

Endangered Forests: Priority High Conservation Value Forests For Protection Guidance For Corporate Commitments

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Table of Contents	Page
Introduction and Statement of Purpose	2
The Wye Group	3
The Wye Process	3
Next Steps in the Wye Process	3
Endangered Forest Discussion Document Take Home Messages	3
The Endangered Forest Documents IS / IS NOT	4
Six Underlying Principles of the Endangered Forest Framework	5
Introduction to Defining Endangered Forests	6
Section 1: Defining Endangered Forests: Biological and Ecological Categories	6
Category1: Naturally Rare Forests	6
Category 2: Anthropogenically Rare Forests	7
Category 3: Intact (frontier and near frontier) Forests	8
Category 4: Other Ecologically Important Forests	9
Section 2: Defining Endangered Forests: Social and Legal Categories	10
Category 5: Human and Indigenous Rights	10
Category 6: Illegal Forest Products	11
Section 3: Corporate Implementation of Endangered Forest Commitments	12
Part 1: Proposed Purchaser Actions	12
Part 2: Methodology for Implementing Corporate Commitments for Responsible Forest Product Procurement	13
Annex 1: Glossary of Terms Used in Endangered Forest Categories	16

Contributing Organizations: World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund-US, Natural Resources Defense Council, Rainforest Action Network, ForestEthics, Greenpeace.

INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The world's remaining forests house over 50% of the earth's biodiversity. The threat of habitat loss as a result of continued unsustainable commercial logging operations and other activities over the coming decades could be a major cause of global species extinctions, and the degradation of critically important forest ecological processes and functions. Increased rates of forest loss, particularly in biodiversity rich areas, have reached crisis proportions. Other considerations - such as the long-term impacts of forest loss on wood supply and quality are also incompatible with the survival of a healthy wood products industry.

In response to these concerns, and the momentum caused by public protests against key wood product companies in the US and Europe, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) and leaders in the wood products industry held discussions which led to the first corporate commitments to adopt and implement ecologically responsible forest procurement policies. In the last 3 years, over 400 companies including the world's largest forest product retail companies (Home Depot, Lowe's, Ikea) have publicly announced their commitment to protect the world's intact, old growth and/or Endangered Forests by not sourcing wood from these areas, and move as quickly as possible towards sourcing from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and equivalent, certified sustainable forestry operations. Many of these companies have also committed to taking steps to avoid illegal sources of wood. Companies in the US and Europe are quite clear that they need to buy more FSC (and equivalent) products, but they remain very unclear about what products they should phase out. In order to protect the world's remaining endangered forests, it is essential that guidance be provided to wood consuming companies. Defining and identifying Endangered Forests (which include old growth) will help guide company implementation and ensure a transparent and accountable Endangered Forest commitment implementation process.

Recently, major international banking institutions have begun to seriously explore new corporate policies that would limit lending to forestry companies who document their sustainable forestry practices and ensure that sustainable operations occur in areas where adequate protection and conservation measures are in place. Reaching consensus among the ENGO community, and holding discussions with corporate implementers is becoming increasingly urgent.

This Discussion Document is the result of a significant effort by ENGO organizations that, in different ways over time, have been directly involved with the Endangered Forest commitments made by purchasers of wood products.

The general concepts and proposed purchaser actions are consistent with broadly defined ENGO forest conservation and sustainable forestry principles and goals, including the importance of locally-lead multi-stakeholder planning processes to determine representative protected areas and other environmental conservation priorities. They are also consistent and complimentary to on going discussions about how to identify high conservation value forests (HCVF) including FSC-HCVF principles.

The Wye Group

As follow up to previous efforts, the Wye Group was established in April 2001 as a forum among a broad ad-hoc group of ENGOs and industry participants to define and identify the characteristics of Endangered Forests, and propose purchaser actions in relation to these forests. Industry only attended initial meetings and we look forward to re-engagement and dialogue.

