

Sustainable Timber Procurement Policy Statement

The Grounds Care Group recognize that:

- forests are essential for human survival and well-being. They are among the most bio diverse and valuable terrestrial ecosystems on the planet. They provide us with food, oxygen, shelter, recreation, and spiritual sustenance; and they contribute to the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people worldwide. The biodiversity of forests—the variety of genes, species, and forest ecosystems—underpins these goods and services, and is the basis for long-term forest health and stability.
- promoting ways to use forest biodiversity in a sustainable way, and with clear social and economic benefits for the poor, is important.
- forest certification provides evidence of sustainable forest management, yet at present, less than 10% of the world's forests are certified. Mainstreaming forest certification systems (such as PEFC and FSC) will assist in promoting sustainable forest management.

As a user of timber and wood-based products, **The Grounds Care Group** recognizes that it has a responsibility to current and future generations and will therefore strive to promote sustainable forest management. By demanding products from sustainably managed forests, we aim to stimulate the improvement of forest management and discourage unsustainable management practices.

The Grounds Care Group will give preference to suppliers who can demonstrate that their products originate from sustainably managed forests.

We consider it important that the origin of our wood-based products can be demonstrated through credible, independent Chain of Custody certification based on international standards and norms.

In this context, we recognize credible third-party certification systems accepted by government procurement policies and guidelines, such as the UK Central Point of Expertise of Timber or the EU Green Public Procurement criteria, as evidence of responsible and sustainable sourcing. This includes the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the two largest forest certification systems globally.

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Signature:



Adam Brindle
Managing Director

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