

TTAP News

August 2008 – Issue 6.

ttap timber trade
action plan

www.timbertradeactionplan.info

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the sixth edition of the TTAP newsletter! This issue highlights the discussions about legality and sustainability held at the Annual Conference of the China Wood Industry and familiarises you with guidelines of the Environmental Charter of Le Commerce du Bois (LCB) and the Workshop on ATO/ITTO principles, criteria, and indicators!

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 (VVDH) 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

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Producer Country Partners

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Contact Details

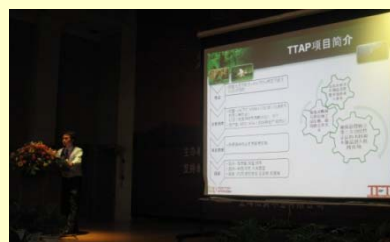
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Latest news: China Wood industry discusses legality and sustainability issues!



“Resource, reform, and responsibility” – that was the telling title of the Annual conference of China Wood Industry hosted by China Timber Distribution Association (CTDA) from 26-27 June in Guangxi Beihai. The keynote speech given by CTDA chairperson Mr. Zhu Guangqian stated: “China as a responsible nation should consider how to tackle the

problem of illegal logging and associated trade together with consumer and producer countries.”

Supporting these positive words to become actions, TTAP presented their work with Chinese companies and introduced TTAP as a tool to meet EU market legality requirements to a broader Chinese audience. Part of TTAP’s work is to build and strengthen linkages between Timber Trade Federations (TTFs) in Europe and producer country partners. In April, TTAP facilitated a sharing of ideas between CTDA and the European TTFs and built up communication channels between the two sides. This will be further strengthened at the TTAP International Timber Trade Federation Day in October.

Various presentations given at the conference underlined the need to develop corporate social responsibility standards and highlighted the changing international market requesting proofs for legal and sustainable timber. In addition, participants representing traders, manufacturers, local trade associations, research institutes and forest certification bodies discussed legality verification and sustainability certification issues. Increasingly stringent market requirements and the shortage of raw material were identified as the biggest challenges faced by the Chinese timber industry.

The International Timber Trade Organisation (ITTO) and the African Timber Organisation (ATO) organised a 6-day workshop on the principles, criteria and indicators (PCIs) for the sustainable management of African natural tropical resources in Libreville, Gabon. In the spirit of "practice makes perfect", participants undertook a test audit on the forest management unit of the TTAP partner company "Société des Bois de Lastoursville" (SBL), but were also familiarised with the theoretical aspects of the ITTO certification system. TTAP attended the workshop not only to be updated on standards related issues, but also to ensure that the implementation of the PCIs would be practical and feasible.



The PCI standards of sustainable management of African natural tropical resources were developed for OAB and ITTO by a group of internationally well-known experts, amongst them several African experts who assured the local relevance of the standards.

TTF Update:

New guidelines for the LCB Environmental Charter!



Le Commerce du Bois (LCB) released new practical guidelines to support the Environmental Charter, on 8 June 2008. The Charter commits to legal and sustainable timber only and raises awareness about sustainable forest management. Giving key guidance to adherents and interested parties, the guidelines clarify the requirements of the Charter, provide information about LCB's communication services, and explain the core elements of independent audits.

The guidelines cover the following 11 questions:

1. How can I adhere to the Environmental Charter?
2. Which companies and what products are concerned by the Charter?
3. What does "legality" mean?
4. What kind of information do I have to provide on the "products" to clients in the shops?
5. What kind of documentary evidence do I have to submit for the audits?
6. When do the audits start? Who do I have to contact?
7. What is the result of the audit?
8. How much does the audit cost? To whom do I have to pay?
9. How do I have to communicate on the Environmental Charter in my shops?
10. How will the Environmental Charter be promoted by LCB?
11. What happens in extraordinary circumstances?

Have a look at the [LCB website](#) where you can read through the Charter and the guidelines, and get geographical information related to illegal logging and areas of conflict!

Future Events:

- **20 – 24 October 2008 – European Forest Week, Rome, Italy**
- **27 October 2008 – International Timber Trade Federation Day - Responding to changing market requirements, Geneva**
- **6 December 2008 – UNFCCC COP 14 Parallel Event: Shaping the Global Agenda for Forests and Climate Change**

For other information regarding forthcoming events, please refer to the [illegal-logging website](#).

Special feature:**New FSC certified concession in Cameroon!**

Inter-African Forest Industries Association (IFIA) member Wijma Douala, subsidiary of the Koninklijke Houthandel G. Wijma & Zonen B.V, succeeded in getting another forest concession FSC certified. Total Wijma FSC certified forest area amounts now to 120,000ha, helping IFIA to come closer to its ambitious goal of getting 10 million ha of FSC certified tropical forests by 2012.

Currently, there are 1.28 million hectares of certified forests in the Congo basin, whereof 745,000ha have been certified in Congo-Brazzaville (CIB – supported by the Tropical Forest Trust since 2004 towards FSC certification through technical advice and guidance), and 535,000ha in Cameroon (Wijma, TRC, and SEFAC). It is estimated that 3 million hectares of tropical forests will be certified by the end of 2008, since several concessions in Gabon and Cameroon are presently undergoing certification audits.

There is a real momentum for forest certification in the world's second largest tropical forest, yet there is still a long way to go: the fight against illegal logging and for better governance are essential prerequisites for the progress of certification.

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	<i>China</i>	2	1	0	0	0	20	
	<i>Indonesia</i>	7	19	6	0	0	20	
	<i>Malaysia</i>	6	18	10	8	0		
Total Asia		15	38	16	8	0	40	
Africa	<i>Cameroon</i>	5	23	10	0	0	15	
	<i>Congo B</i>	1	2	2	0	0		
	<i>Gabon</i>	4	12	3	0	0		
Total Africa		9	36	13	0	0	15	
South America	<i>Bolivia</i>	Work to start in 2008						15
	<i>Brazil</i>	1	0	0	0	0		
	<i>Guyana</i>	Work to start in 2008						
	<i>Suriname</i>	Work to start in 2008						
Total South America		1	0	0	0	0	15	
TTAP Total		25	74	28	8	0	70	

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