



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

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TFT Members' Update

TFT now has
57
members

TFT Member News: "Crate and Barrel gets top marks again in NWF garden furniture scorecard"

May 2009: The National Wildlife Federation, United States' largest private, nonprofit conservation education and advocacy organization, released last month its 3rd annual Garden Furniture Scorecard. This store card rates major retailers in the US in terms of FSC certified garden furniture on offer and helps consumers make informed choices.

For the third time, TFT member Crate & Barrel is scoring top marks. The company was awarded a four star review, the highest category, meaning the store has substantial offerings (71% to 99%) of FSC-certified wooden outdoor furniture or products sourced from forests working toward FSC-certification. The U.S. is the world's largest single importer of wooden furniture from tropical timber-producing countries, garden furniture representing about one-fifth of this amount. Imports into the U.S. of all tropical wood products have increased four-fold

Tropical Forest Trust is now The Forest Trust!



June 2009: The Tropical Forest Trust is pleased to announce its new name: **The Forest Trust**. This new name reflects our position as a global leader in forest conservation and an expansion of our work in the current context of rapid deforestation and climate change. Since its creation, our organization has grown well beyond its original focus on Southeast Asian forests. Today, with 88 staff working in 14 offices across Europe, the US, Asia, Africa and Latin America, we have an unparalleled team of experts solely dedicated to finding on the ground solutions to deforestation. There is now a real urgency to scale up our proven

conservation model in the tropics and beyond.

Tropical Forest Trust was signed into life on 25 March 1999. At the time we discussed whether to call the new organization The Forest Trust or Tropical Forest Trust - both 'TFT', the former implying a more global reach, whilst the latter implied a focus on tropical regions. We decided on Tropical Forest Trust because that's where the most intractable issues were at the time and it was certainly where our Founding Members wanted us to direct our energies and limited resources. We felt that we could change our name at a later stage once we had



developed systems that had produced concrete and lasting results on the ground. Today, TFT is increasingly being asked to work outside the tropics. This is because there is a wider recognition that our world leading skills for implementing Sustainable Forest Management and Wood Control Systems (respectively, getting forests FSC certified and working on traceability and legality in timber supply chains) are relevant beyond the difficult context of tropical forests. At the same time, more companies are being driven to seek our support in both the US and the EU as the compliance framework is changing and

companies now need to prove that their wood products are from legal, if not sustainable, sources.

Our proven model remains the same; sustainable forest management linked to responsible trade, but it now encompasses forests anywhere in the world, not just the tropics. We are encouraging all actors connected to forestry to become 'Forest Responsible' thus ensuring that their products are not linked in any way to deforestation, illegal practices, environmental destruction or social conflict. We also seek to involve actors outside the timber industry to contribute to forest and climate responsibility through our Climate Tree program.

By becoming The Forest Trust, and still being TFT, we are maintaining a continuous link with our 10 year track record. It characterizes our vision to build on our experience and dramatically scale up our work; increasing the 4.2 million hectares we support today as we aim to reach our target of 100 million hectares in the next 5 years.

This target is ambitious, however, we believe the magnitude of the problems of deforestation and climate change requires a rapid expansion of our product based, supply chain model. With continuous support from new and existing partners, we can apply our practical field-based solutions on the scale required to have a lasting impact on our forests and climate.

over the past decade. Consumers' choices can really make a difference, by buying FSC products they can help protect the forests

'In Conversation'

TFT's 'In Conversation' Podcast aims to capture stories, thoughts, aspirations and motivations from the people we meet or work with around the world.



See our website to download our latest podcast:
www.tropicalforesttrust.com/podcasts.php

Visit our Websites



www.tropicalforesttrust.com



www.timbertradeactionplan.info

Going Temperate: US Family Forest Program Launched!



June 2009: TFT is progressively expanding its activities out of the tropics and into temperate forests; TFT is now working with FSC US to support family forest owners in the United States to help them achieve FSC certification as part of the FSC Family Forests Program. To date, TFT has largely focused its mission of 'linking business with responsible forest management' by promoting forest stewardship in tropical countries and creating business demand in North American and European markets. In 2004, FSC introduced different requirements for small and low intensity managed forest, allowing a wider range of landowners to reach FSC certification. Indeed small-scale, indigenous peoples' or community forests form a significant part of forestry worldwide. In the US, family forests, those covering 1,000 hectares or less, make up half of the working forests and 6.4 million owners have forests covering less than 40 hectares. These forests, like all forests, are key sources of ecosystem values (endangered species habitat, water resources and carbon storage) and economic opportunities for the communities.

