

## **FSC OFFERS A CREDIBLE SOLUTION TO G8'S COMBAT AGAINST ILLEGAL LOGGING**

Government procurement policies and industry practices favouring legally harvested timber are being emphasized by the G8 nations in their action plan against illegal logging. Execution of such policies is perceived to be dependent on credible and independent verification. The Forest Stewardship Council system and its controlled wood standards stand as an option to meet these requirements.

G8 Environment and Development Ministers issued a joint statement on their action plan against illegal logging following their first meeting on 18 March 2005, taking into consideration the earlier recommendations from a discussion with the civil society representatives.

In their report to the G8 member nations, representatives from WWF, Greenpeace, UK Timber Trade Federation, and other non government organizations called for the adoption of government procurement policies and industry practices that promote good forest management and legality.

“Combat against illegal logging is a shared responsibility of producer and consumer nations. It is also step towards the end goal of responsible forest management,” said Sofia Ryder, FSC Responsible for Chain of Custody who also attended the workshop. “Whether it be the current combat against illegal logging or further promotion of sustainable forest management, FSC certification and controlled wood standards, which already forms part of many procurement specification of the member states, provides a ready platform to standardize the international definitions of the various aspects of timber production and forest management,” she concluded.

Timber certified under the FSC has been found to delivery on Government requirements for legal harvesting and sustainable forest management in an earlier assessment by the Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET). FSC certifications has also been identified as the most credible, rigorous and credible certification system in the FERN (European Union Forest Campaign Group) report on its analysis of eight certification systems. FSC labeling scheme is currently the preferred buying scheme for buyers groups in the UK, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Brazil, USA and Japan.

For more information on FSC controlled wood standard, please refer to [www.fsc.org/coc](http://www.fsc.org/coc).