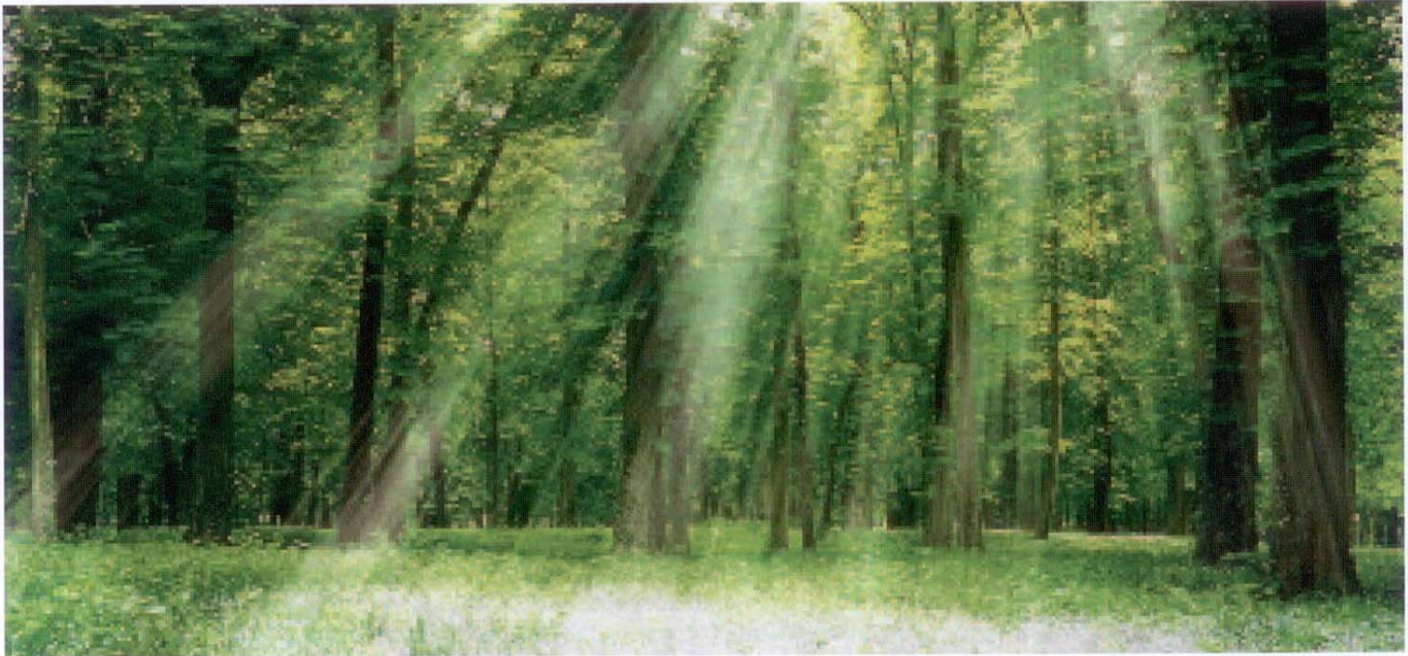


TAKING THE STEP TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



Do you ever look at your dining table and wonder where it came from? What about your box of tissues, your timber floorboards or child's toy train?

Environmentally aware consumers are increasingly asking more questions about the origins of their timber and paper products. Consumers finding out where these products have come from and how they have got to be what they are now can be an important factor in the sustainability of forest management.

Discovering where your timber and paper products originate from is a threefold process; firstly, ask your supplier questions about where the timber has come from; secondly, look for certification symbols; and thirdly, if you are in doubt, buy certified Australian products.

Timber production in Australia is subject to world-class regulation that consumers can trust. Sustainable initiatives such as the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) seek to protect and support the longevity of forests and certified timber.

The SFM is a holistic approach defined as the stewardship and use of forests and forest land in a way and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and potential to fulfil – now and in the future – relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels without damaging other ecosystems.

STRENGTH AND CREDIBILITY

The Australian Standard for 'Chain of Custody' of wood and wood products, AS 4707, is a credible and rigorous standard that certified organisations comply to. Their compliance is based primarily on the procurement,

inventory control and sales of the certified product. The consumer can demand proof of any claim made by an organisation that the product is from a sustainable forest, in Australia or if imported, in its country of origin.

In Australia, forests are managed sustainably. They comply with strict environmental regulations ensuring issues such as biodiversity, water quality and cultural heritage are protected during forest operations.

Over 10.3 million hectares are certified against the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management, AS-4708, globally over 230 million hectares are certified against the PEFC International Standard. PEFC is the world's largest certification scheme.

IMPORTING TIMBER PRODUCTS

Whilst forestry in Australia is highly regulated, this is not always the case in other countries. Illegally harvested timber from overseas may have destroyed forest ecosystems, threatened endangered species and impacted negatively on the environment.

Ensuring that you purchase only certified timber contributes to the eradication of illegal logging, and supports the global program to increase sustainable forest management. ■



Kayt Watts
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