

Ancient and Endangered Forests Conservation Advocacy



Ancient and Endangered Forests are intact forest landscape mosaics, naturally rare forest types, forest types that have been made rare due to human activity, and/or other forests that are ecologically critical for the protection of biological diversity. They are critical forests for climate stability and the prevention of further biodiversity loss.

As a starting point to geographically locate ancient and endangered forests, maps of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and of intact forest landscapes (IFL), can be used and paired with maps of other key ecological values like the habitat range of key endangered species and forests containing high concentrations of terrestrial carbon and High Carbon Stocks (HCS). Key endangered forests globally are the Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests of British Columbia, Alaska and Chile; Tropical forests and peat lands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa.

As part of your participation in the CanopyStyle program, MMCF producers seek to ensure that sourcing of fibre does not place pressure on Ancient and Endangered Forests. In addition, producers contribute to conservation by taking various actions, including supporting the efforts of local groups and communities. Vertically integrated producers make MMCF from their own dissolving pulp, have a direct connection to the forests that provide their raw material, and can make decisions that directly affect remaining Ancient and Endangered forests. However, many producers buy their pulp from a supplier, and are less able to make decisions directly over what happens to the forest.

Conservation of Ancient & Endangered Forests and Intact Forest Landscapes:

Yibin Grace Group Co. Ltd. supports manufactures that does not use ancient and endangered forest for pulp or paper, or dissolving pulp to make cellulose fibers. We will, therefore:

- ✓ Assess our existing use of wood pulp and fiber according to the risk assessment reports published by the FSC or the Canopy and ensure that we are not sourcing fibers made from ancient and endangered forests areas such as the Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests; tropical forests and peatlands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa, or endangered species habitat.
- ✓ Work with FSC, Canopy and our pulp suppliers towards phasing out and finding suitable alternatives to any fibre sourced from these regions.
- ✓ Eliminate sourcing pulp from other controversial sources including companies that are logging forests illegally and from tree plantations established after 1994 through the conversion or simplification of natural forests.

Recognizing, respecting and upholding human rights and the rights of communities

We will request that our suppliers respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and acknowledge indigenous and rural communities legal, customary or user rights to their territories,

land, and resources. To do so, we request that our suppliers acknowledge the right of Indigenous People and rural communities to give or withhold their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) before new logging rights are allocated or tree plantations are developed, resolve complaints and conflicts, and remediate prior human rights violations through a transparent and accountable grievance mechanism and mutually agreeable dispute resolution process.

Innovative and Alternative Fiber Development

We will collaborate with Canopy, innovative companies and suppliers to explore and encourage the development of pulp sources that reduce environmental and social impacts. Where appropriate, we will play an active role in the research and development of commercial scale production of pulp and cellulose fiber made from alternative fiber sources such as agricultural residues and recycled fibers.

Advocacy for Conservation Solutions

Working with Canopy we will support collaborative and visionary system solutions that protect remaining ancient and endangered forests in the Coastal Temperate Rainforests of Vancouver Island and Great Bear Rainforest, Canada's Boreal Forests, and Indonesia's Rainforests.

Forest Certification

We will preference fibre sourced from forests that are responsibly managed forests, certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification system. FSC certified plantations are part of the solution.

Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Footprint

Recognizing the importance of forests and peatlands as carbon storehouses, we will support initiatives that advance forest conservation to reduce the loss of high carbon value forests, by encouraging vendors and suppliers to avoid harvest in these areas, and by giving preference to those that use effective strategies to actively reduce their greenhouse gas footprint.

Pollution Prevention

Pulp and viscose manufacturing is a resource-intensive process that can lead to air and water emissions that impact overall environmental quality. This policy does not address these other critical environmental issues, however, we will encourage the pulp suppliers to invest in and use the cleanest pulp, dissolving pulp manufacturing technology.

Communication

We recognize the benefit of creating environmental awareness among our customers, employees and peers. As such, we will highlight our environmental efforts on our website and in public communications.

Forests purify the air & water, sequester carbon, & house countless species. It's vital we keep them standing. We wish ourselves every success in adopting a strong framework that will advance forest conservation, and address the formidable challenges the world faces.

Forest Mapper: Canopy's interactive tool that visually represents ancient and endangered forests at a global scale. <https://canopyplanet.org/tools/forestmapper/>