

PRESS RELEASE

11th October 2015

Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) UK celebrates 20 years of forest certification

Today, FSC is the world's strongest forest certification system, in terms of global reach, robustness of certification criteria and number of businesses involved in the system.

FSC has more than 29,500 certificate holders in 81 countries worldwide; 8% are held by companies in the UK.

Over 180 million hectares of forests are FSC certified, including more than half of the forest area in the UK. Around 300 million cubic meters of FSC certified wood are harvested every year, constituting 16.6% of the global industrial roundwood market, and 8% of the global fuelwood and industrial roundwood marketⁱ.

Half of the UK public recognise the FSC logoⁱⁱ and 72% are very or fairly likely to give preference to FSC certified productsⁱⁱⁱ.

FSC certification has positive impacts for people and wildlife, helping to maintain appropriate habitats^{iv} and push companies toward remarkable social progress^v. Tropical and small or medium producers, regardless of geography, can also garner significant economic benefits from attaining FSC certification^{vi}.

FSC certified products are widely available online and on almost every UK high street and business park. The likelihood is that you will have interacted with at least one today, be it the furniture on which you've sat, the packaging your food came in or the tissue you used when you visited the bathroom.

We are proud of what we have accomplished in the last 20 years.

In the next 20 we'll continue to strive for Forests For All Forever.

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Further Information

For more information please contact Tallulah Chapman, Communications Manager, FSC UK at tallulah@fsc-uk.org.

ⁱ FSC, 2015

ⁱⁱ GfK NOP Face-to-Face Omnibus poll of 1856 UK adults (6th - 11th March 2014)

ⁱⁱⁱ YouGov Plc Online Omnibus poll of 2,080 UK adults (30th - 31st March 2015)

^{iv} *Great Apes and Logging*, WWF

^v *Social impacts of the Forest Stewardship Council certification: An assessment in the Congo basin*, CIFOR

^{vi} *Profitability and Sustainability in Responsible Forestry: Economic impacts of FSC certification on forest operator*, WWF