



April 2010

# Newsletter

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**Cover Photo:** Large Dipterocarpaceae tree, a popular timber species. Segama Forest Reserve, Sabah, Malaysia © Sylvia Jane Yorath / WWF



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# 1 Global Forest & Trade Network News

## A GFTN Special Announcement

Dear GFTN Partners and Friends,

I am pleased to announce that George White will be the new Head of WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN). Many of you know George, who has acted in this position for the last few months.

For the past sixteen years, George has served as GFTN's Responsible Purchasing Coordinator. During this tenure, he co-authored the "Responsible Purchasing of Forest Products" and "Keep It Legal" guides and built the systems within GFTN that support participating companies in putting this guidance into practice and driving improvements in forestry practices in WWF's priority places.

Prior to joining WWF, George worked for over 10 years with J Sainsbury plc in the UK and US on diverse sourcing issues for products such as timber, paper, peat, fish and fuels. While at Sainsbury's, he also helped develop policies and processes to enable the group's companies to fulfil their GFTN participation commitments. George has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry & Forest Products Technology from Brunel University.

Please join me and the GFTN Shareholders Group in welcoming George to this role. I am confident he can take GFTN to the next level and lead the successful implementation of the WWF Market Transformation Initiative's timber strategy.

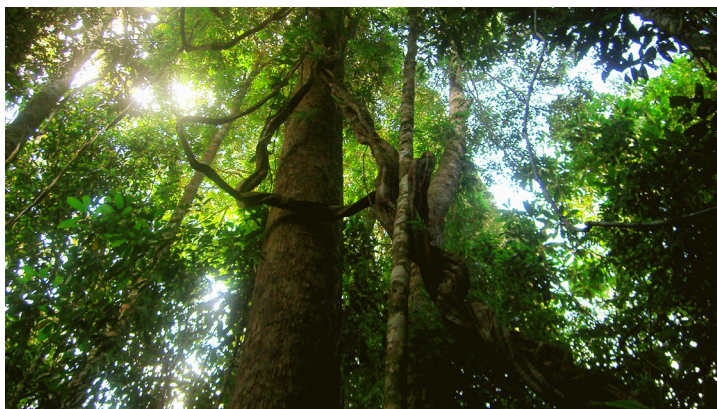
I sincerely appreciate your continuous support for the GFTN. A search for a new Responsible Purchasing Coordinator with proven leadership in the forest products industry is currently underway.

Kind Regards,



*Rod Taylor*  
Director, Forests  
WWF International.

## The Journey Ahead



*A strangler fig climbing high in the FSC-certified Deramakot Forest Reserve, managed by GFTN-Malaysia Participant Sabah Forestry Department*

Having just returned from a visit to the world's longest continuously certified tropical forest, I am reminded of the reason behind our daily work to drive improvements in forest management across the globe. Surrounded by a sea of palm oil in the Heart of Borneo, the Deramakot Forest Reserve is a testament to the importance of responsible forest management in safeguarding the world's valuable and threatened forests.

As I embark on this new leadership role with the GFTN, I am excited by the opportunities that lie ahead and the hopes that, through our continued efforts over the next decade, responsibly managed forests like Deramakot

would become the majority rather than the minority. In looking ahead as we begin develop our strategic plan for the next decade, I see the GFTN as the catalyst for driving true and lasting change in the forest products industry, delivering both results for business and real conservation gains on the ground.

Throughout the past quarter, we have witnessed substantive progress in driving improvements in responsible forest management. By facilitating trade links through events like RACEWOOD, we are transforming the forest products marketplace into a force for conserving the world's valuable and threatened forests.

I am grateful to the GFTN Participant companies, our stakeholders and our staff who have been instrumental in helping us reach our targets and keeping us on track and never losing sight of our goals. I am excited about the journey that lies ahead and look forward to the opportunity of sharing our successes and challenges with you along the way.



*George White*  
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## 2 GFTN on the Ground

### Spain Advances Forest Certification in Central Africa

A hallmark of the GFTN is the ability to affect change across geographical boundaries utilizing the strong collaboration and close working relationships between each of 23 offices spread throughout the globe. This is most clearly illustrated in the concerted partnership between GFTN-Central Africa and GFTN-Iberia, who have joined forces to drive improvements in the management of the Congo Basin's forests by harnessing the power of Spanish government and industry to promote responsible forestry practices.

