



Message from the Coordinator

Welcome to the first issue of the Australia Forest and Trade Network (AFTN) newsletter. This newsletter will provide regular updates on developments in forest certification and the supply, specification and use of certified forest products. Please feel free to pass this newsletter onto interested parties.

I look forward to sharing an innovative and rewarding 2006 with you all.

*Jana Blair
Coordinator,
Australia Forest & Trade
Network*

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What is the AFTN?

The Australia Forest and Trade Network (AFTN) is the local arm of the Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) set up by WWF to assist and encourage Australian businesses to support responsible forestry.

Participants in the AFTN support responsible forestry by implementing a timber and paper purchasing policy and time-bound action plan that identifies and, as quickly as possible, ends the purchase of forest products from illegal or controversial sources and continuously increases the amount of product sourced from “known”, “legal”, “verified legal”, “progressing toward certification” and “certified” sources.

The AFTN is open to all Australian businesses that produce, supply or use timber and paper and who are seeking to support responsible forest management.

The benefits of participation are:

- Assistance in developing and implementing a practical, responsible timber and paper purchasing policy;
- Access to a global network of like-minded businesses and organisations, including producers and suppliers, that are committed to supporting responsible forestry;
- Guidance in assessing the value and credibility of different forest and chain of custody certification schemes;
- Improved risk management on a major environmental issue for many businesses; and
- Demonstrate to shareholders, employees, regulators and other stakeholders an enhanced corporate reputation.

AFTN Assistance

Certification Assistance

Contact Jana Blair, Australia Forest and Trade Network Coordinator. jblair@wwf.org.au

To find accredited FSC certifiers search on www.fsc.org

Group Certification: **Group Certification for Forests (2002)**
www.proforest.net/publications



How to find FSC Certified Timber

Lodge a "Market enquiry" with the AFTN Coordinator. These enquires are forwarded to all members of the GFTN on a quarterly basis.

Global search for FSC certified timber and products:

www.certifiedwood.org. This database allows you to search by type of timber and timber species, by product type and supply chain position and country.

On www.fsc-info.org you can search for FSC certified species all over the world. Search mechanisms include species, tenure and country.

Global search for FSC Forest management and Chain of Custody certificate holders: www.fsc-info.org

On www.certifiedwood.org you can confirm the certification status of a company.

Global search for FSC certified forests:

www.certifiedwood.org The advantage of this certified forest list is the contact details like telephone numbers are included.

The most up to date information on which forests and companies are certified can be found on the main FSC International website www.fsc.org, however this information is mainly aimed at providing an overview rather than to establish contact.

AFTN NEWS

Launch of Partnership between WWF-Australia and Integrated Tree Cropping

On Monday 5th December, WWF-Australia and Integrated Tree Cropping (ITC) launched a new corporate partnership to encourage Australian business to support responsible forest and plantation management through their timber and paper purchasing decisions.

Speaking at the launch, Greg Bourne, Chief Executive Officer, WWF-Australia, said an alliance between the Australian arm of the world's largest independent conservation organisation and one of Australia's largest hardwood plantation forestry managers might at first glance appear unusual.

But, he said, an accord between an environmental organisation and a forestry company such as ITC was a snapshot of constructive engagement for a sustainable future.

The partnership seeks to encourage Australian businesses to specify or purchase timber and paper that is sourced from forests and plantations that are certified by credible schemes such as the internationally recognised Forest Stewardship

Council (FSC), and where possible to increase their use of recycled fibre.



Photo: Greg Bourne (CEO WWF-Australia) and James Neville Smith (CEO ITC) at WWF-Australia/ITC Partnership Launch [photo courtesy of Integrated Tree Cropping]

Publications

The AFTN has the following publications available in both hard and soft copy:

- AFTN Fact Sheet
- Responsible Purchasing Guide - Summary
- FSC Certification – An Introductory Guide
- FSC Principles and Criteria – A Framework for Forest Management
- FSC Certification: Chain of Custody – A Technical Guide for Manufacturers and Suppliers
- Controlled Wood – A Guide for Avoiding Environmentally and Socially Damaging Wood

Please contact Jana Blair should you require copies.

News from the Regions

Asia

In our region the Forest and Trade Network has chapters in China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

01 November 2005



The China Forest and Trade Network (CFTN) marked a major milestone when it formally announced that five companies from mainland China and three companies from Hong Kong

have qualified as its first official members. 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.

For more news about Forest and Trade networks in the Asian-Pacific region please go to www.forestandtradeasia.org.

Europe

In Europe the Forest and Trade Network has chapters in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

16 November 2005

Scoring of the Tissue Giants, Gland, Switzerland – 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.

The global conservation organization 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 very 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 – the equivalent of approximately 22 billion rolls of toilet paper.

“Everyday about 270,000 trees are effectively 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 Europe Forest Programme. “Manufacturers must use more recycled fibres in their tissue products, as this means fewer trees will be cut down.”

