“THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HAS A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON HOW RESOLUTE DOES BUSINESS.”

RICHARD GARNEAU, PRESIDENT AND CEO, RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS
INTRODUCTION

One of the largest logging companies in Canada’s Boreal Forest, Resolute Forest Products (TSX/NYSE: RFP) operates in Quebec and Ontario, providing a range of forest products to domestic and international markets. In marketing itself around the world, Resolute makes a number of impressive “sustainability” claims to assure existing and potential customers of its commitment to preserving Canada’s forests, respecting Indigenous rights and supporting local communities.

Buy our products, they say, and you will help conserve forests.

With 2012 sales of $4.5 billion, 22 mills and around 9,000 employees, Resolute is positioned to be a leader in Canada’s forest industry. But while Resolute talks a good sustainability talk, scratch below the surface and a different story emerges – a story that should be of concern to customers looking for responsibly sourced forest products that meet their environmental procurement policies and practices.

Unsustainable forestry, regulatory infractions, failure to protect endangered species, ‘green’ products that do not warrant the name, certification that comes up short, disregard for Indigenous rights and communities struggling for their fair share. These are the issues on public record that Resolute does not talk about. In this report, Greenpeace has compiled the necessary information to help paint, for customers, a fuller picture than the company would like to admit. After conducting a literature review, media analysis and using the best available science, we expose the false promises in Resolute’s sustainability claims.

We believe that Resolute has the ability to one day back up sustainability claims. But to achieve this, it must take, in a timely fashion, tangible action to protect forests and endangered species, respect Indigenous rights, and support communities and workers.
TAINTED “GREEN” PRODUCTS

“Taking steps to responsibly manage our environmental footprint and improve our product diversification, we have introduced our Align™ family of eco-conscious, budget-friendly paper grades...”

RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2012, Resolute launched its “eco-conscious” Align range of paper products, advertised heavily as having positive benefits for human health, climate change, energy and ecosystem quality grounds. Not advertised is the forest where this paper originates, the percentage of recycled content, nor the logging practices used to harvest trees in these forests. The impact that the paper’s production has on High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas and endangered species are also not revealed.

The Alma mill, at which Resolute’s Align uncoated paper products are manufactured is known to source from clearcuts in the Montagnes Blanches “Endangered Forest.” Many of these clearcuts are in the last remaining intact areas of this region, overlapping with some of the most valuable caribou habitat and carbon-dense forest left in the province.

Intact forest areas, like those found in the Montagnes Blanches (pictured here), play a critical role in mitigating global climate change.

© GREENPEACE/MAIKUS MAUTHE
In 2010, Greenpeace commissioned Global Forest Watch Canada to produce an analysis of the last large intact regions of Canada’s boreal forest that are open to logging development. This analysis was further refined in 2012 to encompass threats from encroaching development and logging in particular.

The result was the identification of five key boreal forest areas with exceptional ecological value yet under severe threat from logging and resultant fragmentation and degradation: the “Endangered Forests.” Without concrete conservation planning in these areas, their very existence is at risk.

Five “Endangered Forest” areas for priority conservation are identified in Canada’s boreal forest. Resolute currently operates in three of these areas to produce its “sustainable” products.

**12 VALUES DEFINING “ENDANGERED FOREST” AREAS IN CANADA’S BOREAL:**
- presence of old-growth forest;
- woodland caribou habitat;
- presence of wetlands;
- proximity to protected areas;
- surface area of intact forest;
- diversity of mammals;
- diversity of bird species;
- diversity of reptiles and amphibians;
- diversity of tree species;
- concentration of carbon in the soil;
- net carbon;
- and the presence of lakes and rivers.

Visit www.greenpeace.ca/endangeredforests to learn more.
“It is important that carbon storage, freshwater and other ecosystem services be added to conservation planning currently focused on biodiversity or individual species, because impending climate change and other human-caused stresses threaten their security...”


Intact forest areas, like those found in the Montagnes Blanches, play a critical role in mitigating global climate change with their immense carbon reservoirs and sinks that capture carbon from the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Despite growing pressure from industrial exploitation, the Boreal Forest’s freshwaters continue to provide crucial ecosystem services. Paper made from logging in sensitive Boreal Forest areas critical to Canada’s carbon and freshwater stores does not align with any legitimate definition of “eco-conscious.”

“The Task Force has compared energy requirements and environmental releases from 100 per cent recycled fiber-based and 100 per cent virgin fiber-based systems... This analysis shows clear and substantial environmental advantages from recycling all of the grades of paper we examined.”