Representatives from Spain's Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM) and WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN), gathered at the end of February to discuss collaborative efforts to advance responsible forestry in the Congo Basin. As a result, MARM's Director General of Environment and Forest Policy pledged to support the promotion of public procurement policies in Spain that would give preference to certified products, with a particular focus on supporting certification in Central Africa's forests.

Deep in the heart of the African continent, these forests serve as the world's second largest tropical rainforest expanse and provide not only an important habitat for elephants and gorillas, but also the livelihoods for the indigenous peoples that have lived here for thousands of years. A common thread intertwines the fate of these actors—the continued existence of these valuable and threatened forests.

WWF and its partners are reaching out at all levels—from villages to companies to government offices—to introduce practical ways to conserve the Congo River Basin forests while satisfying Central Africa's development needs. And it is through these collaborative efforts, such as the commitment shown by the Spanish Ministry to drive certification in Central Africa through preferential purchasing policies, that conservation gains are being realized for the rich biodiversity present in these forests.

Spanish support for responsible forestry, which began in 2006, has served as a significant driver in increasing the volume of African tropical hardwood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). And this support for responsible forestry and trade continues today.



*José Jiménez García-Herrera, Director General of Natural Environment and Forest Policy meets with Elie Hakizumwami, Coordinator of GFTN-Central Africa, to discuss efforts to advance credible certification in Central Africa*

Building upon this history of supporting responsible forestry and trade in an effort to promote international cooperation on these issues, Spain is leading, during its Presidency of the European Union (EU), the debate on the development of the rules of legal timber trade.

By using both political will and market influence to linking together committed companies in Spain to responsible products in the Congo Basin, the GFTN is helping to advance forest certification in the countries of the Congo Basin while increasing responsible consumption in key markets. To date, the region has achieved FSC certification for 4.7 million hectares of forests in the Congo Basin, a collective area slightly larger than the country of Denmark.

"Through continued collaboration with the Spanish government and committed Spanish companies, we hope to continue driving credible certification in the Congo Basin, which contributes to the conservation of this globally significant region," said Elie Hakizumwami, Coordinator of GFTN-Central Africa.

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### Greater Protection Needed for Mahogany

Often an overlooked responsibility of the world's largest wildlife trade convention, this year's meeting of the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) finally addressed several timber-related issues—specifically the dire need to curb illegal trade in mahogany.

During the meeting, Peru was given a six-month ultimatum to address critical issues over the illegal mahogany trade. The CITES Standing Committee—the body that governs the CITES between conference of the parties meetings—made the decision to take this step following Peru's repeated failure to manage effectively illegal logging and trade in this valuable timber used to make furniture all over the world. In addition, CITES parties also discussed timber, medicinal plants and agarwood at the meeting held on March 15.

The timber-related trade—including agarwood, an aromatic resin extracted from certain tree species and used for perfume-making—is especially important in the Middle East, where CITES met in Doha, Qatar for the first time.

"Trees account for the vast bulk of wild plants in trade, yet only three commercially important timber species are listed on CITES, of which big leaf mahogany is the most valuable," said Colman O'Criodain, Wildlife trade analyst, WWF International.

Six months from now, Peru must enact legislation to regulate the mahogany trade, implement a computerised tracking system for mahogany and harmonise the different harvest and export quota systems being used. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the Standing Committee voting on a suspension of mahogany exports from Peru.

"Years of poor management of Peru's mahogany trade may inevitably lead to an international ban, which is an unfortunate ramification for those actors who have gone against the grain by seeking to responsibly manage and enhance the viability of mahogany populations in their concessions through achieving credible certification," said Alfredo Rodriguez, GFTN-Peru Manager.



*Illegally cut, highly valued mahogany discovered in a lowland rainforest along the Rio, Las Piedras, near the Alto Purus Reserved Zone, Madre de Dios, Peru.*

In Peru, there are only four forest managers that have received Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for mahogany, three of which are GFTN-Peru Participants. These companies have actively taken steps to maintain a viable mahogany population by supporting the monitoring and regeneration of seeding trees and evaluating the impact of new projects on the existing mahogany populations in their concessions.

