



## Forest Protection Policy

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'Accountable' owner: Chief Risk and Legal Officer  
'Responsible' owner: Head of ESG



TRUSTED



AMBITIOUS



PROUD



INNOVATIVE



TOGETHER

### Version Control

Version	Author name	Version changes	Date	Next review date
V1.0	Carly Bilsbrough	-	15 Nov 2020	-
V1.1	Evie Hooper	Re-publication of targets. Scope focused to Canopy commitments.	20 March 2024	20 March 2025

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## 1. Policy Statement

This Policy establishes a set of principles and rules adopted by The Very Group Limited ('TVG') in relation to our sourcing of own brand forest derived materials not covered by our Timber Policy. As such, this Policy covers the sourcing of manmade cellulosic fibres and packaging.

The primary objectives of this Policy are to:

- Outline applicable requirements and TVG's commitments relevant to the subject matter of this Policy,
- Identify key roles and responsibilities for both TVG and its Suppliers,
- Define how TVG will comply with the above requirements.

### Related Policies

The Very Group Timber Policy 2024

## 2. Background

This Policy looks to support the responsible procurement of forest derived materials not otherwise covered in the separate Timber Policy, and the pressing need for conservation of ancient and endangered forests<sup>1</sup>.

The scope of TVG's Forest Protection Policy includes own brand paper and paper-based packaging, and man-made cellulosic fibres (MMCFs). TVG is a brand partner of not-for-profit organisation Canopy, having signed onto both the CanopyStyle and Pack4Good initiatives, which address MMCFs and paper packaging, respectively. This Policy is in alignment with both of these initiatives.

## 3. What does this mean to the Very Group?

This Policy applies to all colleagues and suppliers associated with TVG.

Should we find that our suppliers are not meeting our Policy requirements, we will engage our suppliers to change practices. Failure to comply may result in a review of our relationship with them.

## 4. Our Commitment to Forest Protection

TVG is committed to the responsible sourcing of forest derived materials for own brand product in line with our Canopy partnership. To ensure the MMCF's and paper-based packaging used in our products come from responsible sources we are committed to:

### Conserving Ancient and Endangered Forests

- Work with NGOs, including Canopy, and our suppliers to support collaborative and visionary solutions that protect remaining ancient and endangered forests in the Coastal Temperate Rainforests on Vancouver Island<sup>3</sup> and the Great Bear Rainforest<sup>4</sup>, Canada's Boreal Forests<sup>5</sup>, and Indonesia's Rainforests<sup>6</sup>.

### Avoiding Illegal and Controversial Sources

- Assessing our use of man-made cellulosic, packaging and paper and eliminate sourcing from endangered species<sup>2</sup> habitat and ancient and endangered forests such as the Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests; tropical forests and peatlands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa for manmade cellulosic, paper and packaging by 2027 at the latest. We will do our best to achieve this target sooner wherever possible.
- Work to eliminate sourcing from: companies that are:
  - Logging forests illegally<sup>7</sup>,
  - Tree plantations<sup>8</sup> established after 1994 through the conversion or simplification of natural forests<sup>9</sup>,
  - Sourcing from areas being logged in contravention of First Nations/tribal/indigenous peoples' and community rights, without Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) or from other controversial suppliers.

### Environmental and socially beneficial sourcing practices

- TVG has a target to reach 100% sustainable man-made cellulosic fibres by 2027 at the latest. To work towards achieving this goal, we are working with Canopy to ensure we will only source man-made cellulosic fibres from 'Green Shirt' ranked producers as per the Hot Button Report by 2027. By sourcing in this way, we will ensure we have a low risk of sourcing from Ancient and Endangered Forests,
- Should we find that any of our fibres are being sourced from illegal or controversial sources we will work with our supply chain to change their practices to eliminate the use of these sources,
- We will work with Canopy to explore the use of Next Generation alternative fibres for our fabrics, such as using recycled textiles as an input for MMCFs, which reduces our reliance on forest ecosystems,

## **Promote Industry Leadership**

- TVG looks to create a positive impact together with our suppliers, partners, and customers. We will work with suppliers, non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders, and brands to support the protection of ancient and endangered forests and forward solutions to reduce the demands upon forests.