The Wye River Discussion Document on Endangered Forests for the first time:

1. Lays out a vision and a blueprint for how responsible wood products companies will carry out their commitment to avoid sourcing wood from the world's Endangered Forests.
2. Represents a general consensus among participants from a broad spectrum of campaigning, policy and technical ENGO perspectives.
3. Proposes a draft framework for how to define, and identify Endangered Forests.
4. Provides details on available information sources that will allow each Endangered Forest category to be identified and mapped accurately.
5. Proposes wood product purchaser actions in relation to each Endangered Forest category.
6. Is structured to be consistent and complimentary to FSC certification requirements.
7. Incorporates proposals beyond the corporate purchasing commitments specific to Endangered Forests by adding a social category (to direct companies away from supplies that may not meet FSC certification requirements of Principles 2,3 and 4) and an illegal logging category (to address corporate commitments in this area and FSC Principle 1).

This Discussion Document is intended for discussion between the ENGO community, corporations whose policies and/or consumption affect the conservation of Endangered Forests, conservation groups and others who are interested in protecting biodiversity, and social organizations working for ecological and cultural sustainability.

Wye Process

The World Resources Institute and World Wildlife Fund-US have acted as informal, ad-hoc coordinators and facilitators of the effort. ENGOs and some industry representatives have provided input and/or attended regular meetings. A preliminary scientific review has been completed.

Next Steps in Wye Process

The ENGO community will brief and receive input from the wood products industry including forest owners and managers, and wood purchasers at upcoming meetings. Further input from the scientific and ENGO communities is also expected, as well as continued work on mapping efforts to identify Endangered Forests.

Endangered Forest Discussion Document Take-Home Messages to Purchasers

The proposed guidance to help companies meet their commitments to not source from

Endangered Forests (EFs) has four take-home messages:

1. Let's get moving: These definitions should serve as a catalyst for new corporate actions to decrease consumption from EFs and increase consumption of FSC (or equivalent) certified wood.
2. Avoid sourcing from areas until adequate conservation safeguards are in place. (The term adequate conservation safeguards fully incorporates the WWF ecoregional planning concept of locally led multi-stakeholder planning processes to determine representative protected areas).
3. Work to source from areas that are not likely to be EFs and are therefore more likely to meet FSC (or equivalent) certification requirements.
4. Avoid areas where securing legal sources of wood is highly unlikely and/or there are ongoing human rights and indigenous community rights violations.

The EF Discussion Document IS...IS NOT...

The following describes what the Discussion Document is and is not - in the eyes of the proposing ENGOs:

IS....

1. A work in progress whose goal is to protect endangered forests.
2. A document for further discussion.
3. A vision statement on EFs and EF commitment implementation.
4. A set of proposed definitions to guide EF identification by wood product purchasers.
5. A set of proposed purchaser actions in EFs.
6. A proposed corporate methodology for EF implementation.
7. A set of guidelines against which producers can assess progress towards reducing pressure on EFs.
8. Intended to encourage industry to engage sooner rather than later in joint solutions processes with local/regional groups.
9. Designed to provide a broad framework based on a precautionary principle that will ultimately defer to the outcomes of the local stakeholder processes.
10. A set of broad biological and ecological categories of endangered forests, which our scientists support.
11. Complimentary to other HCVF definition and identification processes underway including efforts by FSC, Proforest, NatureServe, etc.

IS NOT.....

1. A statement about what committed companies are expected to have already implemented.
2. A set of prescriptive directions to local ENGOs on how they should make decisions about conservation planning priorities.
3. The official position of the organizations whose members have drafted it. There are still a number of issues to be resolved and we are now inviting a wider community of stakeholders to help with this effort.

SIX UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF THE ENDANGERED FORESTS FRAMEWORK

