



**GLOBAL  
FOREST  
& TRADE  
NETWORK**

# Quarterly

## Issue 3, 2007

### Highlights



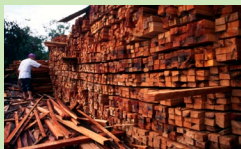
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...AND MORE ON GFTN'S GLOBAL PROGRESS

The Global Forest & Trade Network is WWF's initiative to eliminate illegal logging and improve the management of valuable and threatened forests. By facilitating trade links between companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry, the 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. Visit [www.panda.org/gftn](http://www.panda.org/gftn).

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Left to Right: Mr. Datuk Sam Mannan, Director of the Sabah Forestry Department and Ms. Ivy Wong, Chief Technical Officer, WWF-Malaysia.

WWF-Malaysia/Audrey Lee Mei Fong

## Sabah Forestry Department Signs on as 53<sup>rd</sup> Participant under the EC Project

Today marks a major milestone for both the Malaysia Forest & Trade Network (MFTN) and the GFTN's European Commission-funded project entitled *Forest & Trade Networks for Legal and Sustainable Forest Management in Africa and Asia*.

The Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) became the first forest participant to join the MFTN, making a public commitment to implement responsible forest management in parts of the Tangkulap Forest Reserve and Sg. Pinangah Forest Reserve. Both Tangkulap and Sg. Pinangah Forest Reserve, which cover 50,020 hectares, will obtain certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the leading international standard of good forest management.

The Sabah Forestry Department also became the 53<sup>rd</sup> participant member in Asia and Africa, fulfilling 90% the GFTN's key commitment to sign up 60 members over the course of the 5-year European Commission (EC) funded project. What makes this so special is that the GFTN has fulfilled this promise in only year two of the project. As of now, there are 40 additional companies who are now formal applicants, so in all, project commitments will be exceeded!

"Based on our nearly 20 years of hands-on experience in Deramakot, the first certified tropical rainforest in South East Asia, we are convinced that certification

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WWF-Malaysia/Audrey Lee Mei Fong

Left to Right: Mr. Albert Radin, SFD Forest Management Enterprise Manager; Datuk Sam Mannan, Director of SFD; Ms. Ivy Wong, Chief Technical Officer, WWF-Malaysia; Dr. Junaidi Payne, WWF-Malaysia's Senior Technical Advisor

brings about enormous benefits and addresses the criterion of sustainability, such as environment, economic viability and the social dimension. It also projects transparency which is vital in ensuring continuous improvement and credibility. It is the Department's and the State Government's publicly declared policy and commitment to strive for certification systematically, which eventually will cover the whole area," said Datuk Sam Mannan, Director of the Sabah Forestry Department.

Through European Commission funding, the GFTN promotes the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in major tropical timber exporting countries in Asia and Africa such as China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cameroon, Ghana, and Gabon.

"The Sabah Forestry Department should be congratulated for making this landmark commitment to legal and sustainable forest management," said Darius Sarshar, GFTN Responsible Forestry Coordinator. "The announcement today that they are to join the GFTN, and commit new areas to FSC certification represents the first step in the long awaited expansion of credible forest certification in Sabah beyond the show-case Deramakot forest area. Our international buyers and manufacturer members are delighted that more FSC tropical hardwood from Malaysia will be coming onto the market. The Sabah Forestry Department has secured record price premia for its certified logs recently on top of high log prices generally, and the message this sends out to the private sector concession license holders in Sabah is: look up and take notice—forest certification is both technically feasible and good for business."



The MFTN is a chapter of WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network, a worldwide partnership between forest and trade companies committed to eliminating illegal logging and to improving the management of valuable and threatened forests. Working

in parallel with the GFTN in 30 other countries that represent over 23.6 million hectares of forests in progress to certification and forest products trade in excess of 190 million cubic meters per year, the MFTN provides its members market access to a vast global network of responsible businesses.

