



GLOBAL
FOREST
& TRADE
NETWORK

ProForest

EU and GFTN Forest and Trade
Networks for legal and sustainable
forest management in Africa and Asia

Introduction and methodology

August 2009



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ProForest is an independent company working with natural resource management and specialising in practical approaches to sustainability.

ProForest was a joint partner in the EU and GFTN Forest and Trade Networks for legal and sustainable forest management in Africa and Asia project.



The Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) is a WWF initiative designed to eliminate illegal logging and encourage responsible forest management.

WWF/GFTN was a joint partner in the EU and GFTN Forest and Trade Networks for legal and sustainable forest management in Africa and Asia project.



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1. Introduction

In 2005 WWF received 5 year funding from the EC for a project to support Forest and Trade Networks (FTNs) for legal and sustainable forest management in Africa and Asia. ProForest was a partner for 2 parts of this work, Activities 4 and 5, lasting three-years focussing on four of the partner countries: China, Vietnam, Ghana and Central Africa (Gabon/Cameroon). The five activities are:

Activity 1: Establishment of Forest and Trade Networks

Activity 2: Development of criteria and guidelines for definition and verification of legal sources of forest products and identification of policy implementation

Activity 3: Development of action plans for stepwise progress towards sourcing of verified legal and sustainable forest products

Activity 4: Production of regional practical guides on stepwise certification, timber tracking and responsible timber sourcing

Activity 5: Strengthening capacity of the auditors, producers, users of forest products and technical specialists

ProForest's involvement ended in Spring 2009. This introduction to the project summarises the background and methodology and describes ProForest's work. Whilst all final output documents are submitted as part of this report each output has been designed to be able to be read as a stand-alone document.

2. Background

In 2005 WWF received 5 year funding from the EC for a project to support Forest and Trade Networks (FTNs) for legal and sustainable forest management in selected countries in Asia and Africa. The 10 selected countries were: China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Ghana.

The project was designed to promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests, by assisting developing countries improve governance of their forest resources. It was also designed to contribute to the implementation of the EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). The more specific objectives of this initiative were to strengthen the capacity of producers of forest products in the target countries, to implement stepwise forest certification, timber tracking and monitoring chain of custody, and to verify that their forest products are legally and sustainably produced. The project consists of 5 activities (Activities 1, 2 and 3 are still ongoing for a further 2.5 years):

<i>Activity 1: Establishment of Forest and Trade Networks</i>
<i>Activity 2: Development of criteria and guidelines for definition and verification of legal sources of forest products and identification of policy implementation</i>

Activity 3: Development of action plans for stepwise progress towards sourcing of verified legal and sustainable forest products

Activity 4: Production of regional practical guides on stepwise certification, timber tracking and responsible timber sourcing

Activity 5: Strengthening capacity of the auditors, producers, users of forest products and technical specialists

Whilst each of the activities highlighted in the box above has been led by a different partner organisation each the Activities are all inter-related with each other. ProForest was responsible for carrying out Activities 4 & 5.

With 10 beneficiary countries as mentioned above it was felt that generic guidance and 'standard' capacity support would be of limited benefit as the characteristics of the forest sector vary from country to country. Some countries focus on harvesting and exporting of timber, others are importing timber, processing and exporting finished products. Many countries have made significant progress on legal and sustainable forest management while others have little or no improvement to show. Furthermore, in many places there is significant momentum with a number of organisations already working on these issues.

3. Guide to project Activities 4 & 5

Below is a guide to the ProForest activities.

Activity 4: Production of regional practical guides on stepwise certification, timber tracking and responsible timber sourcing

A comprehensive analysis of guidance material needs in each country

Report on the practical implementation of stepwise certification

Report on the practical implementation of responsible sourcing, timber tracking and CoC

HCVF Draft National Interpretation for Ghana

Activity 5: Strengthening capacity of the auditors, producers, users of forest products and technical specialists

A comprehensive analysis of guidance material needs in each country

Training material on implementing stepwise certification

Training material on implementing responsible sourcing, timber tracking and CoC

Training material and report on the implementation of HCVF assessments and development of management prescriptions; 'training the trainers workshop'.

