woodlot owners in the state of Maine to develop and manage their woodlots. The scheme comprises a team of highly trained forest professionals, including licensed foresters.

How does Sappi ensure that the woodfibre used doesn't come from endangered forests?

In every region where we operate, we have **strict procurement policies** related to a wide variety of issues, including the management of plantation forests and harvesting. **We do not procure woodfibre from endangered forests anywhere in the world.** In Southern Africa we do not use any indigenous wood.

Matching woodfibre with mill requirements

We closely match woodfibre with mill requirements.

In **South Africa**, the softwoods we use are all pine species including *Pinus patula*, *P elliottii*, *P taeda* and some hybrids. The hardwoods consist of eucalypts including *Eucalyptus grandis*, *E dunnii*, *E nitens*, *E smithii* and a range of hybrids, and the wattle, *Acacia mearnsii*.

Wood species used in **Europe** include spruce (used for mechanical pulp and softwood chemical pulp) and beech (used for hardwood pulp). Lanaken Mill can also process significant amounts of poplar.

The tree species used in **North America** include maple, poplar, aspen, beech and birch (hardwoods) and spruce, pine and fir (softwoods).

Woodfibre sources and certification

Globally, 73% of the woodfibre we used in FY2016, was FSC®-, PEFC™- or SFI®-certified. Our global goal is to increase this to 79% by 2020.

In **Europe**, we do not own plantations or land, but source woodfibre from forests close to each mill. We also source soft and hardwood pulp from the Americas. 75.2% of fibre supplied to our European mills in FY2016 was FSC®- or PEFC™-certified. Similarly, in **North America**, we do not own plantations or land. We source woodfibre from landowners and commercial loggers in North America and Canada. 55% of fibre supplied to our North American mills in FY2016 was FSC®-, PEFC™- or SFI®-certified. We include fibre sourced from Certified Logging Professional and the Maine Master Logger programme toward our regional goal of achieving 60% of our fibre from certified sources. Our licenced professional foresters can offer assistance with forest management plans, sustainable forest management practices, technical forestry services and much more to landowners in Maine and surrounding areas in New England. In **Southern Africa**, wood is sourced from our own plantations and other growers in the region. We do not use indigenous wood in this region. 82% of the wood fibre supplied to our South African mills in FY2016 was FSC®-certified. All our own, leased and managed plantations, are FSC®-certified.

Non-certified fibre

In all regions, wood that is not certified is procured from known and controlled sources. FSC®-controlled wood and PEFC™ Due Diligence Systems (DDS) requirements are incorporated into our purchasing specifications and contracts and in line with our purchasing policy. Environmental- and forestry-related information (including wood sources) is obtained from pulp suppliers on a regular basis and this data is then internally evaluated.

1 http://www.twosidesna.org/
2 Director General, Food and Agriculture Organisation, State of the World's Forests 2012
3 http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/
4 Our mills' and forestry certification details, including FSC®, SFI® and PEFC™, are available online (https://www.sappi.com/certifications) and summarised in the Sustainability FAQs — Our certifications.

Our CoC certifications

Our goal is to use as much independently certified wood as possible. Our mill certifications are detailed in the Sustainability FAQs — Our certifications. Our mills' and forestry certification details, including FSC®, SFI® and PEFC™, are available online at https://www.sappi.com/certifications.

	Mill/ Business unit	FSC® CoC	SFI® Certified Sourcing	SFI® CoC	PEFC™ CoC
Sappi Europe	Alfeld	✓			✓
	Ehingen	✓			✓
	Gratkorn	✓			✓
	Kirkniemi	✓			✓
	Lanaken	✓			✓
	Maastricht	✓			✓
	Stockstadt	✓			✓
Sappi North America	Cloquet	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Somerset	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Westbrook	✓		✓	✓
Sappi Southern Africa	Forests	✓			
	Lomati Sawmill	✓			
	Ngodwana	✓			
	Saiccor	✓			
	Stanger	✓			
	Tugela	✓			

✓ Certified ✓ Multi-site cross-border group CoC

Chain-of-Custody (CoC) certification by independent third parties

Fibre procurement certificate

Forest management certificate

Change-of-Custody (CoC) certification