



The Campaign to STOP GE Trees

November 14, 2022

RE: 131 Groups Call on FSC
to Uphold GE Trees
Prohibition

To the Board and membership of the Forest Stewardship Council:

131 environmental and social justice groups from 34 countries, including 10 FSC members, 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.

The statement was further supported by over 1000 individuals from around the world.

[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
IFOAM Seeds Platform
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
Chase Action Environmental Group, Canada
CUPE 4400 - Toronto Education Workers, Canada
Ecology Action Centre, Canada
Friends of the Earth Canada
Greenpeace Canada
Green Thumbs Growing Kids, Canada
No More GMOs – Toronto, Canada
Northwest BC Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides
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
Colectivo VientoSur
Fundación Basura, Chile
Fundación el Árbol, Chile
Fundación Pongo, Chile
Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales
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 Int'l d'Etudes Transdisciplinaires (GIET), France
OGM Dangers, France
POLLINIS, France
Sciences Citoyennes, France
Fundação Montescola, Galicia
AbL e.V., Germany
BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany
FIAN Germany
Hatzfeldt-Wildenburg'sche Verwaltung, Germany
Forum Ökologie & Papier, Germany
NABU, Germany
Naturwald Akademie, Germany
ROBIN WOOD, Germany
Save Our Seeds, Germany
TestBiotech, Germany
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Germany
Abibiman Foundation, Ghana
Abibinsroma Foundation Ghana
MAUSAM Movement for Advancing Understanding of Sustainability and Mutuality, India
Trend Asia, Indonesia
The Woodland League, Ireland
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)
Consejo Civil Mexicano para la Silvicultura, Mexico
Milieudefensie, Netherlands
Stichting Genethica, Netherlands
Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), Netherlands
GE FREE New Zealand
GE FREE Northland, New Zealand
Greenpeace Aotearoa/New Zealand
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
Earth Thrive, United Kingdom
EcoNexus, United Kingdom
Fal Energy Partnership, United Kingdom
GM Freeze, United Kingdom
GMWatch, United Kingdom
Just Transition Wakefield, United Kingdom
Liverpool Friends of the Earth, United Kingdom
Sheffield Friends of the Earth, United Kingdom
350 Butte County, USA
Athens County's Future Action Network, USA
Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters, USA
A Beautiful Future, USA
Biofuelwatch, USA
Bioscience Resource Project, USA
Casa Baltimore Limay
Center for Food Safety, USA
Dogwood Alliance, USA
Dharma Cloud Foundation, USA
Earth Ethics, Inc., USA
Enviro Show, USA
Environmental Protection Information Center, USA
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance, USA
Friends of the Earth, USA
Forests Forever, USA
Global Justice Ecology Project, USA
Go Conscious Earth, USA
GMO/Toxin Free USA
GMO Free Florida
Hawai'i SEED, USA
Human Nature Theatre Company, USA
Indigenous Environmental Network, USA
Institute for Social Ecology, USA
Lost Coast League, USA
Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition, USA
Mendocino Trail Stewards, USA
Non-GMO Project, USA
Rainforest Action Network, USA
RESTORE: The North Woods, USA
Sequoia ForestKeeper, USA
Women of Color/Global Women's Strike, USA