1. **Endangered Forests Should be Protected.** Some high conservation value forests (HCVF) or portions of HCVF are so rare, threatened, or ecologically vulnerable, and are of such global biological or cultural importance that any logging or commercial use could irreparably damage their conservation value. These forests are ‘endangered’ and should be protected. Accordingly, EFs should not be used for extractive purposes unless or until adequate conservation safeguards (see glossary for definition) are in place. Thus, we use the term ‘endangered’ more broadly than is usually used in scientific literature.
2. **Participating ENGOs are united in their commitment to further the EF process.** The coalition is committed to reaching organizational consensus and to producing maps and furnishing new data to enhance use of the framework. Participating ENGOs are willing to help corporations analyze, and implement recommendations outlined below.
3. **A regionally differentiated approach is needed.** Application of these recommendations should reflect the ecological and socio-cultural diversity of the systems we seek to protect.
4. **Multi-stakeholder planning is essential.** (See glossary). If a local or regional multi-stakeholder conservation planning process has delineated EFs in a locality or region, those delineations should be used together with ecoregional or global analyses. We want to encourage areas for which information on EFs is already available¹, or areas with strong local stakeholder processes,² to conduct more refined analyses of EFs.
5. **EF protection should not be delayed by forest certification processes.** Protection and conservation is the top priority and unmet need in EFs. This document provides wood purchasers a first step towards comprehensive guidance on how to avoid sourcing from EFs in high conservation value forests that have not yet been FSC (or equivalent) certified. Certification (see glossary), including FSC certification, is not always an appropriate or effective policy tool for achieving EF protection. Moreover, only 2-3% of forests are currently FSC (or equivalent) certified, so direct and targeted EF identification and protection is the best way to quickly secure needed protections in many high conservation value forests. Together FSC and EF tools help companies meet dual commitments to move towards FSC certified products and away from sourcing in EFs.
6. **Knowledge about the extent and boundaries of EF must be quickly improved,** in order to protect these areas, and provide much needed guidance to companies. Currently

¹ For example, such information already exists for the U.S. National Forests.

² For example, the central coast of British Columbia, Canada has a strong local stakeholder process underway.

available lists and maps of EFs will evolve for example, as new protected areas are established, indigenous land rights are addressed, illegal logging is reduced, or land use designations changed.

INTRODUCTION TO IDENTIFYING ENDANGERED FORESTS

We have taken several steps in our effort to define and identify Endangered Forests.

First: We adopted four biological and ecological categories (Categories 1-4 in Section One). Each category contains a clear definition and rationale. We have also listed information sources and tools currently used to identify and locate these forests and provided examples of where candidate areas are located. The information sources listed will help identify and locate EFs.

Second: We moved beyond the corporate purchasing commitments specific to Endangered Forests by adding Category 5, a social category (to direct companies away from supplies that may not meet FSC certification requirements of Principles 2.3 and 4), and Category 6 on illegal logging (to address corporate commitments in this area and FSC Principle 1).

Note: Forest certification schemes (FSC and others) use similar concepts and terms to those outlined in Categories 1-6. We therefore would expect that those processes would result in the identification of very similar forest area categories that which would be labeled or referred to as "high conservation value forests", "forests of exceptional conservation value" or the relevant term used for forest ecosystems of high conservation value.

Third: Within each category we identified a key subset of priority forest areas that we refer to as 'Endangered Forests' (EFs).

Fourth: For EFs we propose specific purchaser actions to be implemented.

SECTION 1: DEFINING ENDANGERED FORESTS: BIOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL CATEGORIES

The purpose of this section is to define endangered forests within biological and ecological categories. These definitions are proposed for use by corporations that have made commitments to not source from endangered forests.

Category 1: Naturally Rare Forests

These forests are rare due to natural conditions. They are limited to very small areas of the globe, and contain unique biodiversity. There is good data on candidate areas but more detailed analysis is needed to identify the best remaining areas that should be considered for protection. Priority is placed on remaining undeveloped forest fragments in these areas.

Definition: Naturally rare forests are restricted in occurrence and extent globally.

EF Definition: All remaining undeveloped forest fragments within naturally rare forests.

Rationale: Many major forest types are relatively widespread on Earth. A combination of climatic, geological, topographic, and ecological factors limit other forest types to extremely small areas of the globe. These forests contain many unique species and communities which are adapted only to the conditions found in these rare forest types. The most commonly cited examples of rare forest types are: Mediterranean climate forests (five regions worldwide), temperate rain forests (seven regions worldwide), and tropical cloud forests.

Information Sources and Tools:

Rare Forests – National Heritage Database information from Natureserve (e.g., in North America, forested G1 – G3, N1 – N3, and S1 - S3 communities).

Ecoregions - WWF's Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World is available at (www.worldwildlife.org/science). All of the world's ecoregions are mapped and ecoregion descriptions detailing outstanding biological features by ecoregion can be downloaded for free.

Global forest cover - U-MD DeFries. U.S. forest cover – EPA MRLC.