For these reasons and others, it is critical that the US be included in a systemic approach to forest sustainability. As in the tropics, FSC certification provides a valuable tool to keep these working forests standing. However, family forest owners in the US, like communities in other countries, have found it very challenging to get certified. Some of the reasons include insufficient technical assistance, complexity of the standards and auditing procedures, and lack of markets. TFT are working to change this dynamic and aims to bring its successful models of sustainable forestry developed and refined in tropical regions to a US setting. Building off our expertise and experience gained from other TFT projects, our comprehensive strategy includes collaborating with FSC-US to:

- develop family forest standards and guidance;
- create communications and education materials;
- promote innovative approaches to group certification;
- and strengthen supply chain connections and market linkages.

The FSC Family Forest program will not only benefit the forests and communities of the US, but also TFT business members whose diverse product streams include wood sourced from this region. TFT's work with family forests owners is supported by FSC-US through a grant from the Home Depot Foundation.

Developments in China



May 2009: Illustrating the rapid expansion of TFT work outside the tropics, our Chinese program is growing strongly, both in factories and forests.

With the aim to establish a global supply chain from the forests of Africa through to processing factories in China and on to the markets of Europe and the US, TFT is collaborating with the three main Timber Trade Federations in China (CTDA, CNFA, CNFIA) and engaging with several processing factories in order to implement good chain of custody and timber tracking practices in that section of the global supply chain.

Another example of TFT's expansion into temperate forestry involves Chinese communities. TFT has a long experience collaborating with communities in South-east Asia and guiding them towards certification. We now aim to use this expertise and help communities in China attain legality standards, and eventually FSC certification for their Poplar plantations, principally for core veneer for plywood. It would be a great accomplishment as such a project has not so far been achieved in China.

Meanwhile TFT is continuing to build on our good working relations with industry media and other stakeholders and joined in at a number of meetings, workshops and trade conferences. In late May, TFT, in collaboration with CTDA Flooring committee, convened a workshop with 15 Chinese leading flooring companies.

TFT convened meeting in the home of Chinese Parquet Flooring Industry



June 2009: TFT, in cooperation with CTDA Flooring Committee, held a workshop in late May for twenty leading Chinese wooden flooring manufacturers. The workshop was held in Jiashan, which has one of the largest concentrations of parquet flooring manufacturers in China. The meeting offered a great opportunity to bring TFT's activities in China and globally to the attention of Chinese flooring industry, which faces challenges in demonstrating legality to European and US markets.

After a welcome address by Gao Song, the head of Jiashan Foreign Trade and Economic Bureau and Gao Zhihua, head of CTDA Flooring Committee, TFT China Project Officer Gao Ya gave an overview of EU legislation and US Lacey Act, and their potential impacts on Chinese timber industry. She also introduced the participants to a variety of Risk Assessment Tools that TFT developed to help industry address supply chain issues.

Following this, TFT China team leader Dr. Zhixin Deng gave a comprehensive presentation about TFT and its services. He reported that TFT provides technical assistance in wood control system, supply chain management and raw material sourcing, thereby helping companies first

demonstrate legality and due diligence, and then step-by-step move toward sustainability.



The afternoon session was entirely reserved for discussions and informal meetings. The representatives at the meeting concluded that the Chinese flooring industry is facing both the decrease of overseas orders and tightening environmental requirements in the export markets, as a result, they need the help of organizations like TFT to shift their business module, which is traditionally based on price, delivery and quality, toward including also legality, traceability and sustainability in order to survive and even grow further in the current economic climate.

TFT plans to organize more of such meetings in the coming months with Chinese plywood and furniture producers. TFT believes that the engagement of Chinese timber producers in responsible sourcing is fundamentally crucial for the success of fighting against illegal logging and the conservation of the world forests.



TFT receives award at ceremony in Dubai for work in Congo Brazzaville involving Indigenous People in Forest Management Decision Making

On the 12th May 2009 in Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Municipality presented the 12 winners of the Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment (DIABP).

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Held at the Cultural and Scientific Association at Al Mamzar, the Director General of Dubai Municipality and Chairman of Board of Trustees of the award Eng. Hussain Nasser Lootah said the award seeks to recognise outstanding human achievements and to raise the profile of best practices that improve the lives of marginalised people enabling a transfer of these practices to other societies.

"Celebrating the 7th cycle of the award, it gives us the pleasure to declare that this award had attracted in its seven cycles since 1995 more than 4,000 practices from over 140 countries, and the number of laureates reached 65 from all over the world". The number of submissions for this cycle was over 500 from 68 countries, of which 112 were selected by the Technical Advisory Council (TAC). An independent International Jury then selected the best twelve practices to win this cycle's Dubai International Award.

