

UPM Pulp – Description of forest and plantation harvesting governance in Finland and Uruguay

Forest harvesting governance in Finland

All harvesting in Finland is regulated by law in the Forest Act. Ownership of land is legally well-defined in Finland. Most forest land is owned by small private owners. The rest is owned by government, companies, municipalities etc. When harvesting takes place, a written contract is done with the forest owner.

Before harvesting, a forest use declaration must be sent to the authorities (Forestry Center) for each of the harvesting sites (at UPM more than 30 000 per year). This is done electronically in a GIS-system. The Forestry Center checks the forest use declaration and that the harvesting site complies with relevant legislation.

If harvesting is allowed, harvesting operations can be started ten days after sending the forest use declaration. After harvesting, the Forestry Center can come to the site to check that all operations have been done according to the legislation.

In the case of final felling, by law, the forest must be regenerated. This is monitored by the authorities (Forestry Center).

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Plantation harvesting governance in Uruguay

Forest promotion law was established 30 years ago to develop the forest industry in Uruguay by establishing forest plantations and protecting native forests. In Uruguay there is a clear land ownership structure and strict policy that defines land areas where plantation forestry can take place.

The majority of the wood used in UPM pulp production in Uruguay comes from UPM own plantations and a minority is purchased from independent suppliers and private farmers.

All new plantations require an approval by the National Forest Directorate (which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture) and new plantations larger than 100 ha also require an environmental authorization (by the National Environmental Directorate which is part of the Ministry of Environment). Harvesting activities and plans do not require additional legal approval as the harvesting activity is included in the forest management plans that are approved by the said government organizations.

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