The EC-funded GFTN project seeks to strengthen the capacity of producers of forest products in target countries to implement stepwise forest certification, timber tracking and monitoring chain-of-custody and to verify that their forest products are legally and sustainably produced. This course of action is bringing about improvement to how logging companies, manufacturers of forest products and community forestry organizations manage their businesses. In addition, through implementing best forestry practices, improvements will be made in profitability, sustainability, social responsibility, and legal compliance.

Contact Audrey Lee, [mflee@wwf.org.my](mailto:mflee@wwf.org.my), for more information.

## Australia FTN Welcomes the Bunnings Group



Major Australian home improvement retailer, the Bunnings Group recently joined the Australia Forest & Trade Network. Jana Blair, Australia Forest & Trade Network Coordinator said, "WWF-Australia welcomes the Bunnings Group to the Forest & Trade Network as recognition of their commitment and work in ensuring their timber products are sourced from legal and sustainable resources."

This commitment to legal and well-managed forest operations was supported in their responsible timber and timber product purchasing policy a few years ago. "In 2003, we led the Australian market in adopting a policy which set this as a goal to be achieved in annual steps," said Managing Director John Gillam. "We did this because we shared justifiable public concern about issues of legality and sustainability of forest operations in some of the countries from which we are supplied and we believe that action at our end of the chain from forest to consumer will make a positive contribution in the countries of origin."

Bunnings takes their commitment to sustainability very seriously, and last year, reiterated that they would be focusing on ensuring that timber from high-risk countries was verifiably legal. Bunnings has said that they believe their operations are sustainable when they are socially responsible, environmentally sound, and economically viable.

"A review prepared for the Australian Timber Importers Federation found the 'predominant driver' of interest in or action by importers on determining legality of supplies was our policy stand taken in 2003 and the fact that we had been communicating our requirements to suppliers," added Gillam.



“There is no doubt that if real progress is to be made there must be cooperation between the private sector, environmentally-concerned organizations and government. It is too big and complex an issue for any one company or agency to tackle alone.”

Bunnings partners with over 1,000 Australian and International suppliers to sell a variety of products that ranges from bathroom & kitchen, flooring & garden, lighting & electrical, tools & hardware to window furnishing. All key supply partners with Bunnings trade electronically through e-commerce and all purchased products are fully bar-coded; all suppliers also participate in the Bunnings Wood Procurement Policy to ensure that all timber-based products are sourced legally and in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Australia FTN looks forward to working with Bunnings as they continue their work in mapping supply chains and improving the credentials of the timber products they stock.

Contact **Jana Blair**, [jbclair@wwf.org.au](mailto:jbclair@wwf.org.au), for more information.



Managing Director of the Bunnings Group, John Gillam.

Photo courtesy of Bunnings



Bolivia FTN Coordinator, Maria del Carmen Carreras, supporting the negotiations at the Business Roundtable.

WWF-Bolivia

a long-term contract was signed under which the indigenous community of Monteverde will provide a volume of 15,000 m of raw materials in logs to two companies, Mardibar and INPA, for an annual amount of 94,000 USD. The sales perspectives are for 5 years and prices can be negotiated every two years.

Spain FTN Coordinator, Felix Romero and Belgium FTN Coordinator, Bart Holvoet joined the ExpoForest and its Business Roundtable on behalf of the Global Forest & Trade Network.

Maria del Carmen Carreras, Bolivia Forest & Trade Coordinator, emphasized the importance of these types of missions since the main work of the Bolivia FTN is to link the national supply with the demand of other countries. Specific events, such as ExpoForest allow companies to further explore business opportunities.

“These types of meetings are fundamental and very useful for the GFTN, since they allow us to become stronger as an FTN by creating market link opportunities between certified supply and responsible demand,” said Felix Romero, Spain Forest & Trade Network Coordinator.

Contact **Maria del Carmen Carreras**, [mcarreras@wwfbolivia.org](mailto:mcarreras@wwfbolivia.org), for more information.

