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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### FSC certified timber sales rise at Kingfisher

Kingfisher, whose main retail brands are B&Q, Castorama, Brico Dépôt and Screwfix, has reported a rise of two percent in sales of FSC certified timber to 47% of the groups total timber sales from February 2008 to 2009.

The increase in FSC sales for the reporting year 2008/09 equates to 2.56 Million m<sup>3</sup> roundwood equivalent (RWE). FSC certified kitchens, garden furniture and flooring can be found in over 800 Kingfisher owned stores in eight countries in Europe and Asia.

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### New FSC certificate in the Congo Basin demonstrates social excellence

Danzer Group's subsidiary Industrie Forestière d'Ouessou (IFO) has achieved FSC certification for its forestry concession in the Republic of Congo. The company has demonstrated outstanding social practices for the local population living in the concession area and its employees.

IFO was granted FSC certification in March 2009 after demonstrating that it meets the strict social, environmental and long-term management criteria of the FSC Principles and Criteria. It is the second company to achieve FSC forest management certification in the Republic of Congo, after DLH's Congolais Industrielle de Bois (CIB).

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## Partner with FSC

Learn about the benefits of becoming a sponsor of the FSC weekly news updates and monthly newsletter, or about other sponsorship opportunities with FSC. Contact Marcelle Peuckert at [m.peuckert@fsc.org](mailto:m.peuckert@fsc.org).

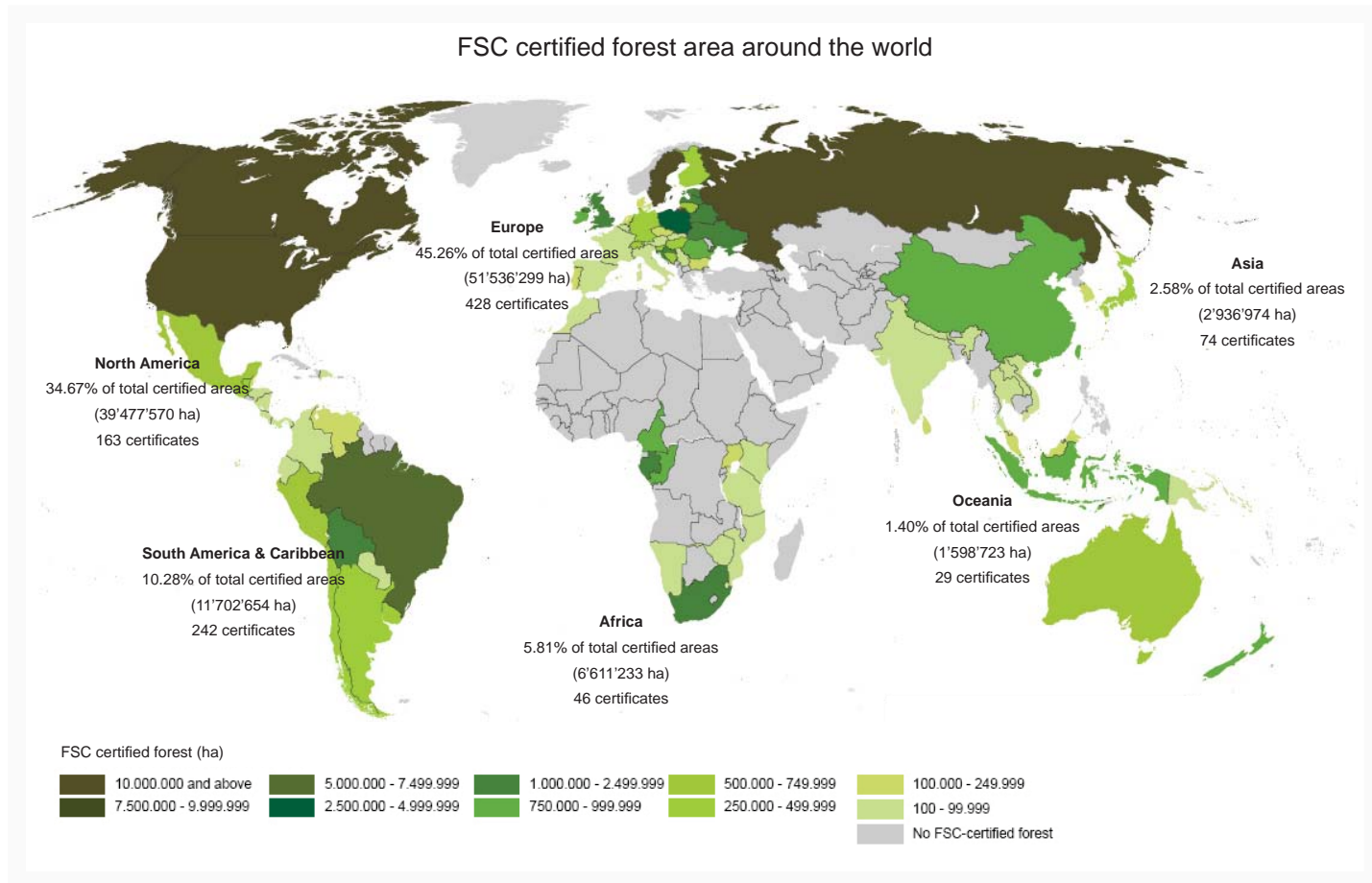
## Join the FSC team!

