



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the new look TFT Newsletter! It's a busy time for TFT and we'd like to keep you updated on our work around the world.

July 2010 - Issue 8

ISSUE 8 ~ JULY 2010

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NESTLE BECOMES TFT'S NEWEST MEMBER

**TFT to Follow Palm Oil Back to Source for Nestlé;
Swiss Giant Commits to Excluding Suppliers that Destroy Forests
Greenpeace Welcomes Agreement as "Very Positive"**



17 May 2010. The Forest Trust (TFT) announced today that Swiss consumer goods company Nestlé has agreed to a

plan that will rid its products of palm oil purchased from suppliers whose activities are destroying vulnerable tropical forests in the developing world.

Under the terms of their agreement, the Geneva-based nonprofit will work with Nestlé to transform its purchasing power into a force for forest conservation, according to TFT's executive director Scott Poynton. Auditors from the Geneva-based NGO will be in Southeast Asia before the end of May to start work on making Nestlé's supply chains in the region responsible.

"For the first time ever, a global company is saying that it doesn't want its products to have a deforestation footprint, and it is taking action to live up to its words," Poynton said. "This is the whole push behind TFT's model-to get one end of the supply chain to take responsibility for what happens at the other end. This is a game-changer."

In a statement today, Nestlé said its actions "will focus on the systematic identification and exclusion of companies owning or managing high risk plantations or farms linked to deforestation."

"Nestlé has entered into a partnership with The Forest Trust (TFT), a global non-profit organization that will help Nestlé to build responsible supply chains by identifying and addressing embedded social and environmental issues," the statement said. "The partnership (with TFT) starts with palm oil, and Nestlé is studying its supply chains to determine a similarly ambitious target for the pulp and paper it uses."

Greenpeace, which was instrumental in outlining the measures that would be seen as meaningful, called the agreement "a very positive step."

"Nestlé's new policy sends a very clear message to companies that are destroying forests and peatlands for new plantations," said Andy Tait, Senior Campaign Advisor for Greenpeace. "If you don't stop deforestation and protect peatlands, your days of supplying to global brands such as Nestle are over. This is a very positive step forward by Nestle, but delivery is critical, and we will be monitoring progress carefully."

The company has committed as well to ensure that suppliers act to safeguard the rights of forest communities in developing palm oil plantations, Poynton said.

“As part of the agreement, TFT will audit Nestlé’s suppliers and will help identify and exclude those that are not doing the right thing,” said Poynton, an Australian forester. “And if there are suppliers that want to change the way they operate, our team on the ground will help them to improve their practices in order to comply with Nestlé’s purchasing requirements.”

Potential impact of corporate giant’s decision

With sales of CHF 107.6 billion in 2009, Nestlé is one of the world’s top 50 companies. It employs 278,000 people and has 449 factories in 83 countries. Nestlé products are sold in almost every country in the world.

“The impact of Nestlé’s announcement is huge because the company is so important globally,” Poynton said. “Nestlé does not use a huge volume of palm oil or pulp and paper compared to other companies. The focus for the first time is on products, and if Nestlé’s decision inspires other companies to engage in the same process, we can stop wringing our hands about carbon baselines and forest carbon markets. Demand for sustainable products can work its magic without them.”

Nestlé has a policy that by 2015 the company will obtain 100 percent of the palm oil it uses from sustainable sources. This year, 18 percent of its palm oil purchases will come from sustainable sources, rising to 50 percent by the end of 2011, according to the company statement.

Nestlé says in its statement that the company has worked with TFT to come up with “a set of critical requirements” that will guide the Nestlé procurement process and ensure compliance with the Nestlé Supplier Code. “The partnership will focus on assessing suppliers’ performance with respect to these guidelines and on providing technical support to those who currently do not meet the requirements, but who are committed to achieving sustainability.”

