

Press release 24 June 2015

Wood from private forests often remains unused

Stora Enso supports the management of private forests all year round

Vienna, 24 June 2015: **Typical heirlooms usually consist of cash or family jewels. However, at times there may also be forests among them. And with professional management these can sustainably increase in value. So-called "new forest owners," who no longer have a rural background themselves, use their forests only for their own needs. The positive potential of these forests often remains unused - not just with regard to their monetary value. Current studies show that the use of wood can make a much greater contribution to climate protection than if trees are left to grow in forests. By managing their forests sustainably, private forest owners therefore not only benefit themselves but the environment, too. Stora Enso provides a comprehensive service, offering advice and support during harvesting to logistics and the acceptance of the timber itself.**



Photo © Stora Enso

Structural change leads to a decrease in forest management

According to the Austrian Federal Forest Office, 82 percent of all forests in Austria or rather nearly three million hectares of forest are privately owned by approximately 145,000 individuals; most private forests were inherited. 53 percent of them cover less than 200 hectares and are thus considered small forests. This type of ownership structure puts Austria second place in Europe. Only Portugal has a higher proportion of private forests. The maintenance of these forests requires a lot of time and the necessary expertise. Especially in the small forest sector a huge structural change has been recorded: "Due to socio-demographic changes, there are now more and more "new" forest owners who have lost touch with agriculture and forestry, and therefore also economic interest in their forests," says Norbert Hüttler, Director Wood Procurement for Central Europe at Stora Enso. "Stora



Enso is an ideal partner for these forest owners. We offer a professional and sustainable forest management and timber harvesting service in addition to advice on the latest forestry trends." What many of the new forest owners do not know, is that timber harvests can take place throughout the year and do not have to follow the farmer's almanac. Now in particular, just before the start of summer, is a good time to boost your holiday funds with revenues from small private forests.

Climate protection as an additional benefit

In addition to monetary gains, forest owners also make a significant contribution to resource conservation by selling their timber to sawmills like Stora Enso. Recent studies by the Federal Environmental Agency, the University of Agricultural Science of Vienna and the Federal Forest Office show that by using wood a better greenhouse gas balance is created than if forests are left untouched. While trees provide good CO₂ storage, far more greenhouse gases are produced during the manufacture of chairs, roof structures and houses from plastic, metal or concrete rather than wood, whereby any positive effects are negated.

Researchers have calculated the carbon footprint for different scenarios: the current, sustainable use of timber, increased logging for use as energy stores or building material or increased restrictions on use. For the first time ever they established that large quantities of greenhouse gas emissions can be avoided by making use of wood. It is therefore prudent to use wood but no more than grows back, as this would otherwise lead to a deterioration in the CO₂ balance. Currently, however, more wood grows back than is used. A considerable part of it in small private forests that are managed little or even not at all.

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About Stora Enso Wood Products

Stora Enso's Wood Products division provides versatile wood-based solutions for construction and residential purposes. Our product range covers all areas of urban construction and includes amongst other things solid wood elements and home modules, wood components and pellets. Our product range is complemented by a range of sawn timber products. The majority of our customers are construction and joinery businesses as well as wholesalers and retailers. Wood Products operates worldwide and has more than 20 production units in Europe.

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Questions and Images

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