



# NEWSLETTER

**WELCOME TO THE TFT NEWSLETTER!**

**SENDING YOU BEST WISHES FOR 2011 AND WARMEST SEASONS' GREETINGS!**



## ISSUE 9 ~ DECEMBER 2010

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

## TFT CONVENES MAJOR TIMBER CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

13 Oct 2010

### International Timber Trade Federation Day

The third International Timber Trade Federation Day (ITTFD) organised on the 6-8 October 2010 entitled Maintaining the Momentum - Marketing legal and sustainable timber brought together participants from around the world to discuss how to prevent deforestation by promoting legal and sustainable timber.

Twenty-four timber trade associations representing 35 different countries and 10 global forest companies attended the International Timber Trade Federation Day in Geneva to discuss how to increase demand for legal and sustainable timber to prevent illegal logging and forests being converted into agricultural land.

The event was organised by The Forest Trust and financed by the Timber Trade Action Plan Project, The European Forest

Institute and UK Aid from the Department of International Development.



The conference provided a forum for discussion and presented practical ideas and initiatives to improve the marketing and promotion of legal and sustainable timber in order to increase its visibility, highlight its social and environmental benefits and boost its market demand.

These discussions were needed to bridge the disconnect between price-sensitive demand and high costs related to legal and sustainable production, which had so far limited responsible timber to niche markets.

This issue has discouraged producers and particularly those in countries with weak forest governance systems for whom the relative effort of achieving legality or sustainability certification is substantially higher compared to counterparts in Europe or North America.

One of the main topics of discussion at the conference focused on the role of the construction sector in the promotion of responsible logging. The EU construction sector is the most important market sector for timber and timber products and uses up to 70% of all timber consumed in the EU, and consequently this industry has a major role to play in the promotion of legal and sustainable timber.

Wood should be given more recognition in green building rating schemes to help avoid alternative and less sustainable materials like concrete and steel receiving more recognition. At the conference, Timber Trade Federations were therefore advised to make a joint effort to promote the use of legal and sustainable timber in Green Building Rating systems and to make sure implementation of purchasing policies and legislations is done properly. For only by promoting and boosting the market demand for legal and responsible timber will producers see the benefits of good forest management and go for it.



Find all presentations given at the conference at the ITTFD webpage: <http://www.tft-forests.org/ttap/page.asp?p=6232>

If you have any questions on the conference, or on the TTAP programme, contact TTAP at [ttap@tft-forests.org](mailto:ttap@tft-forests.org).

Photos S.Lohri

## HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES IN WEST PAPUA CONCESSION

01 Nov 2010

### A HCVF Assessment was recently carried out in MML forest concession in West Papua, great values discovered

A High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) Assessment was recently carried out in the PT. Manokwari Mandiri Lestari (MML) forest concession in West Papua with the support of USAID's Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) Program. The results of this interesting assessment are in the final stages of completion.

The assessment identified 12 of the 13 sub-categories of high conservation values within the concession. The area was documented to support very high levels of biodiversity, with the critically endangered and little understood *Echidna bruijnii* being present (see photo below). Globally threatened, Protected and Range-restricted species were abundantly present especially for birds. The landscape that contains the PT. MML concession is still functioning well and supporting major ecological processes and includes pristine areas of protected and conservation forest (on the boundaries of the concession) with a full complement of expected biodiversity for the region.

Many parts of the landscape are providing environmental services such as clean water and preventing erosion. The environmental services assessed are also of vital importance to local communities living in and around the concession, that derive 100% of their needs and livelihoods from natural resources within the concession and surrounding landscape. Several areas within the concession are of spiritual and cultural importance for local communities that have their origins in a few remote parts of the concession.

Management recommendation for the maintenance of the identified high conservation values (HCV) focus on the need to implement Reduced Impact Logging as a standard approach to timber extraction. In a few cases, HCV will require no-logging to be implemented, but these areas are generally in-line with



planning that has already been implemented by the company.

Hunting of wildlife is potentially the greatest hurdle for the company,

with several species especially susceptible. Hunting regulations will require greater awareness amongst staff, and communities alike, and partnerships between them to protect the areas from outside threats. It is also recommended for the company to establish partnerships with the government at a variety of levels



to secure vulnerable landscapes that support functioning protection forest and international important conservation areas. The assessment succeeded in introducing potential partners for monitoring HCV in the future, including the YALHIMO Foundation and UNIPA.

