



WWF-UK
FOREST
& TRADE
NETWORK

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Newsletter

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Annual Members Meeting 2005

The 2005 Annual Members' Meeting was held on 14 September at Northampton Saints rugby ground. Many thanks to Travis Perkins, who kindly hosted the meeting, and to all those FTN members who attended.

A summary of the meeting will be sent to all members. If you would like to have a copy of the presentations please contact James Horne, jhorne@wwf.org.uk



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Leaving Message From Rachel Hembery

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past two years, even though there have been some challenging times, and I feel that genuine progress has been made within the FTN. Thank you all for your support, commitment and hard work – I hope you continue to lead the way, ensuring a positive impact on the world's forests.

I'd also like to thank Catherine for her tireless commitment and dedication to the FTN, and to give a warm welcome to James Horne who has recently joined the team. I wish you all the very best for the future.



Introduction from the New FTN Manager, Steve Crewe

I am very pleased to have started work as the new WWF-UK Forest & Trade Network Manager.

Thanks to the hard work put in by the team here over the past few years, under the guidance of the previous WWF-UK FTN Manager Rachel Hembery, we now have in place a sound set of procedures and guidelines for operating a successful partnership. I am keen that we should now build on this and that FTN membership should return value for money. I believe it is now time to turn our attention to how we can raise the profile of the WWF-UK FTN to gain stakeholder recognition for your efforts and I would be interested to hear your views on this subject, particularly with regard to the target audience and on how it can be reached inexpensively.

In addition, I will always be pleased to receive and discuss with you any comments you might have regarding the operation of the WWF-UK FTN, the services available to you and, of course, any other matters where I might be of help.

I am very much looking forward to working with you all as we continue jointly to bring about the much needed improvement in the way the world's forests are managed and I hope to speak to all of you either face to face or at least by telephone over the coming weeks.

My contact details are as follows:

Mobile: 077718 10683

Email: screwe@wwf.org.uk



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Membership Fee Reminder

A new fee structure will in place for this year's FTN membership. Invoices will be sent out to you in October.

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Constructor Sector Update

Mike Read Associates has been engaged by WWF-UK to help develop work with the construction sector within the WWF-UK FTN. The first phase of the work took place in May and June and centred on interviews with as many construction sector members as possible in the time available, and with a number of FTN members who are key suppliers to the construction sector.

The initial consultation confirmed that the construction sector faces particular challenges in responsible wood product sourcing. Supply chains are often long, with the many links susceptible to different constraints and drivers. The purchase of many materials by small firms and on-site subcontractors is a particular challenge for the sector. These firms are at the end of the awareness chain, and its weakest link. A diversity of contractual arrangements adds to the complexity. The distance between forest floor and construction procurement office remains a large one and there is clearly room for improvement.

The work by Mike Read Associates will continue over the coming months. One of the likely outcomes will be awareness-raising communications materials for FTN members' suppliers and subcontractors.

For further information e-mail Mike Read:
mikeread@webtribe.net

Paper Sector Update

WWF GFTN Europe paper initiative

A meeting of the WWF GFTN Europe Paper Initiative (EPI) on 15 March in London was attended by many UK FTN members as well as the FSC-UK, and WWF representatives from several European countries including Russia. The major topics were a coordinated approach and update on Finland, and a more in-depth look at Russian FTN pulp and paper members. In addition, a GFTN paper supplier questionnaire was presented, and recommendations were made for new target FTN members in the UK, and more broadly for Europe. Minutes of the meeting and the supplier questionnaire are available from Catherine Lawrence: clawernce@wwf.org.uk

Hadley Archer, the consultant coordinating the work of the EPI, has moved to WWF Canada. WWF GFTN is hoping to recruit a new EPI coordinator to be based in Europe and who will work closely with the UK and German FTNs.

For the July 2005 paper sector update, e-mail Catherine Lawrence: clawernce@wwf.org.uk

Member News

Carillion makes a difference with Sustainability Week

From 6 to 10 June – to coincide with World Environment Day on 5 June – Carillion staged a host of events aimed at improving the environment and promoting sustainability.

Carillion sites and offices teamed up with schools and community groups to work on environmental projects and increase awareness of sustainability issues. People were also encouraged to make their own personal contribution by pledging to do something beneficial for the environment during the week, such as planting a tree, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by driving less, recycling waste or reducing water consumption.

Quentin Leiper, Carillion's Director for the Environment, explained: "Our Sustainability Week aims to increase awareness and understanding of sustainability across the company, encourage employees to get involved in activities, lead a more sustainable lifestyle and celebrate the good work we do in the community.

"Adopting a sustainable approach to the way we do business is one of our key values, so that we can deliver not only social and environmental benefits, but also benefits for Carillion and all its stakeholders."

