

# Print and Paper The Facts

## Paper production supports sustainable forest management

The paper industry promotes sustainable forestry and depends on sustainable forest growth to provide a reliable supply of wood fibre. Europe's paper manufacturers do this by encouraging forest sustainability through their purchase and use of certified wood fibre and by promoting sustainable forest management policies and practices at home and around the globe. And by providing a dependable market for responsibly grown fibre, the paper industry encourages landowners to continue managing their forestland.

- “When landowners receive income for products grown on their land [including wood for paper-making], they are encouraged to maintain, renew and manage this valuable resource sustainably. This is an especially important consideration in places facing economic pressures to convert forestland to non-forest uses”<sup>1</sup>



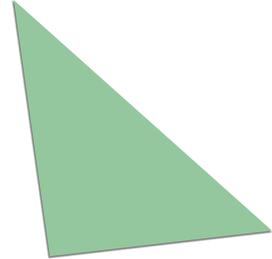
- Contrary to public opinion Europe's forests are increasing not decreasing— by an area equivalent to 1.5 million football pitches every year - and responsible forest management is helping to drive this.<sup>2</sup>
- The area of protected forests is expanding, and forest management practices increasingly promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Most forests have management plans and the net annual increment in forest volume is higher than annual felling in almost all countries. Across Europe as a whole, only about 40% of the increment is felled, and the total growing stock of forests increased by nearly 9 billion cubic metres between 1990 and 2010.<sup>3</sup>
- In Europe, most of the wood fibre used for paper-making comes from well-managed European forests. Of the total raw materials consumed by the European paper industry, paper for recycling represented 45.6% and wood pulp 39.2%; non-fibrous materials made up most of the rest. 64.6% of wood, chips and sawmilling by-products delivered to European mills are forest management certified by independent forest certification schemes. 84% of fibre comes from Europe.<sup>4</sup>
- According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, the overwhelming direct cause of deforestation is agriculture. Subsistence farming is responsible for 48% of deforestation; commercial agriculture is responsible for 32% of deforestation; logging (legal and illegal) is responsible for 14% of deforestation and fuel wood removals make up 5% of deforestation.<sup>5</sup>
- Sustainable forest management is commonly viewed as one of the most important contributions that the forestry sector can make to sustainable development. [The future of a thriving print and paper industry, and all its economic spin-offs, also depends on well-managed and healthy forests].
- Responsibly managed forests are necessary for the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystems services, both on individual sites and within the wider landscape. Forest management, including intensive commercial management, can be a critical and cost-effective conservation tool within larger-scale conservation strategies. Well-managed commercial or community forests can for example provide vital buffers for and links between protected areas. Forest management should therefore seek to maintain forest quality and not degrade either the timber resource or the range of associated goods and services (non-timber forest products, environmental services, biodiversity, spiritual values, recreational uses, etc.).<sup>6</sup>
- At least 82% of raw materials are sourced in Europe from responsibly managed forests which are more abundant and healthier now than they were 40 years ago.<sup>7</sup>
- Using wood and recovered paper for manufacturing purposes does not only add value and create jobs, it does so in a resource efficient manner. A study named “Wood flows in Europe (EU27)” shows that due to recycling and the use of

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waste and by-products in the forest-based industries, 1 m<sup>3</sup> of wood creates products worth 2.38 m<sup>3</sup> of wood [3.5m<sup>3</sup> for the paper industry alone in 2013]. This is resource efficiency at its best.<sup>8</sup>

- Forests and sustainable forest management are essential in the transition to a green economy that would improve human well-being and social equity, while significantly reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In Europe,

thanks to sustainable forest management, the forest sector already displays many of the characteristics of a green economy and has the potential to play a major role in the emerging sustainable economy, like contributing to a low-carbon green economy, or increasing provision of wood, non-wood products and ecosystem services in a sustainable way.<sup>9</sup>

1. [WBCSD, 2011](#)
2. [CEPI, 2015](#)
3. [Forest Europe, 2011](#)
4. [CEPI, 2013](#)
5. [UNFCCC, 2007](#)

6. [WWF, 2010](#)
7. [CEPI, Sustainability Report, 2013, p 12](#)
8. [CEPI, 2012](#)
9. [Forest Europe, 2015](#)

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