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# Newsletter Forestry and Wood Certification

No. 2/2005

Information contained in this newsletter is sent to approximately 14 000 recipients in 14 countries and is translated into 9 languages.

This bi-monthly newsletter provides information on progress in improving forest management around the world. Particular attention is given to credible forest certification, threats to forests such as illegal logging, trends in the investment sector and companies/ individuals showing leadership.

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# Improving Forest Management in Europe and Around the World

## FSC Improves Safety, Planning and Biodiversity – New Evidence from 6 European Countries

A new WWF study on 18 Million hectares of FSC certified forests in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Russia, Sweden and the UK, shows that certification led to significant improvements to biodiversity conservation, management planning, health & safety and the employment rights of forest workers.

The study analysed 2817 so-called *Corrective Action Requests*, which were raised by independent certifiers, as forest managers sought to achieve and maintain FSC certification in the 6 countries.

The analysis gives evidence that in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Russia, Sweden and the UK, biodiversity values were improved. This was done through measures such as: lower

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impact silviculture; improved protection of key habitats; increased deadwood levels; measures favouring species diversity; reduced soil compaction; improved water management and improved pollution control.

In all 6 countries FSC certification led to safer working conditions and enhanced worker skills, improved long term planning and strategies for minimising economic damage. FSC has also improved the ability to prevent illegal logging through the need to implement wood-tracing systems.

“The study brings out clearly also the social and economic benefits which FSC brings for policy makers, governments, forest owners, forest industry, those employed in the forest industry and recreational forest users”, said Duncan Pollard, Head of the WWF European Forest Programme. “The conclusions from this study positions FSC certification as an invaluable investment for the present and the future management of Europe's forests”.

Source: WWF Press Release February 14 2005

### **Illegal Logging in Bulgaria 45% - EU Needs to Act**

A new study by WWF provides strong evidence that up to 45% of the total harvest in Bulgaria stems from illegal harvesting operations. The annual allowable cut in Bulgaria is exceeded by 1.5 million m<sup>3</sup>, posing an enormous threat to the development of sustainable forestry as a whole. Key factors contributing to the illegal harvesting level in Bulgaria, according to the study, are violations of current legislation, corruption, fraud and loopholes in forest legislation. There is lack of capacity to enforce legislation and too little incentives for good forest management. The nature of illegal logging in Bulgaria is detailed in the study.

“We have consistently called on the EU institutions to address the problem of illegal logging in the new member states and accession countries. This new evidence clearly demonstrates that the problem is even more urgent than previously thought. If the EU is to be consistent in its efforts to tackle illegal logging then it must also deal with the problem within its own borders, not least in Bulgaria”, said Beatrix Richards, forest policy officer for WWF. “The EU can do many things such as support capacity building in affected countries, provide financial support to reform forest governance to deal with this issue and encourage trade to ask for legal timber.”

In a recent WWF survey of EU governments on illegal logging most governments have signalled support for efforts at the European Union (EU) level to tackle illegal logging in Accession and Candidate countries.

“The New Member States and Accession countries should be supported by the EU to create conditions which make abuse of natural resources less attractive and less likely”, said Duncan Pollard, Head of the WWF European Forest Programme

WWF also calls on the Bulgarian government to create a task force to address the problem of illegal logging as well as to reform the forest and conservation legislation to address this issue as a priority. WWF also invites the Bulgarian government to participate in a round-table discussion about illegal logging and possible measures for reducing the problem in the country.

Sources: WWF Press release 1 March 2005 The full press release and detailed findings can be found [www.panda.org/forests4life](http://www.panda.org/forests4life); The EU government barometer on illegal logging can be found on [www.panda.org/barometer](http://www.panda.org/barometer)



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### **Africa's First Ever Region-Wide Conservation Treaty**

During the *2nd Central African Heads of State Forest Summit* in Brazzaville early February, the Republic of Congo, Africa's first ever region-wide conservation treaty was signed as well as an agreement to protect over seven per cent of the Congo Basin forests.

