

Core elements of GFTN process:

- Reduce and remove illegal sources of wood from the value chain
- Improve efficiency and sustainability of production.
- Support credible certification systems that create value for producers.
- Encourage market demand and support for "better" wood supplies (via credible chain of custody schemes)

EC Switch Asia Project

The European Commission (EC), under "Switch Asia" Programme has funded a 3 years project to build the capacity of Small and Medium scale Enterprises (SME) wood processors to effectively implement responsible sourcing (consumption) and production of forest products in India, China and Vietnam.



It will link SME wood processors into supply chains with committed buyers and committed forest managers within the Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN).

- Overall Objective: By 2020, sustainable consumption and production in forest product markets worldwide predominates as best practice, leading to conservation of forests and supporting sustainable development
- Specific Objective: By 2012, at least 600 SMEs in the wood processing sectors of China, India and Vietnam are applying sustainable production techniques to provide sustainable forest products to national and international markets.

The project in India is being implemented by WWF India in association with Jadvapur University, TRAFFIC-India and several trade associations including Malabar Chamber of Commerce (Kerala), Nagina Wood carving Society, Uttar Pradesh, Jodhpur Handicrafts Exporters Association, Jodhpur(Rajasthan).

By supporting WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network, Your organization can be a leader, too.



GLOBAL FOREST & TRADE NETWORK

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WOOD YOU RESPONSIBLY PARTICIPATE?

GFTN-India was successfully launched in India in 2008



GLOBAL FOREST & TRADE NETWORK



Partnership for responsible forestry

Forests are a vital natural resource, providing invaluable benefits for human well being. They filter the air we breathe and the water we drink, reduce soil erosion and landslides, act as an important buffer against global warming and are repositories of biological diversity. Forests also provide us with wood and non wood forest products to meet economic and social needs. Forests play a central role in the world's environmental, social and economic development, and yet are under enormous stress. Nearly half the earth's original forests have been lost and those that remain face a very uncertain future unless we initiate immediate action.

Meeting the challenge

India holds a pivotal position in the global trade of forest products with a growing potential to influence forest management in a wide range of countries. Forestry is second largest in terms of land use in India and the Prime Minister targets to achieve 33% forest and tree cover by 2012.

However, in the current situation, India is likely to depend heavily on imports to meet its growing demand for wood in the coming years. This in turn could lead to sourcing of wood and fibre from illegal or uncertified sources can lead to tremendous pressure on the world's remaining high conservation value forests.

India needs to have adequate areas under credible forest certification to ensure forest conservation, promote forest based industry and support livelihood and employment opportunities for forest dependant communities, artisans, growers, traders, wood processors and manufactures.

The Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) can help address these challenges with the help of innovative tools and methods, including a "step wise approach" to credible forest certification.

What is the Global Forest and Trade Network

The GFTN is WWF's initiative to eliminate illegal logging and transform the global market place into a force for saving the world's valuable and threatened forests. By facilitating trade links between companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry, the GFTN creates market conditions that help conserve the world's forests while providing economic and social benefits for the businesses. The GFTN considers independent, multi-stakeholder-based forest certification, a vital tool in this progression, and helps infuse the principles of responsible forest management and trade practices throughout the supply chain.

Forest owner, timber processor, distributor and retailer participants of the GFTN come from over 30 different countries and vary between small, community based operations to Fortune 500 global multinational companies.

Presently, GFTN's 360 participants generate annual forest products sales exceeding \$61 billion per year, accounting for 16 per cent of the world trade in forest products. Besides providing global employment to over 1.3 million people, participants also buy or sell in excess of 248 million cubic meters of forest products per year. Within the certified market, GFTN participants trade 25 percent of certified products and 80 per cent of FSC certified products. Additionally, GFTN participants manage more than 23 million ha of FSC certified forests.

