

**1st Update Meeting on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade
Convened by Forest Trends**

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**March 8, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**House of Sweden
2900 K St. NW
Washington DC**

***Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
U.S. House of Representatives***

Congressman Earl Blumenauer (Ore.-3) has devoted his entire career to public service. He first served in the Oregon House of Representatives in 1972. From there Mr. Blumenauer went on to be a Multnomah County Commissioner and spent ten years on the Portland City Council as Commissioner of Public Works. Mr. Blumenauer's reforms and innovative accomplishments have helped his hometown of Portland, Oregon gain an international reputation as a livable community.

He has represented Oregon's Third Congressional District since 1996, continuing to promote livable communities at the federal level. Mr. Blumenauer serves on the Ways and Means Committee. He is a strong and creative voice both at home and abroad for the environment, sustainable development, and economic opportunity.

Mr. Blumenauer was named a German Marshall Fellow in 1995 and has won numerous awards from environmental, education, community, and civic organizations, including 1999 Legislator of the Year from the American Planning Association, the National Building Museum's Apgar Award in 2000, and the 2001 National Bicycle Advocacy Award from the League of American Bicyclists. His academic training includes undergraduate and law degrees from Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

***Duncan Brack, Associate Fellow
Energy, Environment and Development Programme, Chatham House***

Duncan Brack is an Associate Fellow of the Energy, Environment and Development Programme at Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs) in London in the UK. The Program is one of the world's leading interdisciplinary research centers for a wide range of major international environmental and energy policy issues. From 1998 to 2003, he was Head of the Program. He now works mainly on international environmental crime, and runs Chatham House's program of research and meetings on illegal logging and the trade in illegally logged timber.

***Dr. David J. Brooks, Director for Natural Resources Policy and Environmental Reviews
Environment and Natural Resources section, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative***

Dr. David J. Brooks is Director for Natural Resources Policy and Environmental Reviews in the Environment and Natural Resources section of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). He has responsibility for a wide variety of natural resource policy issues, including wildlife trade, forestry and environmental reviews of trade agreements. Prior to joining USTR, Dr. Brooks was a research scientist and science team leader with the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. He has degrees from Trinity College (Hartford, Connecticut), the University of Maine and Oregon State University.

***Kerstin Canby, Director of Forest Trade and Finance
Forest Trends Association***

Kerstin Canby is the Director of the Forest Trade and Finance Program at Forest Trends. In addition to general program management, her work specifically focuses on policies and trade issues related to the illegal logging, corruption and associated trade, such as the role of financial institutions and investment flows in combating illegal and unsustainable harvesting practices. A significant portion of her time is spent on the China / East Asia region.

Prior to joining Forest Trends, Kerstin worked at the World Bank, where she worked with the Bank's Governance and Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Programs, coordinating the Africa FLEG ministerial process and providing training to local NGOs interested in developing independent monitoring networks; the World Bank's CEOs *ad hoc* Forum on Forests; and as special assist to the Director of the Environment Department. She continues to work with the World Bank, advising on the development of the Europe / North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Ministerial process.

Kerstin has also worked with the US Forest Service in Oregon (economic and land management analysis), was the co-founder of an environmental education program in Durham, North Carolina, and was a teaching assistant of environmental economics at Duke University. Kerstin holds a BA from Duke University, as well as a Masters in Environmental Management from Duke University's School of Forest and Environmental Sciences, where she focused on forestry, wetlands and coastal ecosystems.

***Jameson French, CEO
Northland Forest Products, Inc.***

Northland Forest Products Inc is a hardwood lumber processor, exporter and distributor, headquartered in Kingston NH, with operations in VA and MA, and an office in Shanghai. The French Family has been in the hardwood industry since the 1880's. Northland hold's Smartwood-FSC COC #022 and has recently completed its 10 year audit.

Mr. French is currently the Vice Chair of the Hardwood Federation, and a past chair of the FSC (US Board), the Hardwood Manufacturer's Association, and the American Hardwood Export Council. He is also Treasurer of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, on the President's Council of the National Wildlife Federation, and past Chairman of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests.

***Alicia Grimes, Forestry and Natural Resources Management Specialist
US Agency for International Development***

Alicia is a forestry and natural resources management professional with over 25 years of experience. She has been working for the Agency for International Development (USAID) since 1993 serving in the Latin America, Eurasia and Global technical bureaus. Her experience includes analyzing the impacts of policies and trade on forest management, assessing the cost/benefits of certification and designing and managing multi-year programs for protected areas management and community based forestry.