Toilet paper and towels in offices, schools and hotels are mostly made out of recycled fibres, and there is no reason why it should be any different for the same products that are sold in

supermarkets, WWF says.

Manufacturers argue that retailers mainly want non-recycled products because this is what consumers are asking for.

“Consumers have no idea that they may be threatening the world's forests when they go to the bathroom,” said Pollard. “It's a myth that recycled tissue products are not of a high quality. After all, people use recycled tissue products most of the day when they are out of their homes anyway.”

According to WWF, the companies also need to better inform consumers about the recycled content of their products. Consumers should not be misled by recycling symbols on tissue packaging which often only refer to the wrapping paper, and not to the product itself.

WWF recommends that consumers look and ask for the few recycled tissue brands currently produced by the five major manufacturers as well as brands from smaller companies for which recycled products are a niche market. Consumers should also ask shops and supermarkets to stock recycled tissues.

The report also warns that unsustainable timber harvesting, illegal logging and land right conflicts still exist in many of the countries where the virgin fibres are sourced.

WWF says that companies are showing promising intentions to effectively track timber from the forest to the product, but so far, only SCA Tissue has taken effective measures to exclude illegal or controversial timber from their tissue products.

NOTE:

- WWF has been in discussions with the five companies for over a year to find out information which is currently not publicly available. These companies were compared and scored across a range of criteria, including their wood sourcing practices, levels of recycled content, public reporting and their transparency about their emissions to water, air, waste disposal and use of resources such as water and energy. Although WWF sees some progress over recent months in the companies' willingness to address the issues which WWF raised in face to face negotiations with them, there is still a lot of room for improvements towards a responsible use of the world's forests. The comparative leader in the evaluation is SCA Tissue with 46 per cent of total achievable points, followed by Metsa Tissue with 35 per cent, Georgia Pacific 32 per cent, Procter and Gamble with 26 per cent, and Kimberly Clark with 24 per cent.

For further information:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/index.cfm

North America

22 November 2005

Rainforest Action Network - Goldman Sachs today became the first global investment bank to adopt a comprehensive environmental policy. The policy acknowledges the scientific consensus on climate change and calls for urgent action by public policy makers and federal regulators to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Read the Press Release:

<http://www.ran.org/news/newsitem.php?id=1682&area=finance>

The GFTN in other regions

The GFTN also has local chapters in South America and the Caribbean.

Copies of the a full participants list can be downloaded from the GFTN website

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/our_solution/s/responsible_forestry/certification/gftn/index.cfm

Background and Facts

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is currently the only credible, globally applicable timber certification system supported by WWF. The FSC label makes it possible for buyers to choose forest products that come from forests managed to the highest environmental and social standards and from legal sources. As a global system FSC offers market incentives for improving forest management around the world.

Further details on

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) www.fsc.org

Global Forest and Trade Network

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/our_solution/s/responsible_forestry/certification/gftn/index.cfm

Forest For Life Programme, WWF

www.panda.org/forests4life

NGO Positions on Certification systems

Footprints in the Forest (2004) –

In depth report on Canadian Standard's Association (CSA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Australia Forestry Standard (AFS), Sistema Brasileiro de Certificacao Florestal (CERFLOR), Certificacion Forestal (Certfor) and the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC).

www.fern.org

Make your own judgement about Certification Schemes

Assessing Forest Certification: A Practical Guide (2002)

<http://www.proforest.net/publications>

WWF Forest Position Statements

WWF works on forest conservation through a multiplicity of approaches and strategies. WWF Position Statements on the following issues are available on WWF's web-site

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/publications/position_papers/index.cfm

- Forest Protected Areas
- High Conservation Value Forests
- Forest Certification
- Certification Schemes (FSC and PEFC)
- Forest Plantations
- Climate Change and Forest Carbon Sequestration
- Forest Conversion
- Illegal Logging and Crime
- Forest Fires

WWF World Bank Alliance

The World Bank/WWF Alliance was formed in 1998 and draws on the comparative institutional strengths of the partner institutions:

- The Banks' access to policy dialogue, convening power, analytical capacity and financing operations;
- WWF's strong field presence, private sector partnerships, public trust and forest conservation experience.

By combining the strengths of the Bank and WWF, the alliance aims to bring about:

- 50 million hectares of new forest protected areas;
- 50 million hectares of existing, but highly threatened forest protected areas secured under effective management;
- 200 million hectares of production forests under independently certified sustainable management.

For more information on the World Bank/WWF Alliance go to www.forest-alliance.org

For Further Information

For more information and to be sent an AFTN application form please contact: Jana Blair on jblair@wwf.org.au

The AFTN welcomes your responses to information published in the Bulletin, write to jblair@wwf.org.au.

For more information on the work of WWF-Australia please go to: www.wwf.org.au