WWF considers this as historic milestones for the future of the world's second largest rainforest. The treaty was signed by Presidents from Central Africa. In addition, a trilateral agreement was signed between Cameroon, Gabon, and Congo which will protect 14.6 million hectares of forests of the entire Congo Basin. "The treaty and the TRIDOM agreement will help Central African countries cooperate across borders in protected areas management, to tackle poaching and the illicit bushmeat trade, as well as illegal logging", said Dr Claude Martin, WWF International Director General.

However, with the exception of the €40 million pledged by the European Union, no new commitments on additional funding for conservation in the Congo Basin have been made so far. "WWF hopes that the international community will be able to mobilize the necessary funds to implement the Treaty", said Laurent Some, WWF's regional representative in Central Africa.

At the Brazzaville summit WWF has recognized the Yaoundé Process — a pioneering regional initiative to conserve the forests of Central Africa — as a Gift to the Earth.

The 'Gift' — WWF's highest accolade for a globally significant contribution to the protection of the planet — was presented by WWF International Director General Claude

Martin to the leaders of seven Central African nations.

One quarter of the world's remaining tropical rainforests is in Central Africa, which includes the Congo River Basin. This area contains the second largest tropical rainforest in the world after the Amazon, and is home to half of Africa's wild animal species and more than 10,000 plants species. Since the first African region forest summit took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in March 1999, 4.5 million hectares of new forest protected areas and important cross-border cooperation to safeguard endangered wildlife have been established.

Source: WWF Press release February 4, 5 2005 for an on the ground story go to [http://panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/africa/where\\_central\\_africa/cameroon/campo\\_maan/english/index.cfm](http://panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/africa/where_central_africa/cameroon/campo_maan/english/index.cfm)

### **Hope For Africa's Responsible Timber Trade**

Three of Cameroon's largest timber companies, *Pallisco, Decolvenaere, and Transformation Reef Cameroon* recently applied for membership in the Central Africa Forest & Trade Network (CAFTN) as the first companies in the region. CAFTN is a part of WWF's Global & Forest Trade Network (GFTN). The companies' membership announcement came during the *2nd Central African Heads of State Forest Summit* held in Brazzaville early February. The three companies together manage over half a million hectares of forest concessions, including forests with high conservation values. They export about 120,000 cubic meters of sawn timber to European markets — about 20 per cent of EU imports come from Cameroon — mainly to France, Spain, the Netherlands, and the UK.

Source: WWF Press release February 7 2005



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### Timber as War Currency in Africa

Recent news by the *UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* on Cote d'Ivoire indicate that in the war-stricken country militia chiefs, rebel warlords, timber companies and ordinary villagers are indiscriminately felling giant hardwood trees that dominate the equatorial forests of Southern and Western Cote d'Ivoire. The destruction of nature resources in Africa, in particular illegal logging, is a widespread problem.

WWF estimates that two thirds of the Congo Basin's forests could be lost within fifty years if illegal logging, poaching and smuggling of wildlife, and illicit bushmeat trade continue at the current level. Illegal logging is estimated to be as high as 50% in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, 60% in Ghana, 70% in Gabon and 80% in Liberia.

The EU is a major importer of timber from Africa and currently there are no effective mechanisms in place to check how much illegal timber reaches the EU. WWF calls on the EU to follow through with bilateral partnership agreements and the voluntary licensing scheme as well as to develop legislation to outlaw the import of illegal timber into the EU

WWF also highlights the urgent need to support African countries to improve governance and to support initiatives which aim to deal with the countries natural resources responsibly.

Key importers from Africa in Europe are Spain, Italy, France and Belgium.