## First GFTN Business Mission of Buyers in Bolivia

ExpoForest 2007, which took place in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz from March 21<sup>st</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup>, set the perfect environment for developing all possible business intentions during the Wood Industry's Third Business Round Table. As part of the 2007 edition of ExpoForest, a specialized fair focusing on the forest, wood, and technology, the Bolivia Forest & Trade Network (Bolivia FTN) participated by bringing together tropical wood producers and international buyers.

Supported by the Bolivian Forestry Chamber, the Business Roundtable for the Bolivian Wood Industry is a specialized event targeted to manufacturers, buyers and suppliers of tropical wood products, as well as machinery, industry and related services suppliers. During the Business Roundtable companies and indigenous community producer units supported by WWF and GFTN are able to present samples of their products and meet with buyer's delegations from various countries including Belgium, China and Spain. This event has proved to be a real golden opportunity for Bolivia's responsible timber and timber product suppliers to meet their ideal business partners, as buyers rotate every half hour around the tables. As a result, business relationships are forged and deals sealed. For example,

## Un Árbol (One Tree) Project Exhibition, ExpoForest

WWF-Bolivia's heavily attended “One Tree Bolivia” exhibition, during ExpoForest, featured the works of 65 local artists, architects and designers committed to sustainable forestry. In total, 182 pieces of art were made from the parts of one Jequitiba hardwood tree (*Cariniana estrellensis*), which was sustainably harvested and certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).



Visitors at the One Tree Bolivia exhibition, during Expoforest 2007.

Currently there is a movement with a clear objective that is gaining strength in Bolivia and the world in general: the conservation and sustainable use of forests with the participation of urban populations. WWF-Bolivia, the conservation organization, invites people to be a part of this movement through its initiative Cities for Forests and the One Tree Project, which has surpassed language barriers and borders to remind us that we only have one planet earth and that now is the time to take action since the possibilities of leaving a world that is livable for future generations are less and less. One Tree Projects have taken place before in the United Kingdom, Australia and Nicaragua.

The exhibition showed, in a beautiful and artful way, how much can be produced from one tree, and hopefully will help us to learn that preserving the forests doesn't necessarily mean not using them, rather, it means using them in a responsible manner through certification and certified wood.

Contact Alejandra Sainz, [asainz@wwfbolivia.org](mailto:asainz@wwfbolivia.org), for more information.

## Major Producers Join Indonesia FTN



PT. Trimitra Mebelindo, PT. Hendratna Plywood, and PT. Redtroindo Nusantara recently joined the Indonesia FTN. This increases the total number of Indonesia FTN members to 26.

### PT. Hendratna Plywood

Established in 1972, PT. Hendratna Plywood is part of the Hendratna Group, a privately and Indonesian family-owned company. Europe and South East Asia serve as the main markets for Hendratna plywood, blockboard & trim board, polyester & PVC timber, and film faced & MDO faced plywood. To facilitate their progress towards responsible timber purchasing, Hendratna has initiated its own community based plantations in three areas:



Balangan, Tabalong and Tanah Laut. In these areas, several nurseries have been established to produce Jabon plantings. The Hendratna Group is actively involved in managing these areas through close association with local communities.

### PT. Trimitra Mebelindo

PT. Trimitra Mebelindo was established in 1994 to manufacture wooden garden furniture for export mainly to North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Trimitra Mebelindo is widely recognized as a reliable and credible exporter, having obtained chain-of-custody certification and ISO 9001:2000, the international standard of quality production process. Their awareness to using raw materials that come from responsible sources demonstrates their commitment to sustainably and ecologically well managed forests.



P.T. Trimitra Mebelindo



Left to Right: Mubariq Ahmad, Executive Director of WWF-Indonesia and Johnny Huang, Managing Director of Trimitra Mebelindo at the Participation Agreement signing, held in the WWF-Indonesia office.

### PT. Redtroindo Nusantara

Established in 1999, PT. Redtroindo Nusantara manufactures fancy flooring, two layer, and fancy blockboard. They mainly export their two layer product to Europe and Korea; fancy flooring to Europe, the United States, and Australia; and fancy blockboard to the Middle East and the United States. Redtroindo Nusantara has ISO 9001:2000 certification, which allows them to interface with buyers who will only buy responsibly manufactured products.



