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WWF and IKEA co-operation – Forest

Over 30 per cent of the land area of this earth is covered with forests. These forests are among the most notable storehouses of biological diversity on land. The forests also offer a variety of possibilities to mankind – to use wood, get nutrition from animals, for grazing, for medical purposes, and so on. The challenge is that we are losing forests along with the endangered animals living there. Sustainable forest management can help restore some of the most severe problems, such as forest degradation and illegal logging.



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Shared values

WWF and IKEA are committed to promote responsible forest management to secure forest values for both present and future needs. In the joint forest projects around Europe and Asia – some of them dating back to 2002 – the main focuses are to combat illegal logging, to protect High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), and to promote credible forest certification as well as responsible timber trade. Through these projects, the cooperation is spreading knowledge and developing tools to a variety of stakeholders – all with the aim to obtain a better management of the forests of our planet.

The projects

Russia

The project includes four major areas. The first one focuses on introducing the HCVF concept among governments, companies and NGOs. The partnership also works on developing and promoting responsible purchasing policies through WWF's Global Forest and Trade Network in Russia as well as raising awareness and providing information and education to the Russian forest sector and the universities. The fourth focus area concerns supporting the national forest policy dialogue by ensuring wood legality and responsible trade.



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CONTACT. For more information on the WWF and IKEA Co-operation, visit www.panda.org/ikea or contact WWF at wwf-ikea-projects@wwf.se

China

The project aims to support responsible forest management, forest conservation and legal trade in China. It raises awareness and capacity of responsible forest management and responsible purchasing. It provides technical support for forest management planning, high conservation value assessment & monitoring and credible forest certification. It provides support for developing the national FSC standard in China and engaging more Chinese companies in legal and responsible timber trade between Russia and China.

Lithuania

The project aims to drive responsible forest management by supporting promotion of FSC certification among companies in the timber sector and private forest owners. The project will maintain and develop the two privately owned demonstration forests. These forests will be used for training and education also including students and children with the aim to demonstrate responsible small scale forest management.

Romania, Bulgaria & the Ukraine

This project aims to increase forest areas with responsible forest management practices, to build capacity for efficient forest management in private and community forests, and to support activities with the aim to prevent and reduce illegal logging.

A few examples could be mentioned – develop a network of model areas with certified forests and integrated forest management plans, identify and map HCVFs, increase the capacity of forest owners and administrators, universities, NGOs and other stakeholders. Another important part of the work is to act against illegal logging and contribute to the improvement of legislation.

Lao, Cambodia & Vietnam

The goal of this project is to support a sustainable rattan industry in the Greater Mekong region. While conserving natural forests, the project will contribute to sustainable management and trade, as well as to poverty alleviation. This involves all actors along the rattan value chain such as communities, governments, traders and processors.

It is a unique project as it aims to put in place the very first FSC certification system for rattan products. For more information, see www.panda.org/rattan

Vietnam

The project is promoting responsible forest management and restoration in the Central Annamites, Vietnam. The focus is to increase the capacity of Vietnamese companies to effectively meet the requirements on timber legality, to drive FSC and Controlled Wood certification of acacia plantations, and to evaluate and revise the provincial forest strategies and forest restoration plans.

High Conservation Value Resource Network

The WWF and IKEA partnership supports the High Conservation Value Resource Network (www.hcvnetwork.org), a global multi-stakeholder initiative which promotes practical conservation by supporting collaboration and consistency in the use of the HCV concept.

GFTN

IKEA is a participant of the WWF Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN). The GFTN is a WWF initiative to eliminate illegal logging and drive improvements in forest management. Participants are committed to promote responsible forestry and credible certification. For more information on the GFTN, see www.gftn.panda.org.

Examples of Results:

- Three global tool kits have been produced and tested in various countries in order to help identify and manage High Conservation Value Forests and to encourage certification and responsible forest management.
- In Russia, the project has supported a successful campaign to promote FSC products in the domestic market. During the campaign, the first printing house and paper trader in Russia were FSC certified.
- With support from the project, the FSC certified forest area in Russia expanded from 3,2 hectares in July 2005 to over 25 million hectares in September 2010.
- In Russia a new university text book on sustainable forest management has been developed. This book was officially approved by the Ministry of Education and introduced along with a training course in 17 universities.
- A co-operation has been established with the Russian and Chinese customs in order to combat illegal logging.
- In China, the FSC certified area is closing up to two million hectares. The majority of these forest areas have received technical support from the project.
- In Romania, Bulgaria and the Ukraine, HCVF has become a well known concept as a result of the work carried out within this project. Maps have been developed and more than 100,000 hectares have been identified.
- In Romania, a national timber tracking system was developed on the initiative of the project. The system is an important tool to combat illegal logging.
- In Romania and Bulgaria, Forest Certification Information Centers have been established. They offer information and technical support for FSC certification to state and private foresters, wood processing companies and to the general public.
- In Latvia and Lithuania, six demonstration forests have been established to show forest owners the benefits of responsible forestry management.
- In Laos and Cambodia, rattan nurseries were constructed (the first one ever in Cambodia). In addition, a community based rattan management and production model was developed.
- In Cambodia, the first rattan species field guide has been launched.
- 80 of the 100 villages in the project have their Village Rattan Producer Group set-up. Out of these groups, 43 villages have developed business plans and started handicraft production.
- In Vietnam, a gap analysis on timber legality requirements has been performed for rattan and acacia suppliers. Training materials will be developed based on this analysis.