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Certification schemes such as FSC are greenwashing forest destruction



Greenpeace International

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Amsterdam, Netherlands – Certified companies, including with the widely-known FSC label, are reportedly linked to forest destruction, land disputes and human rights abuses warns a new report from Greenpeace International. [Destruction: Certified](#), released today, shows that many certification schemes used for products such as palm oil and soya for animal feed are, in fact, effectively greenwashing destruction of ecosystems and violations of Indigenous and labour rights. Certification fails to tackle the core issues they claim to address.

In addition, 2020 has passed, the year when members of the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) promised to have eliminated deforestation from their supply chains by using certification as one of the means to reach this goal. CGF companies, such as Unilever heavily relying on the RSPO certification scheme, have grossly failed to meet their zero-deforestation commitments. While certification has grown globally, deforestation and forest degradation have continued.

Grant Rosoman, Senior Campaign Advisor, Greenpeace International said: “After three decades of trying, certification has failed to prevent ecosystem destruction and rights abuses associated with key products

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used as proof of compliance with legislation.

After three decades of certification schemes and the failure to reach the 2020 deadline, the report takes stock. Based on extensive literature review, certification schemes' publicly available data, and certification experts' views, it offers a comprehensive critical review of the effectiveness of certification schemes. This is supplemented by an assessment of nine major certification schemes, including FSC, RTRS and RSPO.

“Protecting forests and human rights shouldn’t be a choice,” said Rosoman. “However, certification pushes the responsibility to assess the quality of a certified product onto the consumer. Instead, governments must step up to protect our planet and its people from these unacceptable harms and set rules that guarantee that no product produced and sold comes from ecosystem destruction or human rights abuses.”

Greenpeace is calling on governments to develop a comprehensive set of measures to address the issues in supply chains as well as the wider biodiversity and climate crises; including new legislation on production and consumption, and policies that enable the shift towards trade that favours people and planet, ecological agriculture and a consumption reduction, especially of meat and dairy.

Note to editors:

[1] Greenpeace International’s report *Destruction: Certified* can be found [here](#).

[2] Photos and video can be accessed [here](#).

Media contacts:

Grant Rosoman, Greenpeace International Senior Campaign Advisor,
grosoman@greenpeace.org, +6421428415

Maria Elena De Matteo, Greenpeace Germany Communications
Freelancer, mariaelena.dematteo@greenpeace.org, +393518198110