The statement notes as well that Nestlé worked with TFT to come up with the following requirements for palm oil purchases. Such purchases will:

- * Be derived from plantations and farms operating in compliance with local laws and regulations;
- * Protect high conservation value forest areas;
- * Support the free prior and informed consent of indigenous and local communities to activities on their customary lands where plantations are developed;
- * Protect peatlands; and

* Protect forest areas of ‘high carbon’ value.

And to further implement the “Responsible Sourcing Guidelines,” the two partners will:

* Communicate these guidelines strongly and clearly to the global commodity industry, particularly the palm oil and pulp and paper sectors;

* Continue to focus its procurement to already certified suppliers;

* Conduct and ensure field audits of its existing suppliers to determine their performance against the guidelines;

* Exclude all suppliers found to be in breach of the guidelines;

* Implement technical assistance programs to support those willing to proceed to sustainability;

* Identify new suppliers who comply, or could comply with technical assistance, with the guidelines; and

* Provide regular and transparent feedback on its findings and its performance against these guidelines.

“We’re getting going immediately, no delays, we’re going for it,” Poynton said. “Our guys are heading to Singapore in a less than two weeks to meet Nestlé’s procurement staff and we’re away. It’s game on.”

TFT HELPS UK FIRM IMPORT FIRST-EVER LEGAL PLYWOOD FROM CHINA

Fueled by Concerns of Illegal Logging, Forest Trust Helps UK Firm Import First-Ever Legal Plywood from China

Chinese Supplier Works with Local Poplar Farmers, Malaysian Forests, and Sawmills to Build Traceability System as EU, US Legislators Promise Tough Action to Stop Wood Imports that Contain Illegal Timber

NANJING (11 June 2010) -The Forest Trust (TFT) announced today that a Chinese factory has for the first time produced plywood whose origins have been verified as 100 percent legal, the result of the non-profit TFT’s partner-

ship with a United Kingdom wood products company and the willing cooperation of a Chinese plywood maker, a group of Chinese poplar farmers, and a Malaysian timber producer and forest concession owner.

The sheets of poplar and hardwood veneer-which will roll off the factory floor at Jiangsu Saintry Bancom Co. Ltd. in Hongze County and be shipped to the UK this month-have been

legally verified for the first time by Smartwood, part of the Rainforest Alliance, to be free of illegitimate timber. The historic moment was marked today, during a workshop in Nanjing on how to ensure the legality of wood used in products for export to the United States and Europe. Saintry Bancom received a certificate of verification from the Rainforest Alliance in recognition of its compliance with the guidelines provided by TFT.

“Prior to our partnership with the UK’s Premier Forest Products Ltd., attempts to trace the legality of timber used in plywood had been able to guarantee the legitimacy of only some of the wood contained in the product,” said TFT’s Executive Director Scott Poynton. “The plywood produced here shows we can ensure the legality of even composite wood products like plywood—even when made with materials purchased from different countries and multiple sources.”

A Chinese plywood supplier was chosen as the partnership’s first target because China is the world’s largest manufacturer of hardwood plywood and accounts for about 42 percent of the UK’s imports of tropical plywood by volume. Tropical plywood has a wide variety of commercial uses such as paneling, container flooring, furniture backing and construction.

China’s plywood exports have grown 20-fold since the late 1990s, part of an intensive expansion of China’s wood products industry that has seen the country go from a net importer of wood products to the world’s dominant exporter.

The availability of legally verified plywood comes as governments in Europe and the US are aggressively pushing the wood products industry to use its purchasing power to combat illegal logging, which simultaneously destroys forests and robs forest communi-

ties of valuable resources.

“With all these new laws and regulations coming on line, we’ve heard a lot of pessimism about the ability to ensure the legality of wood products, particularly of composite products like plywood,” said Poynton. “But we’ve done it, and the model is now here for others to adopt.”