Alicia is currently the agency's point of contact for the Presidents Initiative against Illegal Logging (PIAIL), providing development-based technical assistance to U.S. Government Delegations and interagency groups on matters impacting forests. This includes coordinating USAID engagement in international policy and programs at the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Prior to her work at USAID, Ms. Grimes served as a consultant for the World Bank's Asia Technical Department. From 1991-1992, Alicia conducted an economic analysis of non-timber forest products in Amazonian Ecuador as a Research Associate for the New York Botanical Garden. Alicia has a Masters degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and is fluent in Spanish having grown up in Latin America.

***Steve Gretzinger, Latin America Forest & Trade Network Coordinator
World Wildlife Fund***

Steve Gretzinger has been involved in forest management for over 20 years with a specific focus on lowland tropical forests in Latin America. He has provided technical assistance on sourcing of raw materials, production, responsible purchasing, independent certification, chain-of-custody wood tracking and market development to companies, communities and governments in 15 countries. His current efforts focus on building business relationships between Latin American hardwood producers and U.S., European and Asian manufacturers. Mr. Gretzinger is also developing financial mechanisms for channeling capital to responsible forest managers and manufacturers in Latin America. He has collaborated with a range of organizations including: the International Financial Corporation, World Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, SmartWood, and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as many leading private companies. Mr. Gretzinger currently coordinates regional activities for the Latin American branch of the World Wildlife Fund's Global Forest & Trade Network.

***Jack Hurd, Director of Forest Trade
The Nature Conservancy***

Jack Hurd is the Director of The Nature Conservancy's Forest Trade Program. The program is designed to integrate and expand upon TNC's long-running work on responsible forest management and forest certification in Asia and the Americas.

For nearly 20 years Jack has worked on environmental conservation and natural resource management issues in Southeast Asia, Europe, and the United States. Prior to joining TNC's Forest Trade Program in 2006 he served as Conservation Director of the organization's Washington state chapter where he oversaw the forests, freshwater, marine, and grassland programs. From 1997-2003 he worked in a number of capacities with the World Wide Fund

for Nature (WWF) – in Gland as the Coordinator of the WWF/World Bank Forest Alliance; in Phnom Penh as the Director of the Cambodia Country Program; and in Hanoi as the Manager of the Trans-boundary Conservation Initiative operating across the countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. From 1992-1995 Jack served as the Asia Regional Advisor for Pact, a DC-based organization dedicated to building the institutional capacity of indigenous NGOs. He began his career in 1988 working on community forestry and water resource development programs with Thailand's Population and Community Development Association (PDA).

Jack holds a Master's of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Washington in Seattle and a Bachelors of Arts (BA) in Economics from the University of Vermont in Burlington.

***Michael Jenkins, President
Forest Trends Association***

Michael is President and CEO of Forest Trends. In 1998 Michael was in a joint appointment as a Senior Forestry Advisor to the World Bank. From 1989-1999 he was the Associate Director for the Global Security and Sustainability Program of the MacArthur Foundation. Michael's responsibilities with the Program included all grant making in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as overarching program management. Before entering the Foundation, he worked for three years as an agroforester in Haiti with the USAID Agroforestry Outreach Program. Previous to that he worked with a Washington-based development organization, Appropriate Technology International, as a technical advisor. In the late 70s, Michael was a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay working in agriculture, apiculture and forestry projects. He has traveled and worked throughout Latin America, Asia and parts of Africa, and speaks Spanish, French, Portuguese, Creole and Guaraní. Michael has contributed to a number of books and articles and with Island Press published "The Business of Sustainable Forestry, Strategies for an Industry in Transition". He holds a Master's of Forest Science from Yale University.

***Brent McClendon, CAE, Executive Vice President
International Wood Products Association***

The International Wood Products Association, established in 1956, represents 220 companies and trade associations engaged in trade with North America. Association members consist of offshore manufacturers, U.S. importers, and the service providers that facilitate trade in wood products.

Brent's 16 years working in the wood products industry includes time working at for-profit companies, not-for-profit trade associations, and state governmental agencies. Brent joined the International Wood Products Association as Executive Vice President in 2003. Prior to joining IWPA, Brent was responsible for domestic and export sales for The Dean Company, a sliced veneer manufacturer based in Princeton, West Virginia. Brent has an MBA from George Mason University, and holds two Bachelor degrees in Forestry and Agriculture Business Management from NC State University.

