



# WWF GFTN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

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*GFTN is WWF's initiative to eliminate illegal logging and transform the global marketplace into a force for saving the world's valuable and threatened forests. By facilitating trade links between companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry, GFTN creates market conditions that help conserve forests while providing economic and social benefits for the businesses and people that depend on them. GFTN considers independent, multi-stakeholder-based forest certification a vital tool in this progression and helps infuse the principles of responsible forest management and trade practices throughout the supply chain.*

# GFTN ON THE GROUND

## GFTN-Cameroon prepares local NGOs to face increasing pressures on the environment

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*A representative from a local NGO shares her experiences.*

**“NGOS SHOULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE INTERNALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND STANDARDS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROTECTION.”**

Communities across the region are facing intensified logging, mining, industrial agriculture and large scale infrastructure development, all of which place increasing pressure on the Congo Basin, an area that forms part of the world’s second largest rainforest. Last November, GFTN conducted a three day workshop for local NGOs in Mbalmayo, Cameroon, providing training and insight on sustainable development principles. While the Cameroonian government and the international community have developed regulations and standards to help minimize risks to the environment and the communities that rely upon it, and maximize benefits, NGOs can play a critical role in providing technical support for internalization and implementation of these standards.

To build the capacity of Cameroonian NGOs in providing effective assistance to the private sector and communities, GFTN-Cameroon focused their training on international norms and standards applicable to the forestry, extractive, agro-industry and infrastructure development sectors. Overall, 32 participants from 18 NGOs attended the training, which also covered topics such as Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and Corporate Social Responsibility. Since its establishment in 2003, the GFTN program in the Congo Basin has been committed to community-based capacity building to combat illegal logging and promote sustainable forest management and certification.

As Norbert Sonne, WWF-Cameroon Forest Coordinator told participants, “Besides their traditional role of a ‘watch dog’, NGOs should provide technical support to the private sector and local communities in the internalization and implementation of international norms and standards related to environmental and social protection.”

Workshop attendees had the opportunity to engage more deeply on a range of standards and initiatives, including: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification standards; High Conservation Value Forests; Round Table on Sustainable Palm (RSPO) Standards; the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative; the International Council on Mining and Mineral (ICMM) Sustainable Development Framework; the World Bank and International Finance Corporation Standards; the Equator Principles; Social and Environmental Safeguards in relation to REDD+; and links between those norms/standards and Corporate Social Responsibility. And many of them walked away with a greater understanding of their role in helping to ensure that the most vulnerable in their communities reap the benefits and protections that responsible forest management and sustainable development standards can provide.

“We are an integral component in protecting the environment and interests of vulnerable populations including indigenous peoples whose rights have been threatened. This workshop is of strategic importance to our conservation goals,” said Alfred Medou, President of OPFCR, a local conservation NGO.

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# GFTN & CREDIBLE CERTIFICATION

## Smallholder communities in Bolivia work toward FSC certification

**“FSC CERTIFICATION PROVIDES IMPROVED COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY FORESTRY OPERATIONS, AS BUYERS SEE THEM AS SERIOUS PROVIDERS.”**

Working closely with the Bolivian Authority of Forests and Lands (ABT) under a Memorandum of Understanding, as well as with FSC Bolivia, GFTN-Bolivia has supported the efforts of four communities to gain or maintain FSC controlled wood certification. Located in northern Bolivia in the departments of La Paz and Pando, these communities—San Pedro, an indigenous community, and forestry cooperatives Caoba and

Idiama—were identified through an assessment and short survey conducted by WWF Bolivia last year. As a result of this assessment these three were able to obtain FSC certification under controlled wood standards. The fourth, Veronica, is in the midst of negotiations with their buyers, with the support of WWF-Bolivia.

Forestry communities in northern Bolivia have shown in the last ten years a deep commitment towards responsible management of their forests. Over time, they have built strong commercial relationships with buyers, which has encouraged them to certify their management under FSC standards with the collaboration and support of agency partners and buyers.

The certification process has had a number of important implications. First, certification of these products has resulted in better timber prices and expanded offers to attract new buyers. This, in turn, has had significant economic benefits for families working within these forest associations. “FSC certification provides improved commercial opportunities for community forestry operations, as buyers see them as serious providers. FSC certified community operations also have an improved ability to negotiate prices and therefore to increase annual incomes to their members,” explains Maria del Carmen Carreras, GFTN Manager in Bolivia.