Holding the certificate. TFT China representative, Dr. Zhixin Deng, Victor Pu (Saintry Bancom), Christian Sloth (RA) and Dr. Jianmin XIAO (Rainforest Alliance - SmartWood).

The European Parliament is considering a regulation that would require EU importers to show they have used a system of “due diligence” to exclude illegal wood products from their purchases. And the new UK coalition government has promised to seek measures making the import or possession of illegal timber a criminal offense. The US has already adopted a tough amendment to a law known as the Lacey Act that bans any domestic commerce in wood or wood products that contain illegally harvested timber.

Today, China is the world’s largest market for hardwood lumber, a large proportion of which comes from tropical species. But there is widespread concern that China’s voracious appetite for tropical wood, coupled with its lack of a strong system for ensuring the legality of log and lumber imports, is

fueling illegal and environmentally and socially destructive timber harvests in Southeast Asia, Africa and the Amazon Basin.

To help Premier obtain a supply of legally verified plywood from China, expected to arrive in the UK later this month, TFT created a system that permits

regular, transparent monitoring of a complex supply chain that in China routinely includes both domestic and foreign wood.

Hardwood plywood is typically comprised of a lower quality wood core, like poplar or eucalyptus, which is sandwiched between a thin appearance grade veneer “face” and “back.” In China, core material is typically obtained from domestic poplar or eucalyptus growers, while the face and back are usually manufactured with imported tropical hardwood like Bintangor and Red Canarium, which originates from Southeast Asia or Papua New Guinea with limited traceability and dubious origins.

The problem with the core

materials, said Poynton, is that in China there are thousands of suppliers, but limited verifiable systems to prove that wood has been harvested legally. To deal with this, TFT set up a supply group consisting of farmers who sell their poplar trees to a peeling mill that verifies the legality of their timber and then processes the veneer for sale to the Sainty Bancom assembly mill.

Poynton said TFT used its extensive contacts around the world to identify a potential partner among hardwood suppliers. It found Sabah Forest Industries (SFI), Sdn Bhd, located in Sipitang, Sabah, Malaysia. The company agreed to work with TFT to adopt a stringent set of procedures to confirm that its logs have been harvested in compliance with local laws. With support from the EU-funded Timber Trade Action Plan, TFT worked with the Malaysian company, helping it achieve third-party Verified Legal Origin (VLO) for its factory and forest concession in Malaysia. TFT then linked SFI into Sainty Bancom's supply chain and helped Sainty demonstrate that its domestic and tropical feedstock material originates from legal sources and to achieve its own VLO certificate.

"These activities completed a global and legal supply chain from Malaysia to China that is going to allow the UK to import China's first-ever, third-party legally verified plywood," said Poynton.

In compliance with its agreement, the Chinese manufacturer segregated a section of the factory production line where only legally verified plywood will be produced. And both the suppliers and the manufacturer will be subject to regular audits from SmartWood, a program of the Rainforest Alliance that offers certification and verification services.

Staffed by experts with many

years of experience in the timber trade, TFT acted as a 'trust agent' throughout the process, said Poynton, helping the various partners understand each other's point of view in order to reach agreements and to solve issues that could have scuttled the effort.

"This is a brand new world for many of the people involved here," said Dejan Lewis, who coordinated TFT's work in Malaysia and China to achieve the VLO certificates. "While all the players are interested in providing legal products, there are market realities that they can't ignore and that impact their ability to deliver, and that is why it is critical for TFT to know as much about the timber business as it does forest conservation."

Poynton noted that challenges remain. "While there are even more complex and difficult to trace composite products like MDF and fibre-board, we've now proven that you can comply with the Lacey Act and the upcoming FLEGT regulations by going back to first principles and building supply chain solutions from the forest up. The collaboration we've seen from SFI, Sainty Bancom and Premier shows that when supply chain partners work together, really tough problems can be solved. We've put a man on the moon; surely we can work out where our wood products come from?"