## 5. Our commitment to Forest Protection for Paper and Paper-Based Packaging

TVG is committed to the responsible sourcing and the use of paper and packaging that does not use ancient and endangered forests<sup>11</sup> by 2027 at the latest. We will influence these supply chains to protect the worlds remaining ancient and endangered forests and endangered species<sup>12</sup> habitat, and in accordance with our commitment to protect forests TVG will:

### Increase Use of Recycled and/or Next Gen fibres

- Through our Pack4Good partnership with Canopy, we will work to maximize our use of recycled and post-consumer recycled materials in our paper and paper-based packaging, as well as exploring use of Next Gen fibres, such as using agricultural residues.

### Use FSC Certification or equivalent

- When virgin tree fibre is necessary the paper and packaging for use in our business operations is sourced from responsibly managed forests, certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification system, or has a third-party certification offering equal protection to forests.

### Measure and Report

- Monitor and manage paper and packaging usage annually in our operations and encourage reuse and recycling within our own operations.

### Reduce

- Increase efficiencies in our use of paper and packaging to support a reduction in overall material use through smart and innovative design, eliminating unnecessary packaging and explore reusable options.

### Work with Suppliers

- Encourage our suppliers to continuously improve and expand the availability of recycled content in their papers and packaging, with a preference for a high (50% or over) recycled content.

## Promote Industry Leadership

- TVG looks to create a positive impact together with our suppliers, partners and customers. We will work with suppliers, non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders and brands that work with Canopy to support the protection of ancient and endangered forests and forward solutions to reduce the demands upon forests.

## 6. Footnotes

1. 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. 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 location and definitions of ancient and endangered forests, please go to: <https://canopyplanet.org/tools/forestmapper/>
2. A good source to identify endangered, threatened, and imperilled species is Nature Serve's Conservation Status rankings for imperilled 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.
3. Coastal temperate rainforests are rare and only ever covered 0.2% of the planet. On Vancouver Island only 10% of Vancouver Island's productive old growth rare coastal temperate rainforest remain. These stands of 1,000-year-old trees continue to be harvested despite their immense value to local communities for tourism. Their accessibility and beauty are a remarkable global asset and Canopy is working to see these last stands protected.
4. A legal conservation plan is now finalized for the Great Bear Rainforest. On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016, the Government of British Columbia, First Nations, environmental organizations and the forest industry announced an Ecosystem-based Management framework that sets 85% of this region off limits to logging and stringent logging rules in the other 15%. Provided these agreements are fully implemented – sourcing from this ancient and endangered forest region can be considered to be within sustainable levels. We encourage ongoing verification of this through renewal of Forest Stewardship Council certification.
5. Protection of Boreal Forests where the largest remaining tracts of forests are located worldwide is critical. 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.
6. Indonesia experiences the second highest rate of deforestation among tropical countries, with the island of Sumatra 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).
7. Legal forest management is management that complies with all applicable international, national, and local laws, including environmental, forestry, and civil rights laws and treaties.
8. Plantations are areas planted predominately with non-native trees or other commercial plants. Forests comprised of native species can also be managed as plantations, including via single species plantings on sites that would normally support multiple species, exclusion of other species via herbicide applications, short logging rotations that preclude the development of forest composition and structure, and/or other practices.
9. 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 International Generic Indicators: <https://ic.fsc.org/en/document-center/id/335>. Forest plantations can play an important role in supplying fibre for products, it is also recognized that clearing of primary forests for plantations has contributed significantly to the destruction of forests in many parts of the world. The Very Group recognizes that credible regional conservation plans that identify areas to be conserved and restored back to natural forests is the best way to ensure that sourcing from plantations is done sustainably. We will use the FSC plantation requirements

as a baseline. Additionally, we will advocate for our suppliers and national and regional governments to engage in, and develop, conservation plans for the regions from which we source as a means to distinguish those plantations that are contributing to solutions and those that are exacerbating the problem.

10. <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights>

11. 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. 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 location and definitions of ancient and endangered forests, please go to: <https://canopyplanet.org/tools/forestmapper/>

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