Sources: IRIN news.org by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
[http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=44801&SelectRegion=West\\_Africa&S;](http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=44801&SelectRegion=West_Africa&S;) WWF European Forest Programme;

For the sources of illegal logging figures in Africa go to [http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/europe/problems/illegal\\_logging/illegal\\_logging\\_country\\_list.cfm](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/problems/illegal_logging/illegal_logging_country_list.cfm);

### DIY Retailer Bauhaus Shows Leadership for "Good Wood"

The major European DIY Retailer *Bauhaus AG (BAHAG)* recently became member of the WWF Global Forest and Trade Network in Germany. *Bauhaus AG* has its head office in Germany and at the moment stores in Germany, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, France, Croatia, Austria, Slovenia, Spain, Czech Republic and Turkey. "We are pleased that Bauhaus is taking on a leadership role in responsible wood sourcing. As Bauhaus is expanding to Eastern Europe their decision will help save Europe's natural heritage", said Johannes Zahnen from WWF Germany. Bauhaus AG already offers a few FSC certified products in their stores.

Source: WWF European Forest Programme February 2005

### Kyoto Protocol as Chance for Renewable Energy Sources

WWF welcomes the Kyoto Protocol which entered into force on February 16. WWF emphasises however that further steps are needed to make the Protocol the success that the world needs to avoid dangerous levels of climate change.

These include the need for Kyoto parties such as the EU to increase pressure on the private sector to further invest in clean energy, to promote energy efficiency, and to encourage electricity companies to make the switch from coal to clean energy sources.

"The European paper industry is an important actual and potential producer of renewable energy, which will be of increased importance in the future.", said Duncan Pollard, Head of the WWF European Forest Programme.



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Source: WWF Press release February 16 2005  
[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/climate\\_change/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=18415](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/climate_change/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=18415)

### European Forest Sector Outlook Study

The *UNECE Timber Committee* and the *FAO European Forestry Commission* have recently made available their *European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS)*. The EFSOS study analyses past trends and future outlook for the supply and demand of the goods and services provided by European forests, with a special focus on Eastern Europe. Some of the key trends noted in the study are an expected intensification of the forest products trade, an increase in demand for wood through renewable energy policies, an increased emphasis on environmental policies and sustainable development, a rise in recycling and residue use and a continued expansion of Europe's forest resource.

Among the key recommendations in the study are the need for a better cross sectoral approach in the forest sector, for improvements in monitoring of Sustainable Forest Management and for stimulating the sound use of wood. Further, a balanced implementation of wood energy policies, the need to improve skills of the work force and for Governments to work together on forest law enforcement and governance. "This study shows the flexibility and opportunity we have in Europe on combining wood supply and more biodiversity", said Duncan Pollard, Head of the WWF European Forest Programme.

Source: EFSOS study  
<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/efsos/>

### First Member of Forest and Trade Network in Indonesia

*P.T. Bangun Sarana Wreksa*, a furniture factory in East Java, recently became the first member of Indonesia's Forest and Trade Network, part of the WWF co-ordinated Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN).

Pierre Dermawan, Director of *P.T. Bangun Sarana Wreksa*, explains: "Our company is strongly committed to sustainably manage forest resources. In order to fulfil the increasing market demand, we have to provide certified forest products. By joining the forest and trade network we obtain the assistance in selecting credible sources and gain access to the global market."

In priority producing countries where forests are valuable and threatened, like Indonesia, the GFTN has pioneered a phased or stepwise approach to achieve credible certification through a time-bound action plan. The aim is to build the capacity of producers and processors and provide incentives to phase out wood from illegal and unsustainable sources as well as to supply credibly certified forest products to buyers looking for responsibly produced wood sources. In Brazil, Russia, Malaysia and Indonesia, the GFTN has already established partnerships with forest industry leaders managing in total over 12 million hectares of forest.

By facilitating trade links between companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry, the World Wide Fund for Nature's Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) creates market conditions that help conserve the world's forests, while providing economic and social benefits for the businesses and people that depend on them. The GFTN has 22 Forest



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and Trade Networks active in nearly 30 producer and consumer nations throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas

Source: WWF Indonesia January 2005; GFTN February 2005

### Market Demand Drives Responsible Forestry in Malaysia

Since *Inspiration Furniture* and WWF-Malaysia signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* in May 2004, two other companies have joined the Malaysian Forest and Trade Network. Demand by US and UK buyers for responsibly produced timber has encouraged these companies to commit to WWF's Forest and Trade Network in Malaysia and to actively work to increase the proportion of credibly certified forest products in the market place.