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*Smallholders with Maria del Carmen Carreras, GFTN-Bolivia Manager.*

Working from a value chain approach, GFTN-Bolivia staff provided training in forest management, control of chain of custody, and application of low impact practices. These skills were a critical part of the communities' ability to obtain forest management certification, reflecting improvements in their technical capacity. And a number of families have built on this technical capacity, going beyond certification to develop new businesses such as carpentry. Their ability to launch these new ventures has provided added value to their timber products, as well as diversified and increased incomes.

Key to the success of these efforts was GFTN-Bolivia's previous work with the Idiama forest community, which helped prepare them for certification. From April to August 2013, the Bolivia team supported Idiama with preparation and review of technical documents, planning meetings, field visits, and a range of training workshops on forest certification, protection and custody of the concession, and strategic planning for community relations. All of this work was done in coordination with the board of the community forestry association and its technical team, ensuring that skills, expertise, and facilitation capacity stayed in the community for the long term.

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*Maria del Carmen Carreras, GFTN-Bolivia Manager, facilitates discussion with community members.*

# GFTN & MARKET TRANSFORMATION

## GFTN partnership brings innovative approach to responsible forest management in Indonesia

An innovative initiative on the Indonesian island of Lombok has made substantial progress in addressing a growing crisis on the island: a dwindling water supply due to unsustainable logging and deforestation.

Lombok's Mount Ranjani plays a vital role on the island, one of the driest in Indonesia. The springs that flow from the slopes of the mountain provide clean fresh water for the island's 3,116,815 inhabitants. In the dry season from March to October, few rains come to the plain where the majority of the island's community lives. The regional public water supply company (PDAM) uses water catchments located at the bottom of Mount Ranjani to regulate water flow. But in the late 1990s, deforestation due to unsustainable logging

on the volcano led to up to 50% of the springs on the mountain drying up.

GFTN-Indonesia, working with government and local communities developed a Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) system aimed at reforesting the slopes of Mount Ranjani. In addition to replenishing the water supply, the re-establishment of the forests would absorb carbon emissions and help to mitigate climate change.

At a basic level, PES provides incentives to farmers or landowners in exchange for managing their land to provide ecological services that address the greater good. In Lombok, PES was used to connect people upstream (communities in the vicinity of Mount Ranjani) to people downstream (the rest of Lombok's population) by creating a mutual support system.

By paying a little extra on their bills each month, customers of the water company help support sustainable forest conservation activities further upstream such as tree nurseries, cultivation and maintenance. This, in turn, supports efforts to conserve environmental resources and replenish water streams.

With around 40,000 households paying IDR 1,000 – IDR 2,000 every month through their water bills, \$194k has been funneled



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*Tree emerging from tropical rainforest, Indonesia.*



*Worker removing bark, East Kalimantan, Borneo, Indonesia.*

into conservation efforts at Mount Ranjani. Around \$130k has been distributed to 24 community groups in 12 villages in West Lombok District. Each group manages between \$3,000 and \$8,000.

“Thanks to PES the population no longer has to worry about access to clean, fresh water,” said Dr Hadi Daryanto, general secretary of Indonesia’s Forestry Ministry. “Not only that but it is ensuring that poor people in need of instant cash are resisting the urge to cut down trees. They realize that the forest provides the real environmental service by providing water and reducing carbon pollution.”

With a PES framework now established on Lombok, GFTN, with funding from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), is spearheading an innovative new project to obtain certification for ecosystem services in Indonesia. The project, in partnership with the Indonesian Ecolabeling Institute (LEI) and the Ministry of Forestry, will cover three pilot sites with a total of nearly 475,000 ha.

“The development of the PES standard and certification by FSC through the GFTN mechanism is an important attempt to mainstream payments of environmental services from the forest that, until now, were remote and isolated events around the world,” said Aditya Bayunanda, GFTN Manager at WWF-Indonesia. “We hope that linking PES to a working and operational credible certification such as FSC will accelerate the process of recognizing environmental services as a way to increase the value of the forest.”

Since 2006, GFTN has engaged in a range of other efforts to mainstream responsible forest management in Asia as part of RAFT—the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade partnership—a consortium of leading conservation organizations. RAFT partners have brought together their skills and expertise in capacity building and knowledge sharing services to Asia Pacific countries to promote trade in responsibly harvested and manufactured wood products. RAFT is funded by the Australian and US governments, and includes The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), TFT (The Forest Trust), the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF), TRAFFIC – the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network. RAFT works in China, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

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# CUTTING EDGE INSIGHTS

## The Magellan Group, Ltd. celebrates 20 years of responsible forestry and trade

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Ross Yeager, Magellan Group  
Managing Partner, at GFTN's  
International Business  
Roundtable for Sustainable  
Forestry in Panama.

