

FOREST MANAGEMENT: GUARANTEE FOR REGENERATION



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Forest management and the circular economy are two fundamental pillars for the environmental and economic sustainability of our society. Forests, complex and vital ecosystems, play a crucial role in climate balance, biodiversity conservation and the provision of natural resources essential for human life. However, in order to preserve and sustainably utilise these resources, it is necessary to adopt sound forest management practices and promote a circular economy that enhances forestry supply chains at every stage.

Sustainable forest management implies an integrated approach that takes into account environmental, social and economic needs. This means not only protecting existing forests, but also managing them responsibly to ensure their regeneration and the continuity of their ecological functions. This includes practices such as long-term forest planning, the promotion of forest biodiversity and the control of human activities that may cause damage.

The circular economy, on the other hand, is based on the concept of reducing, reusing, recycling and rethinking resources so as to minimise waste and maximise the value of existing resources. Applied to forestry supply chains, the circular economy implies the creation of a closed cycle in which forest products are used efficiently and responsibly, and waste is minimised or transformed into useful resources.

An example of circular economy in forestry supply chains is the use of wood as a raw material for the production of long-life products such as furniture and construction. Once these products reach the end of their life cycle, they can be recycled or composted to produce new resources.

The circular economy also promotes the use of secondary forest products and derivatives, such as cellulose extracted from waste wood, for the production of biodegradable materials, bioplastics and other innovative products. This maximises the value of forest resources and reduces dependence on non-renewable and non-biodegradable materials.

In order to realise the full potential of the circular economy in forestry supply chains, a number of key challenges need to be addressed. These include the need to develop more efficient technologies and processes for wood processing and transformation, as well as to improve the collection and recycling of wood waste by promoting the awareness and participation of local communities and stakeholders. On top of this we must surely add an ever-increasing attention to the origin and traceability of the materials used: in this, FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®) certification can make a fundamental contribution, favouring the creation of virtuous and transparent supply chains capable of supporting companies and consumers along this path.

Promoting sustainable forest management practices and adopting a circular approach to forestry supply chains can not only help protect our natural resources, but also create economic opportunities and promote long-term sustainable development.