4. ProForest Methodology

Prior to the delivery of practical guides (Activity 4) and capacity building training materials (Activity 5), preparation had to take place for a 3 year programme of work. This started with a comprehensive gap or needs assessment (document titled Gap Analysis Report – Asia and Africa) which would guide the planning and execution of the programme. This focussed on two areas:

- To assess the guidance materials used to date and to recommend any further ones needed and the kind of capacity building the FTNs need
- To collect information on what services currently exist. This was essential as it allowed FTNs to use existing services and resources effectively and identified gaps where additional resources need to be developed

Following the submission of the GAP Analysis Report discussions took place with GFTN staff to determine precisely what methodology and guidance material ProForest should provide. The GFTN and ProForest developed jointly a work plan with a timetable of deliverables following the GAP Analysis Report. This was finalised in cooperation with Darius Sarshar, at the time WWF GFTN Responsible Forestry Co-ordinator.

Activities 4 and 5 were undertaken concurrently. A programme of country visits was developed and information gathering, baseline assessments as well as training and capacity building was undertaken on each of the visits. It was decided that each country and the companies chosen would be visited twice. The first visit would in effect be a baseline assessment; seeing what stage the company was at and giving training and advice (capacity building) on how to progress. The second visit, at least a year later, would be to ascertain what policies, plans and changes had occurred and what had been successful and what still needed further assistance with. Each training was presented in a variety of mediums including; lectures, written exercises, discussion groups, field exercises and field trips. Additional capacity building was undertaken at this stage as part of the second visit. As the programme progressed there were some adjustments made at the request of the local FTNs. These were:

- The first visit to Central Africa, Cameroon, became an auditor and HCV training visit in Cameroon
- The second visit to Central Africa, Gabon, became the HCV Draft National Interpretation for Gabon
- The visits to Vietnam concentrated mainly on forest management company baseline assessments rather than looking at responsible sourcing and CoC

A summary report on each of the visits and activities was sent to the GFTN (Darius Sarshar, Rod Taylor and Hisayo Fujikawa) after each visit informing and keeping WWF up to date of progress and issues in each country. After returning from each visit ProForest collated useful material for the practical guides and started to develop the GFTN training material.

Additionally, there were two specific larger training projects undertaken. These were both HCVF orientated. In Year 2 ProForest visited Ghana and supported the development of an HCVF Draft National Interpretation for Ghana. In Year 3 ProForest organised and ran the ‘train-the-HCVF-trainers workshop’ in Indonesia. This training and the subsequent training material produced brought together regional experts to develop training materials and also to gain consensus on HCVF techniques to ensure consistency of use throughout SE Asia. The training report is entitled Good Practice guidelines for High Conservation Value Assessments; a practical guide for practitioners and auditors.

The final outputs of all these activities are attached to this report introduction. Each output has been designed to be useful as a stand-alone document, but also forms part of this comprehensive set of documents.

As part of the project administration ProForest was required to submit a project financial and narrative report direct to WWF HQ each 6 months. This had to be submitted before project funds could be released.

5. Guide to outputs

Below is a table outlining which outputs fell under which activities for the entire project:

Practical Activities during project lifespan	Outputs
Activity 4: Production of regional practical guides on stepwise certification, timber tracking and responsible timber sourcing	
A comprehensive analysis of guidance material needs in each country	The GAP Analysis Report
Trip to: Ghana, Vietnam	Stepwise Certification: a practical guide
Trip to: China, Cameroon	Responsible Sourcing and CoC (including timber tracking): a practical guide
Trip to: Gabon	HCVF Draft National Interpretation for Gabon
Trip to: Ghana	HCVF Draft National Interpretation for Ghana
Activity 5: Strengthening capacity of the auditors, producers, users of forest products and technical specialists	
A comprehensive analysis of guidance material needs in each	The GAP Analysis Report

country	
Trip to: Ghana, Vietnam	Training material on implementing stepwise certification
Trip to: China, Vietnam, Cameroon	Training material on implementing responsible sourcing, timber tracking and CoC
Organising HCVF workshop in Indonesia	Training material and report on the implementation of HCVF assessments and development of management prescriptions; 'training the trainers workshop'.