Launched in 1994, The Magellan Group, Ltd. ([www.worldforest.com/](http://www.worldforest.com/)) sources raw lumber and value added products across seven countries and three continents, with a long time commitment to FSC certification. The Magellan Group, Ltd. became a GFTN participant in 2014, in line with their values to mainstream responsible forestry management and trade within their industry, and bring greater sustainability to the communities and companies they work with, and the forests they rely on.

**You've had a history of informal engagement with GFTN/at GFTN sponsored events, such as trade missions. What was the value to The Magellan Group of the GFTN relationship prior to becoming a participant?**

We've been very active in the environmental movement in our industry and we've encountered GFTN in a lot of what we do.

We pride ourselves on being able to help other manufacturers around the world to develop their products and bring them to market, and on the fact that we do it with sustainability in mind. Throughout our efforts over the years, we continued to meet others involved with GFTN, so the relationship naturally built from there. We decided to go one step further by working more formally with both GFTN and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to drive the message even further down the line.

One thing we've seen in our work is that education—just getting the word out—is a really big hurdle. It's not just about educating the public, but also educating the manufacturing core, and helping them to understand that sustainability starts in the forest and goes all the way through end-use. It's important to teach them proper methods of recovery, for example. GFTN opens the doors for us to help folks in that way, and does an excellent job of communicating about the value of this work to a broad range of organizations.

That's why becoming a participant was important to us—we want to be associated with like-minded groups, because GFTN has the same core principles that we do when it comes to relationship development, and how to communicate to build those relationships. We think our engagement with GFTN helps open a lot of doors to have conversations about certified products and how to mitigate the environmental impacts of wood products.

**What informed your current responsible purchasing policy? Can you describe the process of developing that policy?**

Our responsible purchasing policy has been in place informally from the beginning. What really prompted us to make the policy formal was Home Depot's statement that they were moving to FSC certified wood. Everything we were doing was already centered on that same philosophy of sustainability—we just formalized it then because it began to have more economic value in the marketplace. At that time, FSC was relatively unknown, but as we learned more we really fell in love with the idea of credible certification, and ever since it has driven all of our policies and purchasing. Virtually everything that we do starts with trying to make sure we get certified wood into all the products that we manufacture. Today, a large percentage of our products are FSC certified.



*The Magellan Group Ltd at the West Coast Green trade show.*

But beyond the economic issues, we feel strongly about the environment. We're trying to bridge the gap between environmental issues and the marketplace to show that it is possible to achieve balance.

**Who have you tried to partner with or educate to help shift the industry toward that balance? And how do you communicate the value of certification?**

A lot of it started with our customers—many of them were on the same page as we were. They came to us asking for more resources to help them. So we worked with a lot our mills and campaigned to get them certified. As our suppliers converted to FSC certification, we tried to get other parties involved along the way, including third parties such as subcontractors. We tried to bring that chain of custody all the way up through the ranks—even if they weren't selling to us, we wanted them to understand the value of manufacturing a certified product.

If I have a manufacturing customer ask me, “What is FSC going to do for me economically?”, here's what I explain. Let's say a customer wants to buy certified products. He needs ten containers, and he can only get eight from the certified manufacturer, so he needs to buy two more containers from non-certified suppliers. Those non-certified suppliers are competing over those two containers, and they're going to drive the price down. In essence the FSC certified manufacturer receives the market price and the non-certified manufacturer receives a reduced price—that is really how this is working in the marketplace now. And if customers or consumers are educated and they demand certified product, it reinforces this.

I also tell them to take a look at sustainability, long-term sustainability—this is the direction things are moving in. From a business standpoint, if you're certified, you're going to be in a much better position in the future than you would be if you're not certified. Those consumers who will have the major purchasing power in the near future will demand that they have product choices that will do no further harm to our environment and those companies that have a track record of offering certified products will be in a far better position than others to supply what is being asked by the new generation of consumers.

**Can you talk about some of the benefits FSC certification has generated?**

Just as an example, there was a company that wanted to provide us with product. So we went to visit, and decided that it was a good product for Magellan, but it was manufactured in an underdeveloped part of the world, in a really poor community in terms of health, education, access to resources-- everything. We found the social situation in that community really disheartening, and felt that our work could and should contribute to improving things there.

So we told the manufacturer that in order for us to do business with them, they would have to become FSC certified because both Magellan and its customers require it. This meant that worker pay would be commensurate with their work and that workers would be fed a balanced meal every day. And we really saw the impact in business terms as well—as soon as the workers were fed and paid a decent wage, their output increased.

