To the Board and membership of the Forest Stewardship Council:

93 environmental and social justice groups from 28 countries are calling on FSC to continue prohibiting the use of genetically engineered trees and to refrain from engaging with field experiments.

Their statement reads:

We call on the Forest Stewardship Council to reaffirm its commitment to FSC’s current policy that prohibits the use of genetically engineered trees.

Hacemos un llamado al FSC para que reafirme su compromiso con su política actual que prohíbe el uso de árboles genéticamente modificados.

We call on the Forest Stewardship Council to refrain from overseeing and endorsing any field tests of genetically engineered trees.

Hacemos un llamado al FSC para que se abstenga de supervisar y respaldar cualquier prueba de campo de árboles genéticamente modificados.

This adds to the open letter sent in December 2021 from 217 organizations in 74 countries calling on FSC to disassociate itself from any GE tree research activities and continue to clearly prohibit the commercial growing of GE trees.

Decisions made by the FSC at the General Assembly 2022 and beyond are critical to the future of genetically engineered trees.

A new report published by the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network and The Campaign to STOP GE Trees details the global status of development of genetically engineered trees. It argues that FSC’s prohibition serves to block the commercialization of GE trees and that this is necessary action to protect forest ecosystems.

In the immediate, the FSC-certified company Suzano cannot commercially grow their GE glyphosate-tolerant eucalyptus tree, approved by Brazil in late 2021, unless FSC changes its Policy for Association, or Suzano leaves FSC.

Genetically engineered trees are not inevitable. Genetic engineering in trees is technically challenging and poses vast and grave risks to forests and forest ecosystems. The potential negative environmental and social consequences of proceeding with the commercial release of GE trees, or even field trials, could be irreversible.

As you say, the future of forests is in your hands.
Signatories:

The Campaign to STOP GE Trees
Environmental Paper Network
Friends of the Earth International
Global Forest Coalition
Ecoropa, Europe
Fundacion Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Argentina
Proyecto Lemu, Argentina
Australian Forests and Climate Alliance (AFCA), Australia
Bellingen Environment Centre (BEC), Australia
Bob Brown Foundation, Australia
Environment East Gippsland Inc., Australia
GeneEthics, Australia
North Coast Environment Council, Australia
Corporate Europe Observatory, Belgium
Fern, Belgium
Amazon Watch, Brazil
Boreal Action, Canada
Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN), Canada
CUPE 4400 - Toronto Education Workers, Canada
Ecology Action Centre, Canada
Friends of the Earth Canada
Greenpeace Canada
Green Thumbs Growing Kids, Canada
Organic Food Council of Manitoba, Canada
SaskOrganics Association, Canada
Villa St. Joseph Ecology & Spirituality Centre, Canada
Vigilance OGM, Canada
York Region Environmental Alliance, Canada
CODEFF, Chile
Fundación Basura, Chile
Fundación el Árbol, Chile
Fundación Pongo, Chile
Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales, Chile
Patagon Journal, Chile
Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales, Chile
Blue Dalian, China
NOAH (Friends of the Earth Denmark), Denmark
RALLT, Ecuador
Save Estonia’s Forests, Estonia
Consommateurs Pas Cobayes!, France
Groupe International d’Etudes Transdisciplinaires (GIET), France
OGM Dangers, France
Pollinis, France
Sciences Citoyennes, France
AbL e.V., Germany
Hatzfeldt-Wildenburg’sche Verwaltung, Germany
Forum Ökologie & Papier, Germany
Naturwald Akademie, Germany
ROBIN WOOD, Germany
Save Our Seeds, Germany
Abibiman Foundation, Ghana
Trend Asia, Indonesia
Consumers Union of Japan
Biodiversity Information Box, Japan
Friends of the Earth Japan
Baringo for life, Kenya
Consumers’ Association of Penang, Malaysia
Third World Network, Malaysia
Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia), Malaysia
Consejo Civil Mexicano para la Silvicultura, Mexico
Milieudefensie, Netherlands
Stichting Genethica, Netherlands
Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Nigeria
Murna Foundation, Nigeria
Heñoi Centro de Estudios, Paraguay
Acção Ambiental, Portugal
Biodiversity Conservation Center, Russia
My sme les, Slovakia
Aevis Foundation, Slovakia
African Centre for Biodiversity, South Africa
Sri Lanka Nature Group, Sri Lanka
Protect the Forest Sweden, Sweden
Society for Threatened Peoples, Switzerland
Corner House, United Kingdom
EcoNexus, United Kingdom
GM Freeze, United Kingdom
GMWatch, United Kingdom
Just Transition Wakefield, United Kingdom
Sheffield Friends of the Earth, United Kingdom
Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters, USA
Biofuelwatch, USA
Center for Food Safety, USA
Dogwood Alliance, USA
Earth Ethics, Inc., USA
Friends of the Earth, USA
Global Justice Ecology Project, USA
Go Conscious Earth, USA
Hawai’i SEED, USA
Indigenous Environmental Network, USA
Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition, USA
Rainforest Action Network, USA
Women of Color/Global Women's Strike, USA