



Message from the Coordinator

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.

Jana Blair

Coordinator, Australia Forest & Trade Network

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The Global Forest and Trade Network

The Global Forest & Trade Network or GFTN is WWF's initiative to eliminate illegal logging, improve the management of the world's valuable and threatened forests, and promote credible forest certification. By providing support to and facilitating trade links between progressive forest industry companies, the GFTN seeks to create market conditions that will help conserve the world's forests while providing economic and social benefits for the businesses and people that depend on them.

The AFTN is the Australian arm of the GFTN (see page 6 for more information).

Events

WOODSHOW

February 5 – 7, 2008 - Dubai, UAE

Dubai international wood & wood machinery show

For more information go to <http://www.dubaiwoodshow.com/home.php>

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE FAIR

February 6 – 8, 2008 - Sydney, Australia

The Australian International Furniture Fair is the first furniture and furnishings trade Fair on the Asia Pacific calendar. For more information go to <http://www.aec.net.au/aiff/>

MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE FAIR

March 4 – 8, 2008 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

For more information go to <http://www.miff.com.my/web/index.php>



For more forestry and timber trade events in our region and around the globe go to <http://gftn.panda.org/newsroom/events/index.cfm>

AFTN Participant News

8 January, 2008

Complete Colour gains ISO 14001 – Complete Colour Printing has been formally certified for their Environmental Management System (EMS). Complete Colour's EMS has been developed, modified and integrated into the company culture over the last 3 years and has now been acknowledged with ISO 14001 certification through certification body SAI Global.

10 January 2008

ITC secures AFS chain of custody certification – ITC Timber, a division of ITC Limited, has successfully secured Chain of Custody Certification for its Tasmanian operations, under the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS).

January 2008

Simmonds Lumber Update - Simmonds Lumber, a member of the Australia Forest and Trade Network, has been working behind the scenes over the last few years to develop a tracking and verification system for the timber they import. In March 2007, Simmonds Lumber launched DNA Lumber, timber that can be tracked back through the supply chain to a licensed concession, enabling Simmonds Lumber to offer their customers high quality tropical hardwood that is independently verified as coming from a known and legal source. Developed in conjunction with Certisource, this initiative is a positive industry response to estimates that up to 9% of Australia's imported forest products is illegal timber.

"Simmonds Lumber is committed to ensuring that all the timber they import can be shown to come from known and legal sources" said Paul Elsmore, Chief Executive Officer, Simmonds Lumber. "Simmonds Lumber is aiming to lift its DNA certified timber products to 80% of its imports within the next 12 months.

Tropical hardwoods with no form of verification as to whether they come from a known and legal source are still being imported into Australia, and Australian home builders could be unwittingly contributing to illegal logging in those countries where the timber has originated. WWF encourages buyers to seek out timber importers such as Simmonds Lumber that can offer products such as DNA Lumber that ensure the timber is from a verified legal source.

for information on where to buy DNA Lumber, contact Simmonds Lumber on (02) 9638 7333 or mail@simmondslumber.com.au For further information on DNA Lumber, go to http://www.simmondslumber.com.au/sims_wp/Pages/Simmonds/DNALumber.aspx

Web page:

The AFTN web page has now moved to a combined global GFTN web presence, to go to the new page click here [AFTN home page \(http://gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/asia/australia_ftn/index.cfm\)](http://gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/asia/australia_ftn/index.cfm)

The AFTN and GFTN welcome feedback on both the content and layout of the website and if there are any extra features you think may be of interest.

General News

28 November 2007

WWF-International releases “The WWF Guide to Buying Paper” – Paper has been an integral part of our cultural development and is essential for modern life. But the world’s paper consumption has quadrupled in the last 40 years and is growing further.



This tremendous expansion threatens the last remaining natural forests, and the people and wildlife who depend on them, in many regions around the world. Pulp and paper processing also releases vast amounts of greenhouse gases and a wide range of polluting compounds into the environment.

The need for a buyers’ guide to responsible paper purchasing and use emerged from discussions WWF-International had with a number of major paper buyers: Canon, IKEA, Lafarge, McDonald’s Europe and Unilever. Other buyers have also expressed interest in the new WWF tools.

