# about sustainability

AMORIM

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

**34**
units with FSC certification

**227**
million cork stoppers recycled between 2008/2014

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

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

**up to 30.66**
million tons of $CO_2$ : cork oak forests' annual retention capacity

## 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 96% 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 age-old 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.

## 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 the cork oak is the only tree whose bark can regenerate itself after each harvest, at nine year intervals.

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 and wonderful tactile quality.

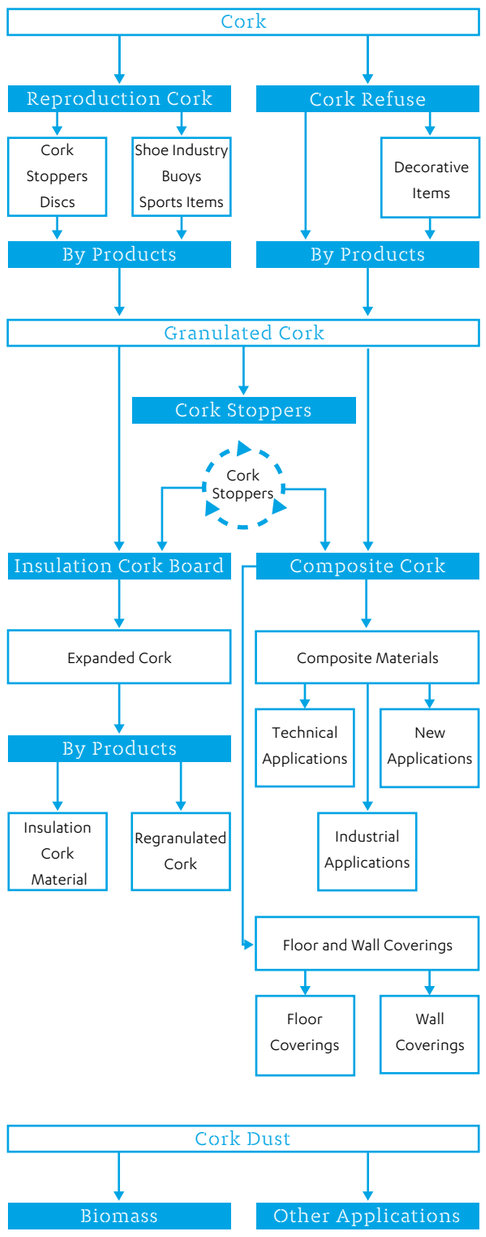
## sustainable leadership

Amorim leads an exemplary economic activity in terms of sustainable development. By promoting the cyclical harvesting of cork, without ever 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 $CO_2$ retainers, they regulate the hydrological cycle, protect against erosion and fire and foster biodiversity, on a par with regions such as Amazonia, Borneo and the African savanna.

Cork harvesting ensures the vitality of cork oak forests, enabling thousands of people to continue to live and work in areas prone to desertification.

## eco-efficient products and processes

Amorim underpins all its activity by implementing sustainable practices in its operations. Having implemented an integrated production process, it ensures 100% use of the raw-material as well as reuse of all by-products related to the cork manufacturing process. Even the smallest cork granules or cork with inferior standards of quality are used as an important energy source. At Amorim, over 60% of our energy needs are met through the use of biomass (cork dust), which is a $CO_2$ neutral source of energy.




## combating global warming

As world leader in the cork sector, Amorim is aware of its key role in ensuring the viability of cork oak forests. The company's contribution to combating global warming includes, on the one hand, promotion of cork solutions and development of cork oak forests, and, on the other, continuous improvement of its energy efficiency performance and the resulting reduction of greenhouse emissions. Since 2006, when Amorim began consolidated monitoring of its emissions, there has been a reduction of approximately 30% in this carbon intensity indicator.

## 2,028,415 tons of $CO_2$ sequestered annually

In accordance with ISO 14064, and considering the entire universe of Amorim's Business Units as well as the $CO_2$ retention capacity of cork oak forests, Amorim's business activity enables 2,028,415 tons of $CO_2$ to be sequestered per year. Total greenhouse gas emissions throughout Amorim's value chain are equivalent to under 6.6% of its carbon sequestration amount, originating a negative carbon footprint (-1.9 million tons of $CO_2$). Amorim's business activity delivers benefits to the planet in terms of GHG emissions, retaining 15 times the amount of $CO_2$ emitted across the entire value chain.

## forestry intervention project

Amorim recently commenced a Forestry Intervention Project, developed in close partnership with forestry producers, research institutions and local authorities. The project aims to ensure the maintenance, preservation and enhancement of cork oak forests and guarantee continuous production of high-quality cork.

The initiative encompasses a number of important areas and is developed under the following guidelines: Reduction of the first cycle of the extraction of cork; Genetic improvement and vegetative reproduction of the cork oak tree; Setting a maximum number of cork trees per hectare; Sequencing of the genome of the cork oak tree; Fighting pests and diseases and, finally, Fertilization and compatibility of grazing activities. Various initiatives are currently underway in the Ribatejo/Alentejo regions in Portugal, and in Catalonia, Spain.

## recycling

The concept of recycling cork stoppers began in Portugal, where in 2008 the Green Cork project was launched, a partnership between Amorim and the main national environmental association, Quercus. It then spread to other countries, such as Spain, the USA and Canada, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Australia.

After being ground into small granules, the recycled cork enjoys a new lease of life and may be used in floor and wall coverings, insulation, sports equipment, fashion items ... but will never be used in stoppers again. Recycling, in addition to increasing reuse of the raw-material, makes it possible to extend the life cycle of cork and associated environmental benefits, in particular their remarkable $CO_2$ retention capacity.

**A cork stopper is the only closure that combines high performance and sustainability credentials**
Independent life cycle analysis concludes that each cork stopper is responsible for retention of 112 grams of $CO_2$, in stark contrast with the carbon emissions caused by plastic closures (14.8g $CO_2$/closure) and aluminium screwcaps (37.2g $CO_2$/closure).

**Wicanders cork floorings are Greenguard Gold Indoor Air Quality Certified**
A certification that attests the performance of this type of flooring, thus guaranteeing healthier indoor air quality.

**Acousticork, underlays and underscreeds for sustainable construction**
Excellent acoustic – noise impact and airborne sound – and anti-vibration performance, while also providing thermal comfort.

**Expanded insulation cork board, a 100% natural material for sustainable construction**
With virtually unlimited durability, retains all its features throughout the product's working life and is fully recyclable.