The large demand for sustainably sourced wood is forcing companies to seek certification, as certification demands that trees are felled and removed without damaging the rest of the forest so it can regenerate. Pt. Hendratna Plywood, Pt. Trimitra Mebelindo, and Pt. Redtroindo Nusantara's entry to the Indonesia FTN will support responsible forest management and trade, which will have far-reaching benefits. As part of the greater GFTN network, these three new FTN members will receive help in three ways: Firstly, the GFTN will help put together traceability or chain of custody within their mills, secondly the GFTN will link these companies to forest enterprises that are operating at legal and sustainable standards, and thirdly, the GFTN will help participants make market links in major importing countries right across Europe, America, and Asia. We welcome Pt. Hendratna Plywood, Pt. Trimitra Mebelindo and PT. Redtroindo Nusantara to the Indonesia FTN.

Contact Nurcahyo Adi, [nadi@wwf.or.id](mailto:nadi@wwf.or.id), for more information.



## NAFTN Pledges Support for Legal Timber Protection Act



The North America Forest & Trade Network (NAFTN) has pledged its support for the Legal Timber Protection Act (LTPA). Introduced by Congressmen Earl Blumenauer, Robert Wexler and Jerry Weller, the LTPA bans the import, export, sale or possession of illegally harvested timber. The bipartisan legislation will amend the long-standing U.S. Lacey Act, extending its protection to plants, timber and wood products.

“Though illegal harvesting is not a significant problem in the U.S., illegal logging and America’s unwitting consumption of particular illegally-sourced wood products does pose a threat to critical ecosystems and communities in certain regions of the world where WWF is working to conserve forests,” said NAFTN Senior Program Officer, Jessica McGlyn.

As much as 30 percent of US hardwood imports are from suspicious or illegal sources, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission. “WWF supports the LTPA because it encourages and enables producing countries to better enforce their own forest laws,” McGlyn said. Responsible forest product companies have also pledged support, including NAFTN member Wood Flooring International, as implementing legislation such as the LTPA will help prevent further damage to forests, local communities and wildlife caused by illegal logging.

The NAFTN partners with US companies to source their products from legal and sustainable forest operations globally, and believes that legislation like the Legal Timber Protection Act can help level the playing field for corporations committed to responsible procurement.

As NAFTN participants, companies are required to develop and implement policies to phase out illegal sources and buy

increasing amounts of certified products. The NAFTN promotes the trade of legal and sustainable forest products, and works with progressive companies worldwide, which buy, supply and/or produce forest products, to implement best practices that benefit the Earth’s most threatened forests. With this bill, the NAFTN hopes that forest management will be improved in ways that benefit both forests and the forest products industry.

**Contact Jessica McGlyn, [jessica.mcglyn@wwfus.org](mailto:jessica.mcglyn@wwfus.org), for more information.**

## Anco Furniture Joins Malaysia FTN



Anco Furniture Sdn Bhd, a Sabah based garden furniture manufacturer became the third company to join the Malaysia Forest & Trade Network (Malaysia FTN) in the month of May. Anco Furniture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Memorandum) with the Malaysia FTN, making a public commitment to implement a responsible purchasing policy and formally joining a growing league of companies worldwide that are committed to responsible purchasing.

Anco Furniture is a new company in the garden furniture manufacturing and exporting business, however, its founders General Manager, Andrew Chong and Production Director, Felix Poh are veterans with more than 20 years experience in wood furniture manufacturing and exporting. Both Chong and Poh realize the importance of responsible purchasing, and have already acquired Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) and chain-of-custody certification for Anco.

“Although Anco is a new company, we are aware of our responsibility in the timber industry and we have stepped forward today,” said the Executive Director of Anco Furniture Sdn Bhd, Mr. Andrew Chong. “Our working partnership with the Malaysia FTN will help us assure customers that the timber we buy are coming from well-managed sources as we commit ourselves to a 5-year action plan.”