PAPER TASK FORCE: DUKE UNIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, MCDONALD’S, THE PRUENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA AND TIME INC.

“Is it better for the environment to use recovered fiber for magazines versus virgin fiber in isolation? ... yes”

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT OF DEINKED AND VIRGIN PULP – PREPARED FOR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Nowhere does Resolute indicate the amount, if any, of recycled fibre in its Align range of products. Customers looking for environmentally friendly options would be surprised to learn that Resolute’s top “eco-conscious” line contains no recycled content, despite its proven superiority in meeting environmental objectives including a smaller biodiversity and energy footprint.

There is also a dearth of information relating to overall recycled content in Resolute’s other products. On May 23, 2013, Resolute indicated that it intends to publish annual recycled fibre numbers for 2012 in a future sustainability report. At time of writing, numbers in its Annual Report put the company’s recovered fibre use at little over 10 per cent of total fibre. Resolute is “managing [its] exposure to volatile recycled fiber,” representing a major setback for customers seeking sustainable products.

It appears Resolute’s promise for a line of “eco-conscious” products neglects the environmental advantages of recycled fibre and the negative impacts of clearcut logging in “Endangered Forests” and their ability to mitigate climate change and support species at risk.
Clearcut logging, shown here, is destroying Canada’s endangered Boreal Forests. Resolute promotes sustainable forestry, but is actively logging in Quebec’s Montagnes Blanches “Endangered Forest.”

© GREENPEACE/MARKUS MAUTHE
UNSUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PRACTICES

“… consumers want to know that the paper they are using comes from sustainable sources… This presents a tangible opportunity for Resolute…”
RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS, 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Resolute claims its products come from sustainable and legal forestry operations. In reality, much of its pulp, paper and lumber is sourced from remote and ecologically valuable “Endangered Forest” areas of the Boreal Forest. While consumer demand for sustainable products undoubtedly presents a marketing opportunity for Resolute, what is not marketed is the impact of Resolute’s logging operations on the ground.

Resolute operates in three of Canada’s “Endangered Forest” areas to source its “sustainable” products.

In the northwest of Ontario, the carbon-rich Trout Lake-Caribou “Endangered Forest” is prized for its intact caribou habitat and contains huge tracts of habitat crucial for the survival of the Brightsand herd.22

Quebec’s Montagnes Blanches “Endangered Forest,” where amongst the highest densities of woodland caribou in Quebec have been observed,23 is one of the most impressive intact areas in Canada’s managed Boreal Forest. This last large intact forest of Saguenay – Lac St-Jean region overlaps with Mistissini Cree and Mashteuiatsh and Pessamit Innu First Nations traditional lands.

In the heart of Cree traditional territory lies one of the last remaining intact forests of northwest Quebec – the Broadback Valley “Endangered Forest.”

“The company adheres to the laws and regulations of the jurisdictions where it does business…”
RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS, 2011 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Resolute’s “sustainable” operations have also attracted over $1 million in fines arising from its forestry practices in Quebec alone over the past decade.27 The most fined operator in the province,28 its track record of persistent regulatory infringements raises serious questions over the sustainability of its operations in Canada’s “Endangered Forests.”

Resolute’s promise to manufacture sustainable products contrasts starkly with its destructive operations in “Endangered Forests.” Without adequate safeguards, forest products currently sourced from these areas threaten their ecological integrity, woodland caribou and intact landscapes. As a result, products from these pristine areas cannot and will not comply with environmental procurement policies, in particular those which refer to Endangered or High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF). They certainly do not meet the standard of “sustainable.”
Resolute’s False Promises: the [Un]Sustainability Report 2013

Trout-lake Caribou
Size: 1,617,536 hectares
Intact: 86.6%
Legally protected: 8%
Interim protected: 14%
Habitat for species at risk?: YES

Broadback Valley
Size: 2,264,401 hectares
Intact: 77.2%
Legally protected: 0%
Interim protected: 14%
Habitat for species at risk?: Yes

Montagnes Blanches
Size: 2,307,743 hectares
Intact: 85.7%
Legally protected: 0.1%
Interim protected: 11.2%
Habitat for species at risk?: YES

Data compiled by Global Forest Watch Canada based on most recent publicly available data.
THREATS TO ENDangered SPECIES

“All of the woodlands owned or managed by Resolute are located within or near areas that play a role in maintaining biodiversity.”

RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS, 2011 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

“Existing levels of disturbance are considered to be in excess of herds specific tolerance thresholds, and further landscape disturbance will likely perpetuate the downward spiral of these populations.”

QUEBEC WOODLAND CARIBOU RECOVERY TASK FORCE, SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP

Resolute talks up the “vital role” protecting habitat plays in its operations while in fact the company is actively logging the remaining habitat of caribou herds that have been deemed to be not self-sustaining, meaning the likelihood of their survival in the long term is low. Woodland caribou are an iconic Canadian species, listed on provincial and federal species at risk registries as endangered or threatened with extinction. With a low tolerance for human activity, they require up to 9,000 km² of undisturbed boreal forest to survive. They are also considered an “umbrella species”, meaning that maintaining caribou across the landscape ensures the survival of dozens of other species that share the same habitat.

Despite claims by Resolute that it is addressing the needs of caribou, ongoing and planned operations by Resolute in Northern portions of Forest Management Units (FMU) 25-51, 24-51, 27-51 go directly against key recommendations from caribou experts. Scientific recommendations for the Temiscamie herd that overlaps the Montagnes Blanches “Endangered Forest,” and Assinica and Nottaway herds that overlap with the Broadback Valley “Endangered Forest,” stipulate that no more disturbances (e.g. logging) can be tolerated by caribou in these areas as a result of the already excessively disturbed state of these herds’ ranges. These iconic herds now face a “downward spiral” should logging continue apace. The Trout Lake-Caribou “Endangered Forest’s” Brightsand herd is not faring much better and is already struggling to cope with a 42 per cent habitat disturbance, in excess of the 35 per cent maximum disturbance level required for even a 60 per cent probability of long term survival.

“Providing protection for forest biodiversity and habitat plays a vital role in the creation of our 25-year management plans developed in association with government and the public.”

RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS, 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

[The Endangered Species act is] “the single biggest threat to forestry in Ontario.”

JAMIE LIM, PRESIDENT AND CEO, OFIA

At the same time that Resolute touts its record on considering wildlife and positively engaging on public policy, the company’s Ontario representative organization, the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) has been one of the most vocal and strident critics of the province’s Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA is a model piece of conservation legislation essential for ensuring the survival of endangered species like the woodland caribou and also the long term supply of controversy free wood products from Resolute and other companies’ operations in Ontario.

While Resolute communicates to its customers the importance of protecting forest biodiversity and endangered species, it continues to log in critical caribou habitat and undermine policies that protect those same endangered species.
A woodland caribou runs across a road in the Broadback Valley “Endangered Forest.” The iconic species is facing an uphill battle for survival in Resolute tenures. © GREENPEACE/GORDON WELTERS

### CARIBOU HERDS IN RESOLUTE MANAGED FOREST TENURES AND/OR OPERATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HERD</th>
<th>% OF RANGE DISTURBED</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>RISK</th>
<th>ENdangerED FOREST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRIGHTSAND</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>AS LIKELY AS NOT SELF-SUSTAINING</td>
<td>MODERATE</td>
<td>TROUT LAKE-CARIBOU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEMISCAMIE</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>NOT SELF-SUSTAINING</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>BROADBACK VALLEY/MONTAGNES BLANCHES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANOUANE</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>AS LIKELY AS NOT SELF-SUSTAINING</td>
<td>MODERATE</td>
<td>MONTAGNES BLANCHES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIPMUACAN</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>NOT SELF-SUSTAINING</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>MONTAGNES BLANCHES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSINICA</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>NOT SELF-SUSTAINING</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>BROADBACK VALLEY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHOOSING CERTIFICATION, NEGLECTING CONSERVATION

“Our adherence to third-party verified forest certification standards ... provides our customers with the assurance that our forests are responsibly managed...”

Resolute Forest Products 2012 Annual Report

Resolute seems to be prioritizing certification over conservation. But while Resolute promotes its “100 per cent certification achievement,” the scientific community is increasingly emphasizing the importance of protecting large tracts of land from any industrial operations (even if it is certified to a credible standard). In other words, in order to retain ecological integrity, responsible forest management practices [such as those enshrined in the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system] must be coupled with the permanent protection of large areas of intact forest free from any industrial disturbance. Resolute has failed to do so, further degrading the habitat of caribou whose ranges overlap with Resolute’s FSC-certified operations. For some of these, the likelihood of survival beyond 50 years is low due to continuing habitat destruction.

