



Timber policy

Background

There has been an increasing demand for timber and timber products and an increase in deforestation to use the land for other purposes (housing, agriculture etc). These factors have increased the pressure on the world's forests, in particular tropical rainforests. Additionally, forests are increasingly recognised for the role they play in our global climate system and for the biodiversity they safeguard.

Approach

Asda is committed to responsible wood procurement practices that promote the sustainability of forests.

In 2015 we joined the WWF-UK forest campaign and committed to buy timber and timber products from sustainable sources by 2020, and make our performance public. We also committed to support strengthening of the current EU Timber Regulations to cover all timber and timber products.

However, the issues of deforestation include the crops which can be indirectly affecting forests by land clearance for their production. ASDA is concerned that any products we source do not contribute to deforestation. Our parent company, Walmart, is committed to a target of zero net deforestation by 2020 through membership of the Consumer Goods Forum.

There are some products where we pay particular attention to their possible link to deforestation. Palm oil sourcing a priority and this is covered in the palm oil section of this site. ASDA sources a small volume of corned beef from Brazil. The Brazilian suppliers are signatories to an agreement with the Brazilian Government whereby they do not source from cattle farms which are linked to recent deforestation. This is enforced through satellite monitoring and GPS farm mapping. The farms are also audited for labour issues and native land ownership. Soy production has been implicated in stimulating deforestation. ASDA is a member of the Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS) which is a cross sector programme certifying soy farms. The main use for South American soy is for livestock feeding especially poultry. At this time (2015) ASDA laying poultry is not fed Brazilian soy and a minority of our meat or broiler birds are fed Brazilian soy but this is from a certification scheme.