He added: "Everyone can play their part in helping to make tomorrow a better place – not just for Sustainability Week, but throughout the year."

Changes at FOCUS Wickes

In February, Wickes Building Supplies was sold to Travis Perkins. Both FOCUS (DIY) Limited and Wickes Building Supplies will continue to support legal and well-managed timber sources and FSC certification through separate stringent timber sourcing policies and membership of the WWF-UK FTN.

FOCUS Bermuda Range garden furniture and 'Deck in a Box'

FOCUS (DIY) Ltd has been working with World Zone, its supplier of garden furniture in Malaysia, which has now joined the Malaysia FTN. World Zone is Malaysia's leading exporter of garden furniture with customers predominantly in Europe, North America, Japan and Australia and suppliers of the FOCUS Bermuda Range garden furniture.

FOCUS Environment Manager Jo Hirst said: "We are delighted that World Zone has joined the Malaysian FTN. Our customers can rest assured that we are making every effort to source garden furniture from legal and well-managed sources by working with committed suppliers such as World Zone. The entire Bermuda Range is progressing towards FSC certification, except the Steamer Chair and Gas BBQ, which are already FSC certified."

Deck in a Box is an FSC modular decking system with easy to follow installation instructions, making it the ideal solution when building a deck or patio area around the home or office. Said Jo Hirst: "It's important to offer our customers innovative products that encourage sustainable DIY. In this case, FSC Deck in a Box ticks every box." The raw material comes from SCAs, FSC-certified forest holdings in northern Sweden.



Wickes Building Supplies gains FSC chain of custody certification

Wickes Building Supplies has long believed that sourcing timber and timber products responsibly is crucial to its long-term business success. In March Wickes gained Forest Stewardship Council chain of custody certification (SA-COC-1420).

"Getting FSC chain of custody was a natural extension to our responsible timber sourcing activities and now allows us to service an increasing customer need for evidence that timber is both legal and sustainable," explained Wickes Environment Manager, Jez Cutler.

"The UK government's CPET process provided just the impetus we needed to finish the job internally so we could provide timber that meets the government's criteria for 'legal and sustainable' to our trade customers. We decided not to stop there, so our system also covers products more likely to appeal to the serious DIYer, who can now complete their projects with a full chain of custody from forest to themselves."

Wickes has more than 450 products under its chain of custody including sheet materials, sawn treated timber, mouldings, doors, flooring, wallpapers, fences and BBQ charcoal. Wickes believes that it now offers one of the largest ranges of FSC-certified products in the UK.

Magnet Trade – Award

Magnet has become the first major UK joinery manufacturer to gain FSC certification on its joinery manufactured products.

Nick Booth at Magnet said: "We have always encouraged the use of raw materials from well-managed sources for our timber windows, as we believe that responsible forest management is crucial for long-term sustainable development. As one of the first members to join the WWF-UK Forest & Trade Network, it has long been our policy to remain environmentally focused while manufacturing products that have been independently tested for quality."

He added: "We are delighted to receive this award as a mark of recognition for our ongoing commitment to eco-friendliness, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with the FSC."

Growth for Ecotimber

Cardiff-based Ecotimber Ltd has seen its sales of FSC-certified hardwood increase by over 100 per cent to more than £1million in the past financial year. The company, a founder member of the FSC, said that with increased availability of FSC timber, it was becoming easier to supply timber for larger projects. Specifiers and users were becoming familiar with new timber species and were more willing to use them.

As a result, Ecotimber is to appoint a business development manager. This is a new position and the company is open to discussing working arrangements. Initially the post is being offered on a contract basis with the option of becoming permanent.

The business development manager will need to develop existing customer relationships and be proactive in identifying new customers. For details, or for an informal discussion about the position, contact Ecotimber's Director, Hubert Kwisthout, on 029 20707444, or e-mail info@ecotimber.co.uk. Alternatively, visit the website at www.ecotimber.co.uk/main.html



WWF Global & Forest Trade Network News

For the latest WWF Global Forest & Trade Network bulletin, please visit www.panda.org/downloads/forests/gftnbulletinjun05.pdf

Greenpeace gives GFTN amber rating

Greenpeace published its annual Garden Furniture Guide in March, with a league table of UK retailers ranked according to the environmental credentials of their garden furniture range. The guide uses a red/yellow/green traffic light colour coding system, with FSC furniture given "green", GFTN member furniture "yellow" or amber, and furniture from unknown sources or those not working towards certification given "red" coding.