To build on that, we also put together an incentive program. For every container that was shipped correctly and on time, we deposited \$100 into an account specifically for the workers and their families, to be used however the executors saw fit on a need basis. We saw this as an opportunity to reward and incentivize good work, but also to give workers an opportunity to improve their own lives, their own community.

**WE WORK IN SEVEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, SEVEN DIFFERENT CULTURES, SEVEN DIFFERENT ATTITUDES, SEVEN DIFFERENT IDEAS. BUT ONE THING I'VE LEARNED IS THAT DESPITE THOSE DIFFERENCES, MOST PEOPLE CARE ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES, MOST PEOPLE CARE ABOUT THEIR ENVIRONMENT, MOST PEOPLE CARE ABOUT THEIR WORKERS, MOST PEOPLE CARE ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND THEY WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING.**

So we converted a mill that was not certified into a certified one, and by doing so we were able to have both an economic and social impact. You can't be satisfied with doing just one thing--making money or making an impact. If you really care about people and the environment, you've got to do both.

We've basically built factories from the ground up with our own people, helped train people, helped create finished products from a piece of wood, and that adds value up the ladder—the more money they make, the more money they can pay their workers, the more money goes into their local economy. At the end of the day, you do need money in order to have clean water and to build schools. We do that by maximizing the value for each of our vendors, giving them the most amount of money we can for their product, and FSC certification helps us to deliver that.

**'WE ASK THE COMPANIES WE WORK WITH, "THINK ABOUT IT FROM A PERSONAL STANDPOINT—WHAT YOU WANT TO BE KNOWN FOR IN YOUR BUSINESS? WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?"'**

**Part of your engagement with GFTN will include business skills training to GFTN producers in Latin America. Why is this work important? What types of skills and knowledge do you see as important to producers in the region, and why? And how will The Magellan Group's experience and expertise in particular help inform this training?**

The Magellan Group can help producers working with GFTN in Latin America to understand the demands of exporting to the US or other markets. We can provide training and guidance on the business planning process, logistics, and quality control, but the most important issue to address is supply chain credibility. Producers must develop an understanding of the international marketplace and what is expected and what will not be tolerated by their customers. By helping producers to better compete in the marketplace, they'll be able to increase their revenue, and grow and build their businesses. They'll be able to send their kids to school so that they have a more highly skilled labor force, and buy better or more specialized equipment. Our intention in offering business skills training is to enable producers to invest in their businesses, maximize their product, and be as sustainable as possible. We feel it's the right thing to do.

The business skills training will complement the training that GFTN already is doing with producers in the region on timber legality issues and to help move them towards FSC certification. Ideally, it will help support the competitiveness of smaller businesses with a commitment to responsible forestry and trade. We want to help their businesses to thrive so forests can thrive!

**This year, The Magellan Group is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Looking back, what are you most proud of?**

One of the things that we're most proud of has been our ability to mobilize many different people to work towards a common goal. The Magellan Group brings together a group of manufacturers that don't compete with one another. We designed it so that they actually manufacture different parts of a puzzle to create a whole. We feel good about the fact that we were able to convince people of the benefits of that model, and that they are continuing to see the benefits 20 years later.

We've been with many of our mills since the beginning--we're still working with many of the same people we were working with 20 years ago. We respect each other, and I think one of the most important things that we do is to work hard to benefit the manufacturers that are producing for us. We want to see them grow. We want to see them succeed. We want to help bring them the highest value that we can, and we want to see them do the right thing. In my opinion, I'd say we've done a pretty good job of that.

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*Factory tour in Peru, with Ross Yaeger Magellan Group Managing Partner.*

# GFTN NOTES FROM THE FIELD

## Smallholder group in Vietnam scales up responsible forest management with FSC grant

FSC's Smallholder Fund has awarded a grant of EUR 30,000 to the Quang Tri Smallholder Forest Certification Group to support training in forest management and business administration, as well as the development of improved conservation measures.

The Group, initially managed by WWF but now under the supervision of Quang Tri's provincial forestry office, was certified in 2010. It was the first FSC group certificate issued in Vietnam, covering 188 households and 316 hectares of Acacia plantations established on war-damaged land in central Vietnam. Over the past three-and-a-half years the Group has grown steadily, now comprising 334 households managing more than 860 hectares of plantations.

