WEPA Commitment to No Deforestation and No Conversion (DCF)

Together for a better life

1. Introduction

Forests and other natural ecosystems play a critical role in supporting the environment and livelihoods around the world. After oceans, forests are the planet's largest carbon sink. They provide unique habitats, support biodiversity, help stabilise soil and water cycles and regulate our climate. When forests, grasslands, savannahs and other natural ecosystems are degraded or converted, greenhouse gases are released – accelerating climate change and biodiversity loss, which has a severe impact on the environment, the economy and human well-being.

WEPA is dedicated to producing hygiene paper products in balance with people and planet. WEPA strives to source and manufacture all products responsibly, ensuring high quality and transparency throughout our global supply chain.

2. Commitment to Elimination of deforestation and conversion

WEPA therefore commits to securing deforestation and conversion free supply chains for our primary risk commodity wood by 01 January 2025.

- **Cut-off date: the latest cut-off date at the group level is 31 December 2020.**

This document serves as WEPA's overarching commitment to no deforestation and conversion. Specific details on how we work towards responsible supply chains for our primary risk commodity wood is outlined in WEPA's Responsible Procurement Policy.

WEPA's Business Partner Code of Conduct outlines expectations regarding human rights, the prohibition of forced and child labour, equal opportunities, freedom of association, fair contractual agreements and a safe and healthy working environment.

- **Business Partners: all companies/partners/ traders along the supply chain, both direct and indirect are included within this scope.**

WEPA's raw material procurement activities reflect a strong awareness of the importance of protecting forest ecosystems. Deforestation is closely linked to global issues material to WEPA including climate change, water and supply chain management.

For our raw material wood-based pulp, there is a risk of deforestation within the supply chain – along with related impacts such as water and soil pollution and biodiversity loss. These risks are especially relevant as WEPA sources pulp from regions in South America and Southern Europe.

In addition, forests support the livelihoods of people living in and around them. WEPA recognises that deforestation can be associated with a risk of human rights abuses for indigenous peoples and local communities, including the loss of places to live, cultural heritage and livelihoods.

From this perspective, WEPA recognises deforestation as a significant business risk that must be addressed to ensure the long-term resilience of the WEPA Group.

Therefore, WEPA hereby establishes the 'Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) Commitment to Responsible Sourcing' (hereafter referred to as the Commitment). Through this Commitment, we aim to achieve zero deforestation and conversion in our wood-based supply chains particularly in high-risk areas.

- **Definitions: WEPA refers to definitions set by the AFi (Accountability Framework initiative) namely:**
  a) Deforestation: "Loss of natural forest as a result of conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; conversion to a plantation; or severe or sustained degradation".
  b) Conversion: "Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in a natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function".

3. Scope of the commitment

The Commitment applies to WEPA Hygieneprodukte GmbH and its subsidiaries in the procurement of pulp for the production of hygiene paper, covering both the consumer and professional market.

4. Implementation and achievement of commitment

4a. Responsible sourcing of wood with high-risk of deforestation

WEPA is committed to achieving zero deforestation across its supply chain by not sourcing raw materials from primary forests, High Conservation Value (HCV) areas, High Carbon Storage (HCS) areas and peatlands.

WEPA expects all suppliers involved in its products and services to comply with this commitment and requires their cooperation to achieve zero deforestation and conversion in the supply chain.

4b. Purchase policy for pulp

WEPA promotes the sourcing of pulp from non-controversial sources. WEPA complies with the values of PEFC and FSC as defined in the "Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC". WEPA declares that it is not directly or indirectly involved in the following activities:

a. Illegal logging or the trade in illegal wood or forest products.
b. Violation of traditional and human rights in forestry operations.
c. Destruction of high conservation values in forestry operations.
d. Significant conversion of forests to plantations or non-forest use.
e. Introduction of genetically modified organisms in forestry operations.
f. Violation of any of the ILO Core Conventions, as defined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998.

4c. WEPA's measures

1. WEPA exclusively purchases pulp which is at least FSC controlled wood certified.

2. Traceability & Transparency
   a. All WEPA supply chains are traceable to their origin at least to the level of geocoordinates. By December 2025, WEPA will implement an online traceability tool for all wood-based raw materials.
   b. WEPA conducts a risk assessment of sustainable sourcing, including deforestation risks, by surveying its suppliers' initiatives through self-assessment questionnaires (SAQ) and international information sharing platforms on responsible sourcing before starting business and on a regular basis by using two online tools.
   c. WEPA assesses the compliance status of its suppliers, and if any violations of laws and regulations or other areas requiring improvement are identified, WEPA takes remedial action and engagement, while setting a timebound action plan for improvement to be implemented.
   d. Depending on the level of risk, WEPA applies different measures according to the corrective action catalogue.

3. Verification of product volume compliance through:
   a. Quarterly check of FSC®- and PEFC-certifications of WEPA's suppliers
   b. Exclusion of sourcing in high-risk countries
   c. Verification of all deliveries by an online tool by end of 2025

4. Verification of supplier compliance and supplier performance via annual supplier evaluation and "Forest Positive Supplier Score" assessment including impact on indigenous people, geolocation accuracy.

5. Implementation of a qualification and awarding process for suppliers.

6. Close collaboration with suppliers: To achieve a deforestation- and conversion-free supply chain, WEPA maintains partnerships with suppliers and other stakeholders to promote initiatives such as the establishment of a traceability system for critical raw materials or to initiate projects to support diversity in forests and peatlands.

5. Monitoring and Reporting on progress

1. WEPA is putting in place processes to collect data, verify and report on its commitment to no deforestation and conversion. WEPA documents and monitors the performance of the suppliers and the compliance of all purchased products by using two Due diligence online tools including evaluation of ecological and human rights as well forestry aspects.

2. Beside this WEPA conducts a yearly supplier evaluation and document the performance of the suppliers.

3. Grievance and remediation issues are handled seriously and respectfully. Any issues can be raised through WEPAs whistleblower system.

Our progress on sourcing responsibly produced fibre products is shared publicly in our annual sustainability report.

This commitment is effective from January 2025.

Legal information

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