The High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) is a term from the Forest Stewardship Council. HCVF comprise forest areas and values that need to be maintained or enhanced in a landscape; including areas of critical importance due to high environmental, socio-economic, biodiversity or landscape values.

Originally designed as a tool to help forest certification, the HCVF concept is now extended to general conservation planning, with two main principles: the HCVFs are managed to maintain the attributes that are of high conservation value, and the management employs the Precautionary Principle, requiring that where the effects of extraction and other management are unknown, values are ensured through a cautious approach. <http://www.fsc.org/152.html>

## TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE MUSIC INSTRUMENTS

06 Dec 2010

### TFT has launched the Tonewood Project

#### Towards responsible music instruments

The Tonewood Project is an initiative to conserve threatened forests and protect the future supply of the valuable wood species needed for making guitars and other musical instruments.



TFT is working with the music industry to enhance the availability of wood from sustainable sources and create a market place for responsible music instruments. To achieve these objectives, TFT works closely

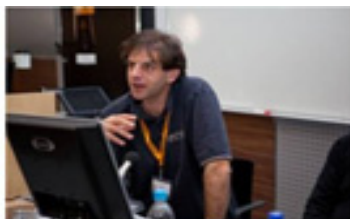
with manufacturers and suppliers to help them tackle the environmental and social issues along the supply chain, implement secure chain of custodies, and bring responsible musical instruments to the market. Producers are increasingly working to source more sustainable resources, reduce waste and where necessary source for alternative materials. In this context, TFT is working hand in hand with Martin Guitar, who has joined TFT as a Member, one of the major US manufacturers for acoustic guitars.

Find the TONIC Press Release here [PDF]:

[http://www.tft-forests.org/downloads/Dec\\_10\\_TONIC\\_seminar.pdf](http://www.tft-forests.org/downloads/Dec_10_TONIC_seminar.pdf)

All the participants exchanged about the obstacles and opportunities modern materials present for fretted instrument manufacturing in the global market, and the challenges related to the use of precious tonewoods. Participants covered market sizing, iconic brands, attitudes and need for change. Tonewoods such as ebony, rosewood, pernambuco... are often rare and endangered species that need to be used in a sustainable way : the music instrument makers need to know where their wood are sourced and how it is done, securing responsible supplies through the use of legal wood and by looking for FSC wood or alternative species.

We believe that music can be a strong vehicle for change, leading the way for other and larger industries to follow. TFT is working towards this goal in its Tonewood project and aims at working closely with different the music makers, offering information about endangered species and objective insight on the music instruments supply chains.



Going further, we are developing our expertise on tonewoods and researching alternative species. We are working on the ground, in the forests, with one of their main suppliers in Cameroon, and all our field teams in central Africa, South America and Asia are involved in this process to help them move forward.

In order to better understand the music industry and to exchange with people who are deeply willing to engage in a sustainable way to produce instruments, TFT participated in the first annual International Musical Instruments Seminar, on November 18th - 19th 2010 in Joensuu, Finland. The seminar was unanimously seen as a great success in bringing together influential members of the musical instrument industry, including companies like Fender, Maderas Barber, Martin Guitars and RS Berkeley Musical Instruments.

It was organised by the TONIC project, [<http://www.tonal.fi/en>] which wishes to see Joensuu develop an international test center for musical instruments and for market drivers to influence engineers, by looking for new materials and production methods.

## FIRST VLO SUPPLY CHAIN OUT OF BRAZIL

30 Sep 2010

**Rondobel with TTAP/ TFT support became the first company to produce VLO sawn timber**



On the 20th September 2010, Rondobel assisted by TFT through the TTAP project became the first company to produce sawn timber whose origin has been independently verified under the Rainforest Alliance's VLO standard.

Rondobel's forest area of 16,000 hectares in the West of Para State and sawmill located in Santarem were assessed by Imaflores in March 2010 and the Verification of Legal Origin (VLO) statement was issued in September.

Through this process Imaflores verified that the sawn timber that Rondobel produces originates from a source that has a documented legal right to harvest and that Rondobel follows and maintains transparent chain-of-custody system throughout the extraction and production phases from the tree stump to sawmill.

