



WEBINAR

Exclusive
for journalists

**Are there
good plantations?**

A webinar on forest plantations and how they can save natural forests

As the world copes with climate change, resource scarcity and biodiversity loss, demand for wood is on the rise to produce biomass, products, packaging, and other forest-based material.

But where will the wood come from?

Natural forests where wood comes from are no longer able to meet the growing demand, resulting in their loss and degradation. In that context, responsibly-managed forests plantations are a good way to make more wood products from a smaller forest area.

Currently, **one third** of the world's forest products comes from plantations which only make up **7 per cent** of the world's forests. However, the word plantation comes with all kinds of connotations, and not many are positive.

- **Do plantations really support natural forests or do they come at their expense?**
- **Can there be good plantations and bad plantations?**
- **Why are proactive NGOs against plantations in some areas around the world, while they support them in others?**

Join our expert speakers as they unravel the controversy around this topic, and explore ways in which plantations can not only be efficient in producing wood, but also in preserving natural forests and benefiting people and local communities.



Speaker
Kim Carstensen
Director General

Forest
Stewardship
Council (FSC)



Speaker
Mauro Armelin
Executive Director

Friends of the Earth/
Brazilian Amazon



Moderator
Karen Van Der Westhuizen
Communications Director

Forest Stewardship
Council (FSC)



AGENDA



05 May 2021



16:00 - 17:00 CET

Karen V.	Welcome note	05 minutes
Kim C.	Planted forests vs forest plantations <i>Difference and broader categories</i> <i>Vitality of planted forests to the survival of natural forests</i>	10 minutes
Kim C.	Why do plantations have a bad reputation? <i>- Threats</i> <i>- Divided opinions</i>	05 minutes
Kim C.	Wood is crucial for the transformation to a circular economy	05 minutes
Kim C.	What does it take to be a good plantation? <i>- FSC requirements</i> <i>- Plantations, conservation and restoration</i>	10 minutes
Mauro A.	Plantations in Brazil	10 minutes
Karen V.	Q&A session	15 minutes
Karen V.	Closing remarks	02 minutes

What is FSC?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the most trusted sustainable forest management solution.

FSC has over 26 years of experience in setting the gold standard for sustainable forest management around the world. FSC's unique democratic standard-setting process enables forest owners, communities and businesses to jointly make decisions on issues impacting forests today and in the future. This ensures inclusivity in finding the best solutions. Through its global standard, unrivalled stakeholder engagement and support from businesses and NGOs, FSC is the world's most credible solution for sustainable forest management; trusted to secure better outcomes for the markets, communities and forests for today and future generations.



