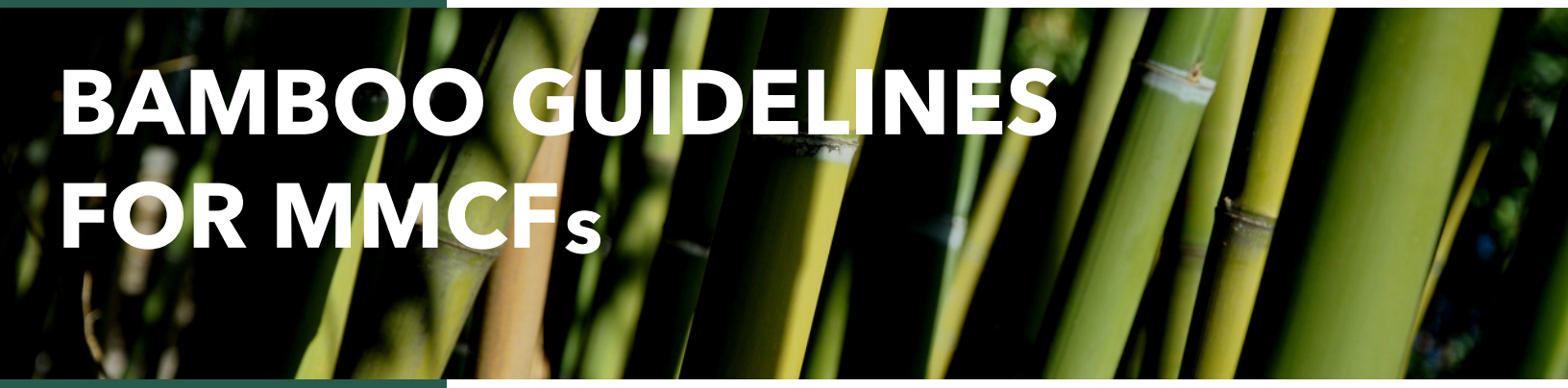

BAMBOO GUIDELINES FOR MMCFs

Bamboo makes up less than 3% of raw material inputs for Man-Made Cellulosic Fibres (MMCFs) globally, and much of this bamboo is grown in China. However, bamboo is increasingly being used as a fibre input for MMCFs. A member of the grass family, part of bamboo's popularity is due to the fact that it is one of the fastest-growing crops and can therefore be harvested in much shorter rotations than natural forests and tree plantations (i).

Canopy considers bamboo a "transitional fibre" – it can perform better in Life Cycle Analyses than wood products, but does not perform as well as Next Generation waste products such as agriculture residue and recycled textile fibres (ii). Further, LCAs often identify bamboo's ability to colonize and invade natural ecosystems as an issue of concern.

When sourcing bamboo viscose, it's important to look for the following:

Does it come from natural bamboo forests providing habitat for endangered species?

Natural bamboo forests are less suitable for sourcing for bamboo, as they require additional screening. In Sichuan province of China for example, there are natural bamboo forests that provide habitat for the Giant Panda, and these should be avoided (iii).

Is it FSC certified?

This is a minimum bar for bamboo – it helps ensure a minimum bar regarding responsible management. Ask for bamboo viscose made from bamboo that is FSC 100%, this will ensure that it is not contributing to deforestation or the clearing of natural bamboo forests. If FSC 100% is not available, ask for FSC Mix in the interim until FSC 100% becomes available.

Beware of false FSC claims. False bamboo certifications have been issued in the past. See this resource to support avoiding these: https://fsc.org/en/newsfeed/fsc-blocks-organizations-with-false-claims-in-bamboo-supply-chain

How is it chemically processed?

Bamboo viscose, is processed no differently than conventional wood viscose. Both rely on chemical process to convert the cellulose into a product that can be used for textiles. It's worth checking to see what chemical management processes your supplier has in place and encouraging MMCF fibre producers to apply ZDHC guidelines (iv).

The marketing of bamboo viscose as a fabric made through "eco-friendly", as opposed to chemically intensive, processes, lead the U.S. Federal Trade Commission to rule in April 2022 that brands selling bamboo products must label them as viscose, and stop making "unsubstantiated green marketing claims" (v).

i https://www.sciencefocus.com/nature/speed-bamboo-plant-grow/
ii For more information, see Canopy's bamboo position statement: https://canopyplanet.org/solutions/next-generation-solutions/canopys-bamboo-position/
iii A global map of Ancient and Endangered Forests can be found here: https://canopyplanet.org/tools/forestmapper/app/
iv See Zero Discharge Hazardous Chemicals, https://www.roadmaptozero.com/?locale=en
v Federal Trade Commission (8 April 2022), FTC Uses Penalty Offense Authority to Seek Largest-Ever Civil Penalty for Bogus Bamboo Marketing from Kohl's and Walmart. https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2022/04/ftc-uses-penalty-offense-authority-seek-largest-ever-civil-penalty-bogus-bamboo-marketing-kohls