"The grant is an important motivator that will support the Group in its scaling-up objective," said Mr Hoang Duc Doanh, director of Quang Tri's provincial forestry office. "With this grant, we can strengthen the capacity of the Group in organisational management and sustainable financial management. We can also strengthen the awareness and capacity of local authorities and forest owners for forest planning and conservation management."

Farmer households such as those in Quang Tri have been responsible for establishing much of Vietnam's plantation base. Certification is a way to showcase their efforts and tap into growing market demand for sustainable wood products, but can be too expensive for individual farmers. Group certification offers a way around this by allowing farmers to spread the costs across many members. At Quang Tri, group members have cut costs further by qualifying for streamlined certification procedures applicable to small forests (less than 100 hectares).

With support from WWF and Quang Tri province, the Group has developed a management system that differs from local practice in several key respects. First, the rotation period for Acacia has been extended to 12 years from the usual 5–7 years, to produce higher quality timber suitable for making furniture. Second, clear-cuts are limited to 10 hectares instead of 30 hectares or more, and native species are promoted in harvest sites and buffer strips. Third, seedlings are planted in holes rather than plowed rows to reduce the risk of soil erosion. Fourth, instead of using burning to prepare planting sites, only the vegetation growing within 50 cm of planting holes is cleared.

Looking ahead, the Group aims to expand to at least 2,000 hectares, at which point it should have enough financial flexibility

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Forest harvesting, Vietnam.



*Training on forest inventory.*

to cover its costs and provide income security for members in off-harvest years. The grant from the FSC Smallholder Fund will support this process by allowing the Group to organise workshops to introduce FSC certification to potential members, and to provide training in the group certification system to new members. It will also be used to build the capacity of local group leaders to provide technical support and oversight for members, thus reducing the workload of provincial forestry officials. Lastly the grant will support an ongoing process of identifying and assessing conservation areas, and implementing appropriate conservation management practices.

“The support from FSC is a really good opportunity to help the Group in achieving its strategy for 2013–2017,” said Mr Ho Sy Huy, head of the provincial forestry office’s technical division. “It will contribute to objectives such as strengthening group management on a larger scale, promoting linkages between the Group and external buyers and investors, and diversifying income sources to ensure the Group’s long-term financial sustainability.”

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*Village group training.*

# MAINSTREAMING RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

## GFTN-NA launches continuing education course on responsible wood sourcing

First piloted at the 2013 National Wood Flooring Association Expo, GFTN-North America's continuing education unit (CEU) for responsible wood sourcing serves as an innovative example of bringing new actors into the effort to mainstream responsible forest management and trade. The course is free and available online through the AEC Daily website at <http://www.aecdaily.com/sponsor/wwf>.

The first of its kind focused on responsible wood sourcing, the course launched online in March and is accredited by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), and the Interior Design Continuing Education Council (IDCEC), among several other professional associations. It also qualifies as Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) related training. The CEU could reach over 1,000 architects over the web within a year.

The course gives an overview of the vital role forests play in maintaining biodiversity, climate, and human well-being, the global threats to forests, particularly in priority sourcing areas, and solutions to deforestation, including concrete actions that flooring and building professionals can take to support the responsible forest products trade. The course invites participants to be part of the solution. For example, it introduces key concepts of due diligence and credible forest certification, and outlines practical guidance for sourcing legal and responsible wood, including best practices in supplier engagement.

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### Responsible Sourcing

The fourth solution, and most relevant for building professionals, is responsible sourcing – growing the trade in responsible wood products.

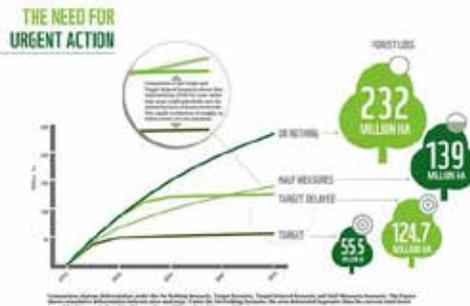


By implementing responsible purchasing practices, flooring professionals and architects, specifiers, and other building professionals will directly benefit forests by supporting operations that demonstrate how forests can be managed for timber production without compromising their ecological integrity or harming the interests of local people.

*GFTN-North America's certified education unit (CEU) on responsible wood sourcing is the first of its kind, and has been approved by the American Institute of Architects.*

### The Living Forests Model

The model looked at the differences in accumulated forest loss across different scenarios out through 2050, assuming 9 billion people on the planet.