FSC is currently seeking candidates for:

- > Managing Director FSC Global Development
- > Managing Director Accreditation Services International (ASI)

See all job postings at [www.fsc.org/jobs](http://www.fsc.org/jobs)

## FSC IN NUMBERS - A TRULY GLOBAL SYSTEM



Map source: January 2009 © FSC Denmark

### Overview of forest management and supply chain certificates (25 May 2009)

Globally certified forest area:	113'863'453 ha
Total forest management certificates worldwide:	982
Number of countries with forest management and chain of custody certificates:	82
Total chain of custody certificates worldwide:	13'469
Number of countries with chain of custody certificates:	95

#### More market info

> FSC certificates: types and distribution  
> FSC market info pack  
...are available online at [www.fsc.org/facts-figures.html](http://www.fsc.org/facts-figures.html)

#### FSC certificate database

You can search for FSC certified companies and products and check the validity of FSC certificates at [www.fsc-info.org](http://www.fsc-info.org). This database is the only place where you can check the validity of FSC certificates. For regional or national market information, please contact your national FSC representative at [www.fsc.org/fsc-locations.html](http://www.fsc.org/fsc-locations.html)



## FSC MEMBERS

Overview of members (26 May 2009)

	Economic	Environmental	Social
North	177	131	56
South	151	214	95
Total	824		

View the list of new members at [www.fsc.org/membership\\_documents.html](http://www.fsc.org/membership_documents.html).

### Become a member

Learn about the benefits of becoming an FSC member as well as how to apply for membership at [www.fsc.org/become-member.html](http://www.fsc.org/become-member.html)

## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

### Final draft of Group Certification standard out for public consultation

The final draft of the “FSC-STD-30-005 EN FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups” is out for public consultation. FSC invites all interested stakeholders to submit their feedback before 20 June 2009.

The standard prescribes the requirements that group entities must meet when seeking FSC group forest management certification. The requirements are based on the “FSC-POL-20-001 FSC Policy Group Certification – FSC guidelines for certification bodies” approved in 1998.

Access to FSC certification and its benefits can be more challenging for small forest holders than for larger enterprises. FSC group certification allows a group of forest managers to join together to overcome procedural barriers and share certification costs.

A group entity holds a single certificate on behalf of the group members and is responsible for ensuring that all members are in compliance with the FSC Principles and Criteria. To ensure that certificates under these arrangements do not compromise the quality of a certificate, this standard puts safeguards in place.

The final draft includes changes that take into consideration the results of three pilot projects on group certification in Estonia, France and the US held in early 2009. It also incorporates stakeholder comments from the consultation period on the first draft of the document in November and December 2008.

More information on the key changes to the standard, how to submit your comments and background information may be found [www.fsc.org/consultation-group.html](http://www.fsc.org/consultation-group.html).

### Online consultation

You can keep up to date with all policies, standards and other stakeholder consultations at [www.fsc.org/current-consultations.html](http://www.fsc.org/current-consultations.html)

## POLICY & STANDARDS UPDATES

### New guidance to improve smallholder access to FSC certification

FSC has endorsed new guidance to improve the incorporation of small and low intensity managers’ needs in the development of national or regional FSC forest management standards.

“Guidance on the interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria to take account of small scale and low intensity (FSC-GUI-60-001 V1-0 EN)” takes immediate effect following its approval on 28 April 2009 at an FSC meeting on certification for smallholders in Europe.