N. Alaska and Canada forest cover - best available land cover datasets based on AVHRR.

Examples:

Naturally Globally Rare: Mediterranean Climate Forests (N. America, S. America, S.W. Australia, Eurasia, S. Africa), Temperate Rainforests (N. America, Chile (S. America), Tasmania), Tropical Cloud Forests (C. America, S. America, Asia).

Category 2: Anthropogenically Rare Forests

These are forests so heavily affected on a global or ecoregional scale by humans that over 70% of the forests have been converted and they have therefore become rare. There are good data on candidate areas but more detailed analysis is needed to identify the best remaining areas that should be considered for protection. Priority is placed on the identification of remaining undeveloped forest fragments as well as remaining primary and old growth forests.

Definition: Anthropogenically rare forests include remaining areas of forests that are globally or ecoregionally rare as a result of historical human activities. They include forests in an ecoregion where at least 70% of original forest type has been converted.

EF Definition: All remaining undeveloped forest fragments, primary forests, and old growth forests within anthropogenically rare forests.

Rationale: Current ecological theory states that as natural habitats decline in area, extinction rates increase and vital ecological and evolutionary processes are jeopardized. Many scientific analyses indicate that 70% of the forests affected as a cut-off at which biological losses will steadily increase.

Information Sources and Tools:

Global forest cover - U-MD DeFries.

Regions - WWF's *Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World* is available at www.worldwildlife.org/science.

U.S. forest cover - MRLC.

N. Alaska and Canada forest cover - best available land cover datasets based on AVHRR.

Examples:

Anthropogenically Globally Rare: Atlantic forests South America, Lowland Tropical Rainforests in Indonesia, Tropical Dry forests of Thailand and Costa Rica .

Anthropogenically Ecoregionally Rare: G1 – G3 communities.

Category 3: Intact (Frontier or Near-frontier) Forests

Intact forests are basically large, unfragmented blocks of natural forests. Their minimum size tends to vary by country (as established by local consensus) from as little as 5,000 hectares (Chile) to 20,000 (Canada) to 50,000 (Russia) hectare blocks. There are good data on candidate areas worldwide and a comprehensive effort underway to identify the best remaining areas that should be considered for protection. Closer looks at these areas with increasingly refined data tend to result in candidate area size reduction.

Definition: Intact forests are forests unaffected by habitat fragmentation and other large-scale human activities over time periods long enough to allow natural forest structure, composition and functions to be determined primarily by naturally occurring ecological processes (e.g., natural regeneration, natural levels of disturbance, including fire and flooding, scale, frequency and intensity of natural disturbance regimes, and gap dynamics). Intact forests are dominated by indigenous tree species, are naturally seeded, and are large enough to support viable populations of indigenous species associated with that forest type and to withstand natural disturbances without losing their resilience to maintain the full range of natural composition, structures, and functions.

EF Definition: Intact forests that do not have adequate conservation safeguards or transitional conservation strategies in place.

Rationale: Maintenance of intact blocks of forests is necessary to assure periodic, long-term, large-scale disturbances; migration paths and habitats of wide-ranging species; and examples of high integrity forests (i.e., uncompromised by species invasions, unmodified nutrient flow, and hydrologic processes).

Information Sources and Tools:

Global Forest Watch maps of intact forests can be combined with ecoregional conservation assessments by WWF, TNC and others to define intact forests and to determine the extent of representation of the ecosystem's protected area system. For those regions where detailed mapping of intactness has not yet been completed, large roadless forest blocks can be used as a

proxy measure of intactness.³

Data set availability for intact forests:

GFW: Russia completed. Canada first draft completed June 2001. Alaska draft September 2002.

U.S. Pacific Northwest: Intactness data analysis underway by CBI and others.

Proxy measures:

WRI *Frontier Forests* report.

GFW has mapped large low access roadless areas in Indonesia, Venezuela, and Central Africa.

Examples:

Areas within boreal Canada, boreal Russia, Indonesia, Venezuela, Alaska, Chile, U.S. Northern Rockies, western arc of the Amazon, Congo Basin, and the New Guinea lowland forests.

Category 4: Other Ecologically Important Forests

These are “the best of the rest”.. In other words, the remaining old growth patches left in otherwise degraded and converted forest areas that are not anthropogenically rare at the ecoregional level. For the US, we address consistency with roadless area protection.