For instance, GFTN-Peru Participant Aserradero Espinoza has taken special measures to responsibly manage the mahogany present in their concession by increasing and monitoring closely the number of seeding trees present, evaluating regeneration and setting higher thresholds than what is required by law for minimum cut diameters. Similarly, the company is actively working to reduce the pressure on commercial species like mahogany by promoting the use of lesser known timber species.

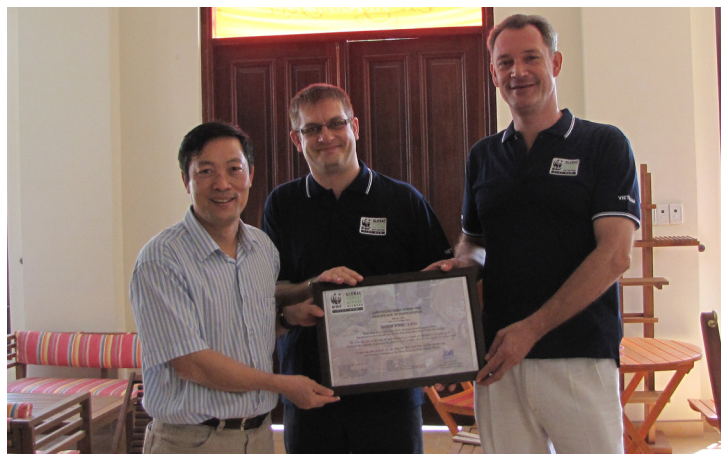
"However, if the Peruvian government cannot enact stricter controls to regulate illegal logging and trade of mahogany, the viability of these responsible producers will ultimately be jeopardized," warned Rodriguez.

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## 3 New GFTN Participants

### GFTN-Vietnam Welcomes Adis Pte Ltd.

GFTN-Vietnam officially welcomed the 11th participant—Adis Pte Ltd., a furniture retailer headquartered in Singapore and operating in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Through joining GFTN-Vietnam, Adis formalizes its commitment to responsible sourcing and promoting responsible forest management.



"As a company operating in several Asian countries, we are well aware of the importance of responsible forestry. GFTN-Vietnam helps us understand the source of our wood supply and select responsible and legitimate forest sources," said Adis' Chief Representative in Vietnam, Mr. Olivier Roy. "We

hope to become one of the leading businesses in supporting sustainable forestry processes and production."

To join GFTN, businesses need to go through an explicit, strict and independent procedure. Then businesses can build and commit to executing a five year action plan, with specific time-bound commitments to reduce and phase out all trade in wood from unwanted/high-risk sources and annually increase the proportion of credibly certified or recycled material. The GFTN then assists participants in executing their action plan by providing technical support, management consultation and market information.

As one of 34 countries that GFTN works in, GFTN-Vietnam facilitates trade links with a global network of responsible buyers, helping to stimulate a vibrant Vietnamese forestry industry. According to Mr. Le Cong Uan, GFTN-Vietnam Manager, "By joining GFTN-Vietnam, companies receive support not only in creating global trade links for their products but also information regarding legal and certified raw material sources from GFTN offices in other parts of the world."

Currently, GFTN Vietnam has eleven participants, including ten wood producing businesses and one forest owner, with annual export value of approximately US\$250 million. It is estimated that by the end of 2012, the programme will grow to 30 companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry.

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# 4 GFTN Market Links – Local Forests, Global Market

## Preparing for a Market Rebound

With the mounting pressure of the need to emerge victorious from a global downturn, competition and the search for new markets have intensified throughout the world. In this increasingly competitive climate, it is essential to be prepared for the time when markets rebound. In March, timber trade companies gathered to do just that, attending RACEWOOD in Douala in Cameroon to build solid and lasting partnerships with forest producers from Central Africa.

Organised by the InterAfrican Forestry Industry Association (IFIA), with the support from partners including WWF/GFTN, the third meeting of RACEWOOD took place in Douala from March 21-24 2010, attended by approximately 300 participants including African forest companies, European timber trade companies and federations, African forest administrations, and NGOs. Representatives from Brazil and China also participated to learn more about the latest developments in the African timber sector.

Focusing on responsibly managed African tropical forests, the meeting set out to foster solid and lasting partnerships between companies from Europe and Asia and forestry producers and develop new markets with value added products due to responsible forest management.