Europe Update

Association develops new CoC standard

WWF Russia, in association with partner company LesExpert, has developed a detailed new technical standard for production and chain of custody controls for saw mills in Russia. The new standard has been field tested, and members of the Association of Environmentally Responsible Timber Producers of Russia have agreed to adopt it. The standard will improve mill efficiency and organisation, as well as ensuring reliable wood origin traceability that complies with FSC STD 40-005. No regulatory requirements exist in Russia for controlling or documenting the origin of timber.

IKEA renews funding in Russia

Following the success of the Association of Environmentally Responsible Timber Producers of Russia over the last three years, IKEA has approved US\$215,000 of additional funding for the Association over the next three years. Funds are also allocated for certification training and identification of HCVF as part of a total forest certification funding package of US\$875,000. The Association is also funded by USAID and from 2006 will derive a proportion of its revenue from membership fees.

Asia Update

WWF China Forest & Trade Network is launched

The China FTN was launched in March as part of the Global Forest & Trade Network. The GFTN is now working in 30 countries with some 400 companies that have made commitments to responsible forest management and responsible purchasing of forest products. They include major retailers such as IKEA, Carrefour and B&Q.

The China FTN, which covers mainland China and Hong Kong, aims to facilitate trade links between companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry. It also provides a forum for Chinese companies to demonstrate that they are producing and purchasing forest products in a responsible manner.

The new FTN in China is open to a broad range of companies:

- Forest managers and harvesting companies
- Primary wood processors
- Importers
- Manufacturers
- Exporters
- Retailers
- Associations

For more information on how to apply to the China FTN, and on its current participants, please visit www.forestandtradeasia.org/guidance/China_and_Hong_Kong/English/7/281/

Or contact Mr Jin Zhonghao, China FTN Manager:
t: +86 10 6522 7100, ext 3284
f: +86 10 6522 7300
e: zhjin@wwfchina.org

Five Perhutani teak districts appraised

Nusa Hijau, the WWF Indonesia FTN, has completed baseline appraisals in five forest districts in east Java managed by the parastatal Perum Perhutani, the world's largest teak producer. The plantation forests in the five districts cover 140,000 hectares. Certification action plans are being prepared for the districts and it is expected that Perhutani will become the first forest member of Nusa Hijau next month. The Tropical Forest Trust has been working with Perum Perhutani in central Java since 2003.

Africa Update

Five producers complete baseline appraisals

Three logging companies in Cameroon and two in Ghana have undergone baseline appraisals this year with assistance from the GFTN. The next step will be to complete certification action plans for both mill and forest operations. Several more companies will follow over the next few months, including a major Ghanaian plantation teak exporter.

WWF clarifies position on FORCOMS

Following a series of meetings with the sponsors of FORCOMS (Independent Forest Concession Monitoring System in Central Africa), WWF has formally stated that it does not endorse the initiative. FORCOMS is being developed by the InterAfrica Forest Industries Association (IFIA), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and Global Forest Watch. Early publications by the initiative mistakenly included reference to WWF as a sponsor. FORCOMS will be a voluntary initiative based on self-reporting by forest concession holders against a range of legality and SFM indicators. It is intended that an independent body will oversee the system, carry out limited spontaneous field verifications and post reports on a website aimed at the tropical timber market and broader public. WWF's engagement with the forest industry in the region will be based on adherence to GFTN requirements, including a commitment to credible certification and regular independent audits of progress.

Other WWF / Forests News

Indonesian NGOs call to stop clear-cutting natural forests in Sumatra

1 AUGUST 2005

Eyes on the Forest, a coalition of Sumatran environmental NGOs, has called on all companies that are clear-cutting natural forests based on Industrial Timber Plantation Licences (IUPHHK-HT) issued by governors or heads of districts to issue an immediate moratorium on all such operations. The coalition also called on companies sourcing timber from such activities to immediately stop all deliveries.

The Indonesian Ministry of Forestry (MoF) is currently reviewing the validity of these licences. Eyes on the Forest supports the review as a very significant step towards the conservation of some of the country's remaining natural forests. Locally-issued licences have been used to clear large areas of natural forests in disregard of MoF regulations that protected them.

According to WWF, the review offers an opportunity to develop new concepts in prosecuting the investigators of illegal logging and taking the buyers to court.

Read more at
www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=22231

Forest Crime File

22 JULY 2005

Forest Crime File is a Forests for Life programme bulletin, presenting the latest news of relevance to the issue of illegal logging and forest crime.

Read more at
www.panda.org/downloads/forests/forestcrimefilejuly05.pdf

Mediterranean cork oak forests receive first FSC certification

4 JULY 2005

WWF applauds the world's first FSC certification of cork oak forests and products in the Mediterranean. The forest owners and processors' certification recognises that their forests and operations are managed to the highest international social and environmental standards.

WWF supports the efforts of the cork sector in Italy, Portugal and Spain in demonstrating the responsible management of cork oak forests. WWF calls on all cork producing countries to adopt similar measures.

