

THE MYTH

“ Use less **paper**, save the world’s forests ”

THE REALITY

- The paper industry **contributes to keep up forests**.
- The paper industry practices sustainable forest management.
- The paper industry is not responsible for the depletion of tropical forests.

From all the wood extracted around the world’s forests, 53% is used for energy production, 28% is used by sawmills and only around 11% is used directly by the paper industry¹. The paper industry depends on trees and needs thriving forests. It is very much in its interests that this raw material can be used sustainably and will remain available as a raw material to future generations.

From a tree, big logs are used for timber. The branches cut to maintain trees healthy are used for paper making. Residues from saw mills such as wood chips, are also used as raw material for paper. Over the years, thinning operations weed out the weaker trees, but there is still a net gain. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reckons that the annual increase of forest cover in EU 27 member countries is app. 503 000 ha/yr. This corresponds to the size of 3403 football (soccer) fiels per day and an area almost twice as large as Luxembourg every year².

Deforestation is generally occurring in the southern hemisphere and is mainly due to unsustainable agricultural practices and fuel requirements. The European paper industry supports sustainable forest management as well as certification. A

sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit³. The European paper industry supports certification as a way of documenting sustainable forest management. Certificates based on defined criteria issued by independent auditors make this verifiable for customers and consumers⁴. Half of Europe’s forests and 92,2% of forests owned by paper companies are certified⁵.

In Europe, the paper industry signed up for a Legal Logging Code of Conduct⁶ firmly condemning illegal logging and related corruption and criminal activities. The industry’s commitment to responsible sourcing is clear and beyond any reasonable doubt.

1. FAO Statistics 2007

2. FAO Statistics 2010

3. 4th Assessment of the UN intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

4. To learn more about certification, please visit www.fsc.org and www.pefc.org

5. CEPI Sustainability Report 2011

6. Legal Logging Code of Conduct for the Paper Industry