Ambassador Inga Bjork-Klevby, Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT gave her speech on behalf of Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UNCHS and said the awards were a valuable means of recognising excellence, promoting learning and sharing best practices.

"This year, the award ceremony is held at a time the world is going through the worst economic crisis in living memory. If we do not manage it better while we still can, especially the urban part of it in which most of us live, we will lose the battle against climate disruption as well. As we grapple with the global impacts of the economic crisis and climate change, we need innovative ideas, informed communities and municipalities and government support. I am delighted the winners include new ideas on dealing with climate change and all address environmental sustainability in one way or another, and that all respond to various targets of the Millennium Development Goals."

TFT's project "Involving Indigenous People in Forest Management Decision Making" was selected as one of the 12 winners of this biannual award. Focused around 1.3 million hectares of forest in the Republic of Congo, which are home to around 9,000 indigenous forest people, the initiative is an example of how indigenous peoples, the State, local NGOs, academics and private enterprise have worked together to formalize the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights and at the same time establish a meaningful consultative process with regards to forest management.

For further information about the award and the other 11 excellent winning projects please visit:

www.unhabitat.org and www.dubaiaward.ae

Smallholder farmer cooperative in Indonesia gets FSC certified!

June 2009: After reporting on the legality verification awarded in March, Kostajasa, a community wood cooperative based in the Kebumen Regency in the Central Java Province, Indonesia, has continued to progress with TFT support, and was awarded FSC certification on 2nd June 2009, recognition for the good community forest management procedures, making them immediately eligible to sell FSC-certified mahogany timber.

June 2009: KSU Taman Wijaya Rasa (KOSTAJASA), has successfully passed the sustainable forest management certification audit under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme, making them immediately eligible to sell FSC-certified mahogany timber. The cooperative serves as a group manager for smallholder farmers growing timber to become FSC Certified under FSC group 'SLIMF' (Small and Low Intensity-Managed Forest) standards.

KOSTAJASA is a cooperative formed on 27 August 2007 with 52 founding members as a democratic organization, made up of farmers in Kebumen Regency committed to managing

the agro-forests on their private land sustainably. Formation of the cooperative grew out of a community forest development program designed and facilitated by TFT. TFT began the program in 2006 with funding from companies and donors such as Crate and Barrel, the Body Shop Foundation, FSC Global and the Waterloo Foundation.



The audit was conducted on 31 October 2008 until 2 November 2008, by SmartWood. This certification process was to assess whether or not KOSTAJASA's members are implementing sustainable forest management according to the FSC principles and criteria covering economic, environmental and social aspects of forest management. Although achieving these high standards is not easy, the farmers' and partners' efforts have resulted in KOSTAJASA securing the FSC certificate valid till June 2014. This achievement is not only an accomplishment for KOSTAJASA, but also demonstrates that community forestry carried out by small and medium enterprises can comply with international standards.



KOSTAJASA's Chairman, Mr. Sunarto said "To me, securing the FSC Certification is something very impressive. I am glad to get the certificate in recognition of our long struggle and weary toil, we've achieved international recognition". KOSTAJASA's Secretary, Mr. Marsino, added, "KOSTAJASA's FSC certificate is blessing for us, but at the same time it becomes a burden to us, because we need to maintain it. This is our commitment to preserve the community forest area in the Kebumen Region for the present and the future". KOSTAJASA expects that through FSC certification, the market can appreciate their efforts to manage their forests sustainably. Even before certification, KOSTAJASA already had secured a higher price for their mahogany harvests compared to other local prices. Additionally, farmers are now aware that by enhancing their process of production, they can actually improve the economic value of their wood by ensuring that all the processes are performed in a planned and well-managed way.

Although KOSTAJASA has achieved the FSC forest management certificate, TFT will continue to support KOSTAJASA to connect with factories and buyers that also have the same commitment to preserve forests. TFT Indonesia Representative Head, Hartono Prabowo, said "TFT will fully support KOSTAJASA to develop management of all their timber species for certification and to create strategies to market KOSTAJASA products to all potential buyers directly in Indonesia, or indirectly with international wood buyers with competitive prices. TFT will also support KOSTAJASA development until it has become an independent and healthy business".

Official Launches for the CSE and Biso na Biso take place in Congo!

Two separate launch events took place on Sunday June 7th in the Republic of Congo. The Centre of Social Excellence and Community Radio Biso na Biso both had their official launch parties. Both projects were the results of intense preparations and official launches crown their achievements.