Poynton noted that plywood suppliers in the UK have another reason to clean up how they source the plywood they import. The nation's Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has promised to use only products made of legal and sustainable timber in the construction of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games venues and infrastructure. Poynton said, however, that the hard-won success of the TFT-Premier partnership suggests much effort will have to be made if the UK's plywood suppliers and others are to meet the ODA's crite-

ria with plywood imported from China.

Poynton explained, "It's taken us over 18 months to achieve this goal, and Sainty's product is the first third party legally verified plywood coming from China. There are vast volumes of Chinese plywood coming into the UK, across Europe and the US. Where is that ending up-what systems are in place to prove that illegal plywood isn't being used somewhere at some building site, even in small volumes? It's tough to prove a negative. The point is, if today only one Chinese factory can prove its plywood is legal, it makes you wonder about the legality of the rest. Is it legal? Good question, but one buyer had better answer soon, given Lacey and FLEGT."

The plywood project has been supported by funding from the Timber Trade Action Plan (TTAP), a consortium of European timber federations backed by the European Commission; the UK Timber Trade Federation, which represents the wood products industry; and the Rainforest Alliance SmartWood program. TFT made the announcement today during a workshop designed to provide advocates, policymakers and industry with basic information regarding the new policy climate in Europe and the US, and a sense of the process required to ensure access to legal wood and obtain third-party certification that demonstrates a clean supply chain.

THE EU SET TO FINALLY BAN ILLEGAL TIMBER IN 2012

On Wednesday 16 June 2010, the European Parliament, the EU member states and the European Commission concluded negotiations after almost a decade of campaigning on the issue by environmentalists; the sale of illegal timber is to be banned in the EU from 2012.

Representatives of Commission, Council and Parliament have agreed the text for the EU Due Diligence Regulation. This will require all first placers of timber products to conduct a due diligence process (recycled products are exempt). Other actors within the supply chain will only need to know who they have bought or sold to so that if there is a case of allegedly illegal timber, the first placer can be identified.

Timber Trade Federation Head of Sustainability Rachel Butler said: "The Parliament put on the negotiating table some unworkable suggested amendments but ultimately it has always been clear from the start that one issue was the real point of debate - the inclu-

sion of a prohibition. This has now been agreed and will only apply to the first placer and will mean that it is a criminal offence to place illegal timber on the EU market. However, the burden of proof will rest with the prosecution and illegality is defined by the country of harvest.

This is fantastic news for the industry and offers a great platform to build upon the environmental credentials of wood. It also represents a first in that the Government, NGO community and trade in the UK have all lobbied for the same position - a prohibition".

The law must still be officially endorsed by the member states at a full sitting of the parliament in July

and the Council will consider the text in the autumn. It is likely it will be adopted.

The US is one step ahead with such a ban. Under an amendment of the Lacey Act in 2008, the US has made it illegal for companies to possess or sell illegal timber products.

TFT is welcoming this progress towards due diligence legislation. In addition, we encourage all companies to consider moving beyond legality towards sustainability, for example to FSC certification. The Lacey Act has entered a new phase of enforcement, with more timber products now covered by the Act.

NANJING SEMINAR EXPLAINS LEGALITY

CAF, RA and TFT organized Wood Legality Assurance, Verification and CoC Systems workshop

June 2010: The Wood Legality Assurance, Verification and CoC Systems Workshop was held on Friday, 11 June in Nanjing, China. The one day event was organized by the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), the Rainforest Alliance (RA) and The Forest Trust (TFT).

The event provided an overview of the principal elements involved in systems needed to ensure a legal supply of wood, wood tracking systems for processing industry (Chain of Custody - CoC), legality verification requirements, and standards and legal requirements on international markets such as the EU and US.

The main objective of the workshop were to deliver a basic level of understanding about Chain of Custody certification (CoC), wood

legality assurance and verification concepts, the current status of policy developments around wood legality, and underlying technical and methodological issues to inform the wood producing and wood processing industries about requirements and possibilities.