Alex Moad, Assistant Director for Technical Cooperation

Office of International Programs, USDA Forest Service

Alex Moad is Assistant Director for Technical Cooperation in the Office of International Programs, USDA Forest Service. He and his staff are responsible for the design, implementation and assessment of forest conservation and management programs in a variety of tropical and temperate forests, in collaboration with host countries, USAID, State Department, international research institutions, NGOs and other partners. Prior to joining the Forest Service in 1992, Alex was an AAAS Science and Diplomacy Fellow at USAID, where he provided scientific and technical support to forest conservation programs. Alex holds an M.S. in ecology and environmental policy from U.C. Davis, and a Ph.D. in biology from Harvard University. Alex's dissertation research focused on forest regeneration processes and the maintenance of species diversity in tropical forests in Borneo and the Malay Peninsula.

***Rupert Oliver, Director
Forest Industries Intelligence Ltd.***

Rupert Oliver is Director of Forest Industries Intelligence Limited, a UK based consultancy. He acts as an advisor on sustainable forestry and international trade policy issues to the American Forest and Paper Association and the American Hardwood Export Council. He also monitors trends in UK market conditions for verified legal and sustainable timber on behalf of the UK Timber Trade Federation with support from the UK Department for International Development. He has 15 years experience working in the international timber trade and industry. Rupert Oliver is a strong believer in the contribution that forestry and timber can make to sustainable development and is committed to encouraging increased market access for timber products from well managed forests. He has a Masters Degree in Forest Business Administration from Aberdeen University and an Honors Degree in Geography from Oxford University.

***Dr. Mike Packer, Programme Director
GLOBE International***

Dr Mike Packer is currently on secondment from the private sector to GLOBE International as Programme Director. As well as overseeing GLOBE International's G8 Illegal Logging Dialogue, an initiative building on a UK Government-progressive timber industry Roundtable that he facilitated within Timbmet Group, he is responsible for developing GLOBE's Millennium Ecosystems initiative. Mike is a Ph.D. ecologist, spending over a decade in ecological/natural resource management research and teaching in UK and overseas institutions before setting up a UK-based nature conservation charity, followed by an environmental consultancy business, and then moving into industry where he is a Corporate Responsibility Director.

***Michael Virga, Acting Executive Director for Forestry
American Forest & Paper Association***

Virga is responsible for leading the Forestry Sector, including issue identification, development, prioritization and execution. Virga has led the AF&PA green building team since its inception in 2002 and has worked to incorporate industry issues into the USGBC LEED Program and other green building rating systems, both domestically and internationally.

Prior to this he was the Senior Director, Sustainable Forestry Programs AF&PA and worked extensively with wood and paper customers in the development of environmental and purchasing policies related to forestry certification, endangered forests, green building, recycling and manufacturing processes. In addition, Virga has been active in the promotion and development of an international system of mutual recognition of certification schemes as well as global efforts that aim to curtail illegal logging in developing countries.

Prior to coming to AF&PA Virga spent 15 years with Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper (LFPP) and was responsible for procurement, land management and environmental affairs. Virga has been an active member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) since 1983, both in New York and nationally. In 1999, Virga was awarded the New York Society of American Foresters highest and most distinguished honor, Forester of the Year and in 2000 received the National Young Forester Leadership Award from SAF.

Virga received a BS in Forestry in 1982 and an MS in Forestry Economics 1984 from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science & Forestry in Syracuse, NY.

Virga is married and the father of four children.

***Alexander von Bismarck, Campaigns Director
Environmental Investigation Agency***

Alexander has spent much of the last decade investigating international trade in environmentally sensitive products, including chemicals and illegally sourced timber, with the Environmental Investigation Agency. His field work has focused on China, Southeast Asia and Central America. During this time, EIA has pioneered undercover techniques for environmental research and has collaborated with local NGOs in producer countries to document illegal logging from the 'stump' to the consuming markets in the U.S., Europe and Japan.

Alexander's academic background includes ecological research in the Lake Victoria region in East Africa, papers on the impacts of global change on the marine environment, and a Master of Science in Environment and Development at the London School of Economics. For EIA, Alexander has focused on developing mechanisms to improve international cooperation on environmental enforcement, most recently co-authoring a United Nations funded study to improve the Montreal Protocol's tracking of ozone depleting substances. He now serves as EIA's Campaigns Director in Washington, and spends most of his time on the global forest and climate campaigns.