

## Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 14th edition of the TTAP Newsletter! At the start of a New Year with reports of the economy picking up, the TTAP team wishes all its readers a prosperous and successful year ahead.

We would like to share with you the latest TTAP developments; the extension of the TTAP program to members of all EU Timber Trade Federations, and the joining of the Association of Wood and Furniture Industries of Portugal (AIMMP) to the TTAP project.

Whether you are a Timber Trade Federation member, a TTAP partner or an 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!  
The TTAP Team

### 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, 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](http://www.timbertradeactionplan.info)

[www.tft-forests.org](http://www.tft-forests.org)

### Partner TTFs

#### Consumers

> FBCIB  
> UK TTF  
> VVNH  
> LCB  
> UCBD  
> FEBO  
> AIMMP

#### Producers

> MTC  
> IFIA

### Timber Trade Action Plan (TTAP)

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## Members of any European Timber Trade Federation can now benefit from TFT support through TTAP

With immediate effect, members of any European Timber Trade Federation (TTF) can now benefit from TTAP subsidized technical support to achieve third party legality verification of their supply chains. Previously only the members of formal TTAP partners having signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) were eligible for the project. Signing the MOU is no longer necessary however it is still an option for TTFs to benefit from TTAP's wider services and be part of the managing body. This new development now opens the door for more companies to implement Due Diligence systems in preparation for incoming EU legislation.

TFT, under the TTAP project, offers technical support to companies aiming to achieve legality verification. 72% of the cost of this support is subsidised by the European Union and the engaged company covers the remaining 28%.

To date, TFT has successfully supported 8 supply chains become legally verified in Malaysia; 3 supply chains in Indonesia with 2 more about to receive their VLO certificate, and 12 in Cameroon. Our teams are also bringing forests and factories to legality verification in China, Brazil, Guyana, Gabon and the Republic of Congo.

We can work in any of the ten TTAP focus countries and are also open to work in other producer countries such as CAR, DRC or the Ivory Coast, dependent upon sufficient demand.

If you are interested in learning more about TFT and TTAP; and how we can assist your business, please contact Susanna Lohri at [s.lohri@tft-forests.org](mailto:s.lohri@tft-forests.org)



## AIMMP signs TTAP MOU



The Association of Wood and Furniture Industries of Portugal (AIMMP - Associação das Indústrias de Madeira e Mobiliário) signed the MOU with TFT on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010, formalising its commitment to the project as a TTAP partner.

AIMMP now joins the UK, Dutch, Belgian and French as the fifth EU project partner of TTAP, enabling its members to

benefit from technical assistance of TFT as well as being part of the project's managing body.

"In 2008 we [Portugal] imported 52,000 cubic meters of logs and 88,200 cubic meters of sawn timber making Portugal the fifth largest importer of tropical timber in the EU.

Signing this MOU with TFT is a strategic move for our organisation to help prepare our members to for the incoming EU Due Diligence Legislation" said Joao Ferreira da Costa, Director of AIMMP.

This decision signals the growing importance of legality in the timber sector in Portugal and it is

hoped that other TTFs in Southern Europe will also follow suit.

## Tim Schoonenberg joins TTAP in Africa

As of April, TIM SCHOONENBERG will be joining the TTAP project as Africa Regional Coordinator.

He will be responsible for overseeing all activities and strategic operation. We are happy to welcome him to the team!



## EU Due Diligence Update

On 15 December 2009, the European ministers in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council discussed the proposed Due Diligence regulation obliging operators who place timber and timber products on the EU market to implement a Due Diligence system to assess and mitigate the risk of their wood sources. The ministers rejected the proposal that had been amended by the European Parlia-

ment in autumn 2009 that included a prohibition on the import of illegal timber and timber products.

Several countries including the Netherlands, UK and Denmark backed the recently proposed legislation but also demanded that it go one stage further and include prohibition, which was originally demanded by the European

Parliament. Although this demand did not secure a majority at this stage, several states signalled their intent to push for this to be included in a later reading.