Read more at
www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=21677

Cork cushion – an unlikely saviour of wildlife?

14 JULY 2005

A cushion, the first of its kind, could be a new way in the UK to use cork – not only contributing towards preserving nature, but also to widening a market mostly dominated by needs of the wine trade.

The new cushion, developed exclusively by supermarket Sainsbury's, is made from incredibly soft and warm sheets of cork, and designers hope it will create a new commercial incentive for cork producers to maintain century-old trees and landscapes which have become a haven for wildlife.

Sainsbury's product technologist David Catton says: "We're hoping to help the cork industry develop new markets for its product – for the good of the environment and its wildlife."

New insights on credible certification in Europe

21 JULY 2005

WWF has updated its evaluation of credible forest certification in Europe. This follows the completion of three studies to gain insights into how the two forest certification systems, FSC and PEFC, perform and deliver against key elements WWF considers important for a system's credibility. The three elements on which WWF tested the performance of FSC and PEFC were:

- whether the scheme drives significant improvements in forest management on the ground;
- whether a scheme design meets WWF's core values on meaningful and equitable participation of all major stakeholder groups, reliable independent assessment, certification decisions free of conflicts of interest, transparency in decision-making and reporting; and
- whether the system delivers consistency across countries.

Read more at
www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=22050

Kenya carves its place in forest history

29 MARCH 2005

An innovative WWF project promoting sustainable Kenyan woodcarvings from 'good woods' has achieved FSC certification – a first for Kenya.

The project encourages the use of farm-grown trees for carving instead of threatened hardwoods, thereby securing carvers' livelihoods and providing a new income source for farmers. Woodcarvings made from neem rather than over-harvested hardwoods such as ebony can now carry the FSC logo, assuring consumers that the products have not contributed to the destruction of east Africa's forests.

Read more at
www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/africa/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=19414, or e-mail David Hoyle: DHoyle@wwf.org.uk

News Feature: The Heart of Borneo

Heart of Borneo campaign

WWF's mission is to build a future in which people live in harmony with the natural world. In this campaign WWF has joined a race against time to save the Heart of Borneo, one of the last refuges of the endangered orang-utan.

WWF is attempting to mobilise government support for a large-scale conservation programme in the upland transboundary area of Borneo. This is the only place on the planet where the Indo-Malayan forests of South-east Asia can still be conserved on a large enough scale (approximately 220,000 sq km of continuous forest) to be permanently viable. This predominantly highland area is shared by Malaysia and Indonesia and reaches out through the foothills into adjacent lowlands and into parts of Brunei. We call this area the Heart of Borneo.

Work still needs to be done if we are to be successful in securing the biggest transboundary forest conservation area since the Congo basin six years ago. The future of the amazing Heart of Borneo is hanging in the balance. It really is now or never.

For more information, go online to www.panda.org/heart-of-borneo



Useful Reports

Window of opportunity

WWF, MARCH 2005

This report shows that throughout the life and eventual disposal of timber windows, the overall environmental impact is significantly less than for PVC windows. WWF is encouraging specifiers and buyers of windows to choose FSC-certified wood. Download Window of opportunity as a PDF file.

www.wwf-uk.org/filelibrary/pdf/windows_0305.pdf

Borneo: Treasure Island at Risk

WWF, JUNE 2005

This report supports a 2001 World Bank report predicting that all lowland rainforests in Kalimantan – the Indonesian part of Borneo – would disappear by 2010. It also predicts an uncertain future for the island's remaining forests. Download Borneo: Treasure Island at Risk as a PDF file.

www.panda.org/downloads/forests/treasureislandatrisk.pdf

Borneo's Lost World: newly discovered species on Borneo

WWF, APRIL 2005

This report on Borneo, the world's third-largest island, highlights the urgent need to conserve the habitat of endangered species such as orang-utans and pygmy elephants, as well as thousands of other species, many of which are newly-discovered. Download Borneo's Lost World: Newly Discovered Species on Borneo as a PDF file.

www.panda.org/downloads/forests/newlydiscoveredspeciesonborneo25042005.pdf

Useful Websites

WWF International and WWF-UK forest reports:

www.wwf.org.uk/researcher/issues/forests/0000000197.asp#Int

WWF-UK policy and WWF International position statements:

www.wwf.org.uk/researcher/issues/forests/0000000198.asp

WWF-UK work on forests:

www.wwf.org.uk/researcher/issues/forests/

Joint ENGO statement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT):

www.panda.org/downloads/europe/controllingtimberimportsintotheeu.pdf

Information about forest certification and responsible wood sourcing in the Asia-Pacific region:

www.forestandtradeasia.org

The mission of WWF is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption



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