This event also served as a ceremony for Rainforest Alliance to hand over the first Verification Statement of Verified Legal Origin in China, which has been made possible by the support of The Forest Trust.

TFT support

Over 50 attendees participated in the workshop, including almost 30 companies, The Forest Trust,



Participants to the seminar.

Rainforest Alliance, The Chinese Academy of Forestry, The Nature Conservancy and China Timber and Wood Products Distribution Association.

TFT China team leader Dr. Zhixin Deng presented TFT servic-

es. He explained how TFT works with companies to deliver responsible products to markets, TFT's strategy for ensuring supply chain legality & responsibility and how TFT model operates.

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During the workshop in Nanjing, Sainy Bancom received a certificate of verification from the Rainforest Alliance in recognition of its compliance with the guidelines provided by TFT.

UPDATES AT LUANG PRABANG: CREATIVE METHODS PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE TEAK IN LAO VILLAGE

Future generations cultivating: Artists explore connections between Teak and Life at Luang Prabang

On 25 May, the Provincial Forestry Section with support from the Lao Forest and Trade Platform celebrated the success of the Luang Prabang Teak Program by hosting an art competition for students and opening a teak and forest management section at My Library. My Library is a free public library and resource centre in Luang Prabang that encourages self-study through books, videos and computers.

money on books, pens and pencils. The winner was Kong Lee, 14 years old whose picture shows the stages of establishing a teak plantation with the last frame communicating the money and wood associated. In his comments he says "teak is very useful for all wood products so it is very easy to sell into the wood industry."



Runner up: Khuasong, 13 years old from the Luang Prabang Orphanage



Bounchan Lattavongkot from Luang Prabang Teak Program hands over a variety of land management media to Carol Kresge from My Library (Photo: Lee Hue) & Three young teenagers proudly hold their art that represents "Teak and Life: Asset creation through Teak Plantations alleviating poverty" (Photo: Ya Chengly)



Runner up: Bounme, 14 years old from the Luang Prabang Orphanage

The theme of the Art competition was "teak and life." Luang Prabang Teak Program office manager Bounthan said "we are looking for any type of art that reflects teak alleviating poverty by creating assets."

Students from all Luang Prabang schools had the opportunity to participate. The three prize winners were from the Orphanage and all said they would spend their prize



1st Prize: Kong Lee, 14 years old from the Luang Prabang Orphanage

Other entries included electronic art and stories. Ka Xiong a student from My Library explained in his story about why he would plant teak: "It is not for me, but for my children."

The resources LPTP has handed over include five books on teak management and marketing and a dozen DVD's about environmental management.

TFT is supporting the LPTP working with communities to improve their teak management and marketing so that they get a greater share of income. This is done through building the capacity of the village

to sell into international markets that demand transparent and accountable forest management and wood trade.

It is expected that the pilot village Ban Kok Ngiew will be FSC certified by the end of the year; proof of responsible management, allowing their wood to be sold at a price premium. Already market links provided by LPTP have con-

nected the village directly to the processor in Vientiane, allowing the villagers to double their income per cubic metre of teak and reducing the processors cost by a third. LPTP will be expanding into villages around Ban Kok Ngiew to test the feasibility of developing the program by village cluster across the teak rich parts of the country.

The Luang Prabang Pilot Project is receiving support from the Luang Prabang Forestry Section and the Lao Forest and Trade Platform as Program implementers, with additional assistance from the Department of Forestry, WWF, Fondation Ensemble, Japanese International Cooperation Agency, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and USAID under the RAFT Program.

WORKSHOP IN VIETNAM: EXPORTING TIMBER PRODUCTS

Exporting Timber products from Vietnam: Workshop on 15 June in Ho Chi Minh City on new international requirements



June 2010: TFT, in partnership with HAWA, VIFORES and the Ministry Agriculture & Rural Development (MARD) facilitated a workshop to provide Vietnamese wood businesses an update on export requirements for wood and wood products entering US and European markets and explore practical measures businesses can take to exclude illegal wood entering their supply chains.

