



# Soil Association Forestry Profile

**The Soil Association** is a UK based environmental non-governmental organisation (NGO) founded in 1946. The Soil Association was created to 'research, develop, and promote sustainable relationships between the soil, plants, animals, people and the biosphere, while protecting and enhancing the environment'. Since its foundation, the Soil Association has pioneered practical solutions to promote sustainable use of land and natural resources. The Soil Association's organic certification scheme (Soil Association Certification Limited) for products and producers is now the largest in Britain.

**The Soil Association's Forestry Programme** was founded in 1992, in order to apply the Soil Association's philosophy of sustainable resource use and certification expertise to the area of forestry and timber.

Soil Association's **Forestry team** manages our forestry management and chain of custody certification schemes. We were one of the first Forest Stewardship Council's® (FSC®) accredited certification bodies. We have a long track record of carrying out certification assessments of forest enterprises and the timber processing industry as well as training and capacity building in certification. FSC accredited since 1996, we have issued Forest Management (FM) and Chain of Custody (COC) certificates in many countries around the world. Since 2009, we have also been accredited by UKAS for COC certification to the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) standards.

For a full list of our FSC certificate holders please visit the FSC's database at [www.info.fsc.org](http://www.info.fsc.org) and [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org) for PEFC certificates holders.

Our Certificates have been issued in many countries including: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, UK, and the United States. We have been a pioneer in forest certification



promoting and developing FSC certification and have often been the first to issue FSC certificates in many of these countries. As part of its developmental work the Forestry team has also carried out pre-assessments in many other parts of the globe.

### **Certification Services**

The cost of certification varies widely according to the nature and scale of the operation. We charge fees based on the estimated time input required to carry out an evaluation. If you would like an estimate please contact us using the contact information below. The Forestry programme operates as a commercial certification service and its only income is the fees from the work it carries out. These fees support the provision of the service and the charitable aims of the Soil Association. We offer single or group scheme certification to either FSC or PEFC standards or can carry out competitively priced joint COC certification to both schemes.

The Forestry team can also carry out Verification of Legal Compliance for both forests and chain of custody operations.

### **Forestry Standard Development**

In each country where we have worked and where there is no current FSC endorsed forest management standard, we have developed a regional or national standard using as a basis our FSC accredited Generic Forest Management Standard. The Soil Association Forest Management standard is adapted for local conditions in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. This is an on-going process and we work with local bodies involved in standards development throughout the length of a certificate (5 years). This ensures that the standard used takes into consideration local conditions and is credible to as wide a range of economic, social and environmental stakeholders as possible.



In addition to the forest management standards development process involved in specific certification projects, we have also led several projects to develop forestry standards as well as contributing to the development of the Soil Association's organic standards, FSC Non-Timber Forest Product standards, and Ethical Trade standards.

### **Developing local certification capacity**

In order to promote certification and make it accessible and affordable to a wide range of enterprises, the Forestry team places an emphasis on developing local certification capacity. Local auditors are trained to carry out certification audits in each country where we work. In addition, we work with several organisations, for example Orbicon in Scandinavia, SABS in



Pictures: Milan Reska



South Africa, and AMITA in Japan, BCC in China, VIREO in Italy, DEKRA in Poland, SBMT in Turkey and SATIVA in Portugal in order to deliver certification locally.

Our Forestry Staff have led many workshops and presentations about certification, both for representatives of the forest and wood processing industries interested in certification, and also for NGOs, government organisations and other interested parties. In addition we have led seminars for those organisations and individuals interested in becoming FSC auditors. Countries where the Forestry team has carried out such work include: Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Tunisia, the UK and Zambia.

Should you require any further information, please contact us at:

**Soil Association Certification - Forestry Team**

South Plaza, Marlborough Street, Bristol, BS1 3NX

**Email:** [forestryconsultation@soilassociation.org](mailto:forestryconsultation@soilassociation.org)

**Phone:** +44 (0)117 914 2435

**Website:** [www.soilassociation.org/forestry](http://www.soilassociation.org/forestry)