The document will guide FSC approved National Initiatives, forest stewardship working groups and certification bodies when developing national or regional forest management standards. It proposes the use of simpler language and the inclusion of simplified requirements, whilst retaining the rigor of FSC’s social, environmental and economic criteria.

The guidance is the third policy outcome of the “SLIMF initiative” – a program initiated by FSC in 2002 to increase access to FSC certification for Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF). The three approved policy changes proposed by the FSC Board of Directors are:

- SLIMF eligibility criteria;
- Streamlined certification procedures for the evaluation of SLIMF; and
- Guidance for FSC forest stewardship standards development.

Read the “Guidance on the interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria to take account of small scale and low intensity (FSC-GUI-60-001 V1-0 EN)” online.

More information about FSC’s initiatives to improve access of FSC certification and its benefits to smallholders at [www.fsc.org/smallholders](http://www.fsc.org/smallholders).



## FSC engagement in forest-based carbon - call for Working Group members

FSC is calling for individuals to participate in the FSC Forest Carbon Working Group. The Working Group will explore the roles that FSC governance, policy and certification can play in frameworks and projects to mitigate climate change. Interested FSC members may apply before 10 June 2009.

At the 2008 General Assembly, the membership passed motion 43 that requests FSC to explore its potential for engaging in forest-based carbon initiatives. Motion 43 requires that a sub-chamber balanced Working Group is established to ensure the actual and potential views of all FSC stakeholder groups receive due consideration.

Interested individuals are asked to submit a completed application form and curriculum vitae (CV) to [carbon.wg@fsc.org](mailto:carbon.wg@fsc.org). Read the "Call for FSC members: Participation in the FSC Forest Carbon Working Group", the "FSC Forest Carbon Working Group Terms of Reference and Rules of Participation" and download the application form at [www.fsc.org/newsroom.html](http://www.fsc.org/newsroom.html).

### Did you know?

FSC is committed to engaging with any stakeholder who voices concerns about a component of the FSC system and is committed to facilitating discourse that brings about solutions. Constructive feedback from stakeholder groups contributes to FSC's efforts to further strengthen and improve its system. Find out more at [www.fsc.org/ngocriticism.html](http://www.fsc.org/ngocriticism.html)

## New Policy interns advance work on motion 43

FSC is pleased to welcome two new Policy Interns to the FSC International Center. Ms. Camila Oliveira and Mrs. Dian Intarini will both support the Policy & Standards Unit (PSU) in the implementation of last year's General Assembly Motion No. 43. This motion requests an FSC Working Group to explore the role that FSC and forest certification can play in frameworks and projects to mitigate climate change.

Ms. Oliveira will support PSU over the coming five months mainly with the establishment and coordination of a Forest Carbon Working Group. Other tasks include the preparation of FSC presence at upcoming major events as well as establishing contacts with relevant organizations.

Ms. Oliveira's internship at FSC is part of her InWEnt International Leadership Training which started in November

2008. Previously, Ms. Oliveira had worked for OneCarbon and participated in the development, management and implementation of CDM projects in Brazil.

Mrs. Intarini will support research about the status quo of forest climate projects involving FSC certification or otherwise reference to the FSC system. The results shall serve as input to deliberations of the Forest Carbon Working Group.



**Left:** Camila Oliveira, FSC PSU Intern; **right:** Dian Intarini, FSC PSU Intern

Mrs. Intarini holds a Bachelor of Forest Resources Conservation. As a freelance researcher on tropical resources management and forest conservation, she focuses on REDD regimes, forest certification systems, payment for environmental services (PES) schemes as well as rural community development approaches.

Ms. Oliveira and Mrs. Intarini began their work as Policy Interns on 11 May 2009. You may find more information on FSC, forests and climate change online [www.fsc.org/climatechange.html](http://www.fsc.org/climatechange.html).

### Did you know?

FSC has strict requirements to control the non-certified material in FSC-Mixed Sources products. The non-certified material must comply with the FSC Controlled Wood standards and be independently verified before it is mixed with certified material.

Besides addressing international concerns on illegal logging, FSC Controlled Wood also includes a balanced consideration of key social and environmental issues. It ensures a minimum performance on the ground.

Find out more at [www.fsc.org/cw.html](http://www.fsc.org/cw.html)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### FSC certified timber sales rise at...

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**FSC certification has proven to be a wise business investment.**

**- Mike Cartwright,  
Kingfisher**

Today's announcement follows a long history of leadership in corporate responsibility by Europe's leading home improvement retail group and the third largest in the world. This began in the early nineties when B&Q UK became a founding member of FSC through to July 2008 when all of B&Q UK's stores were awarded FSC chain of custody certification.