Source: WWF Asia Pacific Forest Futures Programme  
February 2005

### Acacia Used as Alternative Timber for Furniture In Indonesia

Due to the declining availability of raw material, the furniture industry in Indonesia has now found a new application for Acacia. The Indonesian company *IFC/PENSA* will for the first time exhibit Acacia furniture at a Singapore Trade Show at the beginning of March.

Previously, Acacia has only been used for wood-chips, but improvements in technology have made the shift to use it for the furniture industry possible. *IFC/PENSA* began growing plantation Acacia for wood chips in 1990. The recent change has resulted in nearly a tripling of the price for Acacia for the forest company. WWF has a partnership with *IFC/PENSA* on responsible forestry.

Source: WWF Asia Pacific Forest Futures Programme  
February 2005

## Paper in Focus

### First FSC Recycled Paper Label

Following the recent revision of the FSC Chain of Custody Standards the first FSC Recycling Label has come on the market in the US. The Premium Printing Papers division of *Fraser Papers* has been awarded FSC chain-of-custody (COC) certification for paper containing 100% post-consumer fibre.

"FSC certification in our paper products is a feature that is increasingly being requested by our customers, including merchants, designers and printers," states Glen Payton, Product Manager for the Premium Printing Papers division of *Fraser Papers*. "These products and our newly-certified manufacturing process satisfies that growing need," he adds. *Fraser Papers, Inc* is one of North America's largest producers of specialized paper products, operating 19 paper machines at mills in Maine, New Hampshire and Wisconsin in the U.S., and Quebec and New Brunswick in Canada.

In 2004 the FSC Board of Directors approved new rules governing chain-of-custody requirements for certificate holders. The approval of this standard is the culmination of three years of technical review, stakeholder consultation and pilot testing. Among the several changes to the chain-of-custody requirements, a new label has been issued allowing manufacturers to use a "FSC Recycled" logo on products with 100% post consumer recycled material. Previous to this change, products had to contain a minimum amount of FSC-certified virgin wood content to bear the FSC label. "The new standards for verifying the origin of recycled material offer for the first time, a move toward a global standard for recycled



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fibre," said Sofia Ryder, Policy Officer coordinating the standards development.

Source: U.S. News & Views February 2005

### Bad Press For Victoria's Secrets

*Victoria's Secret* and parent company *Limited Brands* have come under increasing pressure by NGOs in the United States about the wood resources they use for printing 395 million catalogues annually. The NGO *ForestEthics* launched a campaign against *Victoria's Secret* in October 2004, which led to over 100 demonstrations at *Victoria Secret* stores to improve practices. *ForestEthics* is asking *Victoria's Secret/ The Limited* to stop sourcing from Endangered Forests in the Alberta Foothills and in the US Southeast, to increase recycled use overall and to reduce the amount of catalogues they send out. A recent Ad by the NGO in the New York Times has created much attention:



[www.VictoriasDirtySecret.net](http://www.VictoriasDirtySecret.net).

Source: New York Times ad; Forestethics February 2005

### Germany's Largest Paper Merchant Chooses FSC

*SchneiderSöhne Kuvert GmbH & Co.KG.*, the largest German paper merchant, became FSC COC certified in January 2005 for the sale of paper envelopes. This comes after the paper merchant obtained FSC COC certification for printing and writing paper in December 2004.

Source: News + Notes Vol. 3 - Issue 1 - January 31st, 2005

### No More Business With APP Says Robin Wood

The NGO ROBIN WOOD called on consumers at PAPERWORLD in Frankfurt to avoid paper from rainforest destruction. The environmental organization criticizes in particular the pulp and paper company *Asia Pulp & Paper (APP)*.

In a joint statement with environmental organizations from South East Asia ROBIN WOOD demands governments, banks and companies to have no more business with *APP* who is blamed for the destruction of huge areas of tropical forests in South East Asia.

