

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the TTAP newsletter! – This newsletter tells you the story of the successful Timber Trade roadshow to China and updates you on the stakeholder dialogue in Gabon and recent developments in the Brazilian FSC timber market.

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 (FBCB), Dutch (VVNH) 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

www.timbertradeactionplan.info

www.tropicalforesttrust.com

Consumer Country Partners

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[VVNH](#)

[Le Commerce du Bois](#)

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Producer Country Partners

[Malaysian Timber Council](#)

[IFIA](#)

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Latest News: Stakeholder Dialogue in Gabon!



In May 2008 in Libreville, Cameroon the InterAfrican Forest Industries Association (IFIA), together with the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC) and the German Facilitation Partnership on Forests

of the Congo Basin facilitated a ground breaking event that engaged Asian operators in the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) dialogue for Central Africa. A positive outcome of the day saw a number of companies reiterating their commitment towards SFM and the EUs FLEGT licensing system and Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA).

The event, attended by a variety of stakeholders ranging from logging companies, NGOs, development agencies to the National Forestry Administrations of the region discussed the increasing number of Asian companies operating in the Congo Basin and the need for a concerted effort at all levels to understand and apply the principles of sustainable forest management to conserve the regions forest resources.

The TTAP Africa Team was invited by IFIA to present the work that the project is undertaking towards legality verification of supply chains in the region as a first step for companies towards this overriding goal.

The growing demand for certified timber from tropical countries saw Imaflora (Instituto de Manejo e Certificacao Florestal e Agricola) in partnership with the Amazon Institute of People and the Environment (IMAZON), Friends of Earth, Amazônia Brasileira and FSC hold their third Trade Fair in Brazil. This three day event built upon the success of the previous two in promoting sustainability to the Brazilian forest sector.



The TTAP Brazil Team attended the event, providing them with the opportunity to liaise with certification bodies, NGOs and State and Federal forestry and discuss the positive role that TTAP can play in moving companies towards sustainable forest management.

Latest News China:

TTAP Team Growing!

In April 2008 TFT hired two new Project Officers for the TTAP China team based in Beijing to staff the projects increasing workload in the country, which is the world's largest processor and importer of tropical timber. This has partly been the result of EU buyers looking to re-engage trade with China following the recent rejection of the Tariff on Chinese Plywood as well as TTAPs presence at the China Trade Roadshow.

Ms. Gao Ya, (aka Amy), a recent MSc graduate in Environmental Governance from Freiburg, Germany with an economics degree from the Netherlands will undertake policy research and communication work in China and is currently researching the purchasing policies and codes of conduct of all Chinese Timber Trade Federations. Dr. Zhixin Deng who has had extensive experience in agro-forestry in Africa and Asia as well as a PhD in Agronomy from Bonn also started in April. Zhixin's principal role within TTAP will focus on Gap Assessment (GA) and Action Plan (AP) implementation in both forests and factories.

Both were branded with fire in the first couple of weeks with TTAP helping to plan and facilitate the hugely successful China Timber Trade Roadshow - Welcome to the Team Amy and Xin!

TTF Update:

China Roadshow success!



Getting credible evidence on the legal origin of timber and timber products was a key message taken to Chinese plywood and flooring producers at the European Timber Trade Federation Road Show to Shanghai and Pizhou from 14 to 19 April. The Road Show not only provided a platform for business-to-business discussions, and interaction and dialogue between timber trade associations from Europe and China.

At a series of factory visits and one to one meetings with European buyers, Chinese suppliers heard first-hand what environmental steps they needed to take to ensure market access and potentially gain better prices.

Progressive Chinese companies were also able to demonstrate the significant steps they had taken to source their products from known legal sources. They presented the environmental qualities of plywood core material such as fast-growing poplar and eucalyptus, now growing in vast quantities across the Chinese countryside.

The 6 days event was sponsored by the UK Government, Department for International Development (DFID) and Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and by the European Commission. The UK Timber Trade Federation in partnership with the Netherlands Timber Trade Association and TTAP organized and facilitated the roadshow. More than 100 candidates attended three days of seminar and visits to flooring and plywood factories in Pizhou and Shanghai.

Presentations and minutes will be posted on the [TTAP website](#) shortly.

[UK TTF Press Release](#)

Future Events:

- 9-10th June – Chatham House Illegal logging Update and stakeholder Consultation No. 12, London.
- October 2008 – TTAP Annual Seminar – International Timber Trade Federation Day.

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

Special feature:

Landmark Legislation Passed in the USA - Banning Trade in Illegal Wood

May 14, 2008: The U.S. House of Representatives passed landmark legislation to address the global illegal logging crisis. The law would make the United States the first country in the world to prohibit the import, sale, or trade in illegally-harvested wood and wood products. [Read more...](#)

Read more about the [Lacey Act!](#)

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