



Spring
2006

Newsletter

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News

A date for your diary

The WWF-UK FTN annual members meeting will be on Friday 6 October at the BBC Worldwide offices in London W12. Many thanks to David Halford for offering to host the meeting. More information will follow nearer the time.

Verification of FTN members – a reminder
As a member of the WWF-UK FTN, you will know we intend to verify a sample of members' reports on an annual basis.

The first verification visits will begin in late April. Five member companies will be asked to allow a verifier to inspect their systems and to provide FTN management with an opinion as to the veracity of the information in the report. Companies will be chosen at random, although we ensure that a representative sample of the membership has reports verified.

Graduates

Congratulations to WWF-UK FTN members Chindwell Company Ltd, David Craig, Ecotimber, Forest Enterprise and Paperback for recently achieving Graduate status. This is a new prestigious FTN membership category that recognises the achievements of members whose forest product volume has reached more than 95 per cent credibly certified and/or recycled material. Well done for all your hard work.

To find out more, e-mail James Horne:
jhorne@wwf.org.uk

The Responsible Purchasing Advice Centre (RePAC)

The growing demands from retailers, governments, investors and others to demonstrate that wood and wood products are from legal and sustainable sources can be very challenging. One of the biggest problems has been the lack of technical support and expert information to assist in implementing these requirements in practice. The Responsible Purchasing Advice Centre (RePAC) provides the solution to this problem by offering a range of services for those involved in wood and wood product specification, procurement and supply.

RePAC was set up and is run by ProForest, one of the most experienced global players in the implementation of responsible procurement of wood and wood products. Drawing on an unparalleled level of expertise and practical experience in this area, RePAC can offer advice and information to each user based on their own specific circumstances, risks and objectives.

For companies and organisations unable to maintain comprehensive technical support and expert information, advice and support in-house, RePAC offers access to a team of experts with up-to-date knowledge on responsible purchasing of wood and wood products. For those with their own internal expertise, RePAC can offer specialist support and services to complement the skills available in-house. WWF has paid for a helpline, available five days a week to answer questions or provide advice instantly – for example relating to a specific purchasing requirement or specification. For further information contact ProForest on 01865 243766.

Member News Stories

Co-op launches FSC-approved quilted bathroom tissue

The Co-op has become the first supermarket to launch an own-label, FSC-approved quilted bathroom tissue.

Co-op Quilted Soft Bathroom Tissue carries the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) label. The label guarantees that the paper used to make the product comes from forests that are being managed responsibly, so they will be around for future generations to enjoy.

Nick Cliffe, FSC director, commented, "We are delighted to see the Co-op introduce an FSC-certified quilted bathroom tissue into its own-brand range. The commitment of retailers like the Co-op to the FSC system is essential to our goal of improving the management of the world's forests."

The FSC-accredited quilted bathroom tissue isn't the first Co-op own-label tissue product to reflect the retailer's ethical stance. In 2001, the Co-op launched its innovative "Closing the Loop" initiative, which involves collecting waste paper from its head office complex in Manchester and recycling it into Co-op 100% Recycled Bathroom Tissue and Co-op 100% Recycled Kitchen Towels, for sale in Co-op stores throughout the UK.

Co-op Quilted Soft Bathroom Tissue is priced at £1.99 for four rolls, and is available in Co-op stores throughout the UK.



Crowley Esmonde Ltd update: The FSC trend spreads

FSC products are proving increasingly popular. In 2004, Crowley Esmonde launched the first supermarket-branded range of FSC notebooks through Sainsbury's. The range is now in its fourth printing and is still selling well. A simple strap line, "Saving Forests", is worked into the design of the books, which have obviously struck a chord with the consumer. These are mainstream products and not top end.

In November, Schleipen Germany received FSC certification for the paper Crowley Esmonde Ltd has been using for Paperchase notebooks and diaries. These sell both in the UK and the US through Borders. Since November, Crowley Esmonde Ltd has used 45.5 tonnes of this newly certified paper and its printer/binder now has chain of custody. This will mean thousands of Paperchase and Borders notebooks and diaries will all be FSC-certified, and it is hoped to make the claim on all these products later this year. Helen Esmonde, Publishing Director of Crowley Esmonde Ltd, said it was the company's intention to have further FSC ranges in other major retailers during the coming year.

