

about  
sustainability



# about sustainability



## amorim

Tracing its roots back to the 19th century, as a simple family business producing cork stoppers for wines, Amorim has now become the world leader in the cork industry, exporting 95% of its production to more than 100 countries through a network of dozens of fully owned subsidiaries.

With a multi-million Euro R&D budget, Amorim has applied its specialist knowledge to this centuries-old traditional culture, developing a vast portfolio of sustainable products that are used by blue-chip clients in industries as diverse - and demanding - as aerospace, automotive, construction, interior and fashion design and wines & spirits.

## a sustainable leadership

Amorim leads an exemplary economic activity in terms of sustainable development. By promoting the cyclical harvest of the cork, without damaging the trees, the company makes the cork oak forest viable, a natural and renewable resource, with endless environmental, economic and social benefits. Cork oak forests are natural CO<sub>2</sub> sinks, they regulate the hydrological cycle, protect against erosion and fire and foster a biodiversity which is on a par with regions such as Amazonia, Borneo and the African savanna. It is the harvest of cork that maintains the vitality of cork oak forest and promotes the economic, environmental and social development associated to it, enabling thousands of people to continue to live and work in areas prone to desertification.

## cork

Cork is the outer bark of the cork oak tree (*Quercus Suber L.*) which grows mainly in the Western Mediterranean region. The cork oak tree has an average life span of 200 years. In the context of increasing concern for the environment it is important to stress that cork remains the only tree whose bark can regenerate itself after each nine years-harvest. Main properties of cork: very light, impermeable to liquids and gases, elastic and compressible, an excellent thermal and acoustic insulator, fire retardant, high abrasion resistant, hypoallergenic, gentle touch.

## eco-efficient products and processes

Amorim underpins all its activity by implementing sustainable practices in all its operations.

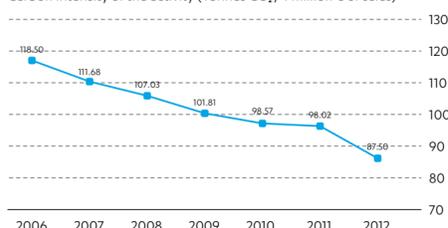
Having implemented an integrated production process, it ensures the total utilization of the raw-material as well as the reuse of all the by-products which result from the processing of the cork.

Even the smallest granules of cork or the ones with inferior standards of quality are used as an important source of energy. In fact, at Amorim, over 60% of the energy needs are met by using biomass (cork dust), which is a CO<sub>2</sub> neutral source of energy.

## fighting global warming

As world leader in the cork sector, Amorim is aware of the role it plays in making this important ecosystem viable. The company's contribution to the fight against global warming includes, on the one hand, the promotion of cork solutions and the development of cork oak forests, and, on the other, continuous improvement of its performance in terms of energy efficiency and resulting reduction of greenhouse emissions.

Carbon intensity of the activity (Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> / 1 million € of sales)



Since 2006, when Amorim began consolidated monitoring of its emissions, there has been a reduction of approximately 26% in this carbon intensity indicator.

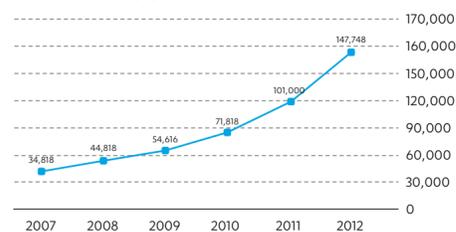
## 2,028,415 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered annually

In accordance with ISO 14064, and considering the entire universe of Amorim's Business Units as well as the CO<sub>2</sub> retaining abilities of the cork oak forests, the activity performed by Amorim enables the sequestration of 2,028,415 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The total greenhouse gas emissions along Amorim's value chain are equivalent to less than 6.6% of its carbon sequestration amount, originating a negative carbon footprint (-1.9 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>). The activity performed by Amorim brings benefits to the planet in terms of GHG emissions, retaining 15 times the amount of the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted across the entire value chain.

## promoting sustainable forest management

Although it is not a forest owner, Amorim recognises the sustainable management of the cork oak forest as a strategic priority. It was a pioneer in obtaining the first Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) chain of custody certificates in the cork industry in 2004 and, anticipating the needs of the wine industry - the target of its main product -, it was the first packaging company in the world to obtain this certification.

FSC cork oak forest (ha)



## business & biodiversity

An European initiative aiming to "The Enhancement of the Value and Sustainability of the Cork Oak and Associated Biodiversity", which Amorim has joined in 2007, leading various initiatives to raise awareness and provide free technical advice to forest producers. Under this initiative, the company has also awarded good forest management practices, as well as the best works undertaken in forest research.

## recycling

Amorim's ecological and sustainable vision encourages going beyond the essence of the raw material which sustains the whole business. The company was a pioneer in the promotion of recycling cork stoppers and has the world's first licensed cork stoppers recycling unit. After being ground into small granules, the recycled cork can have a new lease of life and be used in coverings, insulation... although it shall never be used in stoppers again.

Recycling, in addition to increasing the reuse of the raw material, enables extending the life cycle of cork stoppers and associated environmental benefits, namely its remarkable ability to retain CO<sub>2</sub>.

The success of the recycling cork stoppers programmes primarily launched in Portugal (2008) under the name Green Cork, originated other similar initiatives in various countries, such as Spain, the USA, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Australia.



**Acousticcork underlays and underscreeds with EPD' A+ ratings**  
A UK's BRE (Building Research Establishment) recognition of its superior environmental performance.



**Expanded insulation cork board, one of the US BuildingGreen's TOP 10 products for construction**  
Considered a highly beneficial solution in terms of energy efficiency and efficient use of materials.



**Cork stopper is the only closure that combines performance and sustainable credentials**

Independent life cycle analysis concludes that each cork stopper is responsible for the retention of 112 grams of CO<sub>2</sub>, in stark contrast with the carbon emissions caused by artificial closures.



**Wicanders cork floorings are Greenguard Indoor Air Quality Certified**

A certification that attests the performance of this type of floors, thus guaranteeing a healthier indoor air quality.

**36**  
units with FSC certification

**60%**  
of energy needs supplied from renewable sources

**1st**  
packaging company in the world with FSC certification

**130**  
millions of cork stoppers recycled between 2008/2012

**100,000**  
people depend on the production and manufacture of natural cork

**14,000,000**  
tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed annually by the cork oak forests