



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 15th Edition of the TTAP Newsletter!

With Rougier-Mokabi achieving TLTV Verification of Legal Origin certification, Indonesia working hard on its Timber Legality Assurance System and Cameroon signing a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU, there is plenty to read in the TTAP newsletter!

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 this newsletter with your colleagues.

Enjoy reading!

About TTAP

TTAP is an EC funded project, managed by The Forest Trust (TFT) and co-funded by European Timber Trade Federations and their members. The project aims to assist wood suppliers in TTAP focus countries produce third party legally verified timber.

We currently advise and provide technical support to timber companies based in Asia, Africa, and South America.

We are also engaged in FLEGT discussions in Europe and TTAP focus countries.

Quick links

www.timbertradeactionplan.info

www.tft-forests.org

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Producers

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Republic of Congo: ROUGIER-MOKABI achieves TLTV- Verification of Legal Origin certification with TFT's assistance



The ROUGIER group obtained the TLTV-Verification of Legal Origin (VLO) certificate with TFT's assistance through the TTAP project for its forest management and processing sites in Mokabi located in the north of the Republic of Congo.

The TLTV-VLO certification from SGS means ROUGIER's Mokabi forest operations and transformation are now able to guarantee the traceability and legal origin of their timber products in line with European market requirements increasingly demanding proofs of legality and sustainability.

Cameroon and EU finalised Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)



After 31 months of negotiations, representatives from Cameroon and the European Union (EU) have finalised a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on 6 May 2010 that aims to ensure Cameroonian timber is legal not only when exported to the EU and other countries but also when sold on the domestic market. TFT conducted the field test of the legality checklist in 2009, assessing if this national standard for legality, a key part of the VPA, is workable in

practice. It is expected that the first FLEGT licenses attesting the legality of the Cameroonian timber when accompanying shipments from Cameroon to the EU will be issued in the course of 2011.

Both parties and Non-Governmental Organisations from Europe and Cameroon believe that, if implemented properly, this VPA could spell the end of illegal logging in Cameroon.

The level of civil society involvement in the negotiating process was unprecedented and led to strong written commitments from the government to make information publicly available, to continue independent monitoring of the forest sector, to carry out reform of the legal framework applicable to the forest sector;

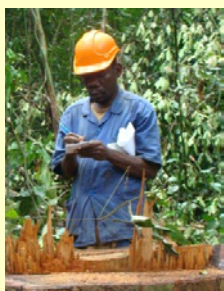
Official signature of republic of Congo and EU VPA

Negotiations for the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) were initiated in June 2008 and concluded with a signature on 9 May 2009 in Brazzaville.

The VPA has now been confirmed by an official signature in Brussels between Congolese and EU Environment Ministers on the 17 May 2010, supporting efforts towards legal logging in the Republic of the Congo.

Congo is the first Central African country to have a VPA with the EU; joining Ghana in the list of African VPA signatory countries. The Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and the Environment, Mr Henri Djombo, representing the Republic of the Congo at the signature said the VPA was a legal document confirming Congo's will to sustainably manage its forest resources and thus realise its development objectives.

TFT carries out field test of the Central African legality checklist



European Commission

The Central African Republic (CAR) is currently negotiating a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Commission (EC). The

negotiations officially started in February 2010 with one of the first steps being the establishment of an official legality checklist. Once the VPA is signed, companies will have to comply with this legality checklist before being allowed to export their wood to the European and other markets. To make sure the checklist is practical and workable, TFT within the TTAP project has

tested the Central African legality checklist in the field during the months of April and May. The conclusions and recommendations of this test will allow the CAR to improve their legality checklist and move forward in the VPA negotiation process. In the past, TFT has also successfully field tested the legality checklists of Cameroon and Congo-Brazzaville.

Indonesia's Timber Legality Assurance System is assuming shape



The Indonesian Ministry of Forestry is currently developing a Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS or "SVLK" in Bahasa) in an

effort to reduce the rate of forest degradation and deforestation and to promote the trade in legal timber. The system is supposed to improve law enforcement by including a robust national legality and sustainability standard for timber and a sophisticated mechanism of third party auditing that all Indonesian operators will have to undergo

to be checked against compliance with the standards. TLAS is based on Regulation No. P.38/Menhut-II/2009 that was passed on 12 June 2009 and will most likely be used as a mechanism within the Voluntary Partnership Agreement that Indonesia is currently negotiating with the European Commission.

Compulsory adherence to Environmental Charter for all members of Le Commerce du Bois (LCB)



Le Commerce du Bois (LCB) has made compulsory adherence to the Environmental Charter to all its members from March.

This measure is an amendment to the articles of association and will be officially endorsed by a General Meeting of the Association by the

end of the year. The choice may mean some members will leave, but it will send a strong signal to the industry.

Visit http://www.lecommercedubois.fr/PDF/Charte_LCB_avril_2006.pdf to read the environmental charter.