Resolute also appears to be failing to adhere to the rigorous standards required by the FSC in other ways. For example, since 2010, when Resolute was awarded its first certificate in the Montagnes Blanches, at least 25 Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and Non-Conformance Reports (NCRs) have been issued by the Certifying Body Rainforest Alliance Smartwood, mandating numerous changes in the company’s operations, including issues relating to protected areas, endangered species and Indigenous Peoples’ rights.
The Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee), a representative body for nine Cree First Nations communities, also asserts that Resolute’s logging in the Montagnes Blanches “Endangered Forest” region violates Principle 3 of the National Boreal Standard. The Crees have challenged Resolute’s FSC certificate in order to have their rights, including free, prior and informed consent, respected.

Four of Resolute’s FSC certificates in Ontario and Quebec, according to our analysis, are furthermore out of compliance with FSC standards and policies and have been appealed under FSC procedures. These issues which pertain to High Conservation Value Forests, Indigenous rights, environmental management and protected areas remain unresolved.

FSC certification is an important part of ensuring sustainable forest management, however these certificates become an unfulfilled promise when Resolute fails to respect the standards required by the FSC and fails to couple certification with the permanent and legislated protection of large areas of intact forest free from any industrial disturbance.
...they cannot give their free and informed consent to the forest management plan on the portion of their traditional territory covered by this certificate

ALEXANDRE BOURLIER, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, RAINFOREST ALLIANCE CANADA

Again in 2013, Resolute did not hesitate in joining the province of Ontario in rolling back a landmark legal victory for the First Nations community of Grassy Narrows which would have required consent for developments in their traditional territories. For years, Resolute had logged Grassy Narrows’ traditional territory in the Whiskey Jack Forest, located in Northwestern Ontario, without the community’s consent, resulting in one of the longest-standing blockades in Canadian history. Resolute surrendered its license amid a storm of negative publicity in 2008.

In Waswanipi’s traditional territory, only the areas around Lake Evans and immediately north of the Broadback river remain road-less, untouched by forestry development. Once these areas are gone, there will be no place left in Waswanipi to show our children what the forest was once truly like when our elders thrived there.

CHIEF PAUL GULL, WASWANipi CREE FIRST NATION

Also not mentioned in the company’s sustainability reporting, Resolute for many years has logged on Algonquin First Nations’ lands north of Ottawa, sparking conflicts with communities opposed to clearcut logging operations. These forests have played a central role in the economic and spiritual life of Algonquin communities for countless generations and contain historically, ecologically and socially significant sites in abundance. Resolute’s approach has been to ignore their right to consent and has gone so far as to take legal action against community leaders.

Resolute talks about respecting First Nations communities but its policies and practices don’t recognize their rights and the company continues to generate conflict through unsustainable operations on culturally valuable forests.
IRRESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY PARTNER

“We know that our long-term profitability depends on... being a responsible partner in the communities where we live and work.”

RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS: VISION AND VALUES

“Building solid community relations in our operating locations, recognizing that economically viable and civically involved companies support long-term regional prosperity...”

RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS 2011 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Resolute would “be paying less than Intercity Mall. Ridiculous. Industry has to pay their share and not burden ... the residential taxpayer with it. And that’s what ... will happen.”

CITY OF THUNDER BAY MAYOR KEITH HOBBS

In April of 2013, Resolute appealed to the Municipal Assessment Corporation to lower its assessment of the company’s Thunder Bay mill complex by 60 per cent, retroactive to 2009. This would leave the City of Thunder Bay, with a population of 109,000, and upon which Resolute depends for much of its labour, owing as much as $7.5 million in retroactive tax payments and missing out on $1.8 million annually going forward. Resolute has been operating in Thunder Bay for decades.

“The closure of the Bowater mill was a devastating blow to families and businesses...”

NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBER VICKI CONRAD

Despite being in the community for decades and after workers supported the company’s emergence from bankruptcy protection by agreeing to reduced wages and pension benefits, Resolute announced in June 2012 that its Bowater Mersey mill on Nova Scotia’s south shore would be closed. The company left the government of Nova Scotia with millions in unfunded pension liabilities. Early estimates of clean-up costs at the mill, which is now owned by the provincial government, come in at $8.75 million.

“We did enough. They went and bought Fibrek for a hundred-million bucks. They could have put that in the pension plan. So, if they're gonna come back and ask for more from the workers, well, I don't think it's going to be too long of a conversation.”

