

Lindex's Commitment to Protect Forests Through Our Fabrics Choices

At Lindex, we lead by taking responsibility for how the company's operations affect human beings and the environment. Using the earth's resources wisely is an important part of this. For this reason, Lindex is committed to protecting the world's forests through our approach to procurement of fabrics.

Conservation of Ancient and Endangered Forests and Ecosystems

Lindex will support approaches and systems to support a future that does not use ancient and endangered forests in man-made cellulosic fabrics, including rayon/viscose, lyocell, modal and other trademarked brands.

We will engage with our supply chain partners in order to protect the world's remaining ancient and endangered forestsⁱ and endangered speciesⁱⁱ habitat.

To do this, we will:

1. Assess our existing use of man-made cellulosic fabrics and work to eliminate sourcing fabrics made of dissolving pulp from endangered species habitat and ancient and endangered forests areas such as the Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests; tropical forests and peatlands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa.
2. Work to eliminate sourcing fabric made with dissolving pulp from companies that are logging forests illegallyⁱⁱⁱ, from tree plantations established after 1994 through the conversion or simplification of natural forests, from areas being logged in contravention of indigenous peoples' rights, or from other controversial suppliers.
3. Work with Canopy and Lindex's man-made cellulosic suppliers to support collaborative and visionary solutions that protect remaining ancient and endangered forests in the Coastal Temperate Rainforests of North America's Vancouver Island and Great Bear Rainforest^{iv}, Canada's Boreal Forests^v, and Indonesia's Rainforests.^{vi}
4. Should we find that any of fibers are being sourced from ancient and endangered forests, endangered species habitat or illegal logging used in our products, we will engage with the man-made cellulosic supplier to request change in practices and/or re-evaluate our relationship with them.

This commitment is aligned with, and builds on, the work of not-for-profit organization Canopy, who collaborates with brands and retailers to ensure that their supply chains are free of ancient and endangered forests by 2017, as part of the [CanopyStyle Initiative](#).

Shift to More Environmentally and Socially Beneficial Fabrics

Lindex will collaborate with [Canopy](#), innovative companies and suppliers to encourage the development of fiber sources that reduce environmental and social impacts, with a focus on agricultural residues^{vii} and recycled fabrics.

Forest Certification for Fabrics

Where 1-4 above are met, Lindex will aim for all man-made cellulosic used in Lindex products made from trees are from responsibly managed forests, certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification system, and where FSC certified plantations^{viii} are part of the solution.

Recognizing, respecting and upholding human rights and the rights of communities

Lindex will request that our man-made cellulosic suppliers respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and acknowledge indigenous and rural communities legal, customary or user rights to their territories, land, and resources.^{ix} To do so, we request that these suppliers acknowledge the right of Indigenous People and rural communities to give or withhold their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) before new logging rights are allocated or plantations are developed. We expect them to resolve complaints and conflicts, and remediate human rights violations through a transparent, accountable, and agreeable dispute resolution process.

Support Best Processing Practices

Lindex promotes man-made cellulosic suppliers that use best available environmental practices for processing viscose, such as the 'closed-loop' Lyocell processing, and we will create business incentives to use such suppliers.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Footprint

Recognizing the importance of forests as carbon storehouses, as part of our ongoing leadership on climate Lindex will support initiatives that advance forest conservation to reduce the loss of high carbon value forests, by encouraging suppliers to avoid harvest in these areas, and by giving preference to those that use effective strategies to actively reduce their greenhouse gas footprint.

Promote Industry Leadership

Lindex looks to create a positive impact together with our relevant man-made cellulosic suppliers, supply chain partners and customers. As implementation progresses, Lindex will work with man-made cellulosic suppliers, non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders and brands that are part of the CanopyStyle initiative to support the protection of ancient and endangered forests and forward solutions to reduce demand on our forests.

