

Forest Protection Policy

INTRODUCTION

RALPH LAUREN CORPORATION, its affiliates and subsidiaries (collectively, “RLC” or the “Company”) is dedicated to global citizenship and sustainability. To that end, the Company is committed to protecting the world’s forests through our approach to procurement of materials used in any aspect of our business, including fabric, pulp, and paper used in our products, packaging and assets.

CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT AND ENDANGERED FORESTS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Forest ecosystems, particularly ancient and endangered forests, are vital to the health of our planet. Forests help maintain climate stability by storing carbon and they regulate global water cycles by acting as a biotic pump to move moisture from coastal areas to the interior of continents. Home to rural communities, as well as a rich habitat for species biodiversity, RLC supports forest conservation and protection of indigenous peoples’ land rights.

RLC supports approaches and systems committed to building a future that does not use ancient and endangered forests¹ in packaging, paper or in man-made cellulosic fabrics, including rayon, viscose, lyocell, modal and other trademarked brands. We will influence our supply chains to help conserve and protect the world’s remaining ancient and endangered forests and endangered species² habitat.

To do this, RLC will:

1. Work with the not-for-profit organization, Canopy, and our suppliers to support collaborative and visionary solutions that protect remaining ancient and endangered forests in the Coastal Temperate Rainforests on Vancouver Island³ and the Great Bear Rainforest,⁴ Canada’s Boreal Forests,⁵ and Indonesia’s Rainforests;⁶
2. Assess our existing use of man-made cellulose, packaging and paper and ensure the Company does not source from endangered species habitat and ancient and endangered forests for man-made cellulose and paper and packaging by the end of 2022;
3. Assess our supplier base and ensure we avoid sourcing from high risk or controversial sources, such as companies that are logging forests illegally;⁷ tree plantations⁸ established after 1994 through the conversion or simplification of natural forests; or areas being logged in contravention of First Nations, tribal or indigenous peoples’ and community rights, without Free Prior or Informed Consent, or from other controversial suppliers;
4. Should we find that any of our products are sourced from ancient and endangered forests, endangered species habitat or illegal logging, we will engage our suppliers to change practices and/or re-evaluate our relationship with them;
5. Where applicable and when the above conditions have been met, RLC will request that all fabric, packaging and paper sourced from forests are from responsibly managed forests, certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification system, and where FSC certified plantations⁹ are part of the solution.

MAN-MADE CELLULOSIC FABRICS

RLC believes the future of sustainable viscose will rely on innovative technology solutions where fiber is produced from non-wood raw materials. RLC will collaborate with Canopy, innovative companies and suppliers to encourage the development of fiber sources that reduce environmental and social impacts, with a focus on agricultural residues¹⁰ and recycled fabrics. We will develop a 2025 procurement target for these closed-loop solutions based on viscose fiber producer innovation. Over the next three years, RLC will prioritize the following:

- Baseline our current viscose supply chains.
- Work with our suppliers to source from green-shirt fiber producers, as determined by the annual Canopy Hot Button report, and encourage existing fiber suppliers to commit to CanopyStyle and a Canopy Audit
- Where appropriate, trial innovative fiber solutions containing a minimum of 50% recycled content or agricultural residues

PACKAGING AND PAPER

RLC will collaborate with Canopy’s Pack4Good initiative, innovative companies and suppliers to encourage the development of closed loop next generation solutions for packaging and paper¹¹ that reduce environmental and social impacts, with a focus on agricultural fibers (particularly residues)¹⁰ and recycled content. We will use Canopy’s [Ecopaper database](#) and [The Paper Steps](#) as a guide for paper and packaging sourcing. Over the next three years, RLC will prioritize the following:

- Source paper/packaging with high-recycled content, specifically post-consumer waste content reaching an overall recycled fiber content of at least 50% on average.
- Source paper/packaging from alternative fibers, such as wheat straw, or other agricultural residues, when possible, and support the development of commercial scale production of these fibers including participation in trials as appropriate.
- Development of a reduction and reuse strategy to support the necessary shift away from single-use plastics while addressing the concurrent need for conservation of ancient and endangered forests. This will include sourcing reusable packaging, minimizing use of paper for e-commerce, shipping, display, and wrapping systems, and increasing the use of digital communication systems.

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/forest-mapper/>.
2. A good source to identify endangered, threatened and imperiled species is NatureServe's Conservation Status rankings for imperiled 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 is 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 February 1st, 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 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. RLC recognizes that credible regional conservation plans that identify areas to be conserved and also 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. Agricultural Residues are residues left over from food production or other processes and using them maximizes the lifecycle of the fibre. Fibres used for paper products include cereal straws like wheat straw, rice straw, seed flax straw, corn stalks, sorghum stalks, sugar cane bagasse, and rye seed grass straw. Where the LCA (life cycle analysis) shows environmental benefits and conversion of forest land to on purpose crops is not an issue, kenaf can also be included here. Depending on how they are harvested, fibres for fabrics may include flax, soy, bagasse, and hemp. (Agricultural residues are not from on purpose crops that replace forest stands or food crops.)
11. Environmentally friendly fibre sources include:
 - Post-consumer recycled waste fibre
 - Pre-consumer recycled fibre
 - Agricultural residue defined below
 - Fibre from FSC certified tenures (no controlled wood from controlled wood tenures)