In numbers

26+ years of existence

211.52+ million ha certified

42,743+ chain of custody (CoC) certificates

1,725+ forest management/ CoC certificates

1,165+ members in **89** countries

FSC & forest plantations

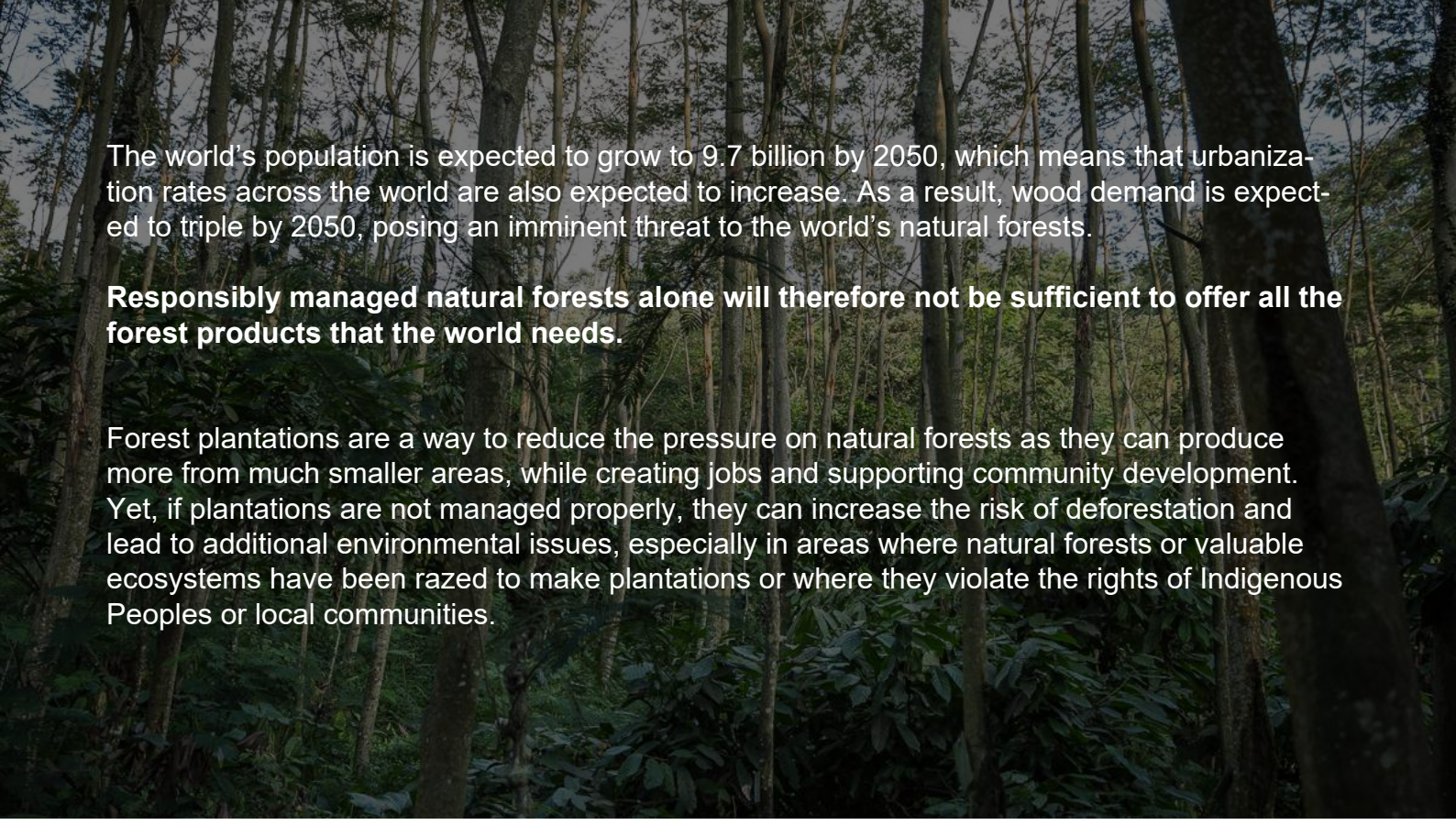
FSC supports the responsible management of forests plantations to complement the use of natural forests – whose areas cannot drastically increase – and to fight against deforestation. Plantations can also contribute to produce more biomass for the transition into a circular economy.

With its certification scheme, FSC aims to ensure plantations are developed in a good way. FSC's 1994 rule prohibits the conversion of natural forests into plantations. It also affirms FSC's priority to maintain and improve the value of natural forests.

By enforcing FSC values, certificate holders must ensure their plantations shelter indigenous trees, protect high conservation value areas, and offer high water quality. Good working conditions and the respect of land tenure rights for the people living in the areas must also be provided.

Although plantations cannot replace the richness of natural forests and the variety of services they provide, managing them in accordance with FSC standards ensures they can become tree-dominated areas that support the FSC environmental, economic, and social models.

It is all about finding the right balance



The world's population is expected to grow to 9.7 billion by 2050, which means that urbanization rates across the world are also expected to increase. As a result, wood demand is expected to triple by 2050, posing an imminent threat to the world's natural forests.

Responsibly managed natural forests alone will therefore not be sufficient to offer all the forest products that the world needs.

