



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.

## Issue 2 ~ April 2009

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## TFT Members' Update

TFT now has

59

members,

We welcome our newest:

ALPI Group  
Weldom  
Brico Dépôt

## Three Verified Legal Origin Certificates issued in Indonesia in a TFT Member Supply Chain!

March 2009, Indonesia: Two TFT supported forest projects and one factory have been issued certificates of Verified Legal Origin (VLO) by the Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood program. Linked together in a supply chain, the achievement means that wooden furniture, carrying a 'Verified Legal Origin' Statement can be exported to the USA. Such verification helps to provide assurance to consumers and companies alike, that their product is not linked with forest destruction from illegal harvesting.

This recently 'verified legal' supply chain connects two forests and a factory in Indonesia through to Crate & Barrel, a large retailer in the USA. The forest sources are Perhutani's Randublatung District, a state-owned forest plantation, producing teak and mahogany and Kostajasa, a cooperative of farmers that produce predominantly mahogany logs. Both forest enterprises have been working with the TFT for a number of years to improve forest practices towards achieving Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. In the factory, TFT has helped to develop a robust wood control system and monitor production to ensure only wood from known, approved sources enters the supply chain.

This verification project was one of the activities supported under the US-Indonesia MOU on Combating Illegal Logging. Funding was provided through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Development Mission Asia's "Responsible Asia Forestry & Trade" (RAFT) program. The RAFT Program, managed by The Nature Conservancy, supported this project because of its ability to 'demonstrate showcase examples of the export of verifiably legal wood products from Indonesia directly to the USA.'

With the amendments to the US Lacey Act in 2008, companies trading or importing wood products to the USA are under increased scrutiny to ensure they know the origin of wood and take responsibility to ensure it was harvested, bought and sold in compliance with all relevant laws. This pilot project demonstrates one technique for verifying wood origin and ensuring basic legality requirements throughout the supply chain have been met.

## Radio Biso na Biso is broadcasting live throughout the forests of Northern Congo!



March 31, 2009: TFT is proud to announce that Radio Biso na Biso is finally broadcasting through the airwaves from Pokola, Congo Brazzaville! With the station built, state of the art broadcasting equipment in, a 70 meter pylon erected, solar panels installed, wind up radios distributed to people living in forest...the people living throughout the forest area of Congolaise Industrielle des Bois (CIB) concessions will finally have access to a new form of communication.

The project has been in development for many years, so with test emissions sent out over the past few weeks and regular broadcasts scheduled to commence next week, TFT is very excited to share this news! The project is a collaborative effort between TFT, CIB, and partners with additional financial support from the Foundation Chirac and World Bank Development Marketplace. Radio Biso na Biso is managed locally by TFT staff and local volunteers.

#### TFT Member News:

"Top score for TFT member in Greenpeace Outdoor Furniture Retailers Survey"

Greenpeace New Zealand recently released a publication called: "Your Guide to Forest Friendly Outdoor Furniture Retailers".

This guide ranks leading outdoor furniture retailers in New Zealand on their efforts towards eliminating the sale of timber products from illegal and/or unsustainable sources.

The scorecard placed TFT Member Mitre 10 at the top of the ranks. In addition, many other retailers carrying products from TFT Supplying Members fared well on the scoreboard.

#### '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](http://www.tropicalforesttrust.com/podcasts.php)

"Radio Biso na Biso has the advantage to be transmitting in an environment dominated by oral traditions but where means of transportation are still a luxury," commented Francis Wabout and Privat Massanga, Biso na Biso Co-Directors. "Many hopes are placed on this radio by a population divided by the lack of communication. This radio needs to join them and bring the population to thrive."

Listen to a broadcast at [www.tft.podomatic.com](http://www.tft.podomatic.com)

#### High Conservation Value Forest Report from a TFT-Supported Natural Forest Concession in Indonesia highlights biodiversity and ecosystem significance



March 2009: Following the High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) Assessment conducted in Andalas Merapi Timber, West Sumatera, Indonesia in July & August 2008, the final report is now peer-reviewed, finalized and available on our website.

The HCVF process assessed biodiversity, ecosystem service values, and social and cultural values in the forest area and found that of the six major values listed in the Indonesian Toolkit (2008) five were found to be present.

The large number of HCVs present in this concession and the presence of critically endangered tigers and other rare species emphasize the importance of properly managing this forest. AMT has been working with TFT towards achieving Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification since late 2005 and plans to undergo an FSC assessment this year. Currently, TFT is working closely with AMT to assist them in implementing the recommendations put forward in this HCVF report. A major recommendation of the report calls for implementing Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) procedures to ensure the maintenance of high conservation values even through harvesting.

Download the Report at [www.tropicalforesttrust.com/reports.php](http://www.tropicalforesttrust.com/reports.php)

#### The Centre for Social Excellence prepares for the first class of students to arrive!



March 2009: The Centre of Social Excellence (CSE) is preparing for the arrival of its first class of students in May 2009!

In response to our call for applicants, TFT received 101 applications from candidates in Congo-Brazzaville, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Cameroon. Following a rigorous selection process, 21 people were short listed and interviewed by an international selection team. Six candidates have now been chosen to form the first class at the CSE, and five candidates are nominated for the second class starting January 2010.

The Centre has now been furnished, lecturers have been called and the curriculum has been prepared. Students are eager to start on their path to learn practical skills to soon become leaders in sustainable management for the forests in their regions.

The CSE offers a unique one-year program taught in the classroom and during practical field-based training, covering a broad range of social, ethnographic and forestry management topics including participative mapping techniques. Through the CSE program, the TFT is supporting the development and expansion of social expertise among recent graduates of central African universities and professionals working in central Africa who wish to practice sustainable forestry.

With more local experts in the region, TFT seeks to improve the understanding and linkages between forestry companies and indigenous communities, and thereby encourage dialogue and sustainable forestry management practices.

#### Promoting Legality Verification around the World: an update on TFT's TTAP project

Since 2005, TFT has been managing the Timber Trade Action Plan (TTAP) on behalf of participating European Timber Trade Federations and their members. With co-funding from the European Commission, we work in the tropical timber producing countries of

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[www.tropicalforesttrust.com](http://www.tropicalforesttrust.com)



[www.timbertradeactionplan.info](http://www.timbertradeactionplan.info)

Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil, China and potentially Bolivia and Guyana, supporting companies exporting to the EU, establish systems for legality verification.

Project highlights include:

### ASIA:

In Malaysia and Indonesia combined, eleven individual companies participating in the TTAP project have now met their objective of becoming legally verified!

TFT continues to work on four more supply chains in Malaysia and seven in Indonesia under the TTAP project, with even more in the pipeline. Clearly, there is a real interest from companies to pursue legal verification of wood products!

The pace is also picking up in China where TFT has significantly strengthened its presence in the past year. This has been in conjunction with China's growing awareness for sustainable and legal wood in China. Currently in China, TFT is working on six supply chains. Our program in China also focuses a lot on education and networking, through participating in events like the China Timber Road Show last April, consultations on the US-China Memorandum of Understanding, and at other conferences.

### SOUTH AMERICA:

One year after the project's launch in South America, TTAP has been busy in the region especially in Brazil where TFT's team is based. In the last eight months, the TFT has assessed over 100,000 hectares of forest in Brazil and is currently working with six supply chains towards legality verification.

### AFRICA:

Twelve supply chains are currently engaged in the TTAP project in Africa; seven supply chains in Cameroon, two in Congo-Brazzaville, and three in Gabon.

Despite the current financial hardships, we expect good progress towards legal verification continuing in TTAP projects in Africa, Asia and South America as work continues in the forests and factories.