“Anco brings the Malaysian forest industry one step closer to responsible practices,” said Ivy Wong, WWF-Malaysia’s Chief Technical Officer for the Peninsular Programme. “We hope their commitment will encourage Sabah’s forest managers to look into the sustainable forest management.”

Through direct links to the GFTN’s \$40 billion network of nearly 300 companies across 30 countries, Anco will expand its business for products from verified legal and certified sources. The Malaysia FTN will provide technical assistance to help



WWF-Canon/Tantyo Bangun

Illegal timber stocks. Sebanggau River, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.



WWF-Malaysia/Audrey Lee Mei Fong

Left to Right: General Manager of Anco Furniture, Felix Poh; Managing Director of Anco Furniture, Andrew Chong; WWF-Malaysia Chief Technical Officer (Peninsular Malaysia Program), Ivy Wong; and WWF-Malaysia Chief Technical Officer (Borneo Program), Rahimatsah Amat.

them achieve this, implementing a responsible purchasing policy and action plan, which is a key element of the transparency demanded by buyers in the increasingly environmentally sensitive global marketplace.

**Contact Audrey Lee, [mlee@wwf.org.my](mailto:mlee@wwf.org.my), for more information.**

## Sustainable Forest Products Alliance: WWF-WARPO & US Forest Service in Forest Management Planning in Ghana



A two week technical assistance mission to assess the adequacy of forest management planning, and together with state sector institutions identify gaps, and subsequently train and build the capacity of forest managers of timber companies in forest management planning was held in Accra, Ghana, May, 2007. This mission was led by representatives of the USDA Forest Service (USFS) in support of WWF Forest & Trade Network activities and sustainable forest management in Ghana.

USFS experts within the first week of the mission held meetings with staff of key forest sector institutions and later embarked on field surveys to ascertain the extent of sustainable forest management practices in Ghana. This was followed by three-day national workshops to discuss forest management planning & plans implementation, and the importance of monitoring forest

growth & dynamics to generate relevant data to aid planning and plans implementation. The workshop went well with participants from key sector institutions in Ghana including the sector Deputy Minister, Members of Parliament, Executive Director of the Forest Services Division (FSD), along with several Forestry Commission (FC) and FSD staff, NGO representatives, forest landowners, researchers and many more.

At present, all forest reserves in Ghana are owned by landowning communities; however, forest reserves are managed by the Ghanaian government through the FC on behalf of forest land owners. The FC has control systems to ensure that companies comply with forest management principles, including yield and species selection and delimiting of areas that could be harvested by companies at any given time. In effect, the FC is responsible for regulating and monitoring timber harvesting operations by timber companies. In spite of these controls and regulations, issues pertaining to sustainable forestry including impacts of logging on residual stands, illegal logging, log tracking and yield control have been identified.

Currently, the Ghana FTN is working with eight timber companies in Ghana, five of which manage a total of 385,584ha of forest reserve concessions and have undergone certification pre-assessments led by the Smart Wood program of the Rainforest Alliance and ProForest. In line with their partnership with the Ghana FTN, these companies have committed themselves to achieving certification and sustainable forest management for the forest areas they manage under the guidance and technical support of the FTN program. The objective of the USFS assistance mission is to assist in the preparation of forest management plans for production forest reserve areas progressing to certification that currently do not have management plans and to build the capacity of forest managers in forest management plans preparation and implementation.

The Ghana FTN is run by the WWF-West Africa Regional Program Office (WWF-WARPO) based in Accra, Ghana. They focus their efforts on providing technical support, training and guidance on responsible forest management practices to timber companies and forest managers, including awareness creation, training and capacity building for forest fringe communities on their rights and responsibilities in forest management and dialogue with government to implement and enforce relevant forestry laws and regulations.

**Contact Abraham Baffoe, [akbaffoe67@yahoo.com](mailto:akbaffoe67@yahoo.com), for more information.**



## Faces of GFTN

### Natalie Giusti

Role: GFTN Website Coordinator,  
WWF-Indonesia

Natalie Giusti is the new GFTN Website Coordinator based in Bali, Indonesia. In this role, Natalie is responsible for maintaining and developing the GFTN website, which will include a public section and members-only section.



