



Contribution to “New Generation Plantations” Project

## **WWF and the Portucel Soporcel group organize workshop on responsible forest finance**

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), in partnership with the Portucel Soporcel group, is organizing a workshop on “New Generation Plantations & Responsible Forest Finance”, to highlight and debate relevant factors for the development of sustainable forests, raising awareness among financial institutions to the fact that investment in this type of plantations is potentially interesting and offers a low level of risk.

The event, to be held in Lisbon on June 30 and July 1, is part of the “New Generation Plantations” (NGP) project led by the WWF. The project identifies and promotes plantations which respect the integrity of ecosystems and areas of high conservation value, seeking to achieve active involvement by stakeholders and contributing to economic growth and job creation.

The main aim of this workshop is to bring together representatives of the financial sector and members of the NGP project team, in order to define joint approaches that will support an industry based on increasingly sustainable plantations and to consolidate a high level of responsibility in the sector in addressing environmental and social issues.

The Portucel Soporcel group has been involved in the “New Generation Plantations” project since its launch in 2007, since when the project has harnessed the collective efforts of international corporations in the paper and pulp sector (Mondi, Stora Enso, UPM-Kymmene, CMPC, Masisa, Sabah Forest Industries and Fibria), government agencies (the State Forest Administration of China and the UK Forestry Commission) as well as WWF delegations in a range of countries.

During the workshop, the Portucel Soporcel group will present its forest management model, featuring a strong commitment to forestry certification and preservation of





biodiversity. The workshop will be followed up by a visit to a property managed by the Portucel Soporcel group and to the new paper mill at the Setúbal industrial complex. The field trip will offer participants the chance to see first hand a practical example of how the Group's forestry management policy conciliates a number of production and conservation goals with the social function of the land under its responsibility.

### **"New Generation Plantations" Project promotes sustainable plantations**

The "New Generation Plantations" (NGP) project is based on the principle that properly managed and appropriately located forest plantations contribute to a diversified, healthy and multi-functional forest landscape, compatible with conservation of biodiversity and able to satisfy human needs.

The "New Generation Plantations" project has been designed on the basis of observable experience, looking at both technical aspects of forestry plantations and also at their social, cultural and environmental impacts. In addition to managing existing plantations, the project is also directed at developing new plantations.

Although forest plantations are growing around the world, they account for only 7% of total forest cover, contributing significantly to the availability of timber, insofar as they provide approximately one third of industrial supplies. Moreover, of all these plantations, a very small fraction, generally known as "intensively managed plantations", corresponds to approximately 1.25% of total forest cover, but is making a growing contribution to industrial timber supplies, accounting for an impressive 40% of the market in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Over the last decade, the market has worked alongside government institutions to ensure a faster and broader growth in the sustainable forest products market. Although sustainable production and responsible trading of forest products are expanding in the world market, the availability of funding for responsible operators and the pressure from the financial sector against "less responsible" operators has failed to keep up with this trend.





Poorly managed plantations can be found in different parts of the world and are not limited to developing countries. The impacts caused by these plantations are avoidable, which is why the WWF started up the “New Generation Plantations” project, in order to identify and promote examples of plantations that make a positive contribution to conservation, restoration and social development.

### **About the WWF**

For over 45 years WWF has worked to protect the future of wildlife and of the planet. It is the world’s largest independent wildlife conservation organization. With some 5 million supporters, it is active in five continents in over 100 countries. WWF’s unique style combines global targets with scientific criteria, experience and strictness, acting at all levels, from local to global and presenting ground-breaking solutions which seek to protect mankind and nature (find out more at [www.wwf.pt](http://www.wwf.pt))

### **WWF’s Mission**

WWF’s mission is to stop the degradation of the planet and to build a future in which humans may live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world’s biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

### ***About the Portucel Soporcel group***

The Portucel Soporcel group is one of Portugal’s strongest players on the international stage.

Having concluded an investment programme totalling more than 900 million euros, including a new Paper Mill, officially opened in November 2009, the group is now the leading European producer of UWF printing and writing paper, and remains the largest producer in Europe – and one of the largest in the world - of bleached eucalyptus pulp (BEKP).

With an annual turnover of approximately 1,100 million euros, the group is currently one of Portugal’s top three exporters, selling its products to some 100 countries over five continents.

The group owns Portugal’s top international paper brand, *Navigator*, the world’s best-selling product in the premium office paper segment.





Woodlands management is a strategic area for the Group. Most of the forests under its management, covering some 120 thousand hectares, are certified under the internationally recognized FSC and PEFC schemes. Sustainability and biodiversity are core values in the Company's business model.

The Group is also the country's leading producer of energy from biomass, generating more than 50% of all the electric power derived from this renewable source in Portugal.

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