



## How to set your requirements for sustainable forest management

Setting your own specific requirements for sustainable forest management can be problematic. Procurers are not allowed to specify in which countries the timber has to be harvested, so their technical specifications have to encompass all relevant forest types and social situations. Procurers can also refer in general to “sustainable forest management” and point at one or more inter-governmental decisions in which this concept is being defined. But those descriptions are usually rather general. And they still have to take into account the risk of illegal logging and trade.

For that reason it is practical to, on the one hand, be as specific as possible with qualifications about what sustainable forest management means to you and, on the other hand, mention the specific forest management standard/label(s) that for you provide evidence of compliance (while never forgetting to allow “equivalent” evidence, to avoid violation of procurement laws).

Ambitious procurers can use the [FSC Principles and Criteria](#) requirements as the basis for their description. You could for example require that at least 70 per cent of forest materials have to be from sustainably managed forests complying with these requirements, and the rest to be from recycled origin and/or controlled wood. With such requirements spelled out, it is logical to refer to FSC (or “equivalent”) as the evidence of compliance.