With over 1 billion dollars of wood products exported to the US every year from Vietnam it is vital that Vietnamese businesses become familiar with new export requirements and establish measures to ensure that these requirements are met.

With 73 participants from 4 Government Organization (MARD, Ministry of Industry and Trade - MoIT, Vietnam Competition Authority, Vietnam Chamber of Commercial and Industry - VCCI), 25 Wood Processing Company, 10 News Agencies and INGO (WWF, IUCN, Forest Trends, EFI).

Increasingly national Governments of key timber importing countries are strengthening existing laws and establishing new ones to ensure that wood and wood products are not harvested, transported, exported or imported illegally. This is having a major influence on timber supply chains and their actors around the world.

Knowledge of requirements under these new laws is scarce and is sending nervous vibrations throughout industry, especially with recent investigations into illegally sourced timber under the US Lacey Act and the possible prosecutions that could follow.

Meeting these new laws is further complicated by the complexity of timber supply chains. The chair at the dinner table may have come from the local furniture store but the wood and the manufacturing processes that made it may have happened thousands of miles away.

These new laws require businesses that extract, trade, produce and export wood and wood products to ensure that all appro-

appropriate legal requirements are met throughout the supply chain.

The workshop titled “**Practical Measures for Vietnam Wood Business Targeting International Markets**”, brought together VIFORES, HAWA, TFT, EFI, WWF-GFTN, IUCN, Forest Trends and key industry representatives to actively discuss the changing requirements of US, European and Australian markets towards excluding illegal timber and timber products entering these supply chains.

Vietnam is one of Southeast Asia's largest exporters of finished wood products, in particular furniture. Amongst its main export markets are the United States and the European Union.

With a view to expanding sales to these markets, Vietnamese business leaders must rise to the challenge and take measures to ensure they are able to keep pace with the changing market requirement.



Participants to the workshop and in front row Dr. Ha Cong Tuan Deputy Director General of DoF and co-chairman to the conference, Scott Poynton, TFT CEO and co-chairman to the conference and Ms Felis Nguyen Hai Ly, FLEGT Advisor for Vietnam



Dr Ho Van Cu, TFT representative in Vietnam

TFT has been working throughout the world for over 10 years to support businesses to exclude illegal timber in supply chains and bring a growing area under sustainable forest management. TFT's Chief Executive Scott Poynton presented practical business solutions that link the organization's operational experience in the field and factories with their extensive buyer connections.

Scott Poynton reminded participants that TFT was in fact conceived in 1999 out of a need to address the problem of illegal logs being cut in Cambodia and transformed into furniture by Vietnam producers bound for the European market. By tackling the challenge head on through a business driven solution TFT, its members and partners both Vietnamese and International were able to transform the Garden Furniture Industry.

Although significant actions have taken place by Vietnamese producers, illegal timber trade still remains a real concern to the sector as a whole. Buying countries have and continue to implement laws prohibiting the import of illegal wood and wood products. Vietnam, as a large producer country,

must act swiftly to address the issues of illegal wood and wood product trade. Spearheaded action by Business, Government and key Stakeholders to exclude illegal wood and wood products will be pivotal if the Vietnam industry is to have a sustainable future.

Dr. Ho Van Cu - TFT Viet Nam Country Representative detailed that "with a lot of discussion and questions in order to help participant to better understand the legislation and what's need to do to comply with it, we believe that is a good workshop to help other stakeholders to understand clearly about TFT and TFT's support to our members about the changing of International market".