The WWF Guide to Buying Paper – together with WWF’s Paper Scorecard – provides useful insights and practical tips on what can be done to minimise the negative environmental and social impacts of paper production. For more information and to download a soft copy of the scorecard and buyers guide go to http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/what_you_can_do/business/paper_toolbox/index.cfm

If you are interested in a hard copy of the Buyers Guide contact Jana Blair jblair@wwf.org.au

8 January 2008

New APP Logging in Sumatra threatens local people, endangered species – An investigative report released today finds that paper giant Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) and its affiliates are constructing a massive logging highway that will split in half one of Indonesia’s most important forests. The legally questionable highway threatens to devastate one of Sumatra’s last large forest blocks, home to two tribes of indigenous people and endangered elephants, tigers and orangutans.

The Bukit Tigapuluh Forest landscape in central Sumatra contains some of the richest biodiversity on earth, with more than 250 other mammal and bird species. Field investigations by WWF and its partners found evidence of illegal logging and construction of a logging highway there by APP, one of the world’s largest paper companies and its partners. The highway allows logging trucks easier access to APP’s pulp mills in Jambi province; the clearing took place after APP’s forestry operations in neighbouring Riau Province were halted due to a police investigation of illegal logging. APP partners have cleared an estimated 20,000 hectares of natural forest in the Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape and some of the clearing appears to be in violation of Indonesian law.

The forest is home to two tribes of indigenous people, one of which lives nowhere else on Sumatra. The landscape was also designated one of just 20 “global priority” landscapes for tiger conservation by a global team of tiger scientists in 2006. It is the location of a successful conservation project to reintroduce orangutans, which now reside in a part of the landscape that is proposed for protected status but is already being cleared by APP-affiliated companies, the report found.



Picture of Sumatran elephant mother and baby taken with WWF’s camera trap set up in Bukit Tigapuluh forest landscape.

© WWF-Indonesia

Conservationists urge APP and its partners to stop clearing any more natural forest whose ecological, environmental and cultural conservation values have not been determined and to stop sourcing any of its fibre from such forests. Conservationists also call on the government to ensure an end to all forms of forest clearance found to violate national Indonesian laws and regulations.

“With its high conservation values, the Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape should be protected and thus all natural forest clearance in the area has to be stopped,” said Ian Kosasih, WWF-Indonesia’s Forest Program Director. “APP is one of the world’s largest paper companies and we believe its global customers expect it to act like a responsible corporate citizen. The company should commission independent assessments of the conservation values of these areas in a publicly transparent manner before any conversion takes place, and commit to protect and manage conservation values identified in these areas.”

Indonesian law has a set of criteria and requirements to be fulfilled prior to conversion of natural forest. Yet evidence found during the investigation indicates APP-affiliated companies converted hundreds of hectares before fulfilling these requirements, thus violating Indonesian law. Part of the area being cleared is in a proposed Specific Protected Area that serves as habitat for about 90 Sumatran orangutans recently introduced into the area for the first time in more than 150 years.

The full report can be downloaded at http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/index.cfm?uNewsID=120960

06 Dec 2007

Papua Moves to Ban All Log Exports - From The Age Newspaper: Papua will ban all log exports from next month, in a radical move to preserve one of the world's largest remaining tracts of untouched forests. Governor of the Indonesian province, Barnabas Suebu, told The Age that the Bali climate change conference should endorse funding the anti-logging moves, due to its impact on reducing global warming. To read the full article go to: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/papua-moves-to-ban-all-log-exports/2007/12/05/1196812829442.html>

24 Aug 2007

Senator Abetz officially launches the AFS - The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) was fully recognised as an Australian Standard after a three year review process. To read more about AFS go to <http://www.forestrystandard.org.au/>

GFTN News

Copies of the a full participants list can be downloaded from the GFTN website
http://gftn.panda.org/about_gftn/participants/index.cfm

As of January 2008 GFTN participants.....

- ❖ Manage over 27.2 million ha. of forests in progress to credible certification
- ❖ Have annual forest product sales exceeding US\$44.6 billion per year
- ❖ Are engaged in 162 trading deals with other GFTN participants
- ❖ Buy or sell in excess of 194 million cubic metres of forest products per year
- ❖ Employ over 1.3 million people globally

Asia

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

13 Dec 2007

Foreign International Group Joins the Malaysia Forest & Trade Network - McCorry Group of Companies became the first international group that supports responsible forestry by joining the Malaysia Forest and Trade Network (Malaysia FTN).