Priority areas also include degraded forest areas of high restoration potential as part of corridors and buffer zones for critically imperiled and imperiled and vulnerable species.

Definition: In ecoregions where <30% of the original forest remaining is intact/primary/old-growth, Other Ecologically Important Forests include remnant patches of undeveloped primary and old growth forest, as well as secondary forests that serve as core habitat, important corridors, or buffer zones for highly threatened, threatened and vulnerable native species.

EF Definition: Remaining primary and old growth patches; habitats of threatened, endangered and sensitive species; and threatened, endangered and sensitive community types, roadless blocks in the US, forests within corridors and buffers that have been identified by regional conservation studies as being of ecological importance, unless FSC certified.

Rationale: Remnant patches or undeveloped forest fragments contain genetic, species, and community diversity, that maintain (1) the potential for ecological resilience and resistance to catastrophic events; (2) the potential for evolutionary changes; (3) the ecological blueprints for restoration; (4) a reservoir of current and future human resources; and, (5) provide refugia for forest-dwelling species when large-scale natural disturbances occur.

Information sources and tools:

Existing or ongoing mapping by WWF, Sierra Club, TNC and NatureServe (G1- G3, N1 – N3, and S1 – S3 communities), CI, CBI, Global Forest Watch and others can be used to identify ecologically significant forests in the United States. In Europe, CORINE data can be used for the same purpose. WWF data can be used to identify ecoregions with under-represented protected

³ See Global Forest Watch 2000 Map of roadless forests in North America over 200 km².

area systems along with those of global conservation value.

Data set availability for intact forests:

Forest cover (DeFries); Protected Areas – CBI, WRI, WCMC.

SECTION 2: DEFINING ENDANGERED FORESTS: SOCIAL AND LEGAL CATEGORIES

The purpose of this section is to define social and legal categories of endangered forests.

We propose that Endangered Forests include forests where there are ongoing human and indigenous rights violations and forests from which wood is harvested or transported illegally. These definitions go beyond the corporate purchasing commitments specific to Endangered Forests by adding Category 5: a social category (to ensure consistency with FSC certification requirements and address corporate commitments to move towards FSC (or equivalent) certification), and Category 6: an illegal logging category (to address corporate commitments in this area.)

Category 5: Human and Indigenous Rights

EF Definition: Endangered forests include forests where there are ongoing human rights violations including violations of the rights of indigenous peoples. Ongoing human and indigenous rights violations include:

- a) Forest management that is undermining or threatening to undermine the rights of local people to life, their customary lands, physical security, livelihood and a healthy environment;
- b) Forest management where there is conflict between stakeholders over the failure to respect the rights and entitlements of forest-dwellers and forest dependent communities;
- c) Operations where indigenous rights are not secure and indigenous peoples are unable to provide genuine prior and informed consent for forestry operations as expressed through their own representative institutions;
- d) Forest management regimes that contravene international human rights standards.

Rationale: As many as 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their basic needs. For these people, forest destruction means loss of livelihood, cultural collapse, increasing poverty and the denial of their internationally recognized human rights. Although international recognition of rights of forest peoples, particularly indigenous peoples has advanced globally, human rights abuses continue. Indigenous peoples often do not have information, skills and funding necessary to make use of existing international human rights agreements.

Information Sources and Tools:

Dependable information concerning regions, operators and operations associated with human and indigenous rights abuses in the context of forest management should be sought from locally

affected communities and national and international civil society organizations tracking forestry and human rights issues, in the relevant country or region.

FERN (see report Fear in the Forest - <http://www.fern.org>), Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org>), RAN (<http://www.ran.org>); EIA (<http://www.eia-international.org>) World Rainforest Movement (<http://www.wrm.org.uy>)

Category 6: Illegal Forest Products

EF Definition: Legality is defined by local and national law within source countries and by relevant international treaties.⁴ Illegally harvested and transported forest products include goods that have been confiscated and then returned to the market. Ownership of illegally harvested forest products throughout the distribution chain is included in this category.

