WWF proposes a New Generation of Plantations that benefit people and nature

At its annual meeting in Chile, a WWF-led forestry platform proposes the concept of “Plantations for people”

**Santiago, March, 18th 2015.** Workshops, talks from people living around tree plantations and new thinking about the role of plantations within the landscape are on the agenda of the annual meeting of the New Generation Plantations (NGP) platform, which is being held in Chile this week.

This WWF International platform seeks to share real experiences of sustainable practices in forest plantations at an international level, and to influence other companies to follow these examples.

The meeting, with the theme “Plantations for people”, brings together executives from forestry companies and governments, together with representatives of NGOs and local and indigenous communities from more than 30 countries.

“New Generation Plantations is a motivational idea where plantations contribute to providing enough for all, while at the same time protecting the ecosystems that we all depend on,” explains Luis Neves, manager of the NGP Platform from WWF International. “Instead of giving all the answers, it requires us to go out of our comfort zone and be part of a larger effort to form alliances, new business models and ways of thinking. This is what we are doing this week in Santiago.”

NGP demonstrates best environmental and social practices in the industry. Participants show leadership at national and regional levels toward plantations that are compatible with local development and respect for the rights of neighbouring communities.

The three large Chilean forestry companies all participate in NGP.

“We believe that the contribution that NGP can make to the forestry sector is fundamental,” says Ricardo Schaffner, Development Manager in Forestal Arauco. “Because it creates valuable spaces for discussion among all the actors involved in plantation management, thousands of lessons and best practices arise that let us
influence others to join the commitment to ensure sustainability of the forest sector around the world.”

Rafael Correa, environment manager for CMPC Forestal, adds: “NGP is a world reference point in the area of sustainability and commitment with the environment, which CMPC Forestal has joined with conviction. Being organizers of this international event and receiving the chance to show our work on social issues and environmental management is an honour and a great opportunity.”

Jorge Echeverría, corporate forest manager for Masisa, adds: “For Masisa, participation in NGP allows us to promote and learn about the best forest practices at an international level, with the objective of creating benefits for all the people involved as well as the environment, and in line with our commitment to sustainable development.”

For more information on NGP: newgenerationplantations.org