GARY BRAGNANO, PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY AND PAPERWORKERS UNION LOCAL 39, THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

According to the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP), Resolute employees surrendered 16 per cent in combined pay and benefits to help the company emerge from bankruptcy protection. Despite this, and a directive that the company increase special payments to balance worker’s pension funds, the company is further pressuring workers to make further cuts. The company has brought provincial pension regulators to court after they attempted to seek payments to close shortfalls in the company’s pension plans, which it was obligated to do under emergence rules. These issues remain formally unresolved.

Resolute promotes itself as a responsible community partner committed to regional prosperity. But under closer scrutiny, a pattern emerges of underfunded workers’ pensions, unwillingness to pay a fair share of taxes and abandoning local communities with devastating environmental and economic impacts.
Forest product companies can do good.

We believe that many in Canada are working to legitimately improve the sustainability of their operations, support the communities in which they operate and respect Indigenous rights. Unfortunately their efforts and the reputation of the industry as a whole are undermined when companies like Resolute pretend to be sustainability leaders.

Sustainability must be more than just a word used in marketing materials. To be credible, it must permeate and direct how operations throughout the company are conducted. Currently, in Resolute’s case, behind its purposeful marketing are logging operations impacting ecologically and culturally valuable Boreal Forest, endangered species facing a precipitous decline, disregard for Indigenous rights and disrespect for workers and the communities in which they operate.

To become a company worthy of its sustainability claims, Resolute must take tangible action that demonstrates change in the forest and communities. Resolute should:

- Suspend logging in “Endangered Forests”;
- Undertake urgent conservation planning for these areas;
- Publicly support large scale, legislated protected areas;
- Fix shortcomings in their forestry certifications;
- Ensure a fair share for local communities, and
- Adopt free prior and informed consent as the basis for engaging with First Nations.

 Customers have a choice – to take Resolute at face value or to dig a little deeper and examine what is behind their claims to make fully informed decisions that comply with their environmental procurement policies and social expectations.

Just as customers have a choice, so too does Resolute. To invest in marketing campaigns or to take real action to conserve Canada’s forests and give communities and workers a fair shake. We believe Resolute has the ability to one day become a true leader in the forestry industry. Resolute now has the opportunity to decide whether it will continue to make false promises or to keep real ones.


47 For example, the Brightsand herd in Northwestern Ontario, whose range overlaps with Resolute’s FSC certified operations in the Caribou Forest, is experiencing a 43% habitat disturbance, which is above the maximum disturbance level of 35% necessary to ensure a population is self sustaining as determined by Environment Canada in its Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series (old magazines) and including their Mokpo mill in south Korea.


53 Alexandre Bourrier, Rainforest Alliance Rapport de vérification de Non-Conformité Majeure, 5 avril 2013, p.2-4.

54 Alexandre Bourrier, Rainforest Alliance Rapport de vérification de Non-Conformité Majeure, 5 avril 2013, p.3 (translated from the original French)


57 Ibid.


59 http://mamwi.org/our-callout/


61 http://www.resolutefp.com/vision-values/


64 http://www.tbnwesnews.com/news/272478/Preparing-to-fight

65 Ibid.


67 http://therchomicleregard.ca/novascotia/107146-time-runs-out-for-bowater-mill


69 http://www.resolutefp.com/non-conformite-majeure/5-avril-2013/


72 Ibid.


75 Original text prior to clarification from Resolute was “There is also a dearth of information relating to overall recycled content in Resolute’s other products. Recycled fibre reporting is conspicuously absent from its 2012 Annual Report, a change from previous years. In Resolute’s 2012 Annual Report, the company has even ceased reporting its overall recycled fibre supply, and is instead ‘managing [its] exposure to volatile recycled fiber,’ representing a major setback for customers seeking sustainable products.”

Authors: Richard Brooks and Shane Moffatt
Internal Revision: Stephanie Goodwin, Nicolas Mainville, Holly Postlethwaite and Catherine Young

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Greenpeace is an independent, nonprofit, global campaigning organization that uses peaceful, creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems and their causes. We challenge government and industry to halt harmful practices. We negotiate solutions, conduct scientific research, introduce clean alternatives, and educate and engage the public.

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Addendum: In recent court filing, post original publication of this report, the company committed to providing, in 2013, its formal annualized recycled fibre usage for the year 2012 in a future sustainability report. We have amended this report to reflect this new information and to avoid any confusion about the company’s recovered fibre information. At the time of writing, the company asserts that recovered fibre represents slightly more than 10% of their overall supply, including ONP (old newspapers), SOP (sorted office paper) and OMG (old magazines) and including their Mokpo mill in South Korea.


Greenpeace Canada

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