Rationale: Illegal logging robs national and sub-national governments, forest owners and local communities of significant revenues and benefits, damages forest ecosystems, distorts timber markets and forest resource assessments and acts as a disincentive to sustainable forest management. International trade in illegally harvested timber ... exacerbates the problem of illegal logging. Better information on the extent of the problem is a prerequisite to developing practical and effective counter measures. (G8 Action Program on Forests, May 1998)

Information Sources and Tools:

Information about illegal forestry and illegal trade in forest products is available from a wide range of non-governmental and governmental sources. Purchasers can play an important role in ensuring this information is widely disseminated by collecting information about illegal forestry relevant to their purchases and making this information accessible to government and non-government agencies, and to independent review.

Greenpeace (<http://www.greenpeace.org>), EIA (<http://www.eia-international.org>), RAN (<http://www.ran.org>), Global Witness (<http://www.oneworld.org/globalwitness>), SGS (<http://www.sgs.info>), Transparency International (<http://www.transparency.de>), World Rainforest Movement (<http://www.wrm.org.uy>).

⁴ For example, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

SECTION 3: CORPORATE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENDANGERED FOREST COMMITMENTS

This Section has two parts. Part 1 outlines (by category) the proposed purchaser actions for each Endangered Forest sub-category. Part 2 outlines a proposed methodology for implementing corporate commitments for responsible forest product procurement.

PART 1: PROPOSED PURCHASER ACTIONS

Category 1: Naturally Rare Forests

Proposed Purchaser Action in Naturally Rare EFs: Purchasers will immediately end procurement of forest products from all remaining undeveloped forest fragments (see glossary for definition) within naturally rare forests.

Category 2: Anthropogenically Rare Forests

Proposed Purchaser Action in Anthropogenically Rare EFs: Purchasers will immediately end procurement of forest products from all remaining undeveloped forest fragments, primary forests, and old growth forests within anthropogenically rare forests.

Category 3: Intact (Frontier or Near-frontier) Forests

Proposed Purchaser Action in intact EFs: Purchasers will discontinue procurement from intact forests until adequate conservation safeguards are in place (see glossary for definition).

When adequate conservation safeguards are not yet fully in place, as a transitional strategy, purchasers may only resume procurement from intact forests when:

- (1) an independent scientific study has identified candidate areas for representative protected area systems at multiple spatial scales and is supported by a majority of conservation organizations;
- (2) a moratorium is in place on logging in the candidate protected areas identified by this study until a regional conservation planning process defines a permanent representative protected area system; and

- (3) the forest operation is FSC certified.

Category 4: Other Ecologically Important Forests

Proposed Purchaser Actions in other ecologically important EFs: Within Other Ecologically Important Forests, purchasers will discontinue procurement from:

- (1) remaining primary and old growth patches;
- (2) habitats of threatened, endangered and sensitive species; and threatened, endangered and sensitive community types;
- (3) in the United States, roadless blocks; or
- (4) forests within corridors and buffers that have been identified by regional conservation studies as being of ecological importance, unless FSC certified.

Category 5: Human and Indigenous Rights

Proposed Purchaser Action in EFs: Purchasers will end procurement of forest products where there are ongoing violations of human rights, including indigenous and customary rights to forest resources, whether at the operational or regional level.

Purchasers only procure from areas where:

- (1) suppliers have obtained informed consent from indigenous or forest dependent communities, and
- (2) suppliers have suspended forest operations, including logging and road building activities, in the most contentious areas.

Category 6: Illegal Forest Products

Proposed Purchaser Action in EFs:

- (1) Purchasers immediately will discontinue procurement of illegal forest products.
- (2) Purchasers will discontinue procurement from regions where illegal logging is prevalent⁵ or where illegal forest products are traded⁶ unless suppliers provide independently verified proof of legality along the distribution chain.

PART 2: METHODOLOGY FOR IMPLEMENTING CORPORATE COMMITMENTS FOR RESPONSIBLE FOREST PROCUREMENT

⁵ For example, including, Indonesia, Brazilian Amazon, Cambodia, Russian Far East, and Central Africa.

⁶ For example, including Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Philippines, and China for Asian wood products; Italy, France, and Spain for African hardwoods, and the United States.

In this section we propose a series of measures applicable to current and future Endangered Forest corporate commitment participants. They outline a transparent and methodological progression - from declaration of a corporate commitment to concrete actions - that would provide confidence to consumers and suppliers, and win strong support of ENGOs supporting this document as well as the public.