The company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signalling it's commitment to implement responsible environmental policy and formally joins a growing league of companies worldwide that are committed to responsible purchasing of timber products.

"Following the signing with seven new participants in this year, including one of the forest management units in Sabah that has committed towards FSC certification, McCorry is the next new participant of Malaysia FTN. McCorry will be well placed to respond to the needs of their international customers, as well as meet its obligations under the forthcoming EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade voluntary partnership agreement (FLEGT VPA)", said Dr. Arun Venkataraman at the signing ceremony.

The McCorry Group is a European based timber trading group with its international Operational HQ in Malaysia. The Group has seven subsidiaries and exports products to USA, Canada, Mexico, China, Australia, Middle East, West Africa and Europe. The company achieved its certification under the Forest Stewardship Council chain of custody (CoC) in 2002. McCorry and MFTN will work together with McCorry's timber product suppliers over the coming months and years to support their achievement of responsible forestry practices and FSC certification.



(From left to right) YB Dato Seri Tengku Zainal Adlin (Chairman of Sabah Tourism Board and trustee of WWF-Malaysia), Mr. Jonas Israel (CEO of McCorry Group), Dr. Arun Venkataraman (WWF-Malaysia's Conservation Director), Ms. Ivy Wong (Forest Conservation Manager) present during the MFTN MoU signing.
© WWF Malaysia/Audrey Lee

“We are joining the GFTN because it supports a stepwise approach to certification. Certification has to be economically viable to get the full backing from the industry. WWF’s program enables this. Furthermore the GFTN membership gives us a basis to live up to our commitment to protect the only renewable resource we have - our forests. And with the access to the customer base of the GFT network we’ll have more leverage with our supply chain thus encouraging the changes required”, said Mr. Jonas Israel, CEO of McCorry Group of Companies.

For more information on the Forest and Trade Networks in our region go to http://gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/asia/index.cfm

Rest of the World

The Global Forest and Trade Network also has chapters in Africa, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean and North America.

For more information on the Forest and Trade Networks around the world go to <http://gftn.panda.org/index.cfm>

FSC News

International

December 2007

Forest Stewardship Council dissociates with Asia Pulp and Paper

The Forest Stewardship Council dissociated from working with Indonesian based Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) in October 2007. The Forest Stewardship Council has a duty to protect the good will and integrity associated with its name and logo for consumers and for our trusted partners and members. The FSC Board of Directors decided that association with APP would threaten the good will and faith invested in the name Forest Stewardship Council and the years of support and participation by companies that are truly committed to the pursuit of responsible forest management globally.

There is substantial publicly available information that suggests that APP, a Sinar Mas subsidiary, is associated with destructive forestry practices. Reports from WWF, Greenpeace, Eyes on the Forest and many other independent sources suggest that APP is actively conducting forestry practices contrary to FSC principle and Criteria. As a result, the FSC Board of Directors decided to end the use of the FSC name and trademarks by APP and subsidiaries in which APP is the majority shareholder.

If you have further questions about the dissociation of FSC from working with APP, please contact Salem Jones in the Trademark Department at FSC <mailto:s.jones@accreditation-services.com>

Australia

FSC Australia AGM March 2008

The second Annual General Meeting of Responsible Forest management Australia Limited will be held on Friday 14th March 2008. A formal notice has been sent to all members. Elections will be held for one Board position from each Chamber and a call for nominations will follow.

FSC Australia 2008 Forest Stewardship Awards

An awards ceremony will be held in April for the first annual Forest Stewardship Awards, recognising the work and achievements of Australian organisations in promoting responsible Forest Management. Nomination categories will be for Large and Small FSC Forest Management organisations; large and Small FSC Chain of Custody Certificate holders; FSC Retailer and; FSC Consumer organisation. Details and nomination forms will be posted on the FSC Australia website shortly.

For more information go to the FSC Australia website at www.fscaustralia.org

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.

Publications

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

- AFTN Fact Sheet
- Responsible Purchasing Guide – Version II
- Keep it Legal – Guide on how to keep illegally harvested timber out of your supply chain.
- The WWF Guide to Buying Paper
- High Conservation Value Forests - The Concept in theory and practice
- 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

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 response to information published in the Newsletter, write to jblair@wwf.org.au.

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