



Winter
2005

Newsletter

Contents

- 1** News

- 2** FTN Training Course for Members

- 3** Robert Horne joins WWF-UK Forest & Trade Network

- 4** Member News Stories

- 5** Request for Future Member Stories

- 6** Construction Sector Update

- 7** Paper Sector Update

- 8** **Feature:** GFTN Trip to Indonesia

- 9** WWF Global & Forest Trade Network News

- 10** Other Forest News from WWF

- 11** Useful Reports & Websites

News

New reporting guidelines now available

You should now have been sent this information by e-mail. If you have not received it, please contact James Horne for assistance: jhorne@wwf.org.uk

Next reporting session – reminder

The FTN reports for 2005 are due to be submitted by 31 March 2006; the FTN website will be available from January 2006 for entering the 2005 report data. Please visit the FTN website – ftn.wwf.org.uk – and enter your data. If you have forgotten your login or password, or need assistance using the site, contact James Horne on 01483 412594 or jhorne@wwf.org.uk

2

FTN Training Course for Members

FTN member training will take place in February 2006. The training will cover all aspects of FTN membership, including data collection, reporting and action plans. The format will be more workshop-based than last year, and we hope to group participants according to sector (paper, construction, and other wood products). If you'd like to attend, please contact James Horne, on 01483 412594 or jhorne@wwf.org.uk

Robert Horne joins WWF-UK Forest & Trade Network

The Robert Horne Group, a major UK paper merchant, joined the WWF-UK Forest & Trade Network on 1 October 2005. Steve Crewe, WWF-UK FTN Manager, commented: "I am pleased to welcome Robert Horne as the newest member of the FTN. Their decision to join the Network demonstrates their commitment as a business increasingly to source their forest derived raw materials from responsibly managed forests and recycled waste. The paper industry as a whole is a significant user of forest derived materials and as such can greatly influence the standard of forest management around the world."

Tim Barker, Robert Horne's Environmental Manager said: "Customers and end-users can be reassured that when they source from Robert Horne, they are working with a company that is committed to environmental best practice. Membership of the Network demonstrates Robert Horne's dedication to ensuring that its paper products can be proven to come from well-managed forests."

Further information about Robert Horne's commitment to the environment can be found at roberthorne.co.uk/environment

Member News Stories

Clarks Wood uses FSC karri decking in Cardiff Bay project

In the first stage of a project to develop Cardiff Bay, 60 cubic metres of FSC-certified karri decking and bearers, supplied by Clarks Wood Company Ltd, have been laid. The project is managed by Taylor Woodrow, designed by Arup and installed by Houston Cox Carpentry. The karri was cut and kilned from plantation-grown South African karri.

FSC certification was stipulated at the beginning of the project, and the quality of product was of equal importance. All bearers were visually strength graded in the UK and added to the high specification of the project.

Over the next couple of years the decking will become the frontage of a casino, sports complex and Olympic-size swimming pool, to be used by athletes to train for the 2012 Olympics. In addition, the site will host more than 3,000 homes, as well as shops, superstores and many other leisure facilities.

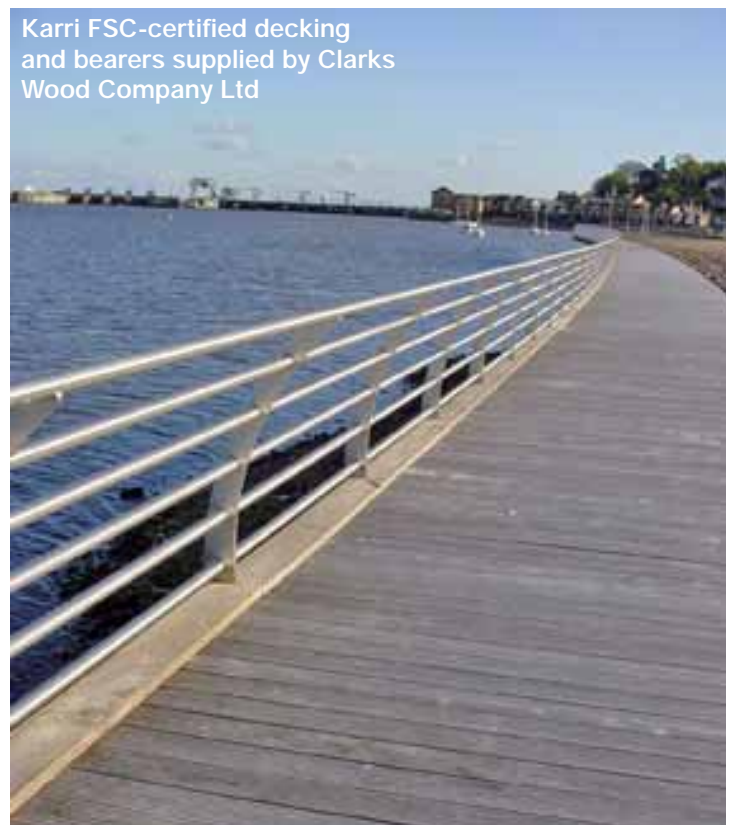
Geoff Osborne, Managing Director of Clarks Wood said "It is not easy to carry all species of FSC-certified hardwood or all of the different decking formats which an architect may specify. Often contractors find themselves without wood very close to actual installation dates with an expectation of timber being sat in a supplier's yard."