L-R: Nguyen Van VY - HAWA Office Manager ; Eberhard GOETZ - HAWA Business Development Advisor ; Scott Poynton, Boris Saraber TFT Asia North Manager, Chad OVEL - CEO of AA Corporation

All photos: Ho Van Cu

Workshop details

15th June at the Liberty Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City

For more details, contact Dr Ho Van Cu, TFT Vietnam Representative

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For information on the organizing organization visit their websites.

MARD See <http://www.agroviat.gov.vn/>

TFT See <http://www.tft-forests.org/>

HAWA See <http://www.hawa.com.vn/>

VIFORES See http://www.vietfores.org/index_e.php



PALM OIL CONFERENCE

Responsible palm oil; what concrete solutions to businesses. A conference in Paris organised by TFT.



7 July 2010, 930am to 4pm
At amphithéâtre de l'ENGREF
19, Avenue Maine,
75015 Paris
(Métro Montparnasse)

Speakers:

Emmanuelle Grundmann, Primatologue et journaliste scientifique

Bastien Sachet, Business Development Director, TFT

Catherine Gomy, Directrice Qualité - Développement Durable, E.Leclerc

Nestlé France

Marieke Leegwater, MVO

Bob Norman, Greenpalm

Bas Geer, UTZ

Juliane Eykelhoff, Unimills / Sime Darby

Luisa Gallo, Nutkao

United Biscuit

Marcel Djama, CIRAD

CSE: 2ND GROUP START PRACTICAL TRAINING, 3RD GROUP THEORETICAL CLASSES

CSE news: promotion 2 complete theory classes and promotion 3 starts!

June 2010: The Second Promotion completed their theoretical training with field visits in several forest companies and partners (NGOs, local associations, cooperation groups...) from Eastern Cameroon.

Photo 1. Arlette and Loïc, CSE students get ready to visit a sawmill.



Photo 2. the students and their Study Director visiting a factory.



Photo 3. Julien, a CSE student with Baka Pygmy men, drawing maps directly on the ground of forest areas of cultural important to them.



Photo 4. a social affairs manager sharing his experience with CSE students.



Photo 5. Tatiana interviewing women from a village neighbouring a forest concession.



Photo 6. the students discussing with a Director in a FSC certified forest company.



Photo 7, 8 et 9. the students on a forest management site.



Photo 10. the students looking for a stump to understand timber traceability systems.



Selection process for promotion 3

The selections took place during Mai 2010 for the third promotion. On the 79 applications received, 26 were pre-selected, and finally 7 people were selected. Along with three people selected previously, they make up promotion 3.

This new promotion is composed of ten students; 2 from DRC, 1 from Congo-Brazzaville, 1 from CAF, 2 from Gabon, 4 from Cameroon). They are starting classes on 14 June 2010 with Jérôme Lewis.

The selection process for the CSE is done in two steps:

- * Preselecting based on applications dossiers
- * Final selection over two days (individual interviews, field exercises, IT tests ...)



Photo 1: a candidate practising interviewing a carpenter to identify his timber supply sources in Yaoundé. The student will then write a report back at the CSE, this document will be part of his evaluation, along with his approach during the survey.

Photo 2: Candidates in the middle of a computing exam; formatting a document and writing a synthesis of articles



Photo 3: a candidate during an individual interview conducted by two anthropologists, Jérôme Lewis and Norbert Gami.



The project receives support from the Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco, the Waterloo Foundation and Virgin Balloons.

BISO NA BISO IS 1 YEAR OLD

A cultural evening for the first anniversary of community radio Biso na Biso (BnB)

Community radio Biso na Biso, a TFT project made possible by collaboration with Congolaise Industrielle des Bois (CIB) and currently supported financially by Fondation Chirac, was inaugurated on 7 June 2009 in Pokola.

Radio BnB is managed by Privat Tiburce Massanga, a journalist by training, and is run with the assistance of ten local coordinators all of whom have been trained by Privat. The radio broadcasts its programmes in local indigenous languages and reaches thousands of people living deep in the forest within a hundred kilometre radius of its base in Pokola, Republic of Congo.