**LEVERAGING EXISTING  
ASSOCIATIONS,  
PARTNERSHIPS AND  
INDUSTRY LEADERS  
EXTENDS THE REACH  
OF GFTN EFFORTS  
TO MAINSTREAM  
RESPONSIBLE  
FORESTRY AND TRADE.**

The CEU offers a range of resources that can help support course participants in putting what they've learned into practice, such as GFTN's Online Guide to Legal and Responsible Sourcing, which offers step-by-step guidance on how to exercise due diligence and implement best practices (<http://sourcing.gftn.panda.org/>) and GFTN's Guide to Lesser Known Timber Species (<http://gftn.panda.org/resources/tools/?212135/Guide-to-Lesser-Known-Tropical-Timber-Species>), which helps participants identify alternatives to species that are in high commercial demand and as a result are threatened or endangered.

"The CEU has the potential to reach a wide cross section of professionals in the flooring and building sectors and provide them with the practical information they need to make responsible wood sourcing decisions," explains Amy Smith, GFTN-North America Senior Program Officer. "The course aims to enhance their understanding about the connection between the wood they choose and the health of the world's forests. Armed with that knowledge, their purchasing decisions can help drive positive change in the marketplace and on the forest floor. This sector-wide approach enhances the one-on-one work GFTN is doing with companies by engaging another influential part of the wood supply chain."

This innovative approach to educating the construction and wood flooring sectors about the implications of responsible sourcing practices represents an early success in GFTN-NA's larger vision of sector-wide engagement. Leveraging relationships with existing associations and industry leaders extends the reach of GFTN's efforts to mainstream responsible forestry and trade.

For more information visit [gftn.panda.org/resources/gftn\\_online\\_courses/](http://gftn.panda.org/resources/gftn_online_courses/) or contact: *Amy Smith, Senior Program Officer, GFTN-North America, amy.smith@wwfus.or*

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*Flooring factory, Shanghai, China.*





Tokyo, Japan.

## WWF-Japan launches Consortium for Sustainable Paper Use

In November 2013, WWF-Japan and five consumer companies aiming to take progressive action for responsible paper use launched the *Consortium for Sustainable Paper Use*. The companies include Ajinomoto Co., Inc.; JSR Corporation; Kirin Holdings Company, Limited; Sony Corporation; Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Limited; as well as Response Ability, Inc., which serves as an advisor to the group.

Given that Japan is the third biggest paper producer and one of the biggest consumer countries in the world, WWF-Japan has been working together with both producer and

consumer companies to increase use of FSC sourced products, and eliminate use of paper with links to deforestation in the world. In part because of these efforts, awareness by consumer companies of the economic, social, and environmental benefits of sustainable paper use has been higher than ever before. And now, the number of consumer companies not simply expressing concern about sustainability issues, but publicly announcing their procurement policies is gradually, but steadily growing.

Building on this promising trend, the members of the *Consortium for Sustainable Paper Use* have agreed to collaborate and engage in activities to promote sustainable paper use in their own companies and as well as throughout their supply chains.



Member companies will establish their own responsible procurement policies in accordance with the following principles that will lead the consortium to implement responsible paper use by 2020.

- Give preference to paper products certified by credible certification systems recycled paper.
- Ensure that paper products were not sourced from destruction of High Conservation Value Forests.
- Ensure that paper products were produced in a legal manner, consistent with the laws and regulations of the country in which it was produced.
- Eliminate paper products from business entities involved in serious environmental or social issues.

The *Consortium for Sustainable Paper Use* is an important step in mainstreaming sustainable paper use beyond the individual efforts of its five current members. Because consortium members have a commitment to take responsibility for their own procurement policies, they will work and communicate with their wider networks of suppliers and clients. This, in turn, multiplies the number of companies and sectors that understand the value of sustainable paper use, contributes to efforts to support responsible sourcing and forest management, and minimizes the impact of paper use on forest destruction and degradation.

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# GFTN NEWS

## New study confirms social impact of FSC certification in Congo Basin

A new study of Congo Basin logging concessions, conducted by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and funded jointly by WWF and CIFOR, has found that Forests FSC certified for their sustainable management provide more benefits to communities than uncertified forests. The study is available in English and French at [www.cifor.org/fsc](http://www.cifor.org/fsc).

“The evidence indicates that Forest Stewardship Council certification in the Congo Basin has been able to push logging companies toward remarkable social progress,” explains Paolo Cerutti, lead scientist from CIFOR.

Conducted in 2013-2014 across three Congo Basin countries—Cameroon, Gabon and Republic of Congo—the WWF-supported study matched nine certified and nine noncertified concessions, or forest management units (FMUs) to compare how well they delivered social benefits to workers and communities. The study looked at measures such as employee living and working conditions, equitable distribution of resources, social infrastructure such as schools and community buildings, and impacts on customary rights such as agriculture and hunting.