Lindex



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ⁱ Ancient and endangered forests are defined as intact forest landscape mosaics, naturally rare forest types, forest types that have been made rare due to human activity, and/or other forests that are ecologically critical for the protection of biological diversity. Ecological components of endangered forests are: Intact forest landscapes; Remnant forests and restoration cores; Landscape connectivity; Rare forest types; Forests of high species richness; Forests containing high concentrations of rare and endangered species; Forests of high endemism; Core habitat for focal species; Forests exhibiting rare ecological and evolutionary phenomena. As a starting point to geographically locate ancient and endangered forests, maps of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and of intact forest landscapes (IFL), can be used and paired with maps of other key ecological values like the habitat range of key endangered species and forests containing high concentrations of terrestrial carbon and High Carbon Stocks (HCS). (The Wye River Coalition's Endangered Forests: High Conservation Value Forests Protection – Guidance for Corporate Commitments. This has been reviewed by conservation groups, corporations, and scientists such as Dr. Jim Stritholt, President and Executive Director of the Conservation Biology Institute, and has been adopted by corporations for their forest sourcing policies). Key endangered forests globally are the Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests of British Columbia, Alaska and Chile; Tropical forests and peat lands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa. For more information on the definitions of ancient and endangered forests, please go to: <http://canopyplanet.org/index.php?page=science-behind-the-brand>.

ⁱⁱA good source to identify endangered, threatened and imperiled species is NatureServe's Conservation Status rankings for imperiled species that are at high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines in populations, or other factors.

ⁱⁱⁱLegal forest management is management that complies with all applicable international, national, and local laws, including environmental, forestry, and civil rights laws and treaties.

^{iv}Where conservation solutions are finalized we will consider sourcing from the Great Bear Rainforest, located in coastal temperate rainforests that originally covered 0.2% of the planet, and where now less than 25% of the original forests remain. The 2006 Great Bear Rainforest Agreements signed between environmentalists, logging companies, First Nations and the British Columbia Government includes the creation of a new land management regime called Ecosystem-Based Management that includes more than 4.9 million acres (2 million hectares) protected from logging and new lighter touch logging regulations applied outside of protected areas. All stakeholders have now agreed and efforts are underway to have governments fully implement the agreement by 2015.

[Note this footnote is to avoid your policy suggesting that you would not ever source from regions even when conservation agreements are in place. We are looking to avoid a disincentive for forest companies to make these type of conservation agreements in other ancient and endangered forests].

^vProtection of Boreal Forests where the largest remaining tracts of forests are located worldwide is critical and dissolving pulp is becoming an increasing threat. Canada's Boreal Forest contain the largest source of unfrozen freshwater world wide and are part of the world's largest terrestrial carbon sink – equivalent to 26 years worth of global fossil fuel use. Canopy is committed to working collaboratively on the establishment of new protected areas, the protection of endangered species and the implementation of sustainable harvesting in Canada's Boreal Forest.

^{vi}Indonesia experiences the second highest rate of deforestation among tropical countries, with Sumatra Island standing out due to the intensive forest clearing that has resulted in the conversion of 70% of the island's forested area (FAO Forest Assessment 2010; Margono, B.A. et al. 2012). Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) and Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. (APRIL) have been identified as the primary cause and are often criticized by local and international groups for being implicated in deforesting important carbon rich peat lands, destroying the habitat for critically endangered species and traditional lands of indigenous communities, corruption, and human rights abuses (Eyes on the Forest. 2011. <http://www.eyesontheforest.or.id/>). APP has put in place a promising forest policy, tracking its implementation will be key to understanding if it offers lasting solutions for Indonesia's Rainforests. Cellulosic fibre producer Sateri, part of the Royal Golden Eagle Group along with APRIL, has developed a forest sourcing commitment in June 2015 and we look forward to its implementation.

^{vii}Agricultural Residues are residues left over from food production or other processes and using them maximizes the lifecycle of the fiber. Fibers used for paper products include cereal straws like wheat straw, rice straw, seed flax straw, corn stalks, sorghum stalks, sugar cane bagasse, and rye seed grass straw. Where the LCA (life cycle analysis) shows environmental benefits and conversion of forest land to on purpose crops is not an issue, kenaf can also be included here. Depending on how they are harvested, fibers for fabrics may include flax, soy, bagasse, and hemp. (Agricultural residues are not from on purpose crops that replace forest stands or food crops.)

^{viii}Plantations area areas that have been "established by planting or sowing using either alien or native species, often with few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lack most of the principal characteristics and key elements of natural forests". Plantations prior to 1994 are often FSC certified. Source FSC: <http://www.fsc.org/download.plantations.441.htm>