

EAZA Guidelines on Timber



Approved by EAZA Council
30 September 2022

The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria recognises and is concerned about the impact of deforestation and habitat conversion on biodiversity worldwide. Across the EAZA region, there are different approaches and interpretations of how best to address this impact on biodiversity and habitats worldwide. This document aims to provide EAZA Members guidance by providing recommendations on how to get involved at an institution, association, and political level on the topic of timber.

The Imported Forestry and Sustainable Agriculture Working Group will continue to guide Members through supportive actions to limit imported deforestation in our supply chains, through government consultations, scientific research and wider NGO sector initiatives aiming to improve certification schemes.

Please also refer to the existing [EAZA Guidelines on Palm Oil and EAZA Guidelines on Meat and Soya](#) and the more extensive available background information on each of the topics in a [Background Information document on Imported Deforestation and Sustainable Agriculture](#). Information on these topics continuously becomes available and next to the recommendation below, the Imported Deforestation and Sustainable Agriculture Working Group aims to summarise and update background information on a regular basis for EAZA Members to use.

Recommendations for EAZA Members

For Europe to halt imported deforestation, the EU should target to source 100% verified sustainable tropical timber¹. It is estimated that about 12.5 million hectares of tropical forest would additionally be positively impacted if the EU was importing only verified sustainable timber.

EAZA Members should therefore be:

Supporting responsible timber production via a series of actions:

- Raising awareness about the link between sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.
- Support legally produced wood by purchasing certified timber for their organisation, ensuring this is a recognised policy.
- Support better forest management practices and local communities by purchasing certified timber.

¹ https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/uploaded/2018/06/EU-market-share-of-verified-sustainable-tropical-timber_IDH_STTC_Probos_report_June_2018_final.pdf

- Support field conservation projects in forested areas where protect and restore are key principles.
- Follow sustainable timber procurement policies to improve transparency and monitoring of sustainable tropical timber market.

Reducing the consumption of wood product from non-sustainable source:

- Support the “No Deforestation” pledges of private companies that pledge to only source FSC certified wood (from 2016 to 2017 the number of companies that took such a pledge went from 566 to 718).
- Follow green building schemes.
- Recycle paper and wood derivatives.

Contributing to improve the legislation framework:

- Be part of the public consultations on “EU deforestation-free products”
- Influence government agencies in European countries, enhancing deforestation-free pledges.
- Create awareness about and encourage visitors to learn more about sustainable forest products in order to maximise consumer influence.