



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

THE PROFOREST & NATURAL RESOURCE CERTIFICATION SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAMME

July 21-25, 2008 - Oxford, UK

The Programme provides a range of course options dealing with current issues for those involved in forest certification, management of forest and wood products and sustainable production of biofuels and agricultural commodities.

For more information go to: <http://www.proforest.net/2008-summer-training-course-1>

ADAPTATION OF FORESTS AND FOREST MANAGEMENT TO CHANGING CLIMATE WITH EMPHASIS ON FOREST HEALTH: A REVIEW OF SCIENCE, POLICIES AND PRACTICES.

August 25-28, 2008 - Umeå, Sweden

The conference will focus on the current state of knowledge of ongoing changes in climatic conditions in different regions of the world, and the implications of these changes for forest management and conservation. For more information go to:

<http://www.forestadaptation2008.net/home/en/>

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

In February 2008, the Australia Forest & Trade Network (Australia FTN) welcomed its 8th participant, Australian Paper to their growing network. Australian Paper is the largest office paper supplier to the Australian market with packaging and office paper sales volumes of almost 1 million tons per year.

Australian Paper owns and operates four mills in Australia. In 2006, two of Australian Paper's mills, Maryvale Mill and Shoalhaven Mill, achieved Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain of Custody certification, paving the way for the Reflex brand of copy paper to bear the FSC logo.

Reflex is the main office paper sold in Australia and most Australians are familiar with the brand.

WWF and Australia FTN supported Australian Paper in achieving FSC Chain of Custody certification and will work with Australian Paper to encourage their suppliers to secure FSC certification. Over 50% of the feedstock for Maryvale Mill comes from FSC certified plantations. Australian Paper is committed to progressively improving the status of their sources to meet the requirements of the Australia FTN and the GFTN.

General News

April 2008

The Illegal Trade in Timber and Timber Products in Asia-Pacific region – The Australian Institute of Criminology has released a new report examining the scale of the illegal timber trade in the Asia-Pacific region, encompassing the processes and current trends in logging, sourcing, trafficking, manufacturing, importing and consumption of illegal timber and timber products. Assessments of countries' timber resources, extent of illegal logging, policies and legislation, and enforcement initiatives show the efficacy of local, regional, national and international legislative frameworks and actions to suppress illegal trade.

To download the report go to: <http://www.aic.gov.au/>

February 2008

Staples Ends Contracts With Asia Pulp on Environment - Staples Inc., the world's largest office-supplies retailer, ended its contracts with Asia Pulp & Paper Co. because of its environmental practices.

The retailer stopped its 11-year relationship with Asia Pulp in late January, spokesman Owen Davis wrote in an e-mail today. Staples got about 5 percent of its paper from Asia Pulp, which it used in some Staples-brand products. Davis declined to disclose the value of the contracts.

Staples works with its paper suppliers to improve the environmental impact of its products, Davis wrote. Framingham, Massachusetts-based Staples stopped buying from Asia Pulp "due to their clear lack of progress in improving their environmental performance," Davis wrote.

Asia Pulp is owned by Indonesia's Sinar Mas Group, which is controlled by the Widjaja family. Agustian Partawijaya and Joice Budisusanto, a spokesman and woman for Sinar Mas, didn't answer calls to their mobile phones. They weren't available when Bloomberg called the Sinar Mas office in Jakarta.

Exports accounted for more than half the sales at two of Asia Pulp's Indonesian units in the nine months to Sept. 30 last year. The two units, PT Indah Kiat Pulp and Paper and PT Pabrik Kertas Tjiwi Kimia, didn't give customer names.

To read the full story go to: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=acXOtxbg7KDs&refer=home>

26 Feb 2008

Pulp and palm oil the villains in Sumatra's global climate impact and local elephant losses

Turning just one Sumatran province's forests and peat swamps into pulpwood and palm oil plantations is generating more annual greenhouse gas emissions than the Netherlands and rapidly driving the province's elephants into extinction, a new study by WWF and partners has found.