### Facilitating Lasting Partnerships

In addition to the workshops, RACEWOOD also organized an opportunity for exchanges and contacts with actors operating in the Central African forestry sector. GFTN participated with a significant presence, providing good visibility for participants in the Congo Basin and Ghana, and buyers in China, France, Spain and Portugal.

While enabling these market connections, GFTN creates the necessary conditions to conserve forest wealth, while simultaneously generating economic and social benefits for companies and people depending on them.

During the meeting, the Spanish Association of Importers of Wood (AEIM) announced their support for the responsible management of the Central African forests, agreeing to promote trade links between Spain and the countries of the region. As a result, AEIM will continue to promote consumption of wood from legal origin, indicating a preference for FSC-certified wood from Central Africa.

“We expect this agreement and the results of RACEWOOD’s commercial mission to be perceived by the EU officials as a clear example of effective measures against illegal logging and its associated commerce, and will increase the consumption of FSC-certified timber from the region,” said Felix Romero, Head of the Forest Programme of WWF Spain.

Through this collaboration, WWF and the Spanish wood importers are sending a clear signal to government officials on the importance of responsible consumption of tropical wood.



*Elie Hakizumwami, Coordinator of GFTN-Central Africa meets with the Congolese Minister of Forestry and Environment, Cameroonian Minister of Forestry and Wildlife and Vice-Chairman of the Spanish Association of Wood Importers*

“For AEIM member companies, this is an additional step in their environmental commitment, which is reflected in their Good Practice Code. With the guarantee of certification, no other material is comparable with regard to certified timber’s environmental benefits and sustainability,” said Alberto Romero, Secretary General of AEIM.

### Responsible Forestry in Action

Journeying down well-maintained roads to the certified concession of GFTN-Central Africa Participant Transformation REEF Cameroun’s (TRC), participants also had the opportunity to witness firsthand the benefits of responsible forestry in Central Africa as the company maintains a national road circuit surrounding the concession. Passing by the unique medical centre of Yengui, located in the main town near the concession, one could easily see how responsible forestry can positively transform local communities.

The centre was restored by TRC, who pays to staff three nurses as well as providing both medical equipment and schemes to the local community. The company plans to continue building infrastructure and facilities for the local community, as TRC’s CEO declared that he would never give up these efforts, “whatever the future of the FSC certification in the long run.”

Continuing on this expedition through the Congo rainforests, the field visit came upon log processing in the Akok community forest near the Campo Man protected area. Here, using responsible forestry practices, well-managed wood is harvested and produced into planks at a nearby mill, which WWF helped the community start. Responsible forestry operations of both logging companies and local communities are playing a significant role in conserving the forests of the Congo Basin and the livelihoods that depend on them.

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## 5 GFTN and Credible Certification

### Domtar Instrumental in Increasing Availability of Certified Copy Paper in U.S.

Recognized as a leader in sustainable growth in the pulp and paper industry, Domtar Corporation—the world's second largest integrated manufacturer and marketer of uncoated freesheet paper and GFTN-North America Participant—continues to deliver on the commitment made over a decade ago to make Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification an integral part of its sustainability strategy. Driven by this strategy, the company achieved certification for four more of its paper mills last spring—paving the way for Office Depot, one of its leading customers, to provide FSC-certified copy paper to the U.S. marketplace.

The global office products and services provider announced late last week that its top-selling recycled content paper, Office Depot® Green™ 30% Recycled EnviroCopy™ Paper, will now also be FSC certified. This switch to FSC is the result of combined collaboration between Domtar and Office Depot to increase the availability of credibly certified paper to environmentally and socially conscious consumers.

The now FSC-certified Office Depot Green 30% Recycled EnviroCopy Paper will be made at Domtar's mills located in Ashdown, Arkansas; Kingsport, Tennessee; Marlboro, South Carolina and Hawesville, Kentucky, three of which received FSC Chain-of-Custody certification in April 2009.

"Domtar and Office Depot teamed together to combine FSC Certification and recycled content into one copy paper," said Lewis Fix, Vice President of Sustainable Product Development of Domtar. "Office Depot is a major

customer of Domtar's and the Company's request for FSC-certified fibre for their EnviroCopy product definitely influenced our decision to further develop FSC-certified fibre sources in the southern United States."

Through this collaborative partnership, customers will now find a simplified choice when purchasing sustainable copy paper. No longer forced to choose between recycled and FSC-certified content, customers will enjoy receiving both environmental benefits in the same product.