While each Activity can stand alone in its presentation, it is the job of these reports to bring the interrelation between all the activities together to create learning and capacity building tools. This was best done on a regional basis and below shows how the outputs fit together for the purposes of creating capacity building tools:

Final Outputs at end of project	
	Introduction and Methodology
Activity 4	
Africa	Regional Introduction Stepwise Certification: A Practical Guide Responsible Timber Sourcing in Central and Western Africa: A Practical Guide
Asia	Regional Introduction Stepwise Certification: A Practical Guide Responsible Timber Sourcing in China and Southeast Asia: A Practical Guide
Activity 5	
Training	Implementing Stepwise Certification Training Materials Implementing Responsible Purchasing Training Materials Implementing Timber Tracking and Chain of Custody Training Materials
HCV	
Activity 4	HCV Draft National Interpretation for Ghana
Activity 5	Good Practice Guidelines for High Conservation Value Assessments: A Practical Guide for Practitioners and Auditors (HCV Draft National Interpretation for Gabon)

6. Summary of assessment of overall projects

This has been an exciting project with a number of challenges along the way. The project's practical approach has increased knowledge in the two regions, and has given direct benefit to the forestry, forest management and producers because we worked directly with forest managers and product manufacturers.

There has always been strong collaboration between ProForest and WWF and this project developed this into strong working relations with key personnel in all the companies visited. While some of the discussions have been challenging to companies this was always met with an open mind, frank evaluation and continuing support from WWF and ProForest after the visits were complete. Such ongoing work has led to a comprehensive understanding of different perspectives surrounding the issues companies are dealing with; this understanding has strengthened the final outputs.

Being able to work closely with companies in a pragmatic way offered the project the chance to assess problems directly both with field staff as well as directors; but allowing solutions to be tailored directly. Progress has been observed in some companies over the 5 year period while progress is slower in others. However, in all companies awareness of the issues and solutions has been greatly enhanced to further the goals towards sustainable forest management and procurement.

The outputs from the field work have filled a technical/knowhow gap and can be used to continue progress by companies and make sustainable forestry and responsible sourcing a less daunting and more achievable goal over the next ten years. With the EC supporting international commitments on sourcing legal timber through the FLEGT process this project has played a part in enabling companies achieve this.

The EC funded this project. The all round approach by the EC looking at sustainable forestry in the long term should be commended. As such, the project has helped fill an institutional gap; by providing the practical and technical tools to improve governance, strengthen capacity and thus make institutional goals more achievable.

Annex

Training participants during the project

Outputs for:		Number of Core Participants trained:
Activity 5: Strengthening capacity of the auditors, producers, users of forest products and technical specialists		
Trip to: China May 2005	GAP Analysis research Training material on implementing responsible sourcing, timber tracking and CoC	8 participants
Trip to: China October 2005	Training material on implementing responsible sourcing, timber tracking and CoC	11 participants
Trip to: Ghana December 2005	Training material on implementing stepwise certification	8 participants 31 participants in workshop on legality and SFM
Trip to: Ghana May 2006	HCVF Draft National Interpretation for Ghana	22 participants
Trip to: Vietnam June 2006	Training material on implementing stepwise certification	26 participants
Trip to: Vietnam ???	Training material on implementing responsible sourcing, timber tracking and CoC	3 participants 15 participants on CoC training course
Trip to: Gabon April 2007	Training material on implementing responsible sourcing, timber tracking and CoC	21 participants
Trip to: Ghana June 2007	Training material on implementing stepwise certification	6 participants
Trip to: Cameroon July 2007	Training material on implementing responsible sourcing, timber tracking and CoC	20 participants
HCVF workshop: Indonesia September 2007	Training material and report on the implementation of HCVF assessments and development of management prescriptions; 'training the trainers workshop'.	13 participants

Trip to: China October 2007	Training material on implementing responsible sourcing, timber tracking and CoC	11 participants
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