

## **Consuming paper is promoting the forest development**

Paper, particularly the one produced in Portugal, is a promoter of renovation and development of the Portuguese forest and nature conservation.



In this sense, it is important to point out some relevant data at national level but which is reflected also at international level:

- Paper production in Europe, in general, and in Portugal, in particular, is today the result of the operation of a transparent and sustainable industry which is based on a renewable resource, which promotes the increase of biodiversity, which rejects absolutely the practices of illegal logging and which has contributed to the development of European forest area whose growth rate was about 17 million hectares in two recent decades (source: UNECE, 1990 to 2010), an annual fee equivalent to 1.5 million football pitches of new trees each year.
- In parallel with the expansion of the paper production in Portugal, also the national forest has been growing. Official figures indicate an area increase exceeding 60% - approximately 1.2 million hectares in the period 1902-2010. Directly or indirectly, it was the pulp and paper industry the entity responsible for the largest number of trees planted in Portugal, being also this forest industry the industry that generates today, directly, the largest area of forest in the country.
- In the nurseries of Portucel Soporcel, the biggest European forest nurseries are produced annually 12 million plants of various forest species that have been and will continue to be the future Portuguese forests.
- Forests managed by Portucel Soporcel group are responsible for carbon sequestration and, consequently, the reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The accumulated retention of carbon dioxide by forest areas

managed by the group corresponds to about 1.5 million cars travelling around the world.

- To emphasize is the fact that, in the production of paper in Portugal, it is used mostly renewable energy produced from biomass.



This global reality and many other aspects are supported by recent studies that put the Paper Industry in a prominent position in the sustainability Index (CEO Perspectives-2008, Pricewaterhousecoopers).

Also important is to clarify some arguments present in the debate that arises often on "recycled paper vs. paper made from wood". Rationality and the sustainability of the global paper industry system advocate a high percentage of utilization of recycled fibres for products of lesser quality requirement and short lifetime (like most packaging papers, newsprint and some tissues), reserving the virgin fibres for papers of high quality requirement, as well as for those who ask for greater longevity, as are the papers for printing and writing, like Premium office papers which are an excellent example.

In order to be able to obtain more information about the sustainability of the national paper industry, we invite you to access the website of the Think Again-Paper from Portugal: More Forests, Better Future ([www.paper-from-portugal.com](http://www.paper-from-portugal.com)).



There you can check that the paper products produced in Portugal are sustainable products, environmentally responsible products and recyclable, obtained from a renewable natural

resource, planted specifically for this purpose, dismantling the existing myths regarding the use and consumption of paper.

Indeed, printing on paper produced in Portugal by Portucel Soporcel group is also contributing to the sustainability of forest plantations from which the wood used in its production comes from, i.e. for the sustainability of the Portuguese forests. Using our papers is synonymous with afforestation and nature protection.