The study found that in central Sumatra's Riau Province 4.2 million hectares of tropical forests and peat swamp have been cleared in the last 25 years. Forest loss and degradation and peat decomposition and fires are behind average annual carbon emissions equivalent to 122 percent of the Netherlands total annual emissions, 58 percent of Australia's annual emissions, 39 per cent of annual UK emissions and 26 per cent of annual German emissions.



Diminishing habitat and increasing conflict - a poisoned elephant family in Riau Sumatra
© WWF Indonesia

Riau was chosen for the study because it is home to vast peatlands estimated to hold Southeast Asia's largest store of carbon, and contains some of the most critical habitat for Sumatran elephants and tigers. It also has Indonesia's highest deforestation rate, substantially driven by the operations of global paper giants Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) and Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Limited (APRIL).

The report by WWF, Remote Sensing Solution GmbH and Hokkaido University breaks new ground by analyzing for the first time the connection between deforestation and forest degradation, global climate change, and population declines of tigers and elephants.

The province has lost 65 per cent of its forests over the last 25 years and in recent years has suffered Indonesia's fastest deforestation rates. In the same period there was an 84 per cent decline in elephant populations, down to only 210 individuals, while tiger populations are estimated to have declined by 70 per cent to perhaps just 192 individuals.

"We found that Sumatra's elephants and tigers are disappearing even faster than their forests are in Riau," said WWF International's Species Programme Director, Dr Susan Lieberman. "This is happening because as wildlife search for new habitat and food sources, they increasingly come into conflict with people and are killed.



Driving deforestation, climate change and elephant loss - APP's Riau Pulp mill
© WWF-Indonesia

"The fragmentation and opening up of new forest areas also increases both the access and the opportunities for poaching. Therefore, a concerted effort to save these forests will contribute significantly to slowing the rate of global climate change, and will give tigers, elephants, and local communities a real chance for a future in Sumatra."

Led by global paper giants APP and APRIL, the pulp & paper and palm oil industries are driving Riau's Sumatran tigers and elephants to local extinction in just a few years by destroying their habitat, the study found.

At last December's Bali Climate Change Conference, the Indonesian minister of Forestry pledged to provide incentives to stop unsustainable forestry practices and protect Indonesia's forests. The governor of Riau province has also made a public commitment to protect the province's remaining forest.

"If the commitments by the Indonesian government are implemented, it will not only save its endangered species but actually slow the rate of global climate change through the carbon savings," said Ian Kosasih, director of WWF-Indonesia's forest programme.

Carbon emissions are likely to increase, the study predicted, as most future forest clearance will be conducted in areas with deep peat.

"If government and local industry were to create positive incentives for projects to reduce emissions by saving forests in Riau Province, it would both protect the province's massive carbon stores and also contribute to the economies of local communities that are dependent on these forests," said Kosasih.

As part of its efforts to save Sumatra's remaining natural forests, WWF is working urgently with the Indonesian government and the pulp and palm oil industries to identify and protect the forests that are home to elephants, tigers, orang-utans and rhinos. Sumatra is the only place on Earth where all four species co-exist.

The full report can be downloaded at: http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=125780

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

March 2008

From Vision to Action: The Growing Momentum of the GFTN - On March 3rd and 4th 2008, representatives from around the globe launched a new global vision for the GFTN. 16 WWF representatives met in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to form the first ever GFTN Shareholders Group. This exciting development in GFTN's new governance structure will not only give the GFTN more leverage as a global programme, but will help to ensure the success of our mission and goals.

In order to transform the global market place into a force for saving the world's valuable and threaten forests, GFTN needed to realign its strategy with that of the larger WWF organisation. This was assisted by incorporating the results of a program evaluation conducted at the end of 2006 and an organisational assessment (hosted by IMD Business School in Switzerland) in January 2007.



GFTN Managers at GFTN Planning Meeting

The combined results informed the GFTN business planning process, which formally began at the start of 2007.

During this time of organisational reflection, some of GFTN's major stakeholders (USAID, DFID, SCA, TetraPak, IKEA, TimbMet, CitiGroup, YingBin Nature Wood Industries) provided their input regarding future direction and strategy for GFTN growth. In fact, a major outcome of this IMD workshop was the reaffirmation of the GFTN approach. The workshop also allowed GFTN's stakeholders to articulate their greatest ambition for the programme - they want GFTN to change the world timber markets!