Source: Robin Wood February 2005

## Focus on Responsible Investment and CSR

### Investors Can Help Stop Forest Destruction Through Oil Palms

WWF Appeals to the investment sector to promote better practices by applying rigorous investment criteria for palm oil and soy plantation establishment. Palm oil is the fastest expanding crop in the tropics and the demand for soy is expected to increase by 60 per cent in the next 20 years.

Palm oil is a major source of income in Indonesia and Malaysia as is soy in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia. However, during the last two decades more than 300 million hectares of tropical forests - an area larger than the size of India - have been cleared for plantations (including palm oil and soy), agriculture, pasture, mining, or urban development. Over the next 25 years, a further 250-300 million hectares of tropical forest are likely to be lost in this way.



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As forests and their natural functions are removed from the landscape, problems such as soil erosion or pollution of fresh water from pesticides used in the growing of crops then arise.

Conversion often costs very little money. Non-existent or insufficient landscape planning procedures, and a lack of guarantee of land ownerships and tenure rights set the ground for uncontrolled and unwanted forest conversion processes.

WWF's goal is to ensure that High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) and key species in focal ecoregions are no longer threatened by palm oil and soy expansion, allowing forest landscapes and freshwater ecosystems to continue to provide environmental goods and services. To reach this goal, WWF is working with the oil palm and soy industry to ameliorate the impacts that plantation agriculture is having on forests and communities. The right signal from investors in this multibillion dollar industry would help preserve environmental services, community income and biodiversity.

Palm oil is used as cooking oil and to manufacture countless foods such as margarine, confectionery and ready-to-eat meals, but also non-food products including soaps, detergents and cosmetics. It is also used by the paper recycling industry in the de-inking process. Soy meal is much sought-after as animal food.

Producers, processors and manufacturers, government agencies, banks/investors and various NGOs in Asia attended two public forums on sustainable palm oil held in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur in January. The first ever global multi-stakeholder meeting on responsible soy production, will

bring together environmental and social organizations with representatives from businesses and investment March 17-18 in Brazil.

Sources: WWF Forest Conversion Initiative February 2005. More information can be found on [www.panda.org/forests/conversion](http://www.panda.org/forests/conversion). More info on the upcoming Soy Roundtable: [http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/forests/our\\_solutions/responsible\\_forestry/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=18384](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/our_solutions/responsible_forestry/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=18384)

## News on FSC

### **New FSC Guide for Avoiding Environmentally and Socially Damaging Wood**

In February FSC launched a new guide for FSC chain of custody certified companies wanting to control the uncertified wood in their FSC Mixed Sources product groups. The guide outlines the steps companies can take to identify and control their wood sources, and presents the key concepts and technical requirements for the FSC controlled wood standards. It can also be used by all companies wanting to avoid purchasing wood from undesirable sources.

Source: FSC International February 2005 [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)

### **Second FSC Global Paper Forum**

FSC International holds its second "FSC Global Paper Forum" on April 21-22, 2005. The agenda includes:

- Sourcing and supply of FSC certified inputs
- Marketing and promotion of FSC certified products
- Chain of Custody: Implementation update
- Presentation of FSC Global Paper



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### Forum Business Plan

- Dialogue and Discussion

Source: FSC International [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)

## Background and Facts



The Forest Stewardship Council is currently the only credible 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 global system FSC offers market incentives for improving forest management around the world.

### Key Statistics

Status: February 2005

Total area of FSC certified forests: 51.320.494 hectares

Number of countries with FSC forests: 62

FM certificates: 685

COC certificates: 3625

For regional maps and data on certified areas in Europe, Africa, Asia – Pacific, Latin America and North America go to <http://www.certified-forests.org>

### Programme Information

For Information on the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)

Global Forest And Trade Network

[www.panda.org/forestandtrade](http://www.panda.org/forestandtrade)

Forests For Life Programme, WWF

[www.panda.org/forests4life](http://www.panda.org/forests4life);

[www.panda.org/forests/goodwood](http://www.panda.org/forests/goodwood)

### Certification Basics

**An Introduction to Forest Certification: (2001)**

<http://www.proforest.net/objects/introtocert.pdf>

### NGO Positions on Certification Systems

**Behind the logo (2001)** -In-depth report of the four biggest forest certification schemes (CSA, FSC, PEFC

& SFI) analyses the strengths and weaknesses of each scheme and aims to provide companies, governments and NGOs with the facts needed for informed decision making.

