

GFTN-CHINA FACT SHEET



BACKGROUND

As the world's second largest importer of industrial timber, pulp, and paper, outranked only by the US market, China has a substantial ecological footprint across the world's forests both as a producer and a consumer. Faced with an increasing demand for wood and paper products along with diminishing forest resources, China imports timber from many countries and regions including Russia, Indonesia, South America and Central Africa. These regions often face significant problems such as illegal logging, forest crimes, loss of natural forest to agriculture and loss of biodiversity. Against this backdrop, environmentally sensitive markets of Europe and North America are increasingly calling for wood products that are legally and responsibly harvested.

WHAT: GLOBAL FOREST & TRADE NETWORK – CHINA (GFTN-CHINA)

The Global Forest & Trade Network - China (GFTN-China) is a national arm of GFTN that works to eliminate illegal logging and improve the management of valuable and threatened forests within China and in countries supplying wood to China.

GFTN-China was officially launched on March 8, 2005 as a joint programme between WWF China and WWF Hong Kong to serve greater China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan). GFTN-China provides Chinese wood product manufacturers with technical support and guidance on how to satisfy the demands of raw material supplies while reducing the depletion of forest resources. GFTN-China also provides information on illegal logging, forest trade and forest certification as well as understanding the international market demands for certified forest products. GFTN-China provides this support, while linking participant companies with buyers who seek responsible forest products.

WHO: GFTN-CHINA WORKS WITH

GFTN-China gives priority to working with strategically chosen importers of softwood, hardwood, flooring, furniture, plywood and paper from WWF's Priority Places as well as other GFTN operating countries. Many of these companies are often the supplier to key consumer countries where GFTN operates. GFTN-China also works with major retailers operating in, or whose purchasing offices are based in China and Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, GFTN-China particularly focuses on the construction sector which plays a major role in tropical timber trade. Furthermore, GFTN-China works with local and municipal governments (both in the Mainland and Hong Kong) to implement responsible purchasing of forest products as well as responsible management of China's natural forests.

QUICK STATS: GFTN-CHINA

- **35** companies with over **81,000** employees
- **Over 2 million** hectares of credibly certified forest achieved by participants, which represents 91 per cent of all FSC certified forests in China
- **4.8 million m³** of forest products traded by participants
- **US\$1.5 billion** of forest products traded by participants

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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