"By adding FSC-certified virgin fibre to EnviroCopy 30%, Office Depot has dramatically simplified the selection process for sustainable papers," said Yalmaz Siddiqui, Director of Environmental Strategy for Office Depot. "Many papers claim to be sustainable, but only Office Depot Green 30% Recycled EnviroCopy Paper addresses the key aspects of sustainability: recycled content, responsible forestry at the FSC standard, Green Seal™ certification, and social benefits from Historically Underutilized Business sourcing – all at an economical price."

The first FSC-labelled packages are expected to be in Office Depot stores and available online during the first quarter of 2010. And with average annual sales of 1.4 million cases of Office Depot Green 30% Recycled EnviroCopy Paper, the joint commitment being demonstrated by two industry leaders will have a significant and immediate impact on increasing the availability of FSC-certified copy paper in the U.S. marketplace.

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## 6 The Faces of GFTN



### Le Cong Uan

Le Cong Uan returned to WWF as the GFTN-Vietnam Manager in March. In this role, he will provide assistance to companies committed to sound forest management and responsible purchasing. Uan possesses over 25 years of experience in the forest sector. Most recently, he worked for the GTZ

(German Technical Cooperation) Forestry Programme and was previously IKEA's Forestry Coordinator of South-East Asia.

Prior to his time spent in the private sector, Uan served as the Forestry Programme Manager for WWF Vietnam for six years. During this tenure, he was instrumental in the development of GFTN-Vietnam, first conducting a feasibility study in 2000 and then launching the programme in 2005. Earlier in his career, Uan worked for Sandvik and spent 15 years with Vinafor, the Vietnam Forestry Corporation and one of the biggest and earliest processing companies in Vietnam. He is a graduate of the Forestry University of Vietnam and post graduate diploma in mechanical wood technology and production management in Finland.



### Gervais Ludovic Madzous

Gervais Ludovic Madzous has recently been appointed as GFTN-Central Africa's manager in the Congo, with the goal of helping the timber sector commit to responsible logging in the Republic of Congo. Gervais' main duties include promoting GFTN and WWF in the country and fostering

partnerships between producers groups in Congo and buyers demanding FSC-certified forest products. Ultimately, he is in charge of encouraging and assisting willing companies that engage in the certification process of their concessions.

Prior to joining WWF, he worked for the World Bank/UNHCR disarmament, demobilisation and reinsertion program that followed the civil war in the mid-1990s. Gervais also led an environmental NGO in the Congo through which he has played an active role in the civil society sector. He has also served as a research assistant for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS-Congo). Gervais holds a degree in environmental science (social and land dynamics), with expertise in social work on environmental issues.

# 7 Cutting Edge Insights

## Building Upon a History of Sustainability



Bunnings—Australia and New Zealand's leading retailer of home improvement, outdoor living products and building materials and a GFTN-Australia Participant—has made an ongoing commitment to sustainability. One that is concentrated on materially reducing its environmental footprint through energy efficiency measures, water conservation, responsible sourcing, reducing packaging waste and active education and awareness programmes. It has also included a consistent focus on timber procurement which has led to substantial advancements in ensuring that all timber and wood products come from legal and well-managed sources.

In 2002, the company commenced collaborative discussions with Greenpeace on establishing a process for the elimination of illegally logged timber and in 2003, adopted a responsible timber and timber product purchasing policy. This provided a framework for action and set an aspirational goal to achieve sourcing of the entire timber supply from credibly certified forests by 2007. The company worked toward this goal with their supply chain, conducting risk assessments and annual surveys to assist suppliers to phase out unwanted or high-risk sources of timber and increase the amount from well-managed forests.

However, Bunnings was forced to revise this target in 2006, when it became apparent that demand for certified timber far exceeded producers' ability to actually supply product. Recognizing that an industry wide shift of this nature was bound to take time, the company refocused their efforts, with the help of the GFTN, to assist their suppliers in progressing through a stepwise approach to certification, focusing on the first step of legally verifying their timber.

"With a renewed commitment to a stepwise approach to responsible sourcing, we started focusing all of our efforts in the short term on tracing higher risk tropical timber back to the forest of origins and having suppliers provide third party certificates of verified legal origin (VLO), rather than relying on less independent sources which could easily be manipulated or counterfeited," said Mark Gomm, Bunnings Business Sustainability Manager.