The ENGOs participating in the Endangered Forests discussions stand prepared to assist purchasers in developing strategies and plans for implementing this methodology, and expect to play a fair but rigorous role in monitoring progress.

1. Articulate the commitment. The commitment should be based on a dedication to effective environmental stewardship, within a framework of long-term financial viability. Commitments that are based on risk management or conflict avoidance are unlikely to lead to systematic improvements in environmental performance. The organization's leaders should develop the details of implementing a practical and meaningful corporate commitment to forest conservation. A conservation mission statement that compliments the overall corporate mission statement is needed. The effort must have dedicated support at the CEO and Board of Directors levels.
2. Communicate the commitment to suppliers. Provide suppliers with the definition of endangered forests, which will guide them in determining where endangered forests are, and will outline the conditions to be met for the company to establish or maintain purchasing commitments. Inform suppliers of the corporation's decision to stop purchasing from endangered forests, and that they will stop purchasing from companies that exploit or degrade endangered forests. Indicate that preference will be given to companies that limit their operations (worldwide) to non-endangered forests and those that are committed to obtaining Forest Stewardship Council certification.
3. Educate top management.. For-profit corporations are at ease with business and trade concepts, but often lack a detailed understanding of forest conservation, forest certification, and biodiversity topics. Staff that is charged with using those concepts should be trained in the relevance and importance of key concepts. Concepts such as 'endangered forest,' 'intact forest,' 'old growth forest,' 'threatened ecosystem,' and 'high conservation value forest' have technical meanings that affect the "buy-don't buy" recommendations of ENGOs and the certifiability of the forest. Key corporate staff should understand the technical meanings of these and other terms, to use recommendations effectively, and to achieve least cost and most important conservation results for the forest areas from which they source.
4. Integrate with corporate business systems. The 'responsible purchasing' commitment should be integrated with business objectives such as growth strategies, position descriptions, inventory management, delivery schedules, and other organizational and management efforts.
5. Create a high profile forest conservation management team. Respected and authoritative leaders of the corporation should lead the effort to make the commitment a reality. Top

managers of purchasing, accounting, floor sales, demonstrations, and corporate maintenance should be represented in the forest conservation team.

6. Encourage broader approaches for environmental and social responsibility by the corporation. For more general corporate cultural shifts ENGOs, scientists, direct program providers such as FSC, or environmental consultants can help the corporation improve the corporate culture by balancing environmental and social responsibility with economic viability. Many of the ENGOs participating in this effort have technical and scientific resources that can support developing corporate conservation programs.
7. Develop plans and strategies to begin concrete, specific actions within the first year. Actions should be taken as soon as maps and analyses are presented. Where FSC certification or endangered forests maps are not available, it will be necessary to develop strategies for determining the presence or absence of endangered forests in major supplying regions.
8. Establish an internal system for tracking product flow. Require all suppliers to make available forest-of-origin data for all products. This is essential if the company is to accurately determine whether its forest products are derived from endangered forests. Establish a procedure for frequent review of these data by the management team.
9. Provide independent auditors information that helps verify if forest-of-origin data are accurate. This may require suppliers to pay an annual audit fee that is then used to hire qualified third party auditors capable of determining true chain-of-custody. If a company is found to have provided inaccurate chain-of-custody information intentionally, it will be put on probation. If subsequent audits find similar evidence, it should be terminated as a supplier.
10. Provide market incentives to supplier companies that aggressively move to 1) seek FSC certification across their operations once FSC regional standards have been endorsed by FSC and regional NGOs; 2) provide technical support and encourage suppliers to contribute data, in order to develop maps, analysis and other information tools needed to implement purchasing agreements, and 3) encourage independent conservation area design efforts and stakeholder resolution processes in the endangered forests in which they operate.
11. Take concrete steps to educate customers of the environmental values associated with active avoidance of endangered forest sources, along with the benefits of buying wood from environmentally responsible sources. This would include advertising, in-house materials, employees who assist customers, etc.
12. Provide annual reports to (and/or participate in direct, substantive dialogues with) participating ENGOs and the general public. This will maintain transparency about the goals and strategies of the corporation, and will inform ENGOs of progress that has been made. The reports should also specify where ENGOs could provide assistance to the corporation to

overcome barriers in policy implementation.

