FOREST CERTIFICATION IN ASIA PACIFIC

From Forest to Furniture:
New Green Market Opportunities for China
12-13 September 2001, Shanghai
World Wide Fund for Nature

Who we are
World’s largest conservation organisation
– Over 3,000 professional staff with offices in 47 countries & associates in 5 others.
– 4.7 million members in 90 countries.

Our goal
To stop, and eventually reverse, the degradation of our planet’s natural environment, and to help build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.
A regional initiative to achieve sound use of production forest in Asia and the Pacific
Presentation outline

1. Asia Pacific forests and trade in a global context
2. What’s at risk
3. Introducing forest certification
4. Status of certification in Asia Pacific
5. What certification offers
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Biodiversity loss – Asia Pacific

Wildlife habitats - about two-thirds destroyed
Biodiversity loss – Asia Pacific

Dry forests – 73% lost,  Moist forests - 69 % lost
Wetlands, marsh and mangroves - 55 % lost
Legality of timber exported from Russia

Total export from Russia in million m3 (Roundwood Equivalent) in 2000 and legality of origin

- Finland
- Japan
- China
- Sweden

- Estimated illegal / semilegal part
- Volume of timber imported from Russia (Mln m3 RWE)
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What is forest certification

A process that leads to the issue of a certificate by an independent party, which verifies that an area of forest is managed to a defined standard.
“Credible” certification

• Stakeholder definition & acceptance of standard.
• Standard compatible with globally acceptable principles that balance economic, ecological & social objectives.
• Independent & credible verification with reporting of results to stakeholders.
The market link

• A label warrants that the timber or wood product originates from well managed forests.

• Companies in the supply chain hold chain of custody certificates so that the label can follow the wood from the forest to the finished product.
A policy-making tool?
Crucial to the development of the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme has been the spirit of partnership between key forestry, social and environmental interests. This gives the UKWAS both authority and credibility.

Peter Wilson, Executive Director
UK Forest Industry Council
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Growth in area of FSC-certified forests 1995-2001
CERTIFIED FOREST SITES IN ASIA/PACIFIC ENDORSED BY FSC, 30 June 2001

JAPAN
3 319 ha
2 sites

PHILIPPINES
14 800 ha
1 site

MALAYSIA
55 083 ha
1 site

PNG
4 310 ha
1 site

SRI LANKA
12 726 ha
3 sites

SOLOMON ISLANDS
40 758 ha
2 sites

INDONESIA
253 729 ha
3 sites

NEW ZEALAND
378 701 ha
4 sites

Total area certified in Asia/Pacific: 0.76 M ha
8 countries
17 sites

% of global total certified area: 3.2%
Distribution of Certified FSC Sites by Country
(30 June 2001)

Country/No of Sites

Area (ha)

- Indonesia: 3
- Japan: 2
- Malaysia: 1
- New Zealand: 4
- Papua New Guinea: 1
- Philippines: 1
- Solomon Islands: 2
- Sri Lanka: 3

- Plantation
- Plantation/Natural
- Natural
Asia Pacific - % Certified Area by Forest Type

- **Plantation**: 77.7%
- **Natural Forest**: 12.8%
- **Plantation / Natural**: 9.6%
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A market incentive for responsible forestry

Market signals from Europe and North America – legal, then certified

The challenge: building demand for certified products in NE Asia
An investment screen
A management tool
“It’s like getting a healthy forest physical “

John Cashwell of Seven Islands Land Company
in Maine, USA
Better management at less cost to the public purse

We have long argued against stifling governmental regulations. But certification may provide the internal desire for industry to voluntarily achieve results that regulations ... rarely accomplish.

B Howe of Collins Pine, USA
Can apply to Non-timber forest products
Challenges

- Bridging the gap where tropical producers genuinely want to improve their performance
  
  *producer support groups*
  
  *Tropical Forest Trust*

- Making certification feasible for small-scale and community forestry
  
  *group certification*
  
  *PNG Ecoforestry Forum*
What the global forest industry should expect from conservation groups in the future

1. NGOs will protest loudly if Government and industry try to decide the rules of the game behind closed doors

2. Most seasoned NGOs are willing to go beyond protest to solutions-oriented dialogue

3. NGOs will focus on creating demand for green timber and fibre in NE Asia – first legal, then certified products

4. Some, but not all, NGOs are willing to create breathing space for tropical producers who genuinely want to improve their performance