A recent report by Imazon, a Brazilian Research Institute, estimated that 73% of the timber harvested in Para between 2008 and 2009 came from illegal origin. Given this scenario, third-party legality verification, as Rondobel has now achieved, provides clients with the confidence that its products originate from a source compliant with Brazilian laws and local regulations and the company is committed to operating responsibly. This is now more important than ever for tropical producers to meet the requirements of the USA's Lacey Act and the EU's "Illegal Timber Regulation" that requires importers and traders to demonstrate due diligence throughout their supply chains.

As a next step, Rondobel is now committed to achieve FSC certification for its forestry operations, again with technical assistance provided by TFT.

See the article on the Rainforest Alliance's website:

<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/newsroom/news/rondobel-release>

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## TFT AND MACINTOSH RETAIL GROUP

29 Nov 2010

**On the path to 'Responsible Shoes'...**

In March (2010) The Forest Trust (TFT) and Macintosh Retail Group (MRG) announced they would be working together to address the growing demand for leather goods that may originate from illegal cattle ranches, putting pressure on tropical forests in Asia and the Amazon.

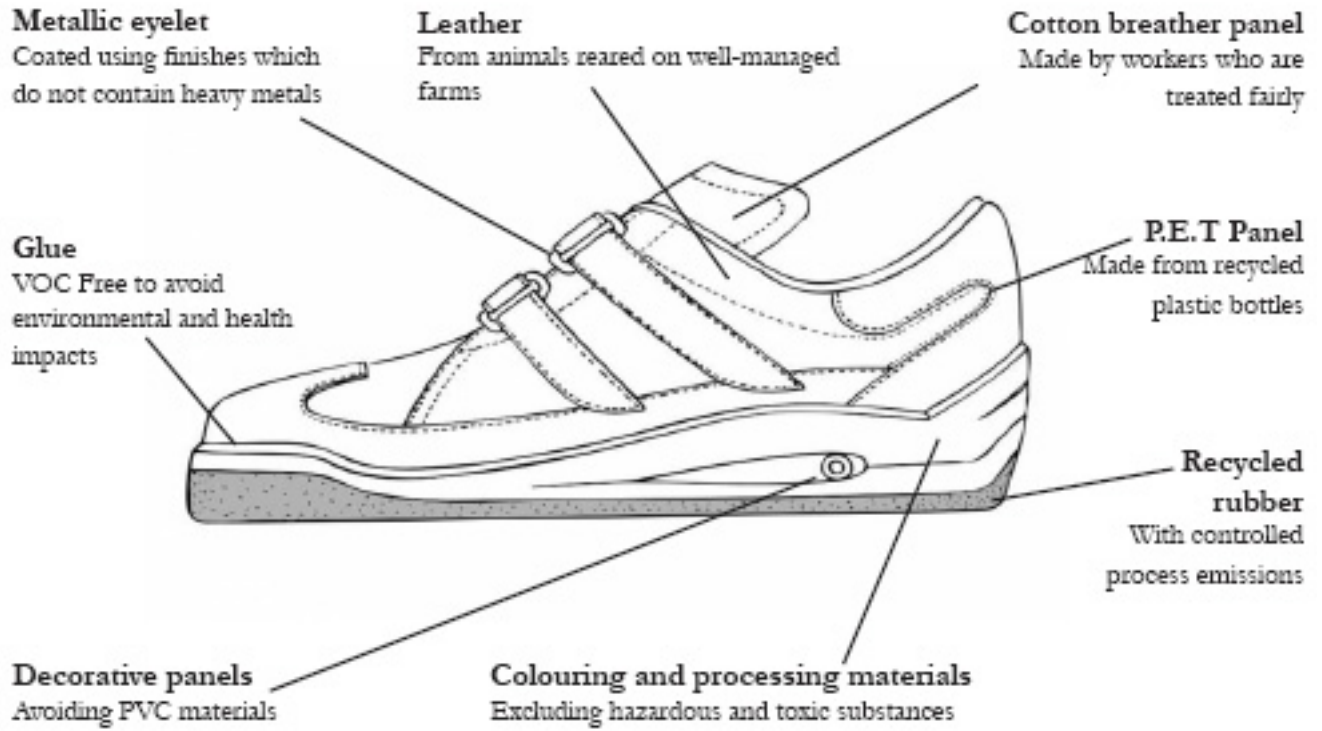
The primary focus was to work towards producing 'Responsible Shoes' by addressing the environmental and social issues surrounding them. Using systems developed by TFT to monitor wood supply chains, the initiative set out to fight slash-and-burn cattle ranching, address the issues associated with toxic chemicals and glues used in shoes, as well as taking into account social impacts and conditions.