## New action plan for sustainable timber in the Netherlands

The Royal Netherlands Timber Trade Association (NTTA/VVNH in Dutch) and the Dutch Union of Timber Manufacturers (NBvT) are joining forces in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility.

The two organisations launched a joint action plan "Conscious with Timber" on December 1st during the Dutch Timber day in Amsterdam to help promote sustainably produced timber.

The goal of NTTA and NBvT is that the use of sustainable produced timber becomes standard practice for all wood types. They propose that by 2015, 50% of hardwood, 85% of panels and 100% of softwood imported and processed in the Netherlands, should originate from sustainably managed forests.

In order to realise this, NTTA and NBvT are seeking close cooperation with other parties in the timber chain and concentrating on the following steps.

1. The easy choice; an important objec-

tive is to remove any practical objections to companies in the timber chain experience in making the move to sustainable produced timber.

2. Supply-side activities; the members of NTTA and NBvT commit to the objectives of Conscious with Timber for 2015 by implementing certified Chain of Custody systems and ensuring a stock or ready supply of sustainably produced timber or products.

3. Stimulating demand; NTTA and NBvT are going to develop available information and advocate sustainably produced timber to customers, processors and decision makers.

NTTA and NBvT are the initiators of the action plan "Conscious with Timber". Other supporters are the *Nederlandse Vereniging van Houtagenten* (NATA, Netherlands Association of Timber Agents), *Algemene Vereniging Inlands Hout* (AVIH, Homegrown Tim-

ber Association), *Verduurzaamd Hout Nederland* (VHN, Netherlands Wood Treatment Association), *Vereniging van Houtskelbouwers* (VHSB, Association of Timber Frame Constructors), *Vereeniging van Importeerende Groothandelaren in Hout* (VIGH, Association of Wholesale Timber Importers), *Centrale Bond van Meubelfabrikanten* (CBM, Central Furniture Makers Association) and FOSAG.

<http://www.vvnh.nl/>

[actieplan aan cramer overhandigd](#)



Photo: Henk ten Bouwhuis, VVHN

## Keurhout accepts both Smartwood VLO and VLC

On 25 January 2010, the Keurhout Board of Experts, a Dutch standard setting institution that accredits international certificates attesting to legality or sustainability of timber and timber products accepted the VLO and VLC systems of SmartWood/Rainforest Alliance to its Keurhout-Legal system. This acceptance acknowledges the quality

of these standards, along with others such as SGS TLTV, FSC Controlled Wood, FMC and provides the Dutch industry with the benchmark of the minimum requirements of legality.

Refer to this link for the Keurhout press release: <http://www.keurhout.nl/english/news.htm>



## Chatham House Illegal logging update: VPA news and laudable initiatives

The 15<sup>th</sup> Chatham House Illegal Logging Stakeholder Update meeting held on 20 and 21 January announced Cameroon's imminent signature of the VPA and advertised the issuing of the long awaited FLEGT licenses in December 2010 for Ghana and one year later for Cameroon.

In Gabon official VPA negotiations will be launched in March. In Central African Republic, Liberia, Indonesia and Malaysia the negotiations are ongoing, with Malaysia entering into the final stages. The Democratic Republic of Congo, Vietnam

and Ecuador consider entering the negotiations, with stakeholder consultations and information workshops currently being undertaken.

Given the existence of at least seven private legality standards worldwide that create confusion and overlap, Rainforest Alliance and Chatham House organised an additional meeting on 19 January to explore ways to harmonise these standards, or at least make them as compatible as possible.

One of the obstacles to harmonisation is the lack of an accredited organisation to work under. Whilst there

were no definitive outcomes to the meeting there will be follow up meeting between Certification Bodies to share standards and seek ways for mutual recognition.



[http://www.illegal-logging.info/item\\_single.php?it\\_id=172&it=event](http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?it_id=172&it=event)

## UK public responsible purchasing policy now includes social criteria

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP Secretary of State Minister for Environment, food and rural affairs announced the inclusion of social criteria in UK public contract conditions at the 15<sup>th</sup> Illegal Logging update meeting at Chatham House. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, all UK government procurement contracts will need to include social criteria meaning that timber for public buildings

must come from forests where the interests of indigenous peoples, local communities and forest workers are fully respected.

