

Sustainable Forest Management

- Can Consumers Make an Impact?



Sustainable forest management (SFM) is the management of forests in a way that maintains biodiversity and ecosystem services for current and future generations at global and local scales whilst not causing damage to other ecosystems.

Forest certification is a voluntary process where a forest and its management is assessed by an independent third party in order to see if the forest management in the area fulfils predetermined requirements and standards.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) both have group certifications which promote the certification of small, community and family owned forests. These certifications both put more emphasis on ecological sustainability than on social and economic aspects.

Studies show that FSC forests achieve a higher level of sustainable forest management than other certified forests.

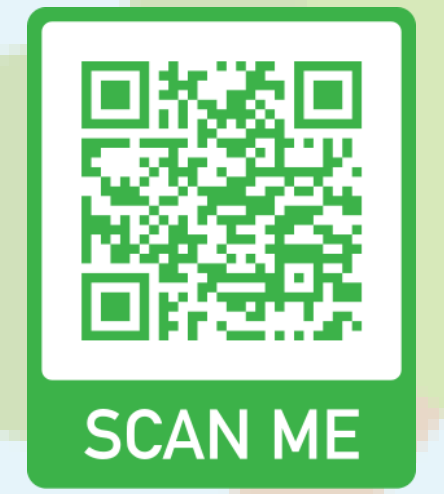
The PEFC is more tailored to the specific contexts of different countries and therefore type of forest.



So, can you make an impact?

Sustainable forest management is important for SDG 15 because it exclusively targets production forests and assists in halting biodiversity loss there. It is also important for other SDGs.

As a consumer you can make an impact by choosing certified products. It supports sustainable producers and sends a signal to other important actors that there is a demand for sustainable forest management.



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