Wood Sourcing and the Russian Far East

Recommendations for Responsible Businesses

Brian Milakovsky, Forest Projects Coordinator, WWF-Russia Amur Branch
Linda Walker, Manager, Global Forest & Trade Network, WWF-US
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Focused on critical regions
We concentrate our efforts on protecting the world’s most important natural places

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10. Galapagos
11. Gulf of California
12. Madagascar
13. Mekong
14. Mesoamerican Reef
15. Namibia
16. Northern Great Plains
17. Southern Chile
18. Yangtze
Collaborating with business on responsible forestry and trade

The Challenge

Illegal and unsustainable forest management in globally important forest regions

WWF’s Response

Assists companies with responsible forest management and forest product sourcing

www.gftn.panda.org
The Russian Far East
Shrinking temperate forests: Last refuge for Amur tiger and leopard
Illegal logging
A threat to forests, biodiversity and responsible businesses
Illegal logging in the Russian Far East

Recent report by WWF-Russia

http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/eng/776
Examples of forest illegality in Russian Far East

- Timber theft from protected areas
- Logging in excess of permitted volumes on authorized logging sites
- Illegally taking highest value trees under “intermediate” or “sanitary” logging permit
- Illegally taking highest value trees under permit for “timber harvest for local needs”
Russian Far East: Mongolian Oak permitted vs. exported, 2004-2011

Cub. m

- Officially permitted harvest volume

Year | Permitted Harvest Volume (in Cub. m)
-----|-------------------------------------
2004 | 1,200
2005 | 1,400
2006 | 2,100
2007 | 3,400
2008 | 3,800
2009 | 1,900
2010 | 2,100
2011 | 2,100

Note: The chart shows the comparison between the officially permitted harvest volume and the exported volume.
Why should U.S. buyers care?

- Russia is #1 hardwood supplier for Chinese manufacturing sector
- Value of 2011 Chinese exports of solid wood flooring and furniture to U.S., EU and Japan: $9.4 billion
- U.S. imports of Chinese wood products made from RFE hardwoods: likely in the hundreds of millions of dollars
The Lacey Act
Flooring, furniture, plywood, veneer

Mongolian Oak (*Quercus mongolica*)

Manchurian ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica*)

Japanese elm (*Ulmus japonica* or *propinqua*)

Amur and Manchurian linden (*Tilia amurensis* and *T. mandshurica*)
How to evaluate and address risks and source responsibly

Option 1: Buy FSC-certified products. Best option, lowest risk, but supply is limited.

Option 2: Establish rigorous due care system and 3rd party confirmation of legality.

Option 3: If options 1 or 2 aren’t possible, *exclude* these high-risk species from your supply chains.
Researching FSC supply
www.marketplace.fsc.org

Welcome to the Forest Stewardship Council® Marketplace®

Creating connections for FSC® certified businesses worldwide.

Search for FSC-certified Products & Suppliers (e.g. 'oak', 'chairs', 'mycompany')

REGISTER NOW
Clearly identify the species and country of origin

- Instances of misinformation from Chinese manufacturers about species, country of origin
- Request documents from Chinese suppliers demonstrating region and FMU of origin
- Inability to supply such information should be a deal-breaker
- Tools in development – isotopic, genetic testing
Enlist local help

- 3rd party auditors/certifiers experienced in Russia (NEPCon, SCS, etc.)
- Local civil society representatives – WWF Amur experts can help
- Consultation with forestry authorities
- Important for both office and field assessment
Check documentation

- One key document (among many) – Forest Declaration

- Volume, species and grades of timber authorized for logging by leaseholder

- Key question: could the materials you purchased have come from the logging sites shown in the declarations?
Conduct field checks

Involves selecting a sample of logging sites from Forest Declarations and field checking

Key questions:

• Could the imported wood possibly have come from this site?

• Did illegal harvest (overharvesting, harvesting beyond authorized boundaries, harvesting of unauthorized species) take place on this logging site?
Case study

• U.S. window manufacturer and WWF assessed legality of Korean pine imports from RFE

• Russian trading company provided Forest Declarations

• Visited a sampling (2-3 logging sites) for each leaseholder

• Illegality risk for leaseholders assessed, recommendation given to exclude one from supply chains
Looking forward: Changes in Russia

- New regional and federal “Roundwood Control Acts” would help tighten up CoC
- Potential for unified databases where all documents are registered and linked
- Laws and law enforcement still in development, progressing slowly
Resources

- WWF-Russia “Keep it Legal” guide

- FSC certifiers and legality verifiers: BV, SCS, SGS TLTV, NEPCon, others

- WWF-Russia: assistance and trainings

- GFTN: [http://sourcing.gftn.panda.org/](http://sourcing.gftn.panda.org/)

- Step-wise programs to assist with responsible sourcing: Rainforest Alliance, The Forest Trust
Thank you

Questions?
Comments?

bmilakovsky@wwf.ru
linda.walker@wwfus.org