The criteria specifically refer to tenure and use rights, means of resolving grievances and disputes, safeguarding the basic labour, and health and safety rights of forest workers as an

integral part of the sustainability definition.

<http://www.cpet.org.uk/activities-and-news/news%20stories/announcement-sustainability-definition-now-includes-social-criteria>



## Gabon log export ban revised

The log export ban in Gabon is confirmed but will be phased in over three years. A calendar of implementation has been announced on February 17.



The Gabonese log export ban has been revised on 15-17 February 2010 at the Forum on Forest Management in Libreville. The Ministry of Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development announced the phase in of the log export ban over three years and presented an action plan for the implementation of the ban. In 2010 operators will be obliged to transform 60% of logs before export, and the amount will increase to 75% in 2011 and 80% in 2012.

The Gabonese government will also think about the possibility of obliging operations to file in their forest management plans, cancel permits of operators acting illegally, reinforce infrastructure such as roads, ports, and railways and might provide appropriate financing via tax and customs incentives to support the emergence of industrialisation.

## Upcoming events

- **Ecobuild Exhibition**, the world's biggest event for sustainable design, construction and the built environment, **2 - 4 March in London** <http://ecobuild.co.uk>
- **IV Certified Brazil: Certified Agricultural and Forest Products Trade Fair**  
**April 7- 9 in São Paulo**  
<http://www.brasilcertificado.com.br/us/index.html>
- **11th International timber Tradeshow**  
**2 - 4 June in Nantes, France**  
<http://www.timbershow.com/index.cfm?lng=en>
- **18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference**  
The theme of the Conference is "Restoring the Commonwealth's Forests: Tackling Climate Change"  
**28 June to 2 July in Edinburgh Scotland**  
[www.cfc2010.org](http://www.cfc2010.org)
- **Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation Number 16**  
The sixteenth in our series of illegal logging update meetings will take place in **Chatham House on 24 - 25 June**  
[http://www.illegal-logging.info/item\\_single.php?it\\_id=187&it=event](http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?it_id=187&it=event)
- **XXIII IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organisations) World Congress "Forests for the Future: Sustaining and the Environment"**  
**23 August 2010, Seoul, South Korea**  
[www.iufro.org](http://www.iufro.org)
- **"Improved Utilisation of Tropical Plantation Timbers"** in conjunction with the completion of the ITTO Project on "Improving Utilisation and Value Adding of Plantation Timbers from Sustainable Sources in Malaysia" <http://www.frim.gov.my/> 23-25 March in Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur Email: [tanye@frim.gov.my](mailto:tanye@frim.gov.my) / [thilagawathy@frim.gov.my](mailto:thilagawathy@frim.gov.my) or +603-6279 7452/7396
- **Third International Timber Trade Federation Day (ITTFD), 6, 7, 8 October in Geneva**  
More details to follow in the next issue.



**RACEWOOD is taking place in Douala, Cameroon, on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010**  
By Catherine Peguillan, IFIA

RACEWOOD is a unique event, bringing the leading timber producers from the Congo Basin and West Africa together with prominent European timber importers – in just 2 days you will meet the major players in the trade.

Other stake-holders also participate: international donors organizations, NGO's, Government representatives from Africa, Europe – as well as organizations and companies providing goods and services to the timber sector.

**3 Workshops provide you with the opportunity to participate learn more about, and discuss:**

- The spectacular progress in the Congo Basin as regards Sustainable Management and Certification
- Market Development, both internationally and locally.
- Results and conclusions from the Copenhagen summit meeting – which impact on the timber trade?

During the 2 days of meetings, alongside with the workshops, there will also be 1-to-1 business meetings, pre-booked by yourself with the business partners of your choice (from the catalogue distributed before the Meeting).

On Wednesday, 24 and Thursday, March 25th, you can participate in the **visits organized in the certified concessions FSC** on 1 day (Around Douala) or 2 days (East of the country).

**We look forward to seeing you at Race-Wood 2010 in Douala.**

see [www.race-wood.org](http://www.race-wood.org)

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