



## Responsible Sourcing of Natural Rubber

**We are committed to sourcing deforestation-free, environmentally-conscious and socially responsible natural rubber and contributing to an improvement in the way the world's natural rubber plantations are managed.**

While the production of natural rubber provides an income for millions of people in developing countries, it can also have negative impacts on forests, communities and workers when it is not managed responsibly. In some cases, the expansion of rubber production can be a driver of deforestation and forest degradation, including areas of high conservation value. In addition, international organizations have documented cases of poor working conditions, child labour and social conflicts associated with some rubber tree plantations.

Smallholders play a significant role in natural rubber production and it is estimated that more than 10 million farmers provide around 85 per cent of the total global natural rubber supply. Moreover, natural rubber supply chains are highly complex, involving several tiers from forest to factory, resulting in traceability challenges.

In this context, by committing to sourcing responsibly produced natural rubber, we can address environmental, economic and social challenges and help contribute to sustainable forest management.

FSC certification stands for sustainable forest management and is a solution that ensures socially and environmentally responsible natural rubber production. FSC certification provides businesses and consumers with the option to purchase natural rubber products made in a way that is good for people and nature.

Therefore, we state our preference for sourcing FSC-certified natural rubber when available because we believe that global brands are an important driver to increase the area of sustainably managed natural rubber production. Furthermore, we hope that our support will help FSC gain commitments from other corporate leaders and private and public institutions to achieve this vital sustainability goal.

Representatives of the signatory brands:

- Hana Kajimura, Sustainability Manager, **Allbirds**
- Craig Drew, Global Head of Materials, **Clarks**
- Delia García Gómez, Responsable de Sostenibilidad, **El Corte Inglés**
- Cecilia Brannsten, Environmental Sustainability Manager, **H&M Group**
- Tina Nguyen, Corporate Responsibility Manager, **Hunter Boot Ltd**
- Caroline McGarvey, Sustainability Manager | Purchasing, Category Area Comfort **IKEA Range & Supply**
- Antonio Abril Abadín, General Counsel and Secretary of the Board, **Inditex, S.A.**
- Matt Dwyer, Senior Director of Materials Innovation and Development, **Patagonia**
- James Rogers, Director of Sustainability, **The North Face**
- Colleen Vien, Director of Sustainability, **Timberland**
- Kim Matsoukas, Senior Manager, Sustainability and Social Responsibility, **Vans**
- Shanel Orton, Manager, Responsible Materials & Traceability, **VF Corporation**
- Kjersti Glosli, Head of Business Development, **Viking Outdoor Footwear AS**