



## The Campaign to STOP GE Trees

October 6, 2022

RE: 93 Groups Call on FSC to  
Uphold GE Trees Prohibition

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)  
Canopy, 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