



**Amigos de la Tierra - Argentina**  
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Buenos Aires, 08 de noviembre de 2013

To Harvard University President Drew Faust:

We are writing to you regarding statements that your spokesman, Kevin Galvin, made to Clarín (<http://bit.ly/harvardclarin>) about Harvard's timber companies EVASA and Las Misiones in Corrientes, Argentina. According to Galvin, EVASA obtained "important quality certifications and Las Misiones hopes to achieve the same thing soon."

We are aware that EVASA obtained Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. However, as Friends of the Earth International—the largest network of environmental organizations in the world—we believe that the certification of industrial tree plantations by FSC is an attempt to legitimize an unsustainable model of large-scale, monoculture timber plantations.

FSC's internationally recognized accreditation program seeks to ensure that certified timber companies are "environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable." For a long time, Friends of the Earth International, World Rainforest Movement (WRM), and other organizations and social movements, have denounced the problems of this type of certification scheme. FSC has certified production models that are inherently unsustainable, harm the environment, and hurt local communities.

As the case Veracel Celulose in Brazil shows (report by WRM in its monthly bulletin No. 189 of April 2013), neither poor working conditions, low wages, nor the concentration of land involved in the monoculture of trees for pulp were enough to prevent that the company be given the "Green Seal" of the FSC.

For communities living with the reality of the eucalyptus plantation companies and pulp mills, the FSC seal is a farce, guaranteeing impunity, even in the face of rights violations. It means certifying social, environmental and cultural injustices. FSC certification also facilitates land acquisitions by certified companies, which further magnifies the negative environmental and social impacts created by the plantations.

Large-scale monoculture tree plantations occupy vast areas of land, displace local communities, consume huge amounts of water and nutrients from the soil, and require the intensive use of agrochemicals. These characteristics make them inherently unsustainable, and they therefore cannot be certified as "sustainable."

We hope that as President of Harvard University, you will consider our research on the certification of timber plantations and reevaluate your institution's actions.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Sánchez  
Coordinador del Programa de Bosques y Biodiversidad  
**Fundación Amigos de la Tierra Argentina**

The following organizations signed this letter:

**Friends of the Earth International (FoEI)**

**Movimiento Mundial por los Bosques (WRM)**

**Acción por la Biodiversidad - Grain**

**Amigos de la Tierra Argentina** fue creada en 1984, integra la Federación Argentina de Amigos de la Tierra, desde 1999.



Desde 1985 es miembro de **Friends of the Earth International (FoEI)**, una de las mayores organizaciones dedicadas a la preservación, restauración y uso racional del medio ambiente. Fundada en 1971, tiene su Secretaría Internacional en Holanda, contando en la actualidad con 70 grupos independientes alrededor del mundo, actuando internacional, nacional y localmente.