The study is the first of its kind to look specifically at social impacts of FSC certification in the Congo Basin, and highlights how communities benefit when logging companies pursue the level of responsible forest management required by and audited under FSC certification requirements. Researchers found that FSC certified concessions establish more effective and better organized institutions for communication with communities and equitable financial support to development projects, in clear contrast to past and nearby uncertified forestry operations.

In light of the results of the Congo Basin research, WWF Forest Director Rod Taylor has reaffirmed WWF’s commitment to investments in FSC certification: “This report confirms that FSC certification can drive logging companies to adopt more progressive social practices, and thus benefits communities living in and around certified logging concessions.”

The study did not find significant differences between certified and noncertified concessions in terms of customary access to, and right to use forest resources within logging concessions (e.g. for agricultural use, hunting and gathering non-timber forest products). And it highlighted the need to ensure that the benefits of certification for communities are sustained. The results also suggest that delivery of social benefits would be further improved if logging companies, certifying bodies and the FSC put more effort into establishing clear, written procedures for conflict resolution, improved monitoring of performance against social benchmarks and provided better career planning to make the logging industry a more attractive employment sector.

For more information contact:  
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*Harvesting the gnetum (okok), Cameroon.*

© OLLIVIER GIRARD/INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY RESEARCH (CIFOR)



*Wood truck, Cameroon.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## **The 24th Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation Meeting**

The 24th Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation meeting will take place at Chatham House in London on 16-17 June 2014.

The Illegal Logging Stakeholder Update Meetings seek to provide updates and facilitate exchanges on the latest initiatives, regulations and research in the area of forest governance and trade in illegal timber by bringing together experts from across the world at Chatham House.

For more information:

<http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/24th-illegal-logging-update-and-stakeholder-consultation-meeting>

## **NGP Summit - Capetown 2014**

In a world of growing population and demand, are we providing long-term solutions at scale? No – not yet. And that’s why we need to engage with you!

No one in NGP believes in easy ways out. We’re inviting you to join us at our summit where we’ll be pushing into the two most important and challenging forestry frontiers: social forestry & land use. NGP doesn’t have all the solutions. But we’re learning more all the time, asking the right questions and coming up with strong answers.

By engaging more with stakeholders from all sectors and complementary networks, we seek to learn from them – and to share what we’ve learnt by communicating the NGP case in a compelling way. Education is the most powerful tool we have to change the world. And it’s with that aim in mind that we’ll be gathering together learning on common issues, from others sectors and distant geographies, at the NGP Summit.”

Cape Town, South Africa, June 18-19, 2014

To browse the complete program agenda and register for the summit, visit:

[www.newgenerationplantations.org/en/events/](http://www.newgenerationplantations.org/en/events/)

## **FSC General Assembly 2014**

The 7th FSC General Assembly will take place on 7-14 September 2014 in Seville, Spain.

The event commemorates the 20th anniversary of FSC’s ongoing efforts to find solutions that benefit people and forests worldwide through responsible forest management. It will bring together FSC members and stakeholders from around the world to participate in a unique and well anticipated forum.

The event is open to all members and stakeholders. For more information, contact:

[ga2014@fsc.org](mailto:ga2014@fsc.org)

# GFTN AT A GLANCE

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## North America

- Participants: 11
- RWE: 178,977,815 m<sup>3</sup>

## Europe

- Participants: 57
- RWE: 101,549,272 m<sup>3</sup>

## Russia

- Participants: 22
- Ha: 14,627,708
- FSC Ha: 17,827,042
- RWE: 49,006,900 m<sup>3</sup>

## Asia Pacific

- Participants: 75
- Ha: 3,583,103
- FSC Ha: 2,339,999
- RWE: 5,498,136 m<sup>3</sup>

