

TTAP News

April 2008 – Issue 4.

ttap timber trade
action plan

www.timbertradeactionplan.info

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the fourth edition of the TTAP newsletter! This edition highlights the discussions contributing to harmonising EU and North American purchasing policies, TTAP's MOU with IDESAM in Brazil, FLEGT VPA developments in Malaysia and TTAP's company progress tracker.

Whether you are a Timber Trade Federation member, TTAP partner or interested stakeholder, we hope TTAP News will be a useful resource for you. Please feel free to share the newsletter with your colleagues and subscribe/unsubscribe at any time.

The TTAP Team

About TTAP

TTAP is an EU funded project driven and co-funded by the Belgian (FBCIB), Dutch (VNNH) and UK Timber Trade Federation (UK TTF), to assist wood suppliers in tropical countries produce verified legal timber.

We currently advise & support timber companies based in Asia, Africa, and South America as well as engage in timber trade policy initiatives in the EU.

Quick Links

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Consumer Country Partners

[FBCIB](#)
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Producer Country Partners

[Malaysian Timber Council](#)
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TFT signs MOU with IDESAM!

In March 2008, TFT formalized its presence in Brazil through signing a one year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas (IDESAM), a non-profit organization based in Manaus.



The focus of IDESAM's work is to promote forest conservation and sustainable development in the Amazon through valuing forest products and ecosystem services. Since 2005, IDESAM has been working as a special advisor to the State Government of Amazonas and has played a central role in designing the "Amazonas Initiative" and the State of Amazonas' Policy for Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

This MOU is the foundation of a strong working relationship between the two organizations that will see both working on complementary projects towards a common goal. In the short term, IDESAM will assist with establishment and implementation of the TTAP project in Brazil, providing administrative and technical support.

For more information of IDESAM's activities, please consult their website: <http://www.idesam.org.br>

The Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA briefing held earlier this month reiterated concerns that the VPA should not develop into a trade barrier but rather place the Malaysian timber industry at an advantage in the market place. The meeting was attended by a variety of stakeholders with the aim to brief the Malaysian timber industry on the VPA negotiation process, its pros and cons, and also to discuss the proposed Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS).

Since official FLEGT VPA negotiations started between the EU and Malaysia in 2006, two Senior Official Meetings (SOM), three Technical Working Group (TWG) and four stakeholder consultation meetings have been realised. This progress relates to Phase 2 of the three-phase workplan established at the SOM that envisaged completion of the FLEGT VPA negotiations by the end of 2008. Until this is accomplished, TTAP will continue to present its views and experiences in future meetings.

In March 2008, the third in a series of TTAP-UCBD workshops was held in Brussels to continue the work of EU Trade Federations (TTF) to develop a harmonised approach to purchasing policies. The event enabled the attending TTFs, which also included North American TTFs to share experiences with the development and implementation of their own purchasing policies and lead to defining the principal objectives and criteria required.

The most important of these components identified included: determining the risk of timber originating from controversial sources for all timber products; continual improvement towards legal and sustainable timber through target setting; and third party monitoring and sanctions for non-compliance. The current TTF policies incorporate the majority to these components, varying principally in terms of target setting and whether commitment is voluntary or mandatory for TTF membership. This issue will be further explored at UCBD's meeting in May and TTAP's annual seminar in October.

For a copy of TTAP's "Review of EU and North American TTF's Codes of Conduct and Purchasing Policies" and the workshop's presentations, please visit the TTAP website: <http://www.timbertradeactionplan.info>.



As part of the TTAP-UCBD harmonisation workshop, Eric Boilley, Director of the French timber trade association - Le Commerce du Bois (LCB) - presented the organisation's "Environmental Charter of Timber Purchases and Sales". Launched in June 2006, the Environmental Charter aims to source an increasing share of timber products from certified forests and demonstrates LCB's commitment to combating illegal logging.

Initially based on a voluntary commitment, the charter will become mandatory for all 160 members of the organisation by the end of 2008. Under this scheme, signatories commit themselves to increase their annual purchases of certified timber, promote timber certification to their suppliers and commercial partners, and improve product information to clients. Based on these criteria, each member will be audited on a biennial basis to monitor progress under LCB's three leaf grading scheme. By 2010, all signatories are committed to attaining a mark of two or more leaves to ensure minimum baseline performance.

To download the charter and find out more, visit LCB's website: <http://www.lecommercedubois.fr>.

Future Events:

- 9-10th June – Chatham House Illegal logging Update and stakeholder Consultation No. 12, London.
- October 2008 – TTAP Annual Seminar - Harmonisation of EU and Producer Country Timber Trade Federation Codes of Conduct and Responsible Purchasing Policies.

Company Information:

TTAP's Progress!

Region	Country	N° of Supply Chains TTAP is working on	N° of Gap Assessments completed	N° of Action Plans being implemented	N° of companies with verified CoC	N° of 3rd party verified supply chains	TTAP Supply Chain Target	
Asia	China		1				20	
	Indonesia	4	19	6			20	
	Malaysia	5	18	9	8			
Total Asia		9	38	15	8		40	
Africa	Cameroon	4	18	10				
	Congo B						15	
	Gabon	4	12	3				
Total Africa		8	30	13			15	
South America	Bolivia	Work to start in 2008						
	Brazil	Work to start in 2008						
	Guyana	Work to start in 2008						15
	Suriname	Work to start in 2008						
Total South America							15	
TTAP Total		17	68	28	8	0	70	

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