

## Endangered Forest Overview

**Introduction** The global increase in pulp, paper, and publishing is projected to be 77% between the years of 1995 and 2020<sup>1</sup>. Given that this increase represents tens of millions of tons of paper, there is a direct correlation between paper production/consumption and the transformation and loss of Endangered Forests. In fact, we are seeing these impacts on a significant scale in North America within the Canadian Boreal forests and the Southeastern U.S. This narrative presents a brief overview of the definitions and values of Endangered Forests.

**What Are Endangered Forests** Endangered Forests are the most valuable forests on the globe and are located within the Endangered Forest categories and locations listed below.

- **Naturally Rare Forests** are limited to very small areas of the globe and contain very rare/unique biodiversity (**example: areas within the temperate rainforests of British Columbia in Canada**)
- **Intact Frontier Forests** are forests unaffected by large-scale human activities over time periods long enough to allow ecological processes to determine natural forest structure, species composition and function (**ex: Areas within Boreal Canada, Indonesia, Tongass National Forest in Alaska**)
- **Anthropogenically Rare Forests** include forests in an ecoregion where at least 70% of original forest type has already been converted. (**areas within the longleaf pine forest of U.S. Southeast**)

**Endangered Forests are identified by the following values or attributes:**

- Wilderness forests and intact forest landscapes
- Remnant and restoration values
- Forests that are ecologically critical for the protection of biological diversity, such as naturally rare forest types, high endemism, or the habitat of focal conservation species.

**Are All Boreal and US Southern Forests Endangered?** No. Only the areas of greatest ecological and social value according to the values listed above are the Endangered Forests of these regions. Currently, environmental organizations, scientists, and innovative forest products companies are working to map and identify the Endangered Forests within these regions. Until this process is completed, it is suggested that paper producers and consumers work in partnership to map, identify, and protect Endangered Forests. Since many forests have been accessed for industrial purposes, many of these forests can maintain their values with rigorous management, such as Forest Stewardship Council-certified logging.

**How were the Endangered Forest Definitions developed?** Representatives of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the World Resources Institute and the Rainforest Action Network, ForestEthics, and others consulted with a broad array of stakeholders and scientists to draft the first Endangered Forest Definitions, released in April 2001. A second draft was released in July 2005.

**Engaging in the Process to Protect Endangered Forests** Until such time that all Endangered Forest Areas are mapped and identified, it is suggested that paper producers and consumers make use of the precautionary principle and take steps to maximize their use of recycled fiber and virgin fiber that is FSC certified.

**For More Information** To read the complete document entitled “The Ecological Components of Endangered Forests,” download from the GPI website at:

<http://www.greenpressinitiative.org/documents/EndangeredForestComponents.pdf>

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<sup>1</sup> OECD Environmental Outlook. Paris: OECD, 2001, p.215