

ANCIENT AND ENDANGERED FOREST CONSERVATION VISION AND FOREST FIBRE PROCUREMENT POLICY

Effective: March 1, 2023

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Crown Van Gelder International B.V. (hereinafter referred to as Crown Van Gelder) is committed to demonstrating environmental and social leadership in the paper and paper packaging industry. To achieve this, we do not source from the world's Ancient and Endangered Forests and other controversial fibre sources. We will also work in partnership with other companies, our suppliers, customers, and Canopy to reduce climate emissions, investing in low-footprint agricultural fibre solutions.

Crown Van Gelder recognizes that sustainable business leadership is a fundamental component of long-term transformation. We commit to use our influence in the market towards the development of both supply and demand environmental solutions. We will collaborate actively throughout the supply chain to ensure support for the creation of paper and paper packaging made from low footprint sources.

As such, Crown Van Gelder is committed to actively implement the goals noted below and to apply this model and principles to all our corporate paper and paper packaging production and use.

OUR IMPLEMENTATION GOALS

Protect and Conserve Ancient and Endangered Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Crown Van Gelder recognizes the impact that paper and paper packaging production has on forests, species and the climate and, therefore, the need to ensure the adoption of environmentally and socially responsible paper and paper packaging production. We will work in partnership with other companies, our suppliers, customers, and [Canopy](#) to forward conservation of the world's critical high carbon value (HCS) and biodiverse (HCV) forest ecosystems.

Crown Van Gelder has eliminated the use of all fibre from Ancient and Endangered Forests as identified in [ForestMapper](#), as well as forest fibre from threatened and/or endangered species habitat ⁱⁱⁱ and other controversial sources. Crown Van Gelder will be a vocal advocate for conservation of Ancient and Endangered Forests globally.

Crown Van Gelder also recognizes that certain forest regions have been identified as priority for conservation by scientists and other stakeholders. Until conservation solutions are in place, we will not source from these regions which include but are not limited to: Canada's Boreal Forests, Indonesia's Rainforests, the Amazon, the Great Bear Rainforest on Canada's central and north coast and the Coastal Temperate Rainforests ^{viii} of Vancouver Island.

Crown Van Gelder will ensure that by the end of 2022 we are not sourcing from controversial sources including:

- companies that are logging forests illegally^{viii}
- tree plantations^{ix} established after 1994 through the conversion or simplification of natural forests, as required by the Forest Stewardship Council. This is due to concern that although plantations can play an important role in supplying fibre for products, Crown Van Gelder recognizes that clearing natural forests for plantations has contributed significantly to the destruction of forests in many parts of the world.
- areas being logged in contravention of First Nations and/or Indigenous peoples' collective community rights, including the right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and the rights codified under the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#). We will require that our suppliers resolve complaints and conflicts and remediate human rights violations through a transparent, accountable, and mutually-agreed dispute resolution process
- genetically modified organisms.

If we find that any of our fibre sources or pulp contain fibre from such critical habitat or Ancient and Endangered Forests or other controversial sources, we will work either autonomously or with our suppliers to eliminate this fibre from the supply or find another source of supply.

Crown Van Gelder paper machines and products are tuned to using virgin fibre. When recycling, fibres cannot be re-used endlessly. On average, the fibres we use for our fine papers can be re-used a minimum of 7 times and therewith we support feeding the recycled paper production. Using an agricultural residual flow to replace cellulose derived from trees, is our direct contribution to reducing the use of tree fibres.

Develop Agricultural Residue Fibre Sources

Crown Van Gelder invests in low-footprint agricultural fibre solutions and will continue to work with technology innovators, pulp producers and Canopy to encourage the development of agricultural residue fibres as a commercially viable fibre source for paper and packaging. We anticipate there will be rapid advances in this area over the next few years that will lead to new alternative fibre developments and opportunities. Therefore Crown Van Gelder will continue to:

- support research and development of commercial-scale production of pulp, paper and packaging from sustainable alternative fibre sources such as agricultural residues
- manufacture papers from alternative fibres such as sugar beet pulp, and/or other verified low-footprint agricultural residues when this is technically feasible and commercially available
- support investment in agricultural residue fibre pulps for paper, whether through direct investment or by collaboration with value chain partners.

Forest Certification

Where virgin forest fibre is required in our papers or packaging, Crown Van Gelder will ensure that it is not derived from Ancient and Endangered Forests or controversial sources and all pulp used is covered by certificates of FSC-CoC, PEFC CoC or FSC Controlled Wood, with a preference for FSC certification.

Reduce environmental footprint

Considering emissions from biogenic carbon sources, Crown Van Gelder will reduce its greenhouse gas footprint and consequent impacts on the climate by addressing our fibre sourcing as outlined above. Further to this end, we will develop smarter, resource-efficient product design.

Prevent Pollution

Paper manufacturing is a resource-intensive process that can lead to air emissions and water pollution. To address this:

- Crown Van Gelder will adopt the latest technologies and practices to minimize its air and water pollution. Crown Van Gelder's water treatment plant sees to cleaning the residual process water mechanically and biologically. The slurry is used as biological anti-dusting aid for agricultural industries and energy recovery.

Transparency and Reporting

Crown Van Gelder is committed to transparency in implementing this policy. Crown Van Gelder issues an annual

Sustainability Report publicly, addressing the activities and progress (people, planet, profit).

Additionally, Crown Van Gelder will provide information about fibre sourcing on request.

Setting Benchmarks, Timelines, and other Accountability Mechanisms

Crown Van Gelder yearly publishes a Sustainability Report in which we transparently communicate about the key environmental, social and economic information to customers, governmental institutions, NGO's and our other stakeholders.

Crown Van Gelder focuses on the successful balance between people, planet and profit and continues to build a sustainable organization.

Sasha Dobrovolsky, CEO

Crown Van Gelder International B.V.

March 1, 2024