“The goal is to make the GFTN website a useful and effective online tool for all visitors, especially for GFTN members, potential members and also the GFTN staff. We’re planning to launch the new and improved website in the coming months, so keep an eye on our announcement in the near future,” Natalie says. Natalie grew up in Indonesia, yet had the opportunity to live and study abroad including a period of time in the United States where she earned a BA in Environmental Studies from the University of California-Santa Barbara. After working and interning with various environmental NGOs for a year, Natalie returned to Indonesia in 2005 and has been working with the WWF Asia Pacific Forest Program. Fluent in Italian, French and English, Natalie enjoys working on her organic garden at home and occasionally salsa dancing in her spare time.

### Abraham Baffoe

Role: Forest & Trade Network  
Manager, WWF-Ghana

As Forest & Trade Network Manager, Abraham manages the Ghana Forest & Trade Network and works on the development of the WWF-West Africa Forest Program based in Accra. In this role, Abraham’s focus is to create awareness on forest and chain-of-custody certification, to engender national interest in forest management, and to use the Forest & Trade Network program to drive improvement not only in forest management practices, but also improvement in forest governance at the local level.



“It’s a known fact that Ghana’s forests are being lost at an alarming rate; however most of the measures used in the past to address its deforestation and structural degradation have not been effective mainly because they failed to arrest the ‘big man’ behind the destruction of reserved forests. That ‘big man’ is called ‘poor forest governance’, and it must be eliminated for sustainable forest management to be achieved in Ghana,” says Abraham.

Abraham obtained his Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi, and received his post-graduate certificate from the International Agricultural Center from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

Outside of work, Abraham enjoys sight-seeing, walking through tropical high forests, and listening to the “sound and music” of various bird and wildlife species.

### Alexander Voropaev

Role: Russia Forest & Trade  
Network Coordinator, WWF-Russia

Alexander has been working with WWF-Russia since 1998, but recently became the Russia Forest & Trade Network Coordinator in 2006. A graduate of the Moscow State University, Alexander received a degree in geology and ecology. The Russia Forest & Trade Network (FTN) has been growing rapidly over the past year and a half, increasing the number of participants from 17 to 40, and spreading its activities to all of Russia.



“Russian companies are young, and they look to foreign companies as an example of good business. It is very interesting to work with them, and to assist them in making their business responsible,” says Alexander.

Apart from working on sustainable forest resources and environment protection, Alexander enjoys traveling inside and outside the country to see new people, new places, new habits, new food, new drinks and more.

### Julia Young

Role: Forest & Trade Network  
Manager, WWF-UK

Julia Young recently joined the Species and Forests team as the WWF-UK Forest & Trade Network Manager. In her role, Julia will be taking on the challenge of shifting the UK timber trade to legal and sustainable timber and wood products.



Julia has more than 14 year’s professional experience in global natural resource development projects and operations. She has a Master of Law in Environmental Law & Policy from the University of Dundee (Scotland), as well as degrees in Geology and Sedimentology. Her career to date has included positions with two of the largest mining ventures in the world, Rio Tinto and De Beers, which have taken her to live in countries such as Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa.

Dear to her are the stewardship of the environment and its position in law. “I’m looking forward to engaging with the GFTN and doing my best on some of the challenges faced in taking action to protect forest resources, and so far I really enjoy working between trade and the WWF,” Julia says.

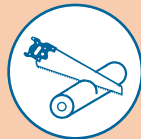
In her spare time, Julia enjoys rowing and fencing, outdoors walking and cycling, as well as looking after her young nephews.

