

ICFPA



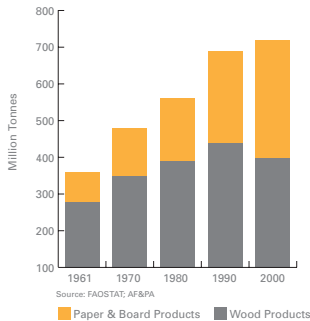
INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
FOREST AND PAPER
ASSOCIATIONS

a global voice

The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) is a worldwide network of forest and paper industry associations that was formed in 2002 to promote cooperation in areas of common interest to its members and to serve as the industry's advocate at the international level.

Today, forest and paper associations from 43 countries are united under the ICFPA banner, representing more than 90% of the world's paper production and more than 50% of its wood production.

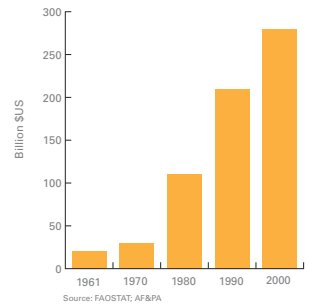
Consumption of Forest and Paper Products



Developing countries are increasingly involved in the forest products business. Since 1961, their share of global forest products exports has increased from 9% of the total, to over 16% in 2003.

The forest products sector employs 13.3 million people worldwide. In developing countries, employment in the industry increased by 1.1 million jobs between 1990 and 2000.

Trade in Forest and Paper Products



The Global Industry: Making a Positive Contribution

The global forest products industry contributes to sustainable development and poverty alleviation:

- It is a major employer – almost 13 million people in nearly 200 nations (FAO).
- It supports healthy, rural communities: in developing countries this allows people to stay in rural communities rather than move to large urban centres where poverty and unemployment are endemic. In developed countries it provides high tech, good jobs in rural areas.
- In areas where the industry has expanded the most quickly, the rate of deforestation has also declined the most quickly.
- The global forest products industry has adopted 3rd-party certification of forest management practices where companies commit to externally developed standards and their performance is audited against these standards.
- It is collaborating with environmental and conservation groups to protect and restore sensitive habitats and endangered species.
- It is committed to meeting its climate change commitments. Trees, wood and paper products are renewable and recyclable and help reduce greenhouse gases by storing CO₂ from the atmosphere.
- The industry has adopted the use of biomass, a renewable low impact fuel, reducing its reliance on fossil fuels that emit harmful greenhouse gases.

Working Towards a Sustainable Future

Since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, sustainable development — in economic, social and environmental terms — has evolved from a concept into an essential component of business strategies and a key factor in the policy-making decisions of governments worldwide. The ICFPA is taking the challenge of sustainable development very seriously; its members support high sustainability standards and are committed to management and manufacturing practices that meet stringent environmental, social and economic development objectives.



Promoting Sustainable Forest Management

At the heart of sustainable development is the goal of securing a better quality of life for both present and future generations. Sustainable forestry recognizes the same broad objectives and emphasizes the important link between the **economic, environmental** and **social** functions of forests.

ICFPA member associations are committed to the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) and strongly support the development of voluntary and market-driven **forest certification systems** to promote SFM and improve forest management on the ground. The ICFPA supports the extension of SFM systems to forest producing nations worldwide.

The ICFPA supports multiple forest certification systems, provided they meet criteria for credibility. It endorses systems based on certification standards that:

- are consistent with internationally recognised SFM criteria,
- employ a fully independent 3rd-party audit process,
- are transparent and are developed and implemented with the participation of stakeholders.

Mitigating Climate Change

Given the importance of climate change to the global sustainability agenda and the many linkages between the forest and paper industry and climate policy, the ICFPA is active in supporting the efforts of its members to address this issue.

The world's forests – and the products that come from them – are unique in their ability to remove and store carbon dioxide. These properties of forests and forest products create many complex interactions between climate policy and the forest industry throughout its value chain. ICFPA activities and initiatives undertaken in relation to climate change include education and advocacy; policy research and analysis; and carbon calculation tools.

History and Mandate

The ICFPA's beginnings can be traced back to 1996 when some executives of forest and paper associations from around the world began meeting informally to discuss the issues and challenges facing the sector worldwide.

Several years later, the associations took the decision to formalize their activities within the framework of an international organization. The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations was officially launched in 2002 with a number of objectives, among them:

- Coordinate actions in areas of mutual interest, from communications to data collection.
- Develop and promote common positions in matters of international importance.
- Support and advocate sustainable forest management (SFM) and sustainable production of forest products.
- Serve as a “clearing house” for best experiences and practices in SFM.
- Encourage and facilitate dialogue among diverse stakeholders at the global level.



Recognizing the Contribution of Plantations

Forest plantations, or planted forests, make an essential contribution to meeting the world's increasing demand for forest goods and environmental services. As well as bringing jobs, income and new skills into rural areas that are often remote and economically depressed, forest plantations provide many essential environmental services, from carbon sequestration and regulation of watersheds, to helping prevent soil degradation and erosion. Planted forests also provide habitat, shade and shelter for domestic farm animals, wildlife and other living organisms.

Plantations can contribute positively towards sustainable development, provided that good planning, careful establishment, sound management, best practices and social and environmental care are employed.


The ICFPA believes that the sustainable use of both natural and plantation forests will enable the world to meet its growing forest needs. Forest certification systems are contributing significantly to the recognition of careful and responsible forest management practices.

Combating Illegal Logging

Illegal logging poses a serious threat to our environment and its practice is strongly opposed by the global forest and paper products industry. As well as contributing to large-scale deforestation in many parts of the world, illegal logging also undermines the viability of legally harvested and traded forest products, robbing local communities, especially in developing nations, of essential funds for health-care, sanitation and education.

The ICFPA is committed to working with partners to find a solution to this growing international problem. It believes that stronger, more coordinated action by industry, governments and civil society groups against illegal logging will yield real dividends from a social, economic and environmental sustainability perspective over the coming decades.

The ICFPA acknowledges that forest law enforcement is the responsibility of domestic authorities and that addressing it at an international level raises issues of national sovereignty and interpretation. Nevertheless, its members stand unified behind certain common principles to combat illegal logging. They encourage the establishment of laws and regulations to promote and advance sustainable forest management in countries where such laws do not already exist, and support the conservation of forest areas which have been designated for protection by law. In addition, the ICFPA supports government monitoring and assessment of forests, which it considers essential for devising appropriate and effective measures to counteract illegal logging and trade of illegally harvested wood.



The ICFPA believes that the sustainable use of both natural and plantation forests will enable the world to meet its growing forest needs.

ICFPA



INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
FOREST AND PAPER
ASSOCIATIONS

Email: Info@icfpa.org

Web: www.icfpa.org