

Press Release – 07 December 2007

Culminating a strong bet initiated in 2005

Portucel Soporcel Group obtains FSC forest certification

- Forest certification is a guarantor of sustainable forest management and an asset in an increasingly demanding market regarding the source of wood used in the manufacture of goods sold

The Portucel Soporcel Group has just obtained from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) the forest certification of the largest part of the forest under its management. This achievement culminates a process resolutely undertaken since 2005 that aimed to obtain confirmation for a responsible management of the forest and at the same time meet the demands of an international market where consumers increasingly prefer brands whose products are sourced from well managed forests, certified by credible entities. This process was conducted by the Soil Association/ Woodmark certification programme, the SA-FM/COC-001785 certificate being awarded.

"The FSC forest certification of the more than 102 thousand of hectares of forest under our management represents a moment of extreme importance for our Group as it not only validates our strong commitment to a responsible and sustained management of the forest but also gives us as from now another important market asset, i.e., the assurance to consumers and stakeholders that our products are manufactured with raw-materials sourced from forests managed under strict and internationally recognised criteria that simultaneously value environmental, social and economic aspects", explains José Honório, the Portucel Soporcel group CEO.

This process is part of the set of priorities established in the Group's Corporate Responsibility Policy, significantly contributing to enhance the Company's involvement in the community as it fosters the creation of value and employment by optimising the national forestry products. This explains why José Honório considers forest certification as *"another decisive step forward in the process of continuous improvement of forest management, aiming at optimising the profitability of forest assets and simultaneously pursuing compliance with the Group's environmental and social responsibilities"*.

Guaranteeing sustainability

A responsible management of the forest, using the best available environmental and applied research techniques, allow us to produce paper of superior quality while ensuring eco-efficiency and the renewal of resources.

Achieving high and sustainable forest production, maintaining the fertility and productivity of the soil and preserving the natural resources are the Group's key strategic objectives, underlying, among others, the following initiatives:

- Partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) for biodiversity management, viewing the identification of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVA) in the extensive areas of forest managed by the Group. Upon conclusion of the first phase of this project, it was determined that 48% of this vast area contain attributes consistent with the classification of High Conservation Value Areas at the landscape level – an environmental wealth that the Group will do everything in its reach to protect.
- Implementation of projects aiming at the preservation of natural values in the various areas of land managed by the Group, whose approach is compatible and coordinated with the approach used in the WWF project.
- Adoption of the “Business and Biodiversity” philosophy, as expressed in the Biodiversity protocol entered with the Institute of Nature and Biodiversity Conservation (ICNB), and subscription of Countdown 2010, an initiative taken within the scope of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) with the objective of contributing to halt biodiversity loss.
- Membership of the FSC Portugal – Association for Responsible Forest Management, with a view to establishing a national standard before the end of 2008 and accomplishing the goal of having half a million hectares of forest certified by 2010.

The Group also promoted a series of initiatives intended to encourage the certification of independent forest owners - who supply a large part of the raw material for our mills – particularly in the form of training, raising awareness among forest producers' associations, and the establishment of a differentiated price for certified wood as an incentive to the expansion of the certified area of forest.

The important objective reached at this point with the certification of the forests managed by the Group must now be consolidated, i.e., an effort must be made to certify the Portuguese non-industrial areas of forest. This objective will be pursued through the various partnerships and protocols established with national associations of producers, the committed support of the competent authorities being critical for its success.

About the FSC - Forest Stewardship Council

The FSC is an organisation headquartered in Bonn that promotes good forest management through compliance with a set of principles and criteria that provide a standard of international recognition and respect. Created in the nineties, this initiative

involves, on the international front, entities and professionals from the various areas of interest in the management of forest resources