## GFTN at a Glance

### GFTN participants...



...have annual forest products sales exceeding \$42 billion per year



...buy or sell in excess of 190 million cubic meters of forest products per year



...are engaged in 150 trading deals with other GFTN participants



...employ over 1.4 million people globally



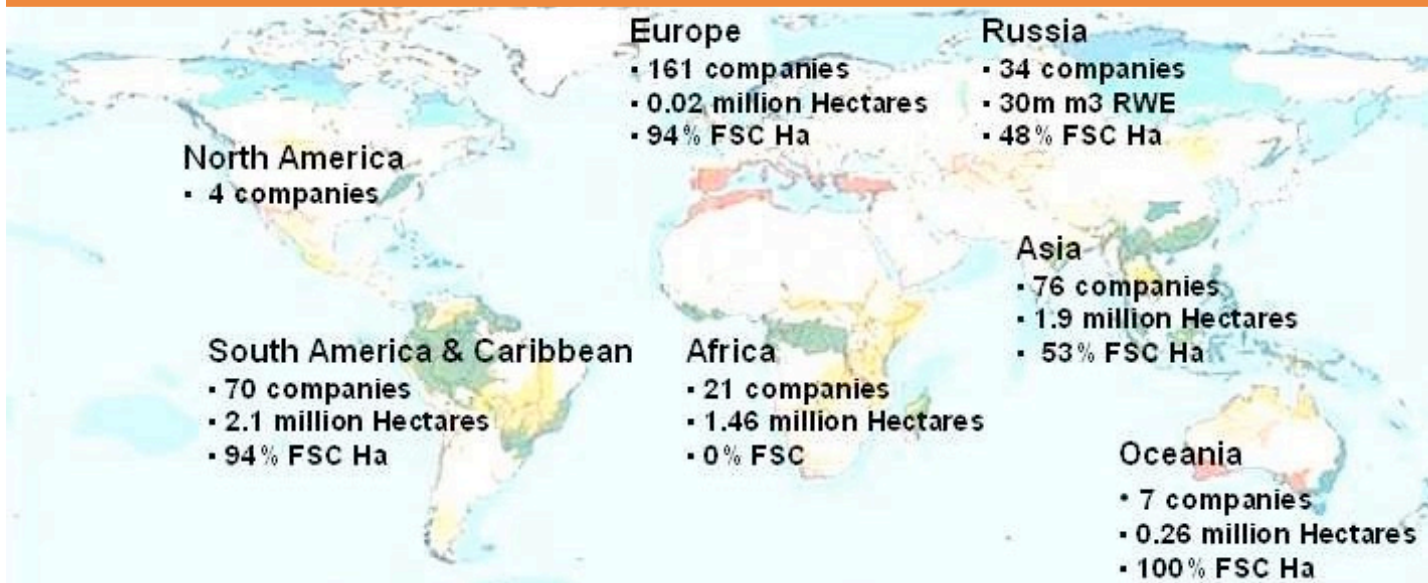
...manage over 25.5 million ha. of forests in progress to certification

*figures current as of July 2007*

### GFTN Global Totals *as of July 2007*

GFTN Hectares/Percentage of GFTN Hectares that are FSC certified

360 Participants (Legal Entities) in 34 countries



### FSC Certified Area by Continent

North America  
28.9 million Hectares

South America & Caribbean  
9 million Hectares

Africa  
2.5 million Hectares

Europe  
48.3 million Hectares

Asia  
1.6 million Hectares

Oceania  
1.3 million Hectares

Total FSC Certified Area 91.6 million Hectares

For more information, visit [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)





## WHO TO CONTACT

### Secretariat

**Bruce Cabarle, Acting Director**

Tel: +1 202 822 3450 Email: [bruce.cabarle@wwfus.org](mailto:bruce.cabarle@wwfus.org)

**Hisayo Fujikawa, Operations Manager**

Tel: +1 202 861 8340 Email: [hisayo.fujikawa@wwfus.org](mailto:hisayo.fujikawa@wwfus.org)

**Darius Sarshar, Responsible Forestry Coordinator**

Tel: +44 1865 427719 Email: [dsarshar@yahoo.com](mailto:dsarshar@yahoo.com)

**George White, Responsible Purchasing Coordinator**

Tel: +44 1394 420 518 Email: [georgecwhite@btinternet.com](mailto:georgecwhite@btinternet.com)

WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network welcomes your comments. Contact us at [gftn@wwfus.org](mailto:gftn@wwfus.org).