Today, after many consultations with local, regional and international stakeholders, the new GFTN business plan and governance structure (now known as the Shareholders Group) are in the implementation phase. These change-agent tools will allow the GFTN to take its work to the next level in order to transform the global forest products sector into a force for saving the world's valuable and threatened forests while providing economic and social benefits for the businesses and people that depend on them.

Asia

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

26 Feb 2008

Vietnam Forest & Trade Network Welcomes Two New Members – On Tuesday evening, 26 February 2008, the Vietnam Forest and Trade Network (VFTN) announced two new members in an official ceremony. The new members are Nestco Ltd., a timber trading company, and the Tran Duc Group, a wood-processing manufacturer.



“We are here to work with companies to meet Forest Certification Standards whilst providing these companies with access to buyers of their certified products” said VFTN Coordinator Dr. Le Khac Coi. “Vietnam’s timber processing sector is rapidly expanding but hardly depends on timber material importation. We are pleased to keep them informed of the legal sources of timber from sustainably managed forests from all over the world.” he added.

In order to qualify for VFTN membership, all of the successful companies have undergone baseline audits and prepared detailed time-bound action plans to improve their environmental performance. VFTN will provide technical support and guidance to help these companies follow through on these action plans and achieve certification within a five-year period.

Tran Duc Group CEO, Tran Duc Lam, said “VFTN membership is quite promising, (especially) knowing that annual sales of Truong Thanh Furniture Corporation - a VFTN member - have increased substantially in recent years. In addition, VFTN is also a forum to share and learn environmental success stories and thus motivates wider commitment to the standards we have embraced.”

To date, VFTN has 7 participants, including 6 timber processors/traders and 1 forest member with an annual turnover of about USD 200 million. It is expected that the number of participants will increase to at least 30 by 2012.

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

FSC-International has recently released some updated global statistics – see below for details.

* Maps and data on FSC (December 2007)

http://www.fsc.org/keepout/en/content_areas/67/1/files/FSC_Global_Statistics_12_2007.pdf

* List - FSC Certified Forests by Country February 2008)

http://www.fsc.org/keepout/en/content_areas/92/1/files/2008_02_29_FSC_Certified_Forests.pdf

* Regional totals - FSC CoC Certificate February 2008)

http://www.fsc.org/keepout/en/content_areas/92/1/files/2008_02_29_FSC_Chain_of_Custody_by_Continent.pdf

* Regional totals - FSC Forest Management Certificate (February 2008)

http://www.fsc.org/keepout/en/content_areas/92/1/files/2008_02_29_FSC_Forest_Management_Certificates_by_Continent.pdf

Australia

December, 2007

Hunter foresters first to win global certification - Australian Sustainable Timbers (AST), a native forest management, consulting and milling operation, has been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

AST's award is the first FSC certification of native forest operations in Australia. The FSC, also for the first time, has extended group certification to the farmers working with AST to sustainably harvest native regrowth forest on their properties.

AST was established in 2006 and operates from a property near Dungog, working with farmers in the Hunter Valley and the mid-north coast of New South Wales. The directors are James Felton-Taylor, an environmental scientist, and Annabel Kater, an agricultural scientist and qualified forester.

May, 2008

FSC Forest Stewardship System Reaches Milestone In Australia - The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has reached an important milestone in Australia with 100 active certificates making it the most widely used system for verifying wood, paper and wood products from responsibly managed forests and tree plantations.

About 90 Australian companies are now participating in the system and offering their customers the widest ever range of products from sawn wood to veneers, plywood, structural softwoods, laminated wood, paper, board and garden furniture.

The number and range of FSC certified companies has been growing at a rate of three to four new certificates every month over the past two years. The list includes many of the major players in the wood, paper and printing industries. FSC certified products are increasingly being seen in major retail stores

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. The AFTN was established as part of WWF-Australia's partnership with [Integrated Tree Cropping \(ITC\)](#).

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.

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.

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
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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