**The story so far....**

Since TFT and MRG announced that they would be working together to change the story of shoes, TFT have been busy researching the key components/ingredients that form a shoe and asking the following questions:

1. **Leather sourcing** - is it linked to deforestation in the Amazon?
2. **Tanneries** - what is the environmental impact of tanneries?
3. **Are the synthetic materials used in production linked to environmental and human damage (PVC or PU)?**
4. **What chemicals and glues are used in the manufacturing process and finished product?**
5. **Is the footwear recyclable?**
6. **Do Health and Safety standards exist in the factories in the supply chain?**

Following trips to China to visit MRG suppliers TFT now have a greater understanding of the components used to make shoes and are in the process of mapping the supply chain, addressing the above issues and formulating an action plan to get materials and manufacture of components to an environmentally and socially acceptable standard - third party certifying bodies will be used to verify each stage.



Visits to date have helped to show what is already achieved amongst the factories in the MRG supply chain. These have included tanneries with industry awards for their processes and environmental achievements. Also visited have been shoe production sites which have switched to solvent free assembly processes by employing water based and hot melt adhesive technologies.

In order to facilitate industry change MRG have become the founder member of the TFT Shoe Group. Retailers, suppliers, manufacturers, government bodies and other interested parties are being invited to join the group to help pull together all stages of shoe production, so that the supply chain is transparent for every shoe and verified along the way - from the raw material to the finished shoe.

If you are interested in joining the TFT Shoe Group please contact [info@tft-forests.org](mailto:info@tft-forests.org)

This is not a story that will change overnight, but with commitment, collaboration and time it will be possible to deliver 'Responsible Shoes'.



## NEWS FROM LAOS

29 Sep 2010

### Growing buyer Interest continues to fuel community motivation towards improved forest management

The Luang Prabang Teak program is maintaining sound progress towards the target of FSC certification. Key to the success of the program is the ability of local growers to see firsthand the benefits that come with improved management of tree lots and improved awareness of local and regional markets.

The initial interest for teak sales late 2009, through a facilitated process, translated to direct purchase between Burapha, a TFT and Lao Forest and Trade Platform Member, and the farmer group. The initial sales benefited the growers through significant increases in sell price, improved negotiation capacity with buyers, understanding of log grading, and the benefits of thinning. The first sale in late 2009 resulted in a follow-up larger sale early 2010 which continued to improve the returns to the local teak growers.



Bounchan (LPTP), Vanieta (Burapha), three harvesting members, Richard (LPTP), Petter (Burapha), harvesting team member and Suphavone (Burapha) stand in front of the first tree to be felled.

Burapha continue to work closely with the Teak Program by providing valuable information on markets and developing local communities' interest in value adding the teak resource by undertaking thinning and improved management.



LPTP Team undertake thinning operations

Recently, in addition to the ongoing sales to Burapha, a new buyer, Teknomadic Flexible Building Solutions, emerged expressing strong interest in small thinning material for use in the construction of accommodation for disaster relief efforts and possibly sale to other organisations requiring simple, robust

and secure buildings that are demountable and transportable. Teknomadic, with their strong interest in supporting local communities has commenced research to explore the markets that exist in flexible buildings which incorporate responsible community timbers. Through the support of the Luang Prabang teak Project, Teknomadic has now completed the first successful purchase of teak thinning from village Kok Ngiew thereby diversifying the buyer base and product outputs for the community.



Teknomadic designs named after Village Bang Kok Ngiew from which they purchased the first teak pole from thinnings



Greg Blake of Teknomadic pays for poles purchased from Mr. Niphon Farmer Group Treasurer (farmers' representative).

Sales from these new high value markets, although small, represent a significant return to local people and are providing the motivation that growers need to improve their land and forest management. With the proven results in Kok Ngiew and the extensive area of community owned planted teak in Laos, the team is now developing expansion strategies that, with suitable funding, will transfer the knowledge and lessons learnt to hundreds of rural communities in Laos.

The Luang Prabang Pilot Project is receiving support from the Luang Prabang Forestry Section and the Lao Forest and Trade Platform as Program implementers, with additional assistance from the Department of Forestry, WWF, Fondation Ensemble, Japanese International Cooperation Agency, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and USAID under the RAFT Program.