UK timber industry and European Timber Trade Federation lobby for a workable but strong EU Due Diligence Regulation

As negotiations between the European Parliament and Council on an EU Due Diligence regulation reach their final stage, the UK timber industry has united to call on the two parties to agree on a workable but strong mechanism to tackle illegal logging.

The European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF) referred to above call in a letter to Members of the European Parliament but added the need for clarification of the concept of "monitoring organisation" and advocated for Timber Trade Federations with experience in operating Codes of Conduct and Responsible Purchasing Policies to become monitoring organisations.

Commenting specifically on the European Parliament draft amendments to the regulation, the UK trade federations consisting of the UK Timber Trade Federation (TTF), the Confederation of Forest Industries

(ConFor), the Wood Panels Industries Federation (WPIF) and the British Woodworking Federation (BWF) have:

Expressed support for prohibition on illegal logging, but made clear that the Parliament's approach and wording is unclear and needs improvement.

Stated that any requirement to abide by legislation should be in line with the FLEGT process; the proposal to include sustainability criteria is simply not workable and is likely to force the boycott of tropical timber – as proving compliance will be very difficult.

Opposed extending Due Diligence down the supply chain and highlighted that the concept of including "Due Care" for the supply chain is not clear.

Disagreed with the concept of in-



roducing labelling.

Called for certification schemes to be included and classed as low risk.

Opposed the inclusion of recycled wood in the due diligence scheme.

ETTF in addition urges the European Commission to continue the FLEGT/VPA negotiations as the sole introduction of a regulation will not necessarily stop the production of illegal timber in tropical countries.

For more information on the Proposed EU Due Diligence regulation, visit

http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/9interventionareas/nvironment/forest/forestry_intro_en.cfm

Dutch procurement policy accepts Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) as assurance for sustainability



The Malaysian Timber Certification Council welcomes the conclusion of the Dutch Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) that the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) meets the requirements

of the Dutch procurement policy, which advises to buy sustainable timber.

The MTCS started operating in 2001 as a scheme to conduct independent assessments for forest management and chain of custody certification and award certificates for sustainably produced timber products.

The Netherlands is the largest market for Malaysian timber and related products in the EU and accounts for about 49% of the cumulative exports of MTCS-certified

timber products.

Prior to the recognition of MTCS as providing assurance for sustainability by TPAC, the Danish, British, French and German governments have already recognised the MTCS as assurance of legal and/or sustainable timber. The Keurhout system in The Netherlands has already accepted the MTCS under the *Protocol for Legal Origin*, and specific certificates under the *Protocol for Sustainable Forest Management*.

Lacey Act - all timber based products are now included under the regulation

April 1, 2010 marks the beginning of enforcement for basic information transparency requirements under the Lacey Act for guitars, revolvers, hand tools, pool cues and certain types of furniture. The US Lacey Act, amended in May 2008, makes it a federal crime to trade in illegal wood products. Under a phased-in process, many

sectors have to declare the scientific name and the country of harvest for any plant constituents of their imported products.

Other wood product sectors, including those importing sawn timber, flooring, and joinery have been declaring this information to the US government for nearly a

year already.

Full enforcement of the ban on trade in illegal wood has been in effect since the law passed on May 22, 2008. The first public enforcement action occurred in November 2009 when the government raided Gibson Guitar facilities in Nashville.

Gabon stays firm on log export ban

From 15 May 2010, Gabon will completely stop the exportation of round logs.

The Minister of Water and Forests, Environment and Sustainable Development, Martin Mabala, convened timber business operators on 3 May to remind them that government measures to ban log exports is maintained.

The government had first announced in November 2009 that the ban would start on 1 January 2010 but the date was eventually put back.

The ban is intended to boost local industry and raise the export price of finished and semi-finished goods, but representatives from logging companies are expecting redundancies and cuts in income as adjustment time is very limited.



Upcoming events

1) Carrefour International du Bois, International Timber Tradeshow in Nantes, France

Over 500 exhibitors will be present on **2, 3, 4 June in Nantes** at this large national and international trade show for all professionals in the timber sector. <http://www.timbershow.com/>

2) Wood Legality Assurance, Verification and CoC Systems Workshop in Nanjing, China

Organised by SmartWood in conjunction with the Chinese Academy of Forestry and TFT, the Workshop will take place on **11 June in Nanjing**. The event aims to provide an overview of the principal elements required to ensure a legal supply of timber, wood tracking systems for processing industry (CoC) and market requirements such as standards and international legislation.

3) Chatham House illegal logging update meetings

The sixteenth in the series of illegal logging update meetings organised by Chatham House will take place on **24 and 25 June 2010**. http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?it_id=187&it=event

For more information regarding forthcoming events, please refer to the [illegal-logging website](http://www.illegal-logging.info/).

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