

TTAP News

November 2007 – Issue 1

ttap timber trade
action plan

www.timbertradeactionplan.info

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first edition of the TTAP newsletter! TTAP News is a monthly report, to highlight our news, regional progress towards producing verified legal timber, and providing updates on relevant policy changes in the EU.

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 with your colleagues and subscribe/unsubscribe at any time.

Best Wishes, TTAP Team

About TTAP

TTAP is an EU funded project driven and co-funded by the Belgian (FBCIB), Dutch (VVNH) and UK Timber Trade Federation, 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

[FBCIB](#)

[UK Timber Trade Federation](#)

[VVNH](#)

[Le Commerce du Bois](#)

[UCBD](#)

[FEBO](#)

Producer Country Partners

[Malaysian Timber Council](#)

[IFIA](#)

Contact Details

Email: ttap@tropicalforesttrust.com

Phone: +41 (0)22 367 9442

Latest News:

TTAP Expands!

Building on the success of the first two years of the project in Asia and Africa, TTAP is now commencing work in Latin America and China. This expansion was enabled by an additional €3.4 million grant from the European Commission. Through working in Asia, Africa, Latin America and China, TTAP is well positioned to help combat the trade in illegal logging.

A TTAP office has already been established in Beijing, China and work in the country is progressing. In Latin America, a scoping visit was carried out in August 2007 to identify regional partners and staff. A follow up visit in Brazil will be undertaken in November 2007.

These developments represent an exciting new step for the TTAP. Working in more tropical countries to support production of legal timber but and also working in China - the world's largest importer of tropical timber and the essential link in the global timber trade.



Latest News Asia:**Manuply achieves CoC Certificate!**

Manuply Wood Industries, one of Malaysia's largest plywood companies has achieved FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification. Working with TTAP since 2006, Manuply now has the systems in place to verify the origin of the timber it uses in its production.

Manuply was nominated by UK TTF member Flatau Dick to join TTAP in early 2006. With over 1000 staff members and large scale operations, implementing robust chain of custody systems was no small challenge. Nonetheless, by August 2007, Manuply underwent an independent FSC CoC audit by SGS and was successfully awarded a certificate. This achievement has great significance for the Malaysian wood industry – especially the plywood industry in Sarawak. TTAP is hopeful it will encourage more participation from Malaysian companies to work with TTAP in verifying timber exports to the EU.

Latest News Africa:**ALPI joins TTAP!**

ALPI and TTAP have started working together in Cameroon. ALPI will work towards producing legally verified timber and TTAP will guide them. In July 2007, TTAP project staff visited ALPI's forest and factory operations and now ALPI is implementing an Action Plan that will lead them towards achieving certification for full legal compliance.

ALPI is also keen to move beyond only verifying legality to demonstrating sustainability and are building a partnership with the Tropical Forest Trust to do this. "We know we have a great responsibility to ensure the forests we manage are there for the next generation; that the communities that depend on them for their livelihoods have access to them and that they can sustainably supply us with raw materials in perpetuity," said Vittorio Alpi, President of the ALPI Group. "We have today published our Environmental Policy Commitment and as part of that we're also announcing our partnership with TFT who will assist us to implement sustainable practices at our operations."

TTAP Tools:**Requirements for Chain of Custody**

TTAP's latest publication, "Requirements for Chain of Custody" was produced with the help of Proforest, to define the minimum requirements that companies participating in the TTAP project must commit to.

TTAP's minimum requirements for Chain of Custody (CoC) systems are meant as guide for companies to implement waterproof CoC systems in line with TTAP objectives. The TTAP teams use this report together with the national legality checklist as basis to prepare companies for independent legality verification audits.

Events:**Harmonizing purchasing policies across trade federations**

Brussels 22 November 2007: TTAP is working with the European Hardwood Federation (UCBD) and partners to drive forward a process of harmonizing EU Timber Trade Federations' Codes of Conduct and purchasing policies.

To work towards this important goal, a workshop is being held in November, bringing representatives from national trade federations across Europe and the USA together to compare existing policies and develop a united approach to eliminating trade of illegal wood. The workshop will build upon TTAP's report published in November 2006 and a previous workshop held in June 2007. TTAP is optimistic that the workshop will result in agreement of what constitutes credible evidence of legality across timber trade federations throughout the EU. This agreement will send a powerful and clear message to timber suppliers in the tropics on requirements for exporting wood into the EU.

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Tropical Forest Trust and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

