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Day of Forests: Greater sustainability thanks to responsible forest management

Stora Enso offers new forest owners a comprehensive service

Ybbs an der Donau, 23/03/2016: **21 March was International Day of Forests, which was created in 1970 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in response to the global destruction of forests. Only the use of professional and sustainable forest management practices can protect this special habitat. Stora Enso offers a comprehensive service for all forest owners who want to keep their forest healthy and increase its value. Interested forest owners can find more information at www.storaensowald.at.**



Photos: © Stora Enso

The conservation of the forest ecosystem concerns all of us

The traditional ownership structures of Austrian forests are changing in the wake of structural changes in farming, especially with regard to private forests that cover less than 200 hectares. So-called "new forest owners" often own only small, mostly inherited plots. Many work in other professions and therefore do not possess the essential skills and means to manage their forests efficiently. This has a negative impact on the forest ecosystem: Storm and snow damage as well as the death of trees favour the spread of parasites, such as bark beetles. This does not affect just their own forest plots but also has a negative impact on adjoining areas. Intact forest ecosystems on the other hand are important for all of us: They regulate the climate, protect against floods, ensure biodiversity, provide food and raw materials while also offering space for recreation and tourism. Timber used as building material has a better CO₂ footprint than wood left to rot unused in a forest. Proper timber harvesting creates space, thereby allowing new trees to grow, which in turn store CO₂. As a result, forest owners make a valuable contribution to the forests' economic, protective and recreational functions while safeguarding them for future generations. "In order to maintain and to protect the forest ecosystem, we particularly encourage so-called new forest owners to manage their forest in line with current standards," explains Norbert Hüttler, Director Wood Procurement for Central Europe at Stora Enso.



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A healthy forest relies on professional knowledge

Forest owners are faced with a wide range of issues: What's the best way to sustainably maintain and manage a forest? What rights and obligations are involved? Stora Enso's Wood Procurement team offers information about forest management and forest cultivation at www.storaensowald.at. They provide services ranging from wood procurement to advice as well as stock purchases and a checklist for forest owners. As a leading wood processing company Stora Enso sees itself as the first point of contact for all those who wish to meet their responsibilities as private forest owners without working in the forestry industry themselves. If you have any questions about forest management, the utilisation of wood or forest cultivation strategies, Stora Enso's experts will support you with the latest forestry expertise. On request, they will also determine property boundaries, organise timber storage areas or offer support for visits to forestry authorities.

Stora Enso is interested not only in spruce and pine for sawlogs but in all timber types and also purchases pulpwood for the paper and board industry as well as biomass. Especially for "new forest owners" stock purchases are an attractive solution, where all forest management tasks are taken care of. "Sustainability is of the utmost importance to Stora Enso, which is why we only work with companies that can guarantee professional timber harvesting. We also supervise every stage of the process, from sustainable and professional harvesting to transportation," said Hüttler. You can view and check all data logs at any time via the company's proprietary web platform. As soon as the wood has been received by Stora Enso, forest owners will be issued with a credit note for the proceeds minus the timber harvesting costs.

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About Stora Enso Wood Products

Wood Products division provides versatile wood-based solutions for building and housing. Our product range covers all areas of urban construction including massive wood elements and housing modules, wood components and pellets. We also offer a variety of sawn timber goods. Our customers are mainly construction and joinery companies, merchandisers and retailers. Wood Products operates globally and has more than 20 production units in Europe.

www.storaenso.com

Questions and Images

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