ANNEX 1: Glossary of Terms Used In Endangered Forest Categories

Adequate conservation safeguards: *Establishment of a representative protected area system acceptable to all concerned stakeholders including conservation organizations that results from either a multi-stakeholder conservation planning process, or a conservation design process carried out by scientists. In addition, control of illegal logging, and independent third-party certified forest management (FSC or equivalent) are required as adequate conservation safeguards.*

Certification: *Certification is the assessment of a forest against a standard and confirmation by the certification body that forest management conforms to the standard, or that the nature of any non-conformances, individually or together, is within the limits of acceptability laid down by the certification scheme. Owners of certified forests may make claims about the quality of their forest management in accordance with the rules laid down by the certification or accreditation body. The FSC certification system is the only credible certification process available in the marketplace today⁷.*

Ecoregion: *A large area of land or water that contains a geographically distinct assemblage of natural communities that (a) share a large majority of their species and ecological dynamics, (b) share similar environmental conditions, and (c) interact ecologically in ways that are critical for their long-term persistence. (Olson et al. Bioscience. 2001)*

Multi-stakeholder conservation planning process: *A process that has adequate time and budgets to foster meaningful, informed, scientifically sound, and culturally appropriate participation of all relevant parties. Specifically, the process must:*

- *Ensure that reasonable ranges of interests are participants in the process.*
- *Provide for the protection and accommodation of legal and customary rights of indigenous*

⁷ Nussbaum, Ruth, Jennings, Stephen; and Garforth, Michael. Assessing Forest Certification Schemes: A Review (DRAFT), ProForest, 1 September 2001, page 10. See, <http://www.proforest.net>

peoples and rural people.

- *Ensure that each interest represented at the table is accountable to an identifiable, legitimate constituency.*
 - *Use a decision-making process that is participatory and provides equal decision-making authority for all interests---establish “level” negotiating tables.*
 - *Ensure that decisions are based on leading edge science and traditional ecological knowledge, and that all interpretations are precautionary in nature.*
 - *Provide for a dispute resolution process that respects the rights and interests of all participants, while adjudicating with priority given to application of the precautionary principle.*
 - *Result in widespread support from stakeholders, including a majority of conservation organizations, forest dependent people, and indigenous people.*
- Σ *Include peer-review of the results by independent scientists.*

Rare Forests: *Forests with only few records of occurrence. (E.g., in North America, Natureserve’s forested G1 – G3, N1 – N3, and S1 - S3 communities.)*⁸

Representation: *The protection of the full range of biodiversity of a given biogeographic unit within a system of protected areas. (Ricketts et al. 1999) To be ecologically effective, representation must be achieved in all ecosystems at all ecological spatial scales.*

Representative protected area system: *A protected area system consisting of core reserves, buffers to core reserves, and linkages that provide for the persistence of viable populations of all native species by encompassing representation of ecosystems and all community types, special or unique features, and connectivity across ecological gradients and elevations of adequate size and appropriate configuration to sustain key ecological processes. The protected area system must be designed in ways that consider its size, shape, ecological context, and the condition of the forest landscape.*

Roadless Block: *Large roadless forest areas that predict to provide sufficient contiguous habitat to maintain viable populations of most species indigenous to those forest types. Minimum size depends on forest type. For example, in North America, a roadless block is a 2000 hectare or larger forested block that has less than 0.5 miles of unpaved road per sq.mi., and no paved roads.*⁹

⁸ G1 =Critically Imperiled (typically 5 or fewer occurrences or 1,000 or fewer individuals); G2 = Imperiled (typically 6 to 20 occurrences or 1,000 to 3,000 individuals); G3 = Vulnerable (rare; typically 21 to 100 occurrences or 3,000 to 10,000 individuals); G4 = Apparently Secure (uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern; usually more than 100 occurrences and 10,000 individuals); G5 = Secure (common; widespread and abundant). Note: “G” refers to global, or rangewide status. National (N) and State (S) status ranks also are assessed.

⁹ Noss, Reed. 1992. The wildlands project land conservation strategy. *Wild Earth* (Special Issue) (Based on grizzly and elk habitat suitability.).

Undeveloped Forest Fragments: *Non-intact forested areas of sufficient size to contain critical ecological values (e.g., habitats for keystone and old-growth dependent species and other focal species), in a landscape that has been significantly modified.*