**Follow up report: 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), Australian Forestry Standard (AFS), Sistema Brasileiro de Certificação Florestal (CERFLOR), Certificación Forestal (Certfor) and the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC). <http://www.fern.org/>

### Make Your Own Judgement About Certification Schemes

**Assessing Forest Certification: A Practical Guide : (2002)**

<http://www.proforest.net/objects/Assessing%20Forest%20Certification/assessing%20schemes.pdf>

## Certification Assistance

**All aspects of certification and more on responsible forest management:**



### Where to Sell and Buy Certified Timber

**Global search for FSC certified timber and products:**

[www.certifiedwood.org](http://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](http://www.fsc-info.org), you can search for FSC certified species all over the world. Search mechanism include species ( open query) , tenure and country.

**Global search for FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody certificate holders**

[www.fsc-info.org](http://www.fsc-info.org).

On [www.certifiedwood.org](http://www.certifiedwood.org) you can confirm certification status of a company

**Global search for FSC certified forests:**



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[www.certifiedwood.org](http://www.certifiedwood.org) The advantage of this certified forest list is the contact details like telephone numbers are included.

Most up to date information on which forests and which companies are certified can be found on the main FSC International website [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) - however here information is mainly aimed at providing an overview rather than to help establish contact.

Check **approved FSC certifiers** on [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)

For a comprehensive list of FSC-certified producers and wholesalers of office and publication paper as well as printers in Europe for to [www.panda.org/forestandtrade](http://www.panda.org/forestandtrade);

### Assistance With Group Certification

**A Practical Guide to Developing a Group Scheme for FSC-Accredited Certification of Forests: Final Draft (2001)**  
<http://www.proforest.net/objects/gscheme2.pdf>

### Responsible Investment

For Investment guidelines by the Worldbank/ WWF Alliance go to  
<http://www.panda.org/downloads/forests/wwfinvestm entpol7oct03final.pdf>

### Learning From Others

400 companies are part of the WWF co-ordinated Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN), committed to responsible forest management and trade. They represent a wide range of actors including forest owners, timber processors, construction companies, retailers, investment agencies and local authorities. Members vary from small family-owned businesses to world scale leading companies such as IKEA and the Home Depot. They are committed to gradually producing, trading and/or sourcing independently certified forest products. Find more information about GFTN at: <http://www.panda.org/forestandtrade/>

To learn from the experiences of other companies who are already part of the network get in touch with one of the forest and trade network co-ordinators. Contact details can be found on <http://www.panda.org/forestandtrade>

### Multiple Solutions for the World's Forests by WWF

WWF works on forest conservation through a multiplicity of approaches and strategies which are pursued together with regional and global partners: Credible Forest Certification, High Conservation Value Forests, combating illegal logging and forest crime, preventing forest fires, restoring damaged and degraded forests and forest protection. WWF's *Forests for Life Programme* has developed position papers on global forest issues which are available on. For more information go to [www.panda.org/forests4life](http://www.panda.org/forests4life)

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

- the Bank's access to policy dialogue, convening power, analytical capacity and financing operations,
- WWF's strong field presence, private sector partnerships, public trust and forest conservation expertise.

By combining the strengths of the Bank and WWF, and their partners, the Alliance is uniquely positioned to effect changes in forest policy and practices, to help safeguard biodiversity, and alleviate poverty. With forests being depleted globally at a rate of 28 hectares per minute, the stakes are high. Urgent, significant and coordinated actions on a global scale are needed to arrest the precipitous and relentless declines in forest cover, the concomitant loss of biodiversity, and the effects on the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.

For more information on the World Bank/ WWF Alliance go to [www.forest-alliance.org](http://www.forest-alliance.org)