With this refined, "risk-based" focus, the company set out to certify all timber products as verified legal by the start of 2009. Working with suppliers

that needed additional assistance or capacity to comply, Bunnings helped them develop a time-bound action plan to achieve VLO certification. In extreme circumstances where a supplier was found to be unwilling or unable to move forward, buying staff would discontinue purchasing and look for an alternate VLO or certified source.

"We felt very strongly that it was important to stay engaged with our suppliers and work with them through this process of ensuring the legality of our timber supply and protecting threatened forests," said Gomm. "If we were to cease trading with all suppliers that had difficulty in meeting our policy benchmarks, we would lose the opportunity to keep influencing them to move forward to certification and it would be most likely they would return to their old ways and continue trading in timber from unknown and potentially illegal sources."

An example of this was most apparent in the sourcing of merbau products, a tropical hardwood with a deep red-brown colour has become a popular choice for flooring and furniture, resulting in over-exploitation and illegal logging practices in regions throughout Southeast Asia.

In early discussions with suppliers it became apparent that many had a very low level of understanding when it came to beginning the process of having their product base legally verified. In response, Bunnings played a key role in educating the suppliers on the issues of illegal logging, and what documentation can be relied upon to independently prove legality or certification.

The company also established a relationship with a credible certification body on the ground in South East Asia, brokering and partly funding the initial gap analysis process that was needed to help these suppliers achieve VLO certification. By engaging actively in this process, Bunnings is able to ensure that their producers can actually move towards certification step by step without dropping off.



"Since 2003 when the policy was introduced, we've had to slog a really hard road on our own without broader industry or government support. We have quite a bit of pressure in the market through competitors who undercut our price with products that are coming from unknown and potentially illegal sources. Unfortunately, all but a few discerning customers

are still price driven. We have followed our strong convictions to engage with suppliers throughout our supply chain to ensure our customers that 100 per cent of tropical timber purchased in our stores has been legally harvested,” said Gomm.

Bunnings has now laid the foundation of a legally verified timber supply and is now advancing to the next step in their commitment to responsible sourcing by engaging with their suppliers to achieve credible certification. A key milestone in this process was the FSC-certification and labelling of its entire line of outdoor timber furniture in 2007, marking a tangible step in their commitment to sourcing timber from legal and sustainable forest operations.

“A key component of our success has been the unwavering commitment from both our Managing Director and our buying team to source legal and sustainable timber products, which has combined with the invaluable assistance and expertise offered by WWF’s GFTN and other NGOs such as Greenpeace on how to achieve our sustainability objectives. We make no claim to be perfect, but we genuinely believe that this is the right thing to do and that our customers and team members have a right to expect this of us,” he concluded.

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## 8 GFTN Notes from the Field

### Creating a New Way Forward

When WWF began working with the Emberá-Wounaan indigenous people in the Darien— Panama’s largest forest remnant—in 2004, timber was extracted with little regard for the forest’s integrity or ability to provide a constant supply of timber in the long term.



*Responsible forest management and trade is one of the best ways to conserve forests while helping communities that own the forest to generate tangible economic benefits through careful resource management. Emberá-Wounaan children, Panama.*

However, through extensive training and support offered by WWF and the Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN), the Emberá-Wounaan are advancing on the path to responsible forestry and reaping the rewards. The community recently signed a 10 year contract with Green Life Investment Corporation, a Franco-Panamanian group that will market wood from these communities’ responsibly managed forests.

Historically, the Emberá-Wounaan’s livelihoods, despite having rights to these forest resources, were just as impoverished as the region’s remaining forests. Timber merchants would often purchase standing trees well below their real value, earning large profit margins by going after the most valuable wood species once abundant in the Darien.

However, with the advent of this commercial alliance, things are changing as a new way of conducting business that recognizes the value of these standing forests is being proposed. The multi-year agreement ensures the responsible management of the Emberá-Wounaan’s forests through a commitment to its certification, while providing access to international markets and creating stable employment and income for the communities.

“This trade agreement will have a significant impact on our efforts to promote responsible forestry and trade within Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC),” shared Raúl Dancé, coordinator of GFTN-LAC’s trade efforts. “By linking the work done by WWF’s Community Based Forest Enterprises project with the communities in Darien with our efforts to identify a commercial partner interested investing and sourcing from well-managed forests in the region, we’ve created a complete chain that encompasses the forest industry and drives credible certification in the region.”