## WATER BUFFALO SKIDDERS IN THE NORTH OF VIETNAM

29 Sep 2010

**Tried and tested methods in work towards improving sustainable forest management in Vietnam**



With the support of Members and Donors, TFT continues to work closely with Forestry Companies and Factories in Vietnam towards improving sustainable forest management and exclusion of unwanted material from production facilities.

In undertaking this exciting and challenging work the TFT Team encounters and supports a wide range of approaches to deliver improvements in forest management, many of these tried and tested measures that have stood the test of time.

This short story provides an insight to TFT's supported forest program in Lao Cai province and how Water Buffalo have become an important vehicle for reduced impact harvesting.

In this region TFT, through its local team, support Bao Yen Forestry Company (BYFC) towards FSC Certification of their Acacia plantation estate. Most of this area is steep and there are few entry roads except for the small paths not suitable for most vehicles. While motor transportation is used to take forestry products to the market, water buffalo are still very commonly used during silviculture, logging and transporting activities in the forest. As a low impact log extraction method, "Buffalo Skidders" contribute to the overall positive forest management practices and also provide a valuable alternative income generation tool for local communities.

At harvest time, local communities and their water buffalo are hired to cart logs out of the forest. The Buffalo pull wagons laden with logs to a central site or log yard where logs are loaded onto small trucks for transportation to local sawmills. In some cases, where the terrain is too steep the wagons are ditched and the Buffalo's, with their master in tow, pull logs directly to the log yard.



Buffalo at the ready to pull wagon loaded with Acacia logs

When the terrain is too steep the Buffalo are also used to pull individual logs. Both grey and pink buffalo are present in Vietnam.



In addition to engaging local communities and their 'Buffalo Skidders' BYFC, with the support of TFT, has introduced new approaches that incorporate local communities. At the time of replanting, Buffalo's and their wagons are again hired to transport seedlings to the planting site. With seedlings planted the local communities are permitted and encouraged to grow short term annual crops. These crops, including upland rice, cassava and maize provide a valuable cover crop post harvesting to minimise soil erosion whilst also providing the local people with an important food source and income.



Recently planted Acacia seedling surrounded by upland rice. The BYFC continue to use water buffalo in their forestry operations as low impact and cost effective measure that creates alternative income generation for local people whilst ensuring communities are engaged in the forest management cycle.

Thanks to the TFT Vietnam team for this story.



## BISO NA BISO NEWS

01 Sep 2010

Independence celebrations in the Republic of Congo: Radio Biso na Biso gets involved in the community Independence celebrations in the Republic of Congo: radio Biso na Biso's involvement in the community

The Republic of Congo celebrated the 50th anniversary of its independence on 15 August 2010. Throughout the country, special events were organised with public parades and marches by the military.

In the Sangha, and its main city, Ouessou, workers and other members of civil society participated in the commemoration of the country's independence, acquired in 1960. The celebration was directed by the Governor who hosted his counterparts from neighbouring departments in Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

Community radio Biso na Biso actively took part in the festivities. Five of the radio's coordinators participated in the parade: two Pygmy and three Bantus.

After the parade, both Biso na Biso Pygmy coordinators were called to join the commentator team. One after the other, they played master of ceremonies, commenting to the crowd of thousands in their native language. Their speeches were appreciated by the public, many of whom congratulated them.

The BnB Mbendjele coordinators in the Ouessou parade



## LATEST BISO NA BISO NEWSLETTER IS ONLINE!

29 Nov 2010

Find out what has been happening at Biso na Biso in the last 6 months as the community radio continues to spread environmental, cultural and



social messages through the forests of the Congo Basin, and takes ever greater role in the communities!

Content of the latest newsletter:

- Editorial: Cruising speed
- New receivers for the listeners
- A year on the wavelengths
- BnB at the Congolese National Day celebrations in Ouessou
- Report from the Listeners Committee
- BnB at a regional workshop in Bayanga, CAR
- Perspectives
- Portrait: a Cameroonian CSE student at Biso na Biso
- On air animations and interactivity with the audience
- Our photo album

Find the newsletter here: [http://www.tft-forests.org/downloads/Oct\\_10\\_BnB\\_newsletter\\_EN.pdf](http://www.tft-forests.org/downloads/Oct_10_BnB_newsletter_EN.pdf)