Forest plantations are a way to reduce the pressure on natural forests as they can produce more from much smaller areas, while creating jobs and supporting community development. Yet, if plantations are not managed properly, they can increase the risk of deforestation and lead to additional environmental issues, especially in areas where natural forests or valuable ecosystems have been razed to make plantations or where they violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples or local communities.

So, are forest plantations the root of the problem?

Ultimately, it is all about finding the right balance...

Plantations must occur in the right places, using the right approaches – without damaging and by taking into account the natural ecosystems. When done correctly, plantations can enable long-term and sustainable management of forests as well as meet the economic and social needs of the local communities. They also need to respect Indigenous Peoples' land tenure rights and culture.

There is no single solution to fight deforestation and the pressure that natural forests face. Plantations are just one part of the solving equation, together with conservation and restoration.

Are you looking for impact stories about forest plantations from around the world?

Here is a selection of story ideas related to FSC-certified plantations to inspire your next story! Get in touch with us at media@fsc.org if you want more information on any of the stories below or other stories related to our work.



Argentina

Argentina's majestic jaguar has seen a drop of approximately 95 per cent of its territory in the last 150 years, causing its population to disappear and putting it on the list of nearly threatened species globally. Forest conversion, degradation and hunting are some of the biggest reasons behind this crisis.

In the heart of the Atlantic forest eco-region in Argentina; an area where most of the forests have been exploited for timber while the rest are recovering from deforestation, lies an FSC-certified forest management unit of over 77 ha that provides the best conditions for the jaguar population to thrive. Landscape planification, conservation and restoration of natural and sensitive areas, and patrolling the forests to avoid poaching, are among the measures taken to grow the jaguar population in the plantation.



South Africa

For the last 30 years, FSC-certified forestry companies in South Africa have been involved in a water stewardship programme alongside WWF to protect and boost water conservation in the water-scarce country. The programme aims to find methods to create buffer zones (areas where planting cannot take place) to locate where commercial planting can take place; a process known as the wetland delineation method.

FSC's forest management principles and criteria require freshwater conservation management practices to be implemented by landowners and managers. This resulted in creating a 20 metre buffer zone after which trees could be planted.

Strategic water source areas only cover 10 per cent of South Africa's land, but are responsible for generating 50 per cent of its freshwater resources. These areas are therefore vital to the economy of South Africa.



Italy

An agreement between a protected national area in Italy and a plantation demonstrates how these two forests can coexist in harmony. By sustainably managing its poplar groves, this plantation managed to store 1,866 tons of CO₂, remove 123 tons of soil from erosion, and dedicate 37 hectares to the conservation of biodiversity – proving that certification can be a tool that generates benefits not only to areas covered by certification but also in surrounding areas and communities.

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Chile

Plantations' commitment to certification standards in Chile goes beyond the existing legislations by initiating voluntary restoration commitments in significant areas, and transforming the relationships with communities from confrontational to collaborative and developmental.



South Africa

An FSC-certified plantation in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa dedicates 55 per cent of its total area to conservation and economic empowerment.

What does that mean?

- It provides a safe home to all three crane species in South Africa that were either critically endangered or vulnerable.
- It is one of the biggest employers in the region and one of the few South African commercial forestry operations that employ women as harvest machine operators.
- It has been running a project since 2009 that provides support to schools for children with special needs, conducts workshops and mentorship programmes, offers teacher and learner counselling, and provides tutoring support.



Uganda, Rwanda & Tanzania

Local communities in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania are becoming more resilient to environmental, economic and social challenges due to a plantation's commitment to its "Forestry for Prosperity" programme.

By forming 23 community associations across their plantations, one plantation is now able to support up to **2,000 households** across these three countries - with an average of seven members per household. These associations enter into a risk management compact with the plantation where they set baseline risk minimization targets such as less forest fires, less tree thefts, and so on.

From the proceedings, the community associations then set up a wide range of community-owned businesses (fish farming, maize milling, pig farming, and many more).



Need more information?

Contact us at media@fsc.org

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