The terms of the agreement ensure the sustainability of the forest as it prioritizes adequate forest management within the principles and criteria of Forest Stewardship Council certification, a target that must be reached within the first year. Similarly, the contract also guarantees a sustained livelihood for the Emberá and Wounaan villagers, ensuring that monetary revenues return to the community, with fair prices that give real value to the forest.

“If responsible forest management in Latin America is to truly be realized, communities must be involved and trained in the best forest management practices,” said Daniel Arancibia, GFTN-LAC Regional Coordinator. “Once communities have the technical capacity to achieve credible certification for their operations, they in turn gain the recognition needed to compete in international markets while also ensuring that the region’s valuable and threatened forests are protected.”

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## Building Local Capacity

As with any industry dealing with natural resource management, forestry enterprises are not immune from potential conflict with indigenous peoples, local communities or their workers with respect to their operations. However, a difference lies in responsible forestry operations in how this conflict can either be prevented or addressed properly should it arise. As a result, capacity building in conflict management and prevention is an essential and vital tool for these companies' business practices.

In order to build this capacity on the ground, GFTN-Central Africa recently hosted a training workshop on conflict management for logging concessions in the Congo Basin. Generously supported by the Spanish Cooperation (AECID) and USAID, the workshop gathered 25 individuals from logging companies' concessions, GFTN staff as well as civil society sector in Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo using in-depth training and analysis on how to identify situations likely to cause conflict and what can be done to prevent or mediate these issues.

The training encouraged participants to evaluate the forest and social environments, different parties involved and the issues at stake and determine the linkages between different actors. Conflict management was studied from root causes to the different stages of a conflict, considering the possible consequences on the ways of addressing it. Examples included real cases the participants

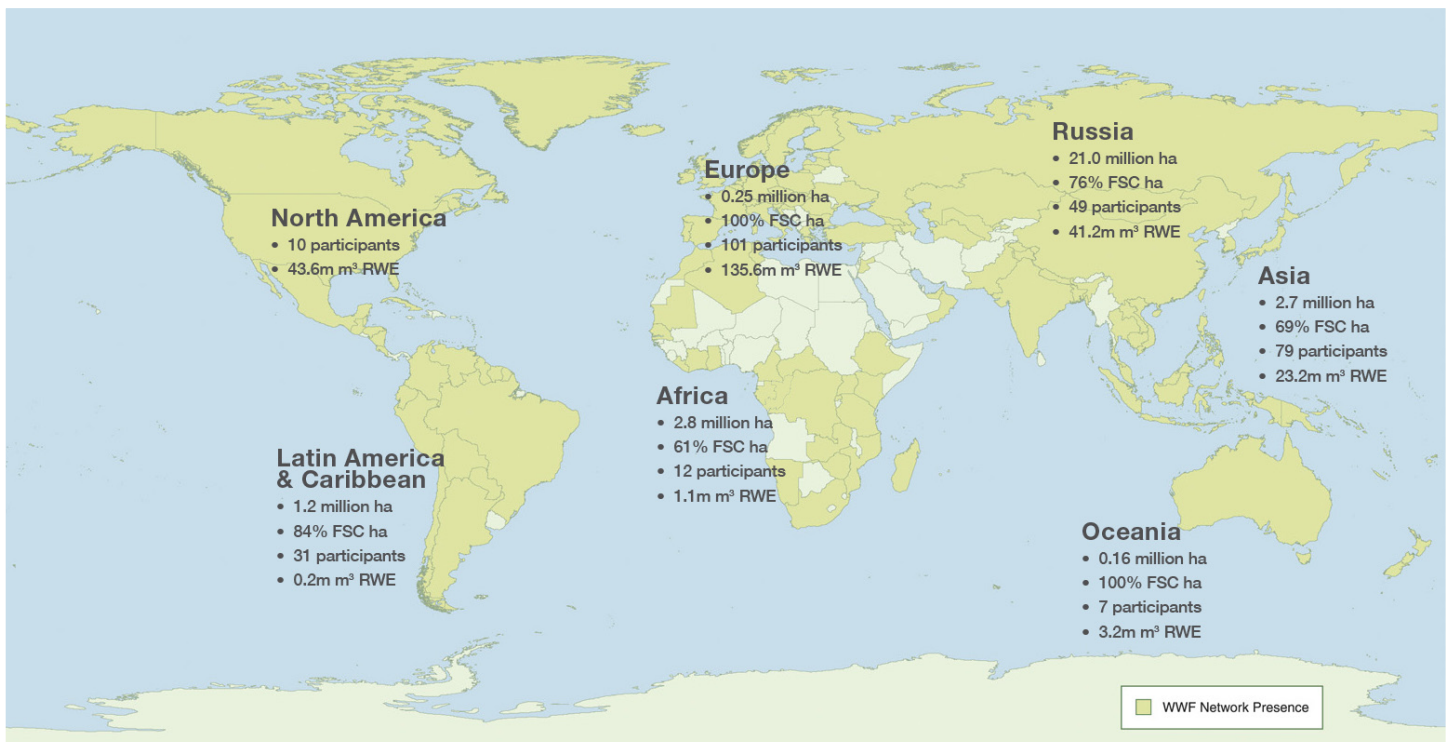
had experienced in their daily professional or social environments, examining how they had been settled before and after the FSC certification process.

