

## BERTELSMANN PAPER POLICY

### **Bertelsmann Paper Policy**

This Paper Policy complements our Environmental Strategy and Policy. Paper is and remains an important resource for Bertelsmann SE & Co. KGaA and its divisions. We use a wide range of papers in the production of books, magazines, catalogs and other printed material, in providing print services, and in office communication. We, therefore, promote the responsible, efficient and considerate use of this resource and the reduction of our paper waste.

### **Procurement and use of paper**

We seek the responsible, efficient and considerate use of paper in our entire value chain. In our function as buyers of paper we seek to exert a positive influence on our suppliers in the upstream value chain. Our aim is to install a sustainable balance between economic necessities and ecological requirements in decision making processes around paper. Bertelsmann and its divisions make every effort to ensure that the papers we use are legally sourced from well-managed and credibly certified forests. Logging and paper production processes must also recognize sustainability issues, social and environmental. Hence, we give preference to certified wood fiber and paper with maximized post-consumer recycled content. Trees from ancient and endangered forests and high conservation value forests must not be used for the production of our papers.

We support environmentally friendly pulp and paper production that meets high ecological standards. All of Bertelsmann's printed products are printed exclusively on paper, whose pulp content is bleached either entirely without chlorine (TCF – totally chlorine free) or elementally without chlorine (ECF – elementally chlorine free). We prefer to work with paper mills that have EMAS/ISO 14001 accreditation. We support and encourage the implementation of chain-of-custody systems to show that wood comes from certified forests.

### **Transparency and Stakeholder Dialog**

We support initiatives to improve transparency on sustainability issues in the entire paper supply chain. We are, therefore, committed to cultivating an open dialog with our customers, business partners and other stakeholders. We support on-going forest protection discussions that seek consensus resolution through dialog.

These standards will be reviewed regularly.