

Fast Retailing Responsible Product Policy: Wood-based Products and Forest Materials

Ancient and endangered forests regulate our planet – providing clean air, fresh water, a stable climate and biodiversity. Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. and our brands including UNIQLO, Theory, GU, PLST, Helmut Lang, Comptoir des Cotonniers, Princess tam.tam and J Brand are committed to protecting the world's ancient and endangered forests including efforts toward zero deforestation through our approach to procurement of wood-based fabrics, materials derived from forests, and/or manmade cellulosic fabrics.

Conservation of Ancient and Endangered Forests and Ecosystems

While it is commonly known that paper and wood come from forests, it is a little known fact that trees are being made into clothing. Fabrics originating from forest sources are almost exclusively referring to viscose (also known as rayon), and other fabrics are also covered in this “man-made cellulosic fabric” family.

Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. is committed to undertaking reasonable efforts in the following:

1. Assess and map our existing use of forest materials and eliminate sourcing identified as coming from endangered species habitat and ancient and endangered forests.
2. Work to eliminate sourcing from companies that are logging forests illegally or tree plantations established after 1994, from areas being logged in contravention of indigenous and local peoples' rights, and/or from other suppliers identified by Fast Retailing as controversial.
3. Should we learn that any of our forest materials are being sourced from ancient and endangered forests, endangered species habitat or through illegal logging, we will investigate our supply chain, engage our suppliers to change practices, and/or re-evaluate our relationship with them.
4. These commitments are aligned with, and build on, the work of [Canopy](#) (a non-profit organization), who collaborates with brands and retailers to ensure that their supply chains are free of ancient and endangered forests. To that effect, we will continue to work with Canopy and our suppliers to support collaborative and visionary solutions that protect remaining ancient and endangered forests.

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

Fast Retailing expects that all our 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. To do so, Fast Retailing endorses the rights 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 request that our suppliers resolve complaints and conflicts, and remediate human rights violations through a transparent, accountable, and agreeable dispute resolution process.

Forest Certification for Fabrics

Where all of the above conditions are met (including 1-4), Fast Retailing will preference that all remaining forest materials sourced from forests are from responsibly managed forests, certified to the FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council) certification system, and where FSC® certified plantations are part of the solution.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Footprint

Recognizing the importance of forests as carbon storehouses, as part of our ongoing leadership on climate Fast Retailing 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

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

We will also seek opportunities to educate and inform the public and our employees on these issues and solutions through our marketing and communications.

Key Performance Indicators and commitments:

1. From 2020 onwards, Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. commits to only source man-made cellulosic fabrics from sources that are not Ancient and Endangered forests.
2. By 2020 Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. will develop 100% traceability on our forest material suppliers up to our viscose fiber producers for all our products. Through the best available channels, Fast Retailing will verify that our viscose fiber producers are providing us forest materials consistent with this policy through independent third-party reports and audits, such as through the CanopyStyle Audit and the Hot Button Issue.
3. In 2020 Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. will assess the market availability of proven environmentally and socially beneficial fiber innovations and when feasible, set targets for increased procurement of these alternatives (such as agricultural residues and recycled materials) for cellulosic fabrics to 2025.

Appendix: definitions

Ancient and Endangered Forests	<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>
Legal Forest Management	Forest management that complies with all applicable international, national, and local laws, including environmental, forestry, and civil rights laws and treaties.
Plantations	<p>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.</p> <p>Source FSC: https://ic.fsc.org/en/what-is-fsc-certification/principles-criteria</p>