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The forest in the age of climate change

Climate change is making sustainable forest management increasingly important

Ybbs an der Donau, October 04, 2017: **Global warming is posing new challenges for forest management: Rising temperatures in summer encourages pests to flourish and also leads to a displacement in the habitats of native tree species. Storm-damaged timber is also attributable to climate change.**



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The advance of the bark beetle

As global warming increases, Austrian forest owners face new challenges due to rising drought stress, insect outbreaks and storm damage. The consequences of global warming have long since ceased to be mere predictions; they are already in evidence. The hot summer of 2017 has encouraged the spread of forest pests and has resulted in a huge increase in damaged timber. The bark beetle in particular has been afflicting native coniferous forests. The warmer the environment, the less time the bark beetle needs to mature from egg to fully-formed insect. If the average temperature rises by just 4°C, the spruce bark beetle, for example, requires only half the time to develop per generation, which means that up to three generations can develop in one season. Under stress from drought, the trees are unable to fight off pests as well as they might, putting them at great risk of infestation. For this reason, control measures are urgently needed. The wood attacked by the bark beetles must be removed immediately, and regular checks must be carried out to monitor any new outbreaks.



What to do in the case of damaged timber? – Stora Enso is a reliable partner

In Austria, the effects of a bark beetle infestation vary hugely from region to region. In Lower Austria and Upper Austria in particular, the situation has changed dramatically in just a short time, as the hot, dry summer has prompted a concentrated spike in bark beetle wood, especially in the regions of Waldviertel and Mühlviertel. Rapid action is required to deal with this swift rise in damaged timber, in order to remove the afflicted wood as quickly as possible and prevent further damage. “Stora Enso is making every effort to prevent a backlog in the transport of round wood and is creating extra capacity by renting additional storage sites,” explains Norbert Hüttler, Director Wood Procurement for Central Europe at Stora Enso.

Above all, it is the “new” forest owners that are needed, since only a well-maintained and sustainably managed forest will be able to cope better with the challenges that lie ahead. This is where Stora Enso comes in, offering forest owners support and education on all key issues. From the very first meeting to transportation, Stora Enso supports its customers every step of the way.

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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.

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Questions and Images

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