On 19 and 20 June, the radio marked its first anniversary with a great celebration in Ibamba, a Pygmy village in the Likouala area almost 100 kilometres from Pokola. During the two-day event, the Biso na Biso radio team along with several CIB employees organised a cultural evening. The party was essentially centred on semi-nomad traditional dances and particularly those linked to the special Mbendjélé ritual called « Edjengui », an initiatory and fetishist rite for the Pygmies. The atmosphere was extraordinary with great fires, a jubilant crowd and the main dancer wrapped in an amazing outfit made fully of long strips of date palm leaves.

In addition to musical entertainment, the party included health messages and films on semi-nomad life and wild fauna. To their delight, some village residents saw other Pygmies on the screen for the first time in a film entitled « Fishing with the Mbendjéle » produced by Privat as well as two films on sustainable forest management produced by INCEF (The International Conservation and Education Fund).



BNB local coordinator and international journalist, Mandero, demonstrated to the audience his talents as a grand dancer in addition to his journalism skills. The BNB coordinators presented live radio programmes and enlivened the atmosphere by their dance steps; Lydie Koungou revealed not only to be a great live DJ but a terrific dancer as well. Alossi, one of the Mbendjélé BNB coordinators, revealed himself as an indefatigable dancer throughout the evening.



Edjengui during this animated evening and one of the fires lit in the middle of Ibamba to liven the evening.



Films on sustainable natural resource management in Ibamba

The next day, TFT's representative in the Congo, Norbert Gami, directed a diploma awards ceremony for the local coordinators and other volunteers at the radio, thanking them for their positive collaboration during the first year of Biso na Biso.

In addition to the cultural evening, the radio also organised a survey in several villages and in the town of Ouessou designed to evaluate listener's interest in its programmes. With the support of Fondation Chirac, additional FM wind-up and solar powered radio receivers were distributed in target communities and a radio competition was organised to allow its listeners to take part in the celebrations and win prizes.

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Privat and the coordinators holding their diplomas

Radio BnB is managed by Privat Tiburce Massanga, a journalist by training, and is run with the assistance of ten local coordinators all of whom have been trained by Privat. The radio broadcasts its programmes in local indigenous languages and reaches thousands of people living deep in the forest within a hundred kilometre radius of its base in Pokola, Republic of Congo.

On 19 and 20 June, the radio marked its first anniversary with a great celebration in Ibamba, a Pygmy village in the Likouala area almost 100 kilometres from Pokola. During the two-day event, the Biso na Biso radio team along with several CIB employees organised a cultural evening. The party was essentially centred on semi-nomad traditional dances and particularly those linked to the special Mbendjélé ritual called « Edjenguï », an initiatory and fetishist rite for the Pygmies. The atmosphere was extraordinary with great fires, a jubilant crowd and the main dancer wrapped in an amazing outfit made fully of long strips of date palm leaves.

In addition to musical entertainment, the party included health messages and films on semi-nomad life and wild fauna. To their delight, some village residents saw other Pygmies on the screen for the first time in a film entitled « Fishing with the Mbendjele » produced by Privat as well as two films on sustainable forest management produced by IN-CEF (The International Conservation and Education Fund).

The next day, TFT's representative in the Congo, Norbert Gami, directed a diploma awards ceremony for the local coordinators and other volunteers at the radio, thanking them for their positive collaboration during the first year of Biso na Biso.

In addition to the cultural evening, the radio also organised a survey in several villages and in the town of Ouessou designed to evaluate listener's interest in its programmes. With the support of Fondation Chirac, additional FM wind-up and solar powered radio receivers were distributed in target communities and a radio competition was organised to allow its listeners to take part in the celebrations and win prizes.

Congratulations to everyone who has made this project possible; long live Biso na Biso!

Photos PT Massanga

Privat gives out radios receivers to Mbendjélés in Ngatongo