Jamie Lawrence, Forest & Timber Advisor at Kingfisher said, "As the most stringent globally applicable certification scheme, FSC is our preferred choice." He continued, "We are therefore pleased to report a two percent increase in volume of FSC certified timber sold in the reporting period 2008/09."



B&Q UK's FSC certified garden furniture © Kingfisher

Kingfisher recently updated its timber procurement policy which now translates its long standing preference for FSC into real commercial buying terms. It specifies only FSC certified for key tropical hardwood products. Where FSC certified material is not available material must sourced from companies committed to achieving FSC certification.

"Whilst we continue to face challenges, we have managed to buy more FSC certified products and make them more available," said Mr. Lawrence. Kingfisher has achieved this through

product specific and supplier specific action plans, working with their newer brands and focusing on new store openings such as B&Q UK's flagship store in New Malden, London.

Mr. Lawrence said, "The New Malden store has entire product ranges for gardens and kitchens that are either FSC certified, recycled or in-process of achieving FSC certification; additionally 'FSC only' was stipulated during the store construction."

Kingfisher has committed to continuously increase the proportion of responsible and recycled timber products. It is taking a collaborative approach to put suppliers in contact with partner organizations such as the Tropical Forest Trust and the WWF Global Forest Trade Network (GFTN) in their phased approach to move towards FSC certification.

B&Q UK achieved FSC chain of custody certification in 2008 in response to new demands by carpenters and builders actively seeking FSC certified timber for the green-building industry – especially for government and local authority projects. It is one of the first retailers around the world to become FSC certified.

Retailers were traditionally seen as the end of the supply chain and did not require certification. Today, it finds itself in the middle of the supply chain – one in ten of its customers are tradesmen.

"FSC certification has proven to be a wise business investment," said Mike Cartwright, Business to Business Manager at B&Q UK. The company is "picking up" new business from tradesmen because they can trace the entire supply chain back to the forest.

**Whilst we continue to face challenges, we have managed to buy more FSC and make it more available.**

**- Jamie Lawrence,  
Kingfisher**

"Because the company has a wide range of FSC labeled products," Mr. Cartwright explains "a tradesperson seeking material can go to any part of our business and get products with proof that it comes from sustainable sources."

To find out more about Kingfisher's procurement policies, visit [www.kingfisher.com/CR](http://www.kingfisher.com/CR).

### New FSC certificate in the Congo...

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Andre de Freitas, FSC Executive Director, said: "The certification of IFO is another success for FSC in the Congo Basin. This is an important focal area for us and we are glad to see the amount of continual progress." He continued, "To reach FSC's standards requires demanding changes in forestry practices and we congratulate IFO for their achievement."

The concession is located in the Department of Sangha in the north of the Republic of Congo, bordering the "Odzala-Kokoua" National Park. Covering 1.16 million hectares, the FSC certified forest is home to more than 2'000 indige-

nous, semi-nomadic people and is a refuge for a diversity of endangered and protected mammals. The indigenous Pygmy people account for 40% of the concession's rural population.

To consult with local communities in forest management decisions and encourage their participation, IFO held over 250 meetings with 70 local communities in 2008. Special participatory techniques were often used – such as large pictures, participatory mapping and using product samples – to take illiteracy into account.

Using GPS satellite technology, IFO mapped the areas of cultural and ecological importance – such as sacred burial sites, springs and medicinal trees – in close collaboration with the local community.

IFO respects tenure rights and gives access to their natural resources through the zoning of hunting areas and the allocation of community development zones. Hunting outside of these areas is restricted for conservation purposes and controlled for illegal poaching.

IFO's eco-guards patrol barriers to control the illegal poaching of rare or endangered mammals such as gorilla, elephant, chimpanzee, bongo and forest buffalo that are abundant in the forest. Hunting of non-protected species, like small antelopes called Duikers, contributes to a significant source of protein for the Sangha population. To reduce the pressure from poaching, IFO imports cattle, brings fish twice a week from a nearby village and has installed a cold room to offer alternatives to bush meat.

At IFO's industrial site Ngombé, the company offers regular training for its 900 employees and free access to a hospital, pharmacy and school for their families. The large hospital is also available to the local population and free treatment and medication is provided to Pygmies. The company gives priority to the local population for employment; currently 43% of workers are from the Sangha department and 70% from the North of the country.