"Clarks Wood prides itself in being able to source to specification in the quickest possible time due to our extensive supplier database. Sometimes the shipment may not be as quick as the contractor would like, but it will be realistic and as promised.

The karri decking was a typical project which required many FSC-certified components to be supplied and match the decking, and the delivery date was critical. Whilst many other species could have been used, karri matched the high standard required – which included visual strength grading in the UK – and was shipped on time for the project." Geoff also noted: "We expect to see an increase in the use of FSC certified timber in 2006."



FSC-certified Karri being cut to shape



Karri FSC-certified decking and bearers supplied by Clarks Wood Company Ltd

Paragon scoops National Green Apple Award

Paragon Business Furniture was recently awarded the Gold Award for Environmental Best Practice in the Engineering and Manufacturing category of the National Green Apple Awards 2005, held at the House of Commons. Paragon has now won five environmental awards over the last three years, two at district level (Basildon), two at county level (Essex), and the latest one at national level. Eric Tomlinson, Quality and Environment Manager at Paragon stated: "Our ability to supply FSC-certified office furniture has played a significant part in winning all of these awards."

Request for Future Member Stories

We will soon be looking for positive member stories for the spring 2006 edition of the WWF-UK Forest & Trade Network Newsletter, and for the 2005 FTN Annual Report. Don't forget to include any suitable stories in Section D.2 – News for Publication – of your report to WWF, due by 31 March 2006.

Alternatively, please send the details, including any press releases, quotes or photos to James Horne: jhorne@wwf.org.uk

6

Construction Sector Update

Research and recruitment initiative – summary report and news

Mike Read Associates has been engaged by WWF-UK to help develop the construction sector within WWF-UK FTN. Phase one is now complete and WWF-UK has prioritised the next steps into phase two. The overall plan is to ensure the membership 'package' is optimised, while developing generic and background awareness of the FTN. Early in the New Year we will then engage with carefully selected potential members for recruitment.

In phase two, we will produce two user-friendly guides to FTN membership and reporting, to help raise awareness of the FTN. One guide will offer WWF-UK FTN members an introduction or refresher on what WWF-UK FTN membership is all about. The other guide will be suitable for dissemination by members to their suppliers and will explain the annual reporting requirements of their WWF-UK FTN member customers. This is designed to ease the annual reporting processes over time.

A second round of consultation is envisaged for January 2006. These will take forward issues from the first round of consultations, and give an opportunity for feedback on draft awareness-raising publications. To get involved, please contact Mike Read so that meetings may be arranged at convenient times.

Finally, following advice at September's round table, it was decided to pursue the idea of placing feature articles in relevant journals and magazines. These will include a feature in the spring edition of Timber in Construction.

For further information, please contact Mike Read: mikeread@mikeread.org



Paper Sector Update

A meeting for UK FTN members in the paper sector is being planned for either 25 or 31 January 2006 in London. Please let James Horne know your availability for these dates – e-mail: jhorne@wwf.org.uk

Progress in the paper sector is continuing, with significant growth in FSC-certification in both the printing and publishing sector over the last six months.

Feature: GFTN Trip to Indonesia

Establishing market links for certified forest products

Everyone knows that market demand is the best way to encourage suppliers to take a particular course of action. This is no less true with forest certification. We have buyers in Europe, America and Japan who are looking for certified forest products. We have timber producers in Asia and Africa who will work towards certification if they are encouraged to do so by their customers. The task therefore is to bring these companies together – and that is what WWF is doing through the GFTN initiative.

During November, FTN managers from the major buying countries joined colleagues representing Asian timber producing countries for a discussion with Indonesia's timber industry associations, visits to selected manufacturers and a regional conference. The objective was to gain better insight into some of the problems being experienced in those countries and to explore how appropriate market links could be encouraged between current and potential GFTN members who are interested in trading credibly certified forest products.

It was clear from discussions that illegal logging is still a major problem in Indonesia and that this was having an adverse effect on the log supply to law-abiding companies. New procedures governing log procurement, introduced by the Indonesian government to try to combat the illegal trade, are creating difficulties – particularly for small manufacturers. The manager of one of the factories visited illustrated this by showing visitors his timber stockyard, which was nearly empty.