More Member News Stories Please!

We are looking for positive member stories to include in the WWF-UK Forest & Trade Network 2005 Annual Report. Please send details, including any press releases, quotes or photos, to James Horne: jhorne@wwf.org.uk.

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Construction Sector Update

Over the last few months WWF has been continuing its work with Mike Read Associates (MRA). The focus has been on revising the FTN Reporting Guidelines, producing a new set of awareness-raising documents, a second round of consultations with members, and researching candidate members for recruitment to FTN.

Phase 2 of MRA's work with WWF-UK FTN ended on 31 March, and a full Phase 2 report has been provided with a detailed set of recommendations.

Reporting Guidelines

Members have described the FTN Reporting Guidelines and Category Definitions as difficult to follow, somewhat inconsistent in style, and showing signs of having been frequently revised. Considerable editing and rewriting has now taken place to make them more user friendly without changing any of the important content. The resulting document, renamed Annual Reporting Guidance for Members, has been distributed to members and generally well received – but even so, it unavoidably remains complex and highly detailed. The great diversity of situations that fall short of

credible certification, combined with the need for a broadly acceptable and auditable ladder of steps leading to credible certification, inevitably results in a complicated package of definitions and processes.

On a broader level, a second edition of WWF's Responsible Purchasing of Forest Products is now completed, and will be available shortly. A new companion publication, Keep it Legal, will also be available soon.

Awareness-raising documents

One of the issues raised consistently by members during the early part of MRA's work with WWF was the need for better awareness-raising about FTN and membership requirements. It was felt that this was needed across the whole of members' supply chains, as well as their customers and clients, and even internally.

A new set of documents, initially for use with the construction sector, has been designed and produced to address this need, each with carefully chosen objectives, target audience, language and style. The documents have the full FTN logo on

them, and therefore can only be used with strictly controlled conditions. However, it is expected that this will give much more value and prominence, and is seen as an indication of a genuine partnership on policy and practice between WWF and FTN construction sector members.

Consulting the members

A second round of consultations took place in January and February. As always, members' feedback is valued, and has influenced the recommendations in the Phase 2 report.

One popular idea to emerge from these consultations was six-monthly 'round table' meetings of construction sector members, hosted in rotation by these members and dealing with operational and development issues (for example: reporting, the Chinese market, etc.).

Credibly certified plywood

FSC-certified plywood from South-east Asia is finally available in the UK. All of PT Tjipta Rimba Jaya's FSC-certified production from Indonesia has been bought by traders in the Netherlands and the UK, and is now available for construction projects and other uses from FTN-member Timbmet.

For further information e-mail James Horne:
jhorne@wwf.org.uk

Paper Sector Update & Sub-group Meeting Summary

The Minutes of the last Paper sub-group meeting held at WWF on 31 January should have been sent to you. Please contact James Horne if you didn't receive a copy: jhorne@wwf.org.uk

All Paper Sector members should have been sent an update on the paper sector. If you didn't receive a copy, e-mail James Horne: jhorne@wwf.org.uk

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CPET Update

An independent assessment for Defra of five forest certification schemes, undertaken to establish which could provide assurance to government buyers that their timber comes from "legal and sustainable" sources, showed that only two schemes did so – the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) .

The report was produced for the government's Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET), the new body that will advise government departments on timber procurement and which delivers government policy on timber procurement.

The CPET also offers free advice and guidance to local authorities on an ad hoc basis, as well as updates via the database of Local Authorities provided by The Office of Government Commerce (OGC). Local Authorities are free to use the CPET helpline, but it is not mandatory for Local Authorities to follow central government policy and guidance on legal and sustainable timber procurement. Provided that there is adequate awareness-raising of this service among Local Authorities, there is

scope for Local Authorities to assist central government in becoming a significant driver of markets for legal and sustainable timber and wood products. WWF's 2005 survey of Local Authorities in London shows that four in five were keen to use the government's CPET advice service on "legal and sustainable" timber procurement, with the remainder indicating a significant interest .

WWF hopes this move by central government will drive increased awareness among public authorities to procure timber from well-managed forests, and would like to see each Local Authority develop a robust policy on timber procurement that delivers both legal and sustainable timber. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Local Government Association (LGA) could provide invaluable assistance in coordinating and assisting in the uptake of such green procurement policies. By so doing, it is hoped that this would apply increased and more focused pressure on the private sector to implement similar policies.

