

Georgia-Pacific's Statement on Forest Protection and Sustainable Practices

The Policy Statement

- Atlanta-based Georgia-Pacific (GP) will not purchase trees from Endangered Forests and Special Areas, or from new pine plantations established at the expense of natural hardwood forests. The policy statement was developed in consultation with environmental groups Dogwood Alliance, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Rainforest Action Network (RAN). Specifics of the commitment include:
 - Georgia-Pacific will work actively on the continued definition and mapping of additional Endangered Forests and Special Areas across its key supply regions. As endangered forests are identified, the company will not procure fiber from these areas. Georgia-Pacific will prioritize efforts to identify Endangered Forests and Special Areas in its key supply regions, including the Southern United States.
 - Georgia-Pacific will not procure pine fiber from pine plantations established after July 1, 2008, on sites that were natural hardwood forestlands immediately prior to their conversion. To date, Georgia Pacific has identified over 90 million acres of hardwood forests subject to this commitment. Additionally, the company will continue to offer forest landowners information and education on natural regeneration options.
 - Georgia-Pacific agrees with the principles set forth in the Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI) as a long-term, collaborative, and science-based approach to identify, map, and protect endangered forests in the boreal region, and will encourage its suppliers to participate in the CBI.
 - Georgia-Pacific will not procure fiber from the Tongass National Forest until Roadless Areas, identified there in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, are permanently protected.
 - Georgia-Pacific will closely monitor its supply chain so that customers can be assured that wood and paper products are not sourced from endangered forests or plantations established on sites that were natural hardwood forests immediately prior to their conversion.
 - Georgia-Pacific will not knowingly purchase illegally harvested or traded fiber, will maintain procedures to communicate this to suppliers, and will require documentation of the legal origin of imported wood products.
 - Georgia-Pacific will not purchase native tropical wood products from sources in Indonesia until measures providing the company assurance of legal harvesting and endangered forest protection are in place.
 - Georgia-Pacific will continue regular third-party certification of its wood and fiber procurement practices across all of its operating areas. Summary results of audits will be periodically made public and available to interest groups and stakeholders.
 - All things being equal, Georgia-Pacific will give preference to wood certified by established and recognized certification systems.
 - Georgia-Pacific will continue to require its timber suppliers to be trained in sustainable forestry practices.
 - Georgia-Pacific will continue to require adherence to both mandatory and voluntary state Best Management Practices (BMPs) during the harvest of any timber supplied to GP facilities.
 - Georgia-Pacific will continue to participate in the industry effort to recover 60 percent of paper consumed in the United States by 2012.
 - Georgia-Pacific will continue efforts to increase the use of post-consumer content in its products, to the extent it meets consumer's needs, with a goal of 50 percent post-consumer recycled fiber within the company's total recycled fiber supply system.



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- This statement of commitment by GP has been in development for six years. It is the result of longtime consultation with Dogwood Alliance, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Rainforest Action Network in a scientific mapping process.
- This is a voluntary commitment on Georgia-Pacific's part.
- The policy statement was completed in 2008. Since then, Georgia Pacific has begun to implement many of the provisions outlined. Because of the complexity of defining and mapping endangered forests, special areas, and natural hardwood forests, however, the company has spent the last two years in consultation with outside experts—along with Dogwood Alliance, NRDC, and RAN—to develop a sound, science-based methodology for doing so.

Endangered Forests and Special Areas

- Georgia-Pacific initiated its endangered forest and special area mapping process in the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Eco-region of the United States. The company will be replicating this process throughout all of its key fiber supply regions in the continental United States.
- By identifying more than 600,000 acres of Endangered Forests and Special Areas in the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Eco-Region, Georgia Pacific has emerged as the only U.S. forest products company proactively working with environmental groups and scientists to identify and protect these important places. Many aspects were evaluated to classify the endangered forests including concentrations of rare and endangered wildlife species, rare forest types, forests rich in species diversity and forest restoration cores which are smaller forest patches that provide critical habitat.
- The 11 designated endangered and special areas mapped in the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Eco-Region span portions of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia and include forests with unique ecological values in the Alligator River Region, Camp Lejeune Area, Congaree River Area, Croatan National Forest Region, Fort Jackson, Francis Marion National Forest, Holly Shelter Region, Great Dismal Swamp Area, Green Swamp Region (accounts for two distinct areas), and the Savannah River Site.
- This move will increase protections for endangered animal species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, rare plants including the carnivorous Venus flytrap and indigenous geographic features, including *pocosins*, the Algonquin term for “swamp on a hill.”
- The designated areas are among the region's rarest natural habitats, encompassing the most biologically diverse freshwater wetland communities on the continent.

Natural Hardwood Forests

- Georgia-Pacific has committed to cease purchasing pine harvested from plantations established after July 1, 2008, on sites that were natural hardwood forests immediately prior to conversion. This commitment applies to more than 90 million acres of natural hardwood forests that have been identified across the Southeast.



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About Georgia-Pacific

Georgia-Pacific is one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of tissue, packaging, paper, pulp, and building products, including brands such as:

- ☐ Angel Soft® toilet paper
- ☐ Brawny® paper towels
- ☐ Dixie® plates, bowls, napkins, cups, and tableware
- ☐ Mardi Gras® napkins and towels
- ☐ Quilted Northern® toilet paper
- ☐ Soft 'n Gentle® toilet paper
- ☐ Vanity Fair® napkins
- ☐ Zee® napkins



About the Natural Resources Defense Council

The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, nonprofit organization of scientists, lawyers, and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting the Earth: its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. Founded in 1970, NRDC has 1.3 million members and online activists nationwide, served from offices in New York, Washington, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Montana, and Beijing. www.nrdc.org



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About Dogwood Alliance

Dogwood Alliance mobilizes diverse voices to defend the unique forests and communities of the Southern United States from destructive industrial forestry. Founded in 1996, Dogwood Alliance is the only organization in the South holding corporations accountable for the impacts of their business practices on the region's forests and has been at the forefront of driving the U.S. paper market towards more sustainable fiber sourcing practices.