GFTN-FRANCE FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

France is a major international wood products importer, with a strong influence on tropical timber and wooden furniture markets. France is the world's second largest importer of timber from the Congo Basin, the largest EU tropical log importer, and the world's fifth largest tropical log importer. With significant historical trade relationships with Central Africa, France is uniquely positioned to drive forest management improvements in the Congo Basin. As the third largest furniture importer in the world, France is also a major player in the world's wooden furniture trade, with a growing trade relationship with Asian countries including Indonesia, Vietnam and China. Estimates that 40 per cent of French timber imports are illegal creates a strong opportunity for committed companies to impact issues around deforestation, illegal logging and trade through legal and responsible timber purchasing policies and practices.

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

The Global Forest & Trade Network - France (GFTN-France) is a national arm of GFTN to eliminate illegal logging and improve the management of valuable and threatened forests in countries supplying wood to France. GFTN-France was created in 1999 as "Club Proforêt", in an effort to help a select group of companies achieve chain of custody certification. In 2008, GFTN-France re-launched to support certification for importers and distributors of timber products in France, with an increased focus on influencing the timber trade between France and the Congo Basin.

WHO: COMPANIES GFTN-FRANCE WORKS WITH

GFTN-France works with trade members, including importers and distributors, processing companies and specifiers, such as architects and procurement institutions. The evolving nature of the international timber market presents GFTN-France with new challenges and opportunities, the most strategic of which is focusing on France's role as a major importer of African wood. In order to capitalize on this trade relationship, GFTN-France focuses on trade relationships with the Congo Basin, a WWF Priority ecosystem.

QUICK STATS: GFTN-FRANCE

- GFTN-France works with **6** companies who employee **22,930** people.
- GFTN-France participants trade **2.5 million m^3** of forest products
- GFTN-France participants sell **US$24.3 million** of forest products

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Jean BaKouma, GFTN-France Coordinator
Email: jbakouma@wwf.fr
Tel: +33 (0) 155 25 84 79
Fax: +33 (0) 155 22 84 74
URL: http://gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/europe/franceftn