If you would like to know more, please contact Beatrix Richards, WWF's Head of Forest Trade and Policy: brichards@wwf.org.uk

FLEGT Update

After a quiet time around Christmas and New Year, which coincided with the transfer of the EU presidency from the UK to Austria, things have picked up again with a vengeance. This year WWF is awaiting the agreement of the negotiation mandate, the gradual implementation of the partnership agreements and the publication of the "additional options" paper on other forms of legislation that could be used against the import of illegal timber.

If you would like to know more, please contact Beatrix Richards, Head of Forest Trade & Policy:
brichards@wwf.org.uk

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Learning and Sharing FSC Certification in the Mediterranean: The Cork Oak Case

In January, WWF organised an exchange study tour for Moroccan foresters, on the subject of FSC certification in Andalusia, Spain. The visit was arranged in collaboration with la Junta de Andalucía, SmartWood and the FSC Initiative in Spain. The group of three Moroccan representatives of the Office of the Moroccan High Commissariat for Water and Forests and Combating Desertification, visited la Junta de Andalucía to learn about the process of certification followed in Spanish cork oak forests. During the three days they visited FSC-certified sites and discussed requirements and challenges behind certification. They also learned about the Spanish FSC initiative, which has culminated in the development of national standards for sustainable management of forests (including an annex on cork indicators), which were recently approved by FSC.

Fuensanta Coves Botella, from the Ministry of the Environment within the regional government of Andalusia, stated: "One of the outstanding initiatives promoted by la Junta de Andalucía is the project for

the certification of our forests. Certification adds value to the final product (cork) from economic, social and environmental points of view. Last year, the FSC certificate was obtained for the cork oak forests in the regions of Cádiz and Sevilla, totalling an area of 12,000 hectares. This is the first step on a steady path to sustainability."

Nora Berrahmouni, coordinator of the WWF Cork Oak Landscapes Programme, added: "The best way to progress with conservation and good practice in the field is to share and learn from concrete experience. This exchange allowed Moroccan foresters to get a better idea of what FSC certification means, based on a successful example in Spain. This also enables them to think and plan the way to go for it in their own country."

For more information on WWF's Cork Oak Landscapes Programme, please contact Rebecca May: rmay@wwf.org.uk

WWF Global & Forest Trade Network News

Indonesian Forest Company joins WWF-sponsored forest and trade network

Indonesian forest company Sumalindo Lestari Jaya II, a producer of mixed tropical hardwood, has joined the WWF-supported Indonesian Forest & Trade Network. Part of the Sumalindo Lestari Jaya Tbk group, Sumalindo II – with a forest concession of 267,000ha in East Kalimantan – has become the largest forest company in Indonesia to obtain certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). SmartWood certified the company after a five-year process to improve its forest management in accordance with strict environmental and socio-economic standards.

“We welcome PT Sumalindo Lestari Jaya to the Indonesia FTN,” said WWF-Indonesia Executive Director Mubariq Ahmad. “This is a great step forward for responsible forestry in Indonesia and we hope it encourages other producer companies to follow its example and gain the support and benefits offered.”

Read more:
www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/index.cfm?uNewsID=61600

Old-growth forest dispute settled through extended protection in northern Finland

In negotiations between WWF and Metsähallitus, an agreement has been reached to complement the protection of old-growth forests in northern Finland. This resolves the controversy that has been lingering since the government resolution on the matter in 1996. The conservation plan drawn up by Metsähallitus in June 2005 has been fine-tuned and specified with the help of additional field data provided by environmental organisations.

The complementary areas – in Kainuu, Ostrobothnia, Koillismaa and in Lapland south of Inari – contain 55,000 hectares of old-growth forest. Metsähallitus is now permanently excluding these areas from all forest management operations.

“This conservation decision is internationally significant. Finland is demonstrating its global responsibility by safeguarding the conservation of these unique old-growth forests. The negotiation process sets an example of constructive conflict-solving to many ongoing forest disputes around the world,” said Duncan Pollard, Director of WWF International’s Forest Programme.

Read more:
www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=61220

NGOs launch joint paper vision at Paper World

A coalition of nearly 50 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from 21 countries has launched a common vision for transforming the European paper industry. The launch, in January, coincided with Paper World, a major industry event, and marked the first time that NGOs have joined forces across Europe and beyond on paper-related issues.