The improvements to infrastructure and employment have attracted more inhabitants to the area; 8'100 people that

inhabit the Ngombé site live directly or indirectly from the presence of IFO. The Ngombé village public school has been refurbished and IFO is in the process of constructing a school for Pygmy children. The use of sawmill residues from IFO is generating commercial activity – 20-30% of the sawmill residues are recycled by the local population for charcoal production and 5% for timber construction.

**“It boosts our motivation to increase our efforts towards the certification on our concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo.”**

**- Olof von Gagern,  
Danzer Group**

Olof von Gagern, Danzer Group CEO for Africa and Veneer Europe, said, “This is a major milestone in our efforts to progressively increase our production and trade of FSC certified products.”

As a member of the WWF Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN), Danzer Group has committed to progressively work towards having all of their concessions in the Congo Basin FSC certified. These are the concessions managed by the company's SIFORCO in the Republic of Congo, where their practices have been publicly criticized by Greenpeace. The process of achieving FSC certification at the IFO concession presents a learning opportunity for Danzer. Mr. von Gagern said, “It boosts our motivation to increase our efforts towards the certification of our concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, managed by our company, SIFORCO.”

The assessment of IFO was carried out by FSC accredited certification body SGS and overseen by FSC's Accreditation

Services International (ASI). By achieving FSC certification, IFO has met the “gold standard” in the industry. It ensures that, among other considerations, IFO adheres to local forestry and environmental legislation, respects the rights and needs of the local population, protects threatened or endangered ecosystems and has a long-term management plan that takes social and environmental needs into account.



Pygmy woman collects NTFPs and has access to forest resources © van Loon



IFO pharmacy at Ngombe © van Loon

Read ASI's public summary report online at [www.accreditation-services.com](http://www.accreditation-services.com) and SGS's public summary report at [www.forestry.sgs.com](http://www.forestry.sgs.com).



IFO hospital at Ngombe © van Loon

## FSC welcomes new Trademark Officer

FSC is pleased to announce the appointment of Saija Hotti to Trademark Officer of FSC Global Development. Ms. Hotti will support the trademark approval process, and provide training, advice and clarification of FSC trademark and brand requirements to various parties. Working closely with the FSC legal counsel, she will also assist in resolution of trademark misuse and infringement matters.



Saija Hotti, FSC Trademark Officer © FSC

Ms. Hotti was previously employed by the non-profit RAY, a gaming organization in Finland that disperses proceeds to health and social programs. She worked for RAY for more than seven years, first as a Planner and then as the Social Responsibility Program Manager. The social focus and multi-stakeholder structure of RAY have given Ms. Hotti a wealth of skills and perspectives that will translate well to

her new role at FSC.

A native of Finland, Ms. Hotti has lived in Germany for several years with her husband and son. Her new designation as Trademark Officer brings welcome support to the Trademark Services Unit. It also marks an FSC 'first': she is the first Finnish full time employee at FSC, bringing further diversity to the international team.

Ms. Hotti began her work as Trademark Officer on 4 May 2009.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### New FSC National Initiative joins FSC system - FSC Sri Lanka approved

On 28 April 2009, FSC approved Asanka Abayakoon as FSC Contact Person for Sri Lanka. Mr. Abayakoon will steer the establishment of a national FSC forest management standard for Sri Lanka, which has been in progress for four years. FSC welcomes Mr. Abayakoon to the global network of FSC National Initiatives.

Mr. Abayakoon will continue to coordinate the standard-development process through a stakeholder balanced and participatory, democratic process. Working with more than twenty representatives from social and environmental NGOs and companies, he is also in close collaboration with the government's Sri Lankan Standard Institute.

Mr. Abayakoon is currently Head of IUCN, Sri Lanka's Business and Biodiversity Program, where he has already made strides in raising awareness of FSC in the country, with particular success in the rubber plantation industry. To date, Sri Lanka claims four FSC certificates for rubber tree plantations and eight FSC chain of custody certificates.

The Republic of Sri Lanka is an island off the tip of southern India that boasts a diversity of animal and plant species. According to the UN FAO's State of the World's Forest, the country suffers from high deforestation rates that continue to rise; 30'000 hectares (1.5%) were lost in Sri Lanka every year between 2000 and 2005, up from 27'000 hectares (1.2%) between 1990 and 2000.