"With a strong commitment to responsible forest management and certification, we view stakeholder consultation as a vital component in ensuring that our forests are well-managed. This training opportunity strengthened our ability to identify potential sources of conflict and learn how to best address and mediate them to the benefit of all parties when they arise," said Richard Feteke, Forest Manager, Pallisco

Stakeholder consultation and mediation were considered key approaches in ensuring that the interests of all parties are fully recognized and addressed. All participants expressed satisfaction with the training, admitting that the workshop provided them with the necessary knowledge to prevent conflicts or mediate them if they occurred.

"By gathering forest industry leaders from across the region, this opportunity helped instill the practice of effective stakeholder consultation early and often into the process as well as experience sharing among workshop participants," said Elie Hakizumwai, GFTN-Central Africa Coordinator. "Similarly, through engaging management of these logging concessions, conflict avoidance and resolution can be embedded in day-to-day business practices, ensuring that decision-making across the board recognizes the rights and concerns of all stakeholders."

## 9 GFTN Across the Globe





# GFTN Toolbox

## WWF Guide to Buying Paper

WWF, November 2007

This guide makes it easy for an organisation to understand the environmental impacts of paper-making and to source responsibly produced paper products. View this report at:

[http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_paper\\_guide\\_1.pdf](http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_paper_guide_1.pdf)

## Keep It Legal – Best Practices for Keeping Illegally Harvested Timber Out of Your Supply Chain

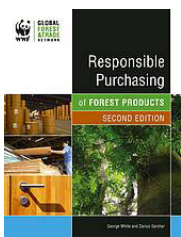
WWF, October 2006

Developed by GFTN for organisations wanting to implement a responsible purchasing programme, this manual adds detail to legality issues encountered by companies adopting such policies. Download *Keep It Legal* as a PDF: [http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/forests/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=82060](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=82060)

## Guide to Responsible Purchasing of Forest Products – Second Edition

WWF, September 2006

GFTN developed this guide for organisations wishing to develop a programme for the responsible purchasing of forest products. The guide offers a generic approach to developing and implementing a responsible purchasing policy. Download the *Guide to Responsible Purchasing* as a PDF: [http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/forests/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=80500](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=80500)



## External tools:

### FSC Certificate Search Database:

[http://www.fsc.org/en/getting\\_involved/buy\\_sell](http://www.fsc.org/en/getting_involved/buy_sell)

### Forest Certification Resource Centre:

<http://www.certifiedwoodsearch.org/searchproducts.aspx>

### Transparency International:

<http://www.transparency.org/>

### Illegal Logging:

<http://www.illegal-logging.info>

## GFTN at a Glance

The GFTN is WWF's initiative to eliminate illegal logging and transform the global marketplace into a force for saving the world's valuable and threatened forests. By facilitating trade links between companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry, the GFTN creates market conditions that help conserve forests while providing economic and social benefits for the businesses and people that depend on them. The GFTN considers independent, multi-stakeholder-based forest certification a vital tool in this progression and helps infuse the principles of responsible forest management and trade practices throughout the supply chain.

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