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FOREST GUIDE



Protecting Our Forests Starts With Each One of Us

Our daily activities and purchases can have a significant impact on our forests. Fortunately, it is becoming much easier to be a responsible consumer. When buying products, it is important to know where they came from and how they were made. To find products that came from responsibly managed forests, look for the FSC[®] (Forest Stewardship Council[®]) logo.



Forests are colorful and biodiverse worlds that benefit the climate, wildlife, and people's livelihoods.

Thanks to our forests, we have clean air and clean water; trees protect against erosion and help filter water. Our forests also serve as home to more than three-quarters of the Earth's land-based species. Many products people use every day come from materials found in forests. These include paper towels, copy paper, dining room tables, soccer balls, tires, and chocolate.

Our forests, however, are continuously under threat. Unsustainable agriculture and poorly plannedinfrastructure are contributing to rampant deforestation. Illegal and unsustainable logging, which degrades forests, is also increasing.

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than three-quarters of the world's land-based species and 750 million people, including 60 million Indigenous peoples, live in forests.
- In 2019 alone, the tropics lost more than 29 million acres of tree cover. That's close to 30 soccer fields worth of trees every single minute.



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FSC is an organization that certifies responsibly managed forests with protections for people and the environment. For example, lakes and streams are protected from erosion, clear-cuts arelimited, the use of highly hazardous chemicals is tightly restricted, and the rights and resources of people who live in the forest are respected.

As a result, FSC-certified forests can provide us with the many things we need to survive, like clean air and water, food, and jobs. They also help protect us from floods and major storms. And responsibly managed forests help keep climate change at bay by absorbing carbon dioxide.

The FSC logo ensures that the products you buy from your favorite stores support responsibly managed forests. The FSC logo can be found on products such as office paper, tissue paper, lumber, furniture, and packaging. Purchasing FSC-certified products helps support the landowners who grow materials sustainably and helps ensure we can maintain healthy forests for many generations to come. When products with an FSC logo aren't available, look for products made from recycled materials.

DON'T FORGET Your local forests And wooded areas

Organize or join a trash pickup or trail maintenance activity in your area. And spread the word by sharing with your friends, family, and coworkers.



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GO ENJOY The woods

Take a day hike or camping trip, but make sure to leave without a trace!



HELP REPLENISH Your Local Forest or Area

When planting in your yard, make sure to select noninvasive or native species from your region. A gardening center or nursery can offer great advice on local species. Also, talk with your office landscapers about planting native trees and plants on the property. Native species will thrive in their local elements, making maintenance much easier.

RECYCLING GOES A LONG WAY

Recycling properly can help reduce the demand for new forest products. Ask your building managers at work if they purchase FSC-certified paper and how to improve the building's recycling systems.



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DONATE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Supporting WWF will help ensure forests will continue to be protected and managed responsibly for generations to come. **Click here to learn more.**

TURNING A NEW LEAF, TOGETHER

WWF is working to conserve the world's forests in several ways. For example, we promote responsible forest management, influence policies that safeguard these majestic, wooded places, and support the creation of protected and conserved areas to keep forests healthy for people and nature. We ensure forests are properly managed by working with a variety of partners, including companies that make forest products, consumers who buy those products, and governments that create forest policies.

The majority of WWF's work focuses on tropical rain forests, the most biologically diverse and complex forests on the planet, and temperate regions abroad and in the United States, such as forests in the Southeast US.

Click here to read more about WWF's Forest Initiatives.

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