National Initiatives are integral to FSC's efforts to promote responsible forest management worldwide, bringing responsible purchasing and production to society and industry in their country. FSC is nationally represented in more than 50 countries around the world. Find the complete list of FSC approved National Initiatives at [www.fsc.org/fsc-locations.html](http://www.fsc.org/fsc-locations.html).

### CaGBC launches LEED® Canada for Homes

The Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) launched the LEED Canada for Homes standard at events in Toronto and Montreal on 3 March 2009.

LEED for Homes is a voluntary rating system that promotes the design and construction of high performance homes that use less energy, water, and natural resources; creates less waste; and are healthier and more comfortable for the occupants.

FSC certified wood products are recognized in the LEED for Homes standard under the Materials and Resources



2 (MR2) credit for “Environmentally Preferable Products (EPPs).” A total of 8 points is available under the MR2 credit, with 6.5 of these potentially available for products that are FSC certified.

This standard includes a prerequisite (under MR2) that any tropical wood products used must be FSC certified, and provides a list of specific wood-based building components (e.g. framing, flooring, cabinetry etc.) that can qualify for points if they are FSC certified.

Under LEED Materials and Resources Credit 2, points are available for the following FSC certified wood products: framing, siding or masonry, flooring, landscape decking or patio, cabinets, counters, doors, trim, windows, sheathing.

In order for a product to qualify as FSC certified, whomever the building project is purchasing the wood product from must be FSC chain of custody certified. For a list of FSC certified wood product suppliers in Canada, visit [www.fsccanada.org/findwoodproducts.htm](http://www.fsccanada.org/findwoodproducts.htm).

For more information, visit [www.cagbc.org](http://www.cagbc.org). To find FSC certified wood products, visit [www.fsc-info.org](http://www.fsc-info.org) or [www.fsccanada.org/findwoodproducts.htm](http://www.fsccanada.org/findwoodproducts.htm). To become FSC chain of custody certified, visit [www.fsccanada.org](http://www.fsccanada.org).

Source: CaGBC

## Did you know?

Founded in 1993, FSC is the first certification system established for forest management and forest products. Find out more at [www.fsc.org/history.html](http://www.fsc.org/history.html)

## Whole Foods Market® offers FSC certified paper bags at checkouts

Whole Foods Market (NASDAQ: WFMI) announced last month that it is the first US retailer to offer FSC certified paper bags at its checkout counters beginning in May.

Michael Besancon, Whole Foods Market Senior Global Vice President of Purchasing, Distribution, and Marketing said, “Whole Foods Market is thrilled to set the bar even higher in terms of reducing our environmental impact with paper bags that close the loop with 100 percent post-consumer reclaimed material.”

Mr. Besancon continued, “The chain of custody that our paper bags have attained means these bags can be tracked throughout the supply chain - from post-consumer waste through processing and distribution to the shopper toting home groceries, all the while reducing pressure on virgin forests and protecting biodiversity.”

FSC offers the most comprehensive standard for certification of forest products. FSC certified paper can originate from post-consumer recycled fiber or from forests certified according to the FSC’s rigorous forest management standards. The FSC’s independently verified chain of custody system requires paper producers to track their certified fiber throughout the production and distribution process.

Corey Brinkema, FSC US President said, “Whole Foods Market’s decision to provide FSC certified grocery bags sets a tremendous example for its industry peers. It also helps educate its customers about the importance of forest stewardship.”

Previously, Whole Foods Market was the first national retailer to offer 100 percent recycled (60 percent post-industrial/ 40 percent post-consumer) paper bags at its checkouts. FSC certification on paper bags made from 100 percent post-consumer reclaimed material is another first for the natural and organic foods retailer. Post-consumer reclaimed material typically comes from corrugated boxes that might have held food or other products that have been shipped to various retail outlets. This repurposing is important in a country that is the biggest market for paper products globally, producing 90 million tons of paper and consuming 100 million tons of paper each year.

Allen Hershkowitz, Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) said, “While bringing your own reusable bag is always the best choice, Whole Foods Market’s switch to FSC certified bags made from 100 percent post-consumer recycled content is a great step forward. This move virtually eliminates the bags’ impact on forests and also sends a strong signal to other businesses that making the right environmental choices is possible.”

Mr. Hershkowitz continued, “Consumers want and deserve better environmental options when they open their wallets. Whole Foods Market is delivering those options, both with this new bag and with its previous efforts to promote reusable bags as well as protect endangered forests and prevent native forests from being converted to tree plantations.”

Source: Whole Foods Market, [www.wholefoods.com](http://www.wholefoods.com)