GFTN India: Achievements at a glance -

- GFTN activities in India (GFTN-India) was launched on 3rd December 2008 It provides opportunities for Indian companies to establish market links with more than 320 participant companies of GFTN across the world and to benefit from the network's two decades of experience in promoting credible forest certification and responsible trade in forest products and services.
- Created awareness among the key stake holders in India through a series of workshops, training programmes, press meets, and consultative meetings.
- GFTN India in collaboration with Tamil Nadu State Forest Department has successfully conducted training workshop on credible forest certification for Senior Forest Officers of Tamil Nadu State in May 2009. The Forest Department has expressed their interest to certify suitable areas, including Tanjavur Forest (the teak plantations); Kalakadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Protected Area) under credible forest certification programmes such as FSC.
- Launched a three year project to build capacity among small and medium scale enterprises of wood processors and traders in India with the support from the European Commission "Swith Asia" Programme. The focus of this project is on three states: Kerala, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- Organised consultative meeting and training workshops on Forest Certification on 19 May 2009 at Kochi, Kerala; 25th May 2009 in Jodhpur, Kerala; and 25 in August in Najibabad, Uttar Pradesh;
- ITC Paperboards and Specialty paper Division (ITC- PSPD) became the first member of GFTN India on 1st July 2009. As part of their commitment, the company has fulfilled in securing FSC certificates in two of their units within a year and progressing towards credible certification for other units and operations.
- WWF India has along association with Tamil Nadu News prints and Papers Limited (TNPL) and the company has agreed to be part of the GFTN in India. The baseline assessments of companies operations are being carried out by a independent third party certifying body.
- To promote Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification in the country, WWF India in collaboration with FSC International Centre celebrated the first FSC Friday on 25th September 2009 by releasing India's first FSC certified Environmental Awareness Poster in a function at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Indian companies that secured FSC certification has participated in a exhibition of their products.
- A consultative meeting on forest certification was organized in Kozhikode Kerala in collaboration with Malabar Chamber of Commerce and OISCA-Internatioanal South India Chapter on 12th November 2009 in Kozhikode, Kerala
- A business exposure visit for the wood processing SMEs and traders from Kerala to Jodhpur, Rajasthan was organized by GFTN India in collaboration with Malabar Chamber of Commerce and Jodhpur Handicrafts Exporters Association in December 2000. These visits and meetings provided opportunities to explore best options to source sustainable timber domestically.
- WWF India participated to the deliberations of the Committee on Forest Certification constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt of India

- Collaborated with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), India and Jodhpur Handicrafts Exporters Association, Jodhpur to organize the International Furniture Expo in March 2010 at Jodhpur. GFTN India has set up a stall to disseminate information on credible forest certification and responsible wood trade.

GFTN in India

GFTN-India is a part of the global alliance, established with the objective of promoting and facilitating environmentally, economically and socially sound forest conservation and management practices in India

GFTN-India aims to raise awareness and promote environmentally responsible production, consumption, trade and procurement policies and practices in forest goods and services in India. It reflects India's commitment towards sustainable forest management and minimizing the nation's forest footprint.

The benefits of participation

The Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) offers a wealth of benefits to forest-related businesses representing all parts of the supply chain.

GFTN-India participants enjoy substantial advantages from access to dependable sources of responsibly grown and harvested timber, to strengthened consumer and customer acceptance, to recognition as an industry leader.

GFTN-India's added value will continue to increase as the network matures and expands its scope. The business case for joining GFTN-India is compelling. In addition to help build a positive corporate image and ensure reliable sources of wood, participation provides support in these broad areas:

Advisory Services, which offer information and on-site technical assistance with the process of obtaining independent and credible certification, responsible purchasing and procurement policies, industry specific issues, and risk management.

Resource Mobilization, which yields contacts and networks that help companies, communities, NGOs, and entrepreneurs tap into new and growing markets.

Long Term Partnerships, which complement private efforts to achieve sustainable forest management and trade.

Experience and Relationships, which build on GFTN's comparative advantage in coordinating and leveraging new and innovative collaborations among diverse sectors of the timber industry.

Proven Expertise, which enables participants to draw on GFTN's successful track record and reputation as a leader and catalyst of environmental and social innovations in the timber industry.