The NGOs’ long-term vision is to see a future Europe that consumes 50 per cent less paper than at present, produced by an industry that is less reliant on virgin tree fibres, makes maximum use of recycled materials, protects biodiversity, respects local people’s land rights, provides employment, and has social impacts that are beneficial, conflict-free and fair.

The vision states: "We want to see all of Europe's paper being made from responsibly- and sustainably-sourced fibres, using entirely renewable energy, with water that is as clean after paper production as before, producing zero waste and zero emissions." It includes a 10-year agenda that sets out the minimum requirements NGOs consider necessary to reduce negative environmental and social impacts around the world.

Read more:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=57720

PT Falak Jaya Furnitama Joins Indonesia Forest & Trade Network

PT Falak Jaya Furnitama, a garden furniture manufacturer in Tangerang (West Java, Indonesia), has signed a Participation Agreement with WWF's Indonesia Forest & Trade Network (IFTN), confirming the company's commitment to responsible purchasing of forest products and forest certification.

PT Falak Jaya is the second company that has qualified to join IFTN. The first was PT Bangun Sarana Wreksa, another furniture manufacturer in Indonesia. Established in 1998, PT Falak Jaya Furnitama is one of the fastest-growing outdoor furniture manufacturers in Indonesia.

Read more:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/our_solutions/responsible_forestry/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=56480

Other Forest News from WWF

For all the following stories, visit:
www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm

New forest law in Brazil helps protect the Amazon

WWF welcomes Brazil's new forest law, which is aimed at combating deforestation in the Amazon while developing the region's economic potential.

Signed by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on 2 March, the new law is also expected to help end illegal land occupation in the Brazilian Amazon through new measures that will provide for the demarcation of public forests.

Social and environmental organisations, including WWF, have for years been struggling to press for a way to halt the process of illegal occupation and deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon by ranchers and agribusiness, protect the rights of local residents, and conserve irreplaceable biodiversity found within the Brazilian Amazon.

"The new law provides the Brazilian government with the unique opportunity of fostering development, creating jobs, and generating income while keeping the Amazon forest standing," said Leonardo Lacerda, WWF International's Protected Areas Manager.

Read more:
www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=62760

Latin American Trade Fair of FSC Certified Products, 18-20 April 2006

"Il Certified Brazil" will take place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and will present a wide variety of FSC-certified forest products from all over Latin America.

Visitors will be able to meet producers and buyers of certified forest raw material and forest products such as lumber, pulp and paper, reconstituted panels, furniture and furniture parts, and non-timber forest products (food, cosmetic oils, essences etc.). Community representatives, artisans and designers that produce and use certified wood will also be present.

Read more:
www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/latin_america_and_caribbean/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=59660

"Mission possible" – EU ban on illegal timber

A recent UK government-funded study states that an EU ban on illegal timber imports is a credible option, confirming NGO and independent legal opinion. Environmental groups Greenpeace and WWF believe that the EU must exclude illegal timber from the European market and set up effective controls to ensure legal and sustainable wood supply.

"We welcome the study for its serious examination of legal options that could control the trade in illegal timber," said Sebastien Rizzo of Greenpeace European Unit. "It is unacceptable that responsible traders and forest managers who ensure their timber is legal and sustainably harvested are currently penalised, while timber barons who plunder national parks and rainforests are free to trade with impunity."

The new study, which was produced by Chatham House, assesses existing legislation in four EU countries, which could already be used to tackle the trade in illegal timber imports. It also examines additional legislative options.

Read more:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=58020

Forests in Indochina receive FSC certification

Two natural forest areas in central Laos have been certified under the FSC certification scheme.

The community-based operations, which cover approximately 50,000ha in the provinces of Khammouane and Savannakhet, are the first natural forests in Indochina to achieve FSC certification by SmartWood, an accredited certifier and a programme of the Rainforest Alliance. Tropical Forest Trust (TFT) and WWF supported the forests to achieve FSC standards, resulting in increased access by the communities to the growing global market for sustainably managed wood products.

"Certification of the Lao forests is good news for the increasing number of wood processors and furniture makers in Indochina who are committed to sourcing raw materials from well-managed forests," said Jeff Hayward, regional manager of SmartWood Asia Pacific.

