

# *Green Grades 2009*

## **A Report Card on the Paper Practices of the Office Supply Sector**

### **SUMMARY OF XPEDX**

*The ForestEthics and Dogwood Alliance Office Sector Scorecard assign grades for the forest-related environmental performance of corporate paper sourcing in the following areas:*

- 1) Chain of Custody Systems**
- 2) Endangered Forests**
- 3) Plantation Conversion and Other Controversial Sources**
- 4) Sustainable Forestry**
- 5) Recycled and Reduction**
- 6) Climate and Forests**
- 7) Other Forest Ecosystem Conservation Leadership**

*Scope of survey: all office and marketing papers bought and sold by the company, including office papers used for internal operations.*

In December 2008, a questionnaire was mailed to companies that were selected to be included in the 2009 ForestEthics and Dogwood Alliance Office Sector Scorecard. Xpedx agreed to participate in the evaluation process responding with a letter, but did not complete the questionnaire. Overall, Xpedx has not been transparent with ForestEthics and Dogwood Alliance. The following summary of the company's policies and performance are based on information collected from their letter response to the questionnaire and additional independent research conducted by ForestEthics and Dogwood Alliance. Given that Xpedx has not been transparent with ForestEthics or Dogwood Alliance for the seven categories surveyed, the possibility remains that positive and/or negative aspects of the company's policies and sourcing practices are not fully reflected in our evaluations.

# Green Grades Report Card:

## Xpedx's Environmental Performance in Seven Crucial Forest-Related Categories:

**CHAIN OF CUSTODY:** Xpedx does not have an internal CoC system of its own. The company does hold FSC, PEFC, and SFI chain of custody certificates but apparently does not independently verify suppliers' claims. Certification schemes other than the FSC are also not sufficient to ensure that no fiber from endangered forests is entering the product stream.

**ENDANGERED FORESTS:** Xpedx currently does not have a policy against sourcing from Endangered Forests. And to the extent the company sells paper other than that certified by the FSC it has insufficient measures to ensure that no fiber from endangered forests is entering the product stream.

In addition, the company is currently sourcing from at least three paper manufacturers that likely receive fiber from endangered forests in the Canadian Boreal: Boise (International Falls), Abitibi-Bowater (various mills), and Appleton Coated (Combined Locks).

In addition, Xpedx distributes paper originating from International Paper (IP), which is known for controversial sourcing in the U.S. Southeast, including for endangered forest issues. The company sells Hammermill and other branded papers that are at least in part sourced from IP's Courtland mill. This mill currently sources fiber from endangered forests of the ecologically important Cumberland Plateau region in the U.S. Southeast.

**PLANTATIONS AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES:** Xpedx does not have a policy addressing plantation conversion and other controversial sources. As with Endangered Forest issues, the company relies on certification and to the extent the company sells paper other than that certified by the FSC it has insufficient measures to ensure that no fiber from conversion and other controversial sources are entering the product stream. Furthermore, the policy is heavily reliant on various certifications from converted plantations.

Xpedx distributes many different papers originating from International Paper, which is known for the conversion of natural forests to plantations in the U.S. Southeast.

**RESPONSIBLE FORESTRY/FSC CERTIFICATION:** The company has no sustainable forestry policy or preference for FSC certified fiber and provides equal recognition for SFI and PEFC. These systems' forest management and chain of custody standards and policies do not consistently protect endangered forests and High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs,) or consistently recognize and avoid illegal logging, forest conversion, or indigenous rights violations, and that risk greenwashing business-as-usual industrial logging.

To its credit the company offers many FSC products and is FSC CoC certified. In addition the company is the process of adopting a paper procurement policy for internal operations.

**RECYCLING AND REDUCTION:** The company has no policy regarding recycled fiber or paper efficiency.

To its credit the company offers many products with high PCR content and has recycling initiatives at Xpedx and customer locations. In addition, the company has a program for sustainable package design solutions for Xpedx manufacturing customers. In addition the company is the process of adopting a paper procurement policy for internal operations which may address recycled fiber and paper efficiency issues

**CLIMATE AND FORESTS:** Xpedx does not appear to be involved in any effort to address forest carbon issues.

**OTHER FOREST ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP:** Xpedx does not appear to have taken other actions to encourage governments and/or supplier companies, their suppliers, or other companies to improve forest ecosystem protection and restoration