The study group visited manufacturers including: PT Kayu Permata (a door manufacturer near Jakarta); Perum Perhutani (veneer and veneer overlaid plywood manufacturer in Gresik, near Surabaya in East Java); PT Kingfurn International (garden furniture manufacturer also in Gresik); and PT Erna Djuliawati (plywood manufacturer in Kayu Tunu in Sanggau Kapuas, West Kalimantan). Each manufacturer expressed a sincere interest in using certified materials if there is sufficient demand. One of these businesses, PT Erna Djuliawati, had just achieved FSC certification of its concession and manufacturing operations.

This was just a sample of what might be available given the right incentive. WWF is encouraging interested producers of forest products to commit to certification and join the GFTN, but these producers need further encouragement from you, their potential customers. To find out more about developing new trade links with businesses in Asia who are keen to pursue credible certification of their products, please contact James Horne on 01483 412594 or jhorne@wwf.org.uk



Labour-intensive work
at a factory in Java

WWF Global & Forest Trade Network News

Chinese timber companies join Forest & Trade Network

The China Forest and Trade Network (CFTN) marked a major milestone recently when it formally announced that five companies from mainland China and three from Hong Kong have qualified as its first official members. These new members are the first companies in China and Hong Kong to pass the CFTN membership requirement, thus demonstrating long-term commitments to responsible forest management and trade.

The companies include two of China's largest state-owned forest bureaus, three major private manufacturing companies based in mainland China, and three trading companies located in Hong Kong.

Faced with an increasing demand for wood and paper products, along with diminishing forest resources, China imports timber from many areas – including Russia, Indonesia, and countries in South America and central Africa. These regions have significant problems such as illegal logging, loss of natural forest to agriculture and silviculture, and loss of biodiversity.

"Our customers in Europe demand certified and legal timber," said Peter Cox, Quality Assurance Manager for Hong Kong-based trading company Kingfisher Asia Ltd. "CFTN can provide the support to our Chinese manufacturers that will help us meet this demand."

For more information please contact: Jin Zhonghao, WWF China Programme, on (+86) 133 1111 0899, or e-mail: zhjin@wwfchina.org

Read more at:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=24475

Forest & Trade Network launches in Vietnam

WWF, in partnership with Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, has launched the Vietnam Forest & Trade Network (VFTN), the first network to promote business links between producers of responsible forest products in Vietnam and concerned buyers around the world. To promote the launch and educate the industry about its services, the VFTN hosted an exhibition stand at the Ho Chi Minh City International Furniture and Handicraft Fair 2005, which took place from 3 to 7 October 2005.

Danish company ScanCom, one of the world's largest suppliers of outdoor furniture, and an industry leader in responsible wood-sourcing, has already committed to joining the VFTN and is supporting its contract manufacturers in Vietnam to follow suit. "We are very enthusiastic about participating in the VFTN," said Chad Ovel, Managing Director of ScanCom Vietnam Ltd. "We hope that our participation in this forum will help motivate others in our industry to eliminate illegal wood from their supply chain and embrace FSC-certified wood as the raw material of choice."

Vietnamese exports of wood products have trebled since the mid-1990s, making the manufacture of wooden furniture for export one of the fastest-growing industries in the country.

For more information please contact Sander van den Ende, Vietnam Forest & Trade Network, WWF Indochina Vietnam Programme on (+84) 4 736 6375, ext. 131, or e-mail: vftn@wwfvn.org

Read more at:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=23615

Other Forest News from WWF

For further details on the following stories, please visit:
www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm

Forests flushed down the toilet

The major tissue manufacturers are not offering enough recycled toilet paper, towels and napkins to European consumers and must be more responsible when sourcing their wood, according to a new WWF report.

WWF says this clearly contributes to the wasteful use of forests, at a time when they are threatened worldwide. The new report analysed the practices of the five largest European tissue manufacturers – Procter and Gamble, SCA, Kimberly Clark, Metsa Tissue, and Georgia Pacific – which together supply about 70 per cent of the European market.

It found that the vast majority of tissue products these companies are selling to European households contain alarmingly low levels of recycled fibres.

As a result, high-quality virgin fibres are taken directly from natural forests and plantations around the world, including Latin America, Canada, the US, South Africa, Russia, Asia and Europe, and end up as waste without the consumer's knowledge, WWF says.

The European tissue business is worth around ?8.5 billion annually and accounts for 26 per cent of global tissue consumption, with each European using 13kg. This amounts to an equivalent of approximately 22 billion rolls of toilet paper being used each year across Europe. "In effect, about 270,000 trees a day are flushed down the toilet or end up as garbage around the world. Such a use of the forests is both wasteful and unnecessary," said Duncan Pollard, head of WWF's European Forest Programme. "Manufacturers must use more recycled fibres in their tissue products, as this means fewer trees will be cut down."

