

The FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) advocates an environmentally friendly, socially acceptable and economically viable use of forests. The control of sustainable management is intended to counteract the profit-related exploitation of valuable wood species and ecologically questionable plantations for wood production.

Cork oak forests are a cross-generational family project and have always been in line with the goals of the FSC, even without certification.

Cork oaks are usually more than 150 years old and are of no economic benefit in the first 30-40 years, as the bark is only good enough to produce wine corks after this time. Even after that, they are only peeled every 9 years. Due to these long periods of rest, a unique fauna and flora has developed in the cork oak forests and the forests are among the most species-rich areas on earth.

The WWF is therefore committed to the use of natural corks on wine bottles, because this is the only way to secure a sufficient livelihood for the forest owners so that they can continue to care for the cork oaks and maintain this habitat worthy of protection.

As a result of this self-image, almost all forest owners lack the understanding of having a certification that is costly to confirm what is their livelihood and self-evident: to maintain and protect the forest so that their children also have an income.

Some cork companies have quickly recognized the marketing opportunities of FSC certification and hope to gain a competitive advantage from it without having to improve or change anything in the use of the forests or the quality of the product. The corresponding financial outlay is negligible for the large companies in the industry, small and medium-sized companies use these funds more sensibly to develop processes that are gentle on cork and preserve as many of the unique physical and chemical properties of the natural product as possible.

Since natural corks always come from forests that meet the criteria of the FSC, it makes no sense to confirm this fact through certification.