Protecting forests

Forests cover 31% of the world’s land area. They are the Earth’s green lungs, home to the richest terrestrial biodiversity and are key to combatting global warming. Any damage to forests is therefore a threat to the planet and to human society. They are vital to human activity and give us the raw materials needed to make many of our ingredients. L’Oréal recognises its role and responsibility in pursuing and scaling up actions to ensure the sustainable use of forest-related materials, along with the protection and restoration of forests and their related ecosystems.

That is why, in 2007, we put in place guarantees to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials sourced from forest areas. And, in 2014, with the release of our first Zero Deforestation Policy, we pledged to ensure no ingredients in formula, nor paper and cardboard for packaging would be linked to deforestation. We have therefore implemented sustainable sourcing actions for priority raw materials liable to lead to deforestation such as palm oil, soya oil and wood-fibre-based products.

L’Oréal is well aware of the increasingly critical threat blooming over forests worldwide. Building on our previous achievements, and understanding the necessity to extend the scope and depth of our action on forest protection and responsible supply chain management, L’Oréal has defined a new, dedicated 2030 Forest Policy.

By 2030, 100% of biobased ingredients for formulas will be traceable and will come from sustainable sources. None of them will be linked to deforestation.

100% of purchases of palm oil, and palm oil and palm kernel derivatives have been certified as sustainable according to the RSPO criteria since 2012.

In 2021, 100% of the paper used for product leaflets and 99.9% of the cardboard used for folding boxes for finished goods were certified as coming from sustainably management forests.

The CDP awarded L’Oréal an A for the 6th consecutive year for its actions to protect forests.

With the goal of greater transparency, we publish annually the list of the mills indirectly connected to our supply chain and representing 90% of our palm derivatives volumes in 2020.
Introducing L’Oréal’s 2030 Forest Policy

We pledge to manage, preserve, and rehabilitate forests, prioritising strategic ingredients derived from ecosystems that may be more vulnerable due to their fragility, rich biodiversity or the services and livelihoods they support.

To guide this work, we have elaborated the L’Oréal 2030 Forest Policy, which sets out the scope and scale of our ambition and defines our overall pathway to sustainable and responsible sourcing of forest-related materials.

By 2030, we commit that:

01 100% of the sourcing of our overall portfolio of forest-related raw materials for formulas, packaging materials and POS will comply with ‘No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation’ (NDPE) principles, will respect human rights and will support local livelihoods, the operations of our suppliers at a corporate group level will comply with the above principles,

02 beyond the compliance of our sources, we will proactively contribute to preserve and recover the services provided by priority forests landscapes, strategic for our sourcing.

Deforestation-free and sustainable palm production

In 2021, L’Oréal consumed less than 310 tonnes of palm oil and the equivalent of 90,003 tonnes of palm oil and palm kernel oil through derivatives (such as glycerine, fatty acids or fatty alcohols).

Since 2010, 100% of the palm oil it purchases meets the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) standards, via the Segregated (SG) model, which is one of the most demanding. But the challenge for a company like L’Oréal is the traceability of the supply chain of palm oil derivatives and how to improve the practices within this supply chain.

The Group decided to go one step further than RSPO certification, in order to ensure a deforestation-free and sustainable palm production. Since 2014, it deployed an unprecedented approach within the oleo-chemicals sector and started to map its entire supply chain and to trace derivatives back to their origin.

In 2021, 100% of purchases of palm oil, and palm derivatives have been certified as sustainable according to the RSPO criteria since 2012. 94% of our palm derivatives are traced back up to mills. 27% of our sources are physically connected to sustainable sourcing projects supporting independent smallholders in Indonesia and Malaysia.

The L’Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration

In 2020, as part of our effort to protect biodiversity, we chose to look beyond our own value chain by creating the L’Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration, a €50m impact investment fund that intends to simultaneously combine financial performance with the creation of environmental and social value. By supporting projects to rehabilitate degraded lands, regenerate mangroves, and restore marine areas and forests, the fund aims to help preserve or restore one million hectares of ecosystem, to capture 15 to 20 million tonnes of CO₂ and create thousands of jobs by 2030.