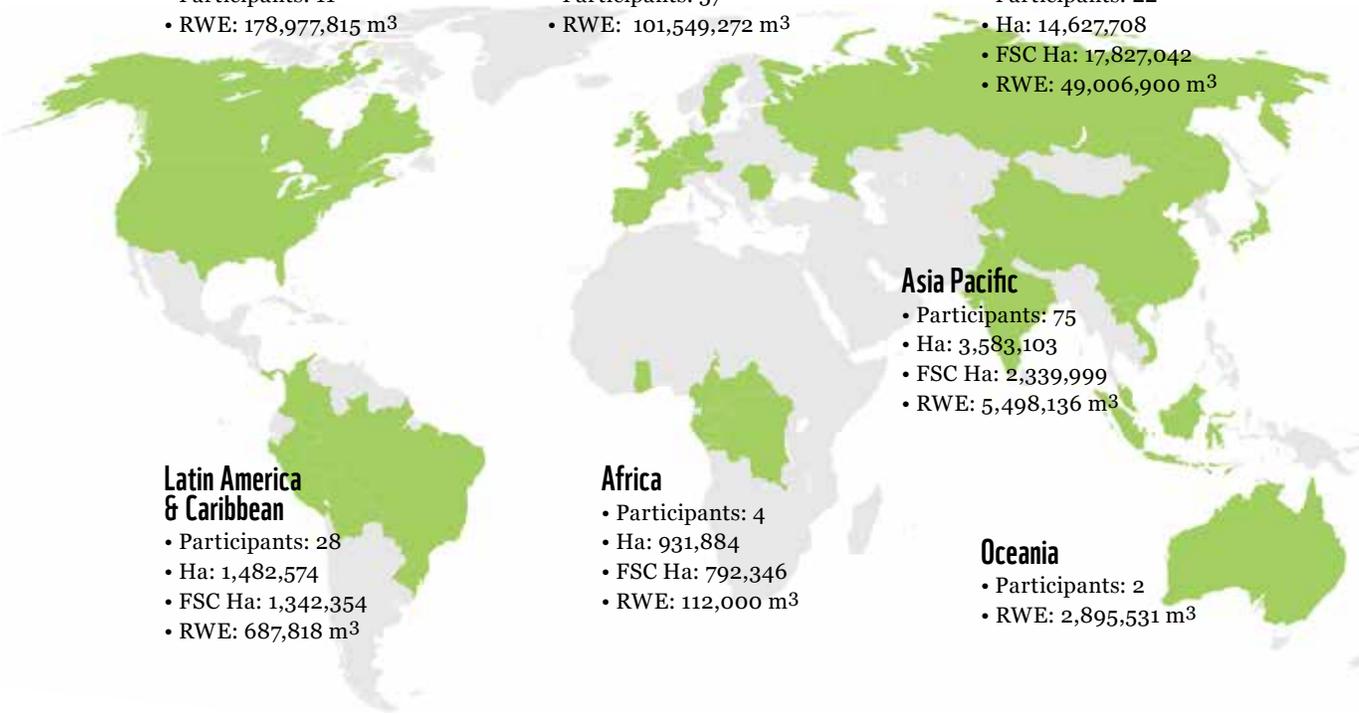
## Latin America & Caribbean

- Participants: 28
- Ha: 1,482,574
- FSC Ha: 1,342,354
- RWE: 687,818 m<sup>3</sup>

## Africa

- Participants: 4
- Ha: 931,884
- FSC Ha: 792,346
- RWE: 112,000 m<sup>3</sup>

## Oceania

- Participants: 2
  - RWE: 2,895,531 m<sup>3</sup>
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# GFTN RESOURCES

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## **Legality Training Resources for Companies Exporting Forest Products to the European Union, the US and Australia**

[gftn.panda.org/traffic/legality\\_training\\_seminars\\_2013/](http://gftn.panda.org/traffic/legality_training_seminars_2013/)

## **GFTN Continuing Education Unit (CEU) on Responsible Wood Sourcing**

[gftn.panda.org/resources/gftn\\_online\\_courses/?219772/gftn-responsible-wood-sourcing-ceu](http://gftn.panda.org/resources/gftn_online_courses/?219772/gftn-responsible-wood-sourcing-ceu)

## **Report on the Social Impacts of the Forest Stewardship Council Certification**

[gftn.panda.org/?219150/Remarkable-social-progress-when-forests-are-FSC-certified---new-study-confirms](http://gftn.panda.org/?219150/Remarkable-social-progress-when-forests-are-FSC-certified---new-study-confirms)

# GFTN GLOBAL STATS

**23.8 MILLION**

GFTN participants manage nearly 24 million hectares of forests

**199**

GFTN encompasses nearly 200 global companies, employing over 1.5 million people worldwide



**338.7 MILLION M<sup>3</sup>**

GFTN participants trade nearly 340 million m<sup>3</sup> of timber and fibre

**19.1 MILLION**

GFTN participants manage more than 19 million hectares of FSC certified forests, representing nearly 11% of the global total of FSC certified forest area

**\$452 BILLION**

GFTN participants have combined annual sales of over US \$450 billion with sales of forest products totaling more than US \$62 billion per annum

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#### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[gftn.panda.org](http://gftn.panda.org)