Read more at:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=50660

Illegal timber trade in Europe drives global forest loss and poverty

Unless urgent action is taken by the EU, the illegal timber trade in Europe could contribute to large-scale depletion of timber in some areas, and the loss of important forests, especially in the Congo Basin and Indonesia, in about 10 years time, according to a new WWF report – Failing the Forests.

The report – which focuses on the trade between EU countries and the Amazon Basin, Congo Basin, east Africa, Indonesia, the Baltic States and Russia – found that the EU imports roughly 20 million cubic metres of illegal timber from these regions annually. As a result, the EU is responsible for around €3 billion of the global €10-15 billion in lost revenue due to illegal logging each year.

WWF believes current EU efforts – including the Forests Law Enforcement Governance & Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, which promotes voluntary agreements between member states importing timber and external countries producing it – fall far short of the measures needed to tackle illegal logging. While the aim of the regulation is to prevent illegal timber being imported into the EU, it is neither mandatory, nor does it prevent illegal timber being imported via third countries.

WWF is calling for new EU-wide legislation to prohibit the import of illegally logged timber. We are also urging the EU to take far more active steps to encourage other major producers such as China, Japan and the US to eliminate illegal timber from their own imports.

Read more at:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=51100

World's largest oil palm plantation could spell disaster for upland forests of Indonesian Borneo

Plans to create the world's largest palm oil plantation in Kalimantan, along Indonesia's mountainous border with Malaysia, could have a devastating impact on the forests, wildlife, and indigenous people of Borneo, warns WWF. The proposed scheme, to be funded by China, is expected to cover an area of 1.8 million hectares – equivalent to about half the size of The Netherlands.

Most of this mountainous region, part of the "Heart of Borneo", still holds huge tracts of forests, where threatened species such as orang-utans and the Borneo bay cat live, and where 14 out of the island's 20 major rivers originate.

According to WWF, new species have been discovered there at a rate of three per month over the last 10 years making the area one of the richest on the globe in terms of biodiversity. An unidentified carnivore was recently photographed by WWF in the Kayan Mentarang National Park in Kalimantan. It could be the first time in more than a century that a new carnivore has been discovered on the island.

Infertile soil and steep areas, such as those in the Heart of Borneo, prevent the successful development of oil palm plantations. Experts do not recommend planting oil palm in areas higher than 200 metres above sea level, because of low productivity at these levels. Furthermore, oil palm plantations should be restricted to areas where the incline is less than 30 per cent. Most of the Heart of Borneo border area is in steep terrain at altitudes between 1,000 and 2,000 metres.

Research carried out in the Heart of Borneo area in 2004 by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) showed that of 200 sample sites, none was suitable for oil palm cultivation.

Read more at:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=22371

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=52960

House-builders improve on sustainability

The second benchmark report that assesses how well UK house-builders manage and report on sustainability issues has been published by Insight Investment and WWF.

The report, Investing in sustainability: progress and performance among the UK's listed house-builders revisited, is part of WWF's One Million Sustainable Homes (OMSH) campaign, which aims to move sustainability from the fringes to the mainstream of UK housing.

The report looks at 12 UK house-builders quoted on the FTSE All Share, which together accounted for 41 per cent of all housing units completed in the UK in 2004.

All 12 companies studied substantially improved their performance over the previous assessment. The average score rose to 68 per cent from 47 per cent in 2003 and 10 of the 12 companies in the study scored 60 per cent or above.

Three of the companies emerged as clear leaders: Crest Nicholson, Berkeley Group and George Wimpey, all scoring over 80 per cent.

Paul King, Director of WWF's OMSH campaign, said: "We are pleased by the improvements that have been made. The results also demonstrate that, contrary to perception, investors are interested in sustainability – which has often been used as an excuse in the past for failing to develop sustainable housing. However, there is no room for complacency on the part of house-builders and the government. We still need fiscal incentives and tougher regulations."

To view the report, visit:

<http://www.wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/investinsustainability.pdf>

Useful Reports

Forests flushed down the toilet

WWF, November 2005

For the findings and scoring report of the tissue giants, please visit:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/what_you_can_do/consumers/tissue_issues/index.cfm?

Failing the Forests: Europe's illegal timber trade

WWF, November 2005

To download this report as a PDF file, visit:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/publications_/index.cfm?uNewsID=51240

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

WWF, October 2005

To download the report as a PDF file, visit:

www.assets.panda.org/downloads/fcibrochure.pdf

Useful Websites

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/forests

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
- reducing pollution and wasteful consumption



www.wwf.org.uk

for a living planet®

WWF-UK

Panda House, Weyside Park
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR
t: +44 (0)1483 426444
f: +44 (0)1483 426409