



CONFIDENTIAL

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## **Australian Suppliers Applaud Asia Pulp and Paper Landmark Announcement Affiliate Commits to an Immediate Halt to all Natural Forest Clearance in Indonesia**

- Suspension of natural forest clearance which applies to all suppliers
- Protection of all forests, including those on peatland
- High Carbon Stock assessments to be implemented
- Adoption of international best practice for rights of indigenous peoples and local communities
- Independent monitoring by NGOs

Australian tissue and paper suppliers, Solaris Paper and Paper Force, have welcomed the landmark commitment by their affiliate, Asia Pulp & Paper Group (APP), to end the clearing of natural forest across its entire supply chain in Indonesia, with immediate effect.

From February 1st, all of APP's suppliers have suspended natural forest clearance whilst independent assessments take place to identify areas of high conservation value that will be protected through a long-term management programme.

The new forest protection policies will align the sustainability initiatives of APP, Solaris Paper and Paper Force.

Steve Nicholson, CEO of Solaris Paper, welcomed the announcement by its affiliate.

"APP should be congratulated for this landmark commitment which is a major step forward for forest protection in Indonesia. With this new announcement, Australian customers should have confidence that the raw materials we source from APP are sustainable."

"As we prepare in Australia to launch our first 100% PEFC toilet paper product in 2013, I'm delighted to know that our affiliate is taking such a bold step to lead the global pulp and paper industry with unequivocal actions in forestry protection and management."

APP announced the new Forest Conservation policy today (February 5th) during the latest quarterly update of its 'Vision 2020' Sustainability Roadmap, which was published in June 2012.

Initially the APP Sustainability Roadmap set out a plan for APP to implement High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) principles and end natural forest clearance across its entire supply chain, by 2015.

Today's announcement means that objective has been accelerated by almost two years. APP has said that the HCVF and HCS policies will be applied immediately to any further expansion or development of its business.

Ms. Aida Greenbury, APP Managing Director for Sustainability, said: “APP has today committed to protect all natural forests across its supply chain as part of its plans to support the Government of Indonesia’s low carbon development strategy for our economy.”

“Our new Forest Conservation Policy sets our company on course to be a leading world-class paper company solely based on sustainable plantation sources.”

Click here for the full announcement by Asia Pulp and Paper [www.asiapulppaper.com](http://www.asiapulppaper.com)

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**ABOUT SOLARIS PAPER**

Solaris Paper, an Australian operated and managed affiliate of APP, distributes high quality toilet and tissue paper products throughout the Australasia region to both Away From Home and Retail markets.

Solaris Paper was established in Australia in 2007. Since then the company has invested heavily in the Australian market.

For more information about Solaris Paper please visit: [www.solarispaper.com.au](http://www.solarispaper.com.au)

**ABOUT APP**

Asia Pulp and Paper Group (APP) is a trade name for a group of pulp and paper manufacturing companies in Indonesia and China. The APP Group of companies is one of the world’s largest vertically integrated pulp and paper companies, with an annual combined pulp, paper, and converting products capacity of over 18 million tons. APP-Indonesia and APP-China currently market their products in more than 120 countries across six continents. The majority of APP’s production facilities are Chain-of-Custody certified by SVLK, LEI and PEFC.

APP launched its Sustainability Roadmap Vision 2020 in June 2012 and its Forest Conservation policy in February 2013, to further improve its environmental performance, biodiversity conservation, and protection of community rights.

For more information about the APP Sustainability Roadmap Vision 2020, please visit [www.rainforestrealities.com](http://www.rainforestrealities.com) or [www.asiapulppaper.com](http://www.asiapulppaper.com)

The APP Forest Conservation Policy is available [www.asiapulppaper.com](http://www.asiapulppaper.com).