Read more:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=57420

2005 – A year of strong alliances to conserve the world's forests

In 2005, WWF's Forests for Life Programme chalked up a range of achievements on protecting, managing and restoring forests around the world. These, of course, would not have been possible without the help and support of its many partners. WWF acknowledges its partners' support and looks forward to continued cooperation in 2006.

To read more about some of the key milestones for forest conservation, visit:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=56460

Useful Reports

Capital Offence

WWF, March 2006

This report takes the form of a league table of London Local Authorities and their policies on sourcing timber.

Download Capital Offence as a PDF file:

<http://wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/capitaloffence.pdf>

Beyond Belief – Linking faiths and protected areas for biodiversity conservation

WWF/ARC, February 2006

A WWF/ARC publication with a special focus on the links between faiths and the world's growing protected areas network.

Download Beyond Belief as a PDF file:

<http://assets.panda.org/downloads/beyondbelief.pdf>

Legal Forest Destruction

WWF and other NGOs, February 2006

This report aims to provide more insight into the realities of illegal logging. It presents cases of illegal logging on every continent and in a variety of forest types, in which the negative social and ecological effects are profound.

For a copy of this report, please contact James Horne: jhorne@wwf.org.uk

Failing the Forests: Europe's illegal timber trade

WWF, November 2005

The report, which focuses on the trade between EU countries and the Amazon Basin, the Congo Basin, east Africa, Indonesia, the Baltic States and Russia, found that the EU is responsible for around ?3 billion of the global ?10-15 billion in lost revenue due to illegal logging each year.

Download Failing the Forests: Europe's illegal timber trade as a PDF file:

<http://assets.panda.org/downloads/failingforests.pdf>

Oil palm, soy and tropical forests: A strategy for life

WWF, October 2005

Plantations of soy and oil palm in the tropics already cover an area the size of France, and every year yet more forest is cleared for these crops. As well as animal feed, palm oil and soy are used in a vast range of everyday products, from margarine to ice cream, cosmetics to detergents. WWF is encouraging responsible soy and oil palm cultivation that conserves both the natural environment and the livelihoods of people.

Download Oil palm, soy and tropical forests:

A strategy for life as a PDF file:

<http://assets.panda.org/downloads/fcibrochure.pdf>

Forthcoming WWF Reports

New GFTN Guide – Keep it Legal

(to be published in May 2006)

The new GFTN guide makes recommendations on “best practices for keeping illegally harvested wood out of the supply chain”.

Responsible Purchasing Guide, Version 2

(to be published in April 2006)

The updated version of the Responsible Purchasing Guide has been brought up to date to reflect the latest thinking from GFTN and WWF on a number of issues.

European illegal logging league table

(to be published in April 2006)

This is a barometer of EU governments – a WWF rating of EU governments’ commitments and actions to combat illegal logging and trade.

WWF-UK is currently looking at timber trade between the UK and a number of countries. Reports will be published on these later in the year. If any of these upcoming reports refer to FTN members in any way, WWF will be in touch before the report is published.

Useful Websites

WWF-UK policy and WWF International position statements:

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

WWF-UK forests information:

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

WWF Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) website:

www.panda.org/forestandtrade

Includes links to the GFTN Responsible Purchasing Guide for forest products, GFTN members list, and GFTN contacts list.

WWF GFTN Asia website:

www.forestandtradeasia.org

Provides practical guidance and news updates on forest certification, responsible wood sourcing and forest-friendly investment in the Asia-Pacific region (China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam).

WWF International forest news and publications:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/our_solutions/responsible_forestry/news/index.cfm

Forest Certification Resource Centre:

www.certifiedwood.org

Confirmation of FSC certification of a company by certification number or company name.

Transparency International: www.transparency.org
The 2005 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2005 has been released – the index is focuses on illegal activities in the forest sector.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2005:

www.transparency.org/cpi/2005/2005.10.18.cpi.en.html

Illegal logging:

www.illegal-logging.info

This Royal Institute of International Affairs site is a central point of information on all aspects of the current international debate around the control of illegal logging and forest crimes. This site contains brief summaries of the key issues, key documents and links to other relevant sites.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) UK:

For any information regarding FSC certification or chain of custody, contact FSC UK:

Tel: 01686 413916

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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
- reducing pollution and wasteful consumption



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