

## Statement regarding recent NGO activities

SCA is Europe's largest private forest owner, managing 2.7 million hectares mainly in northern Sweden. SCA manages its forests responsibly and in full compliance with Swedish law, EU regulations, and recognized international certification standards. Our forest management integrates long-term economic, environmental, and social responsibility. Every harvested tree is replaced by at least two new ones, ensuring continuous forest regrowth and carbon storage. Since the 1950s, the standing volume of SCA's forests has nearly doubled, significantly increasing their capacity to absorb and store carbon and reinforcing their critical role in climate mitigation.

A campaign is currently being carried out by activist groups in northern Sweden. These actions include public allegations, direct interference in ongoing forestry operations, and protests targeting both private forest owners and companies such as SCA. We want to clearly reaffirm the facts about how SCA and our suppliers manage forests, and our commitment to responsible, sustainable, and science-based forestry.

### **SCA's forest holdings are third-party certified**

SCA's forest holdings are independently certified according to both FSC and PEFC, the world's leading forest-certification systems. These systems require strict compliance with standards on biodiversity protection, indigenous rights, conservation values, and sustainable resource use. During the past year, SCA successfully passed all external third-party audits for FSC FM, PEFC FM and CoC, and ISO 14001. These audits confirm that SCA meets the highest international requirements.

FSC is not an industry initiative. It is a global, multi-stakeholder framework supported by environmental NGOs, social organizations, indigenous representatives, and responsible companies. In Sweden, the FSC standard is governed jointly by environmental, social, and economic chambers including WWF, BirdLife, the National Association of the Sámi (SSR), and Swedish labor unions The Swedish Paper Workers' Union and The Swedish Union of Forestry, Wood and Graphical Workers.

### **Responsible forest management is key for biodiversity**

Biodiversity is a central part of SCA's forest management. Approximately 30 percent of our forest land is exempt from harvesting to protect key habitats and conservation values. We conduct active nature-conservation measures such as prescribed burning, wetland restoration, and retention of old trees and dead wood.

### **Reindeer herding is conducted on all SCA land**

SCA recognizes and respects the rights of the Sámi people and the importance of reindeer husbandry. We maintain long-term dialogue with affected communities and continuously develop our work in line with the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Adjustments to operations are made through participatory planning to support coexistence.

This year, SCA and SSR signed an agreement to further strengthen the collaboration between SCA, SSR and the reindeer husbandry sector. The main purpose of the agreement is to develop working methods that enhance the conditions for reindeer husbandry, while ensuring that forestry operations are carried out responsibly and with a long-term perspective. Several of the agreed working methods aimed at improving conditions for reindeer husbandry are now already integrated into SCA's forestry practices.

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### **Growing and managed forests play a key role in climate change mitigation**

SCA's forests absorb around five million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. Our wood-based products store carbon throughout their lifetime and replace fossil-based alternatives, delivering an additional substitution effect of more than 7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

### **SCAs forests thrive and grow**

Claims that SCA is "destroying Sweden's last natural forests" are incorrect and misleading. The vast majority of Sweden's forests, regardless of ownership, have been shaped by human use for centuries. SCA does not harvest forests with high conservation value defined by FSC FM and FSC CW, whether referred to as natural forests, old-growth forests, continuity forests, or under any other terminology. Our decisions are based on field inventories, legislation, certification standards, and scientific assessments.

### **Responsible use of Lodgepole pine (pinus contorta)**

Lodgepole pine was introduced in Sweden during the 1970s and today represents less than 15 percent of SCA's productive forest land. Due to its high growth rate, lodgepole pine binds roughly 30 percent more CO<sub>2</sub> than naturally regenerated stands. While this contributes to higher carbon sequestration and climate benefits, SCA has no ambition to expand lodgepole pine in sensitive areas. All reforestation and management follow Swedish law, certification requirements, and local stakeholder consultation in the co-planning process.

### **Trade unions' position**

Recent activist activities have raised serious concerns about safety and legality. Swedish labor unions have publicly emphasized that such actions endanger forestry workers, disrupt workplaces, and undermine democratic processes. These situations also impose significant financial harm on private landowners.

### **SCA is transparent and always open to dialogue**

While SCA welcomes democratic debate, placing oneself above the law, obstructing legal operations, or creating unsafe working conditions is unacceptable. All stakeholders must respect the same democratic processes and legal frameworks.

SCA publishes detailed and independently audited sustainability reports each year and is always open to constructive dialogue with NGOs, customers, authorities, local communities, and other stakeholders. We welcome fact-based discussions that contribute to stronger biodiversity, climate benefits, and sustainable value creation.

Responsibly managed forests play a critical role in climate mitigation, renewable materials, and rural livelihoods in Sweden. SCA will continue to manage its forests with science-based methods, long-term stewardship, and full transparency.

If you have questions about our forest management, audits, certification systems, or conservation work, please contact us directly. We remain open to dialogue.

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