

CHANGE
FURNITURE
COMMUNITY
FORESTS
AFRICA
OAK

JUST FORESTS GOOD WOOD GUIDE

BIODIVERSITY, DEVELOPMENT
& POVERTY ALLEVIATION

MILLENNIUM
ENERGY
EXTINCTION
DEVELOPMENT
PERIWINKLE. INDEPENDENT
PLANTS
FRAGILE. LIVELIHOODS
AMAZON
CEDAR
TREES
TIME
LATE
BIODIVERSITY
CLIMATE
MAHOGANY
BLACKWOOD
TEAK
PLYWOOD
LIFE
WATER
TIMBER
ROSEWOOD
CHANGE
CONSTRUCTION. CERTIFICATION
FUELWOOD
RESOURCES
GLOBAL
TREE
FSC. LEGISLATION
LOGGING
PEOPLE
FAIR TRADE
TIMBER

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A MESSAGE FROM CITES

As Just Forests celebrates its 21st anniversary, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known by its acronym 'CITES', celebrates its 35th anniversary. CITES was created to ensure that international trade of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival, and was a pioneer in advocating sustainable use of the planet's biological resources, including forests. It is therefore encouraging to see those efforts supported by others, such as Just Forests.

As you will read in this guide, the trade in some common timber species is regulated by CITES, for example mahogany or ramin, but there are in fact more than 100 tree species covered by the Convention, and this is likely to increase. Producers have responsibilities to trade responsibly in these resources, but the engagement of consumers is also essential, and you do make a difference when choosing to buy a product resulting from a sustainable and legal source. And illegal logging not only impacts the populations of trees that are felled, but it also impacts whole forest ecosystems and those who rely upon them. So I congratulate Just Forests on its work to raise consumer's awareness.



John Scanlon
CITES Secretary-General



INTRODUCTION

My name is Tom Roche. I was born in Tullamore, Co Offaly, Ireland. As a young boy I served an apprenticeship as a carpenter in a small family-run workshop in Market Square, Tullamore. It was a fascinating time for me. The workshop provided me with opportunities to engage with a very wide-ranging set of inter-related aspects of woodwork from cart and wheel making, to joinery and furniture repairs. Also, during that era it was common practice to replace handles in shovels, forks and so on. The harvest time was a particularly busy time in the workshop as farmers needed 'grass boards' for their mowing machines and 'connecting rods' for their combine harvesters.

While working for Barney O'Connor was a great learning time for me, I was unknowingly preparing for an adventure that has shaped my life ever since. I was always attracted to 'far away places'. So after failing the Royal Air Force (RAF) entrance exam in Belfast I applied for a visa to travel to Australia. During the sixties the Australian government were looking for tradesmen-carpenters, plasterers, plumbers and so on. In 1967, just one month after my eighteenth birthday I landed in Melbourne, Australia – a recipient of the Australian government's 'Assisted Passage Scheme' for the sum of 10 pounds.

It was during my time as a 'rouseabout' on a medium-sized sheep station in Sunday Creek, Broadford, Victoria, that my environmental education began. Each Saturday night 3 of us would have to share the same bath water. The last person out of the bath would pour the water into a bucket with a jug and then pour all the used bath water around the tree around the house. Fuelwood was also very precious as it was our only source of energy for cooking and heating. We spent a number of hours every week collecting and splitting logs for fuelwood.



My experiences have all shaped the way I look at natural resources today and I hope this Good Wood Guide will be a help to all who use it.

Just Forests welcomes the EU Council announcement on 11 October 2010 to ban illegal timber from the EU market. We expect the new EU legislation to come into force in early 2013. Thanks to all our supporters who helped us lobby for this law, which is a really important step forward in the fight against illegal logging. However, as we all know, 'laws' are only as good as they are implemented and, your constant vigilance when specifying 'good wood' is paramount to the success of this new law.

For more on the work of Just Forests and how you can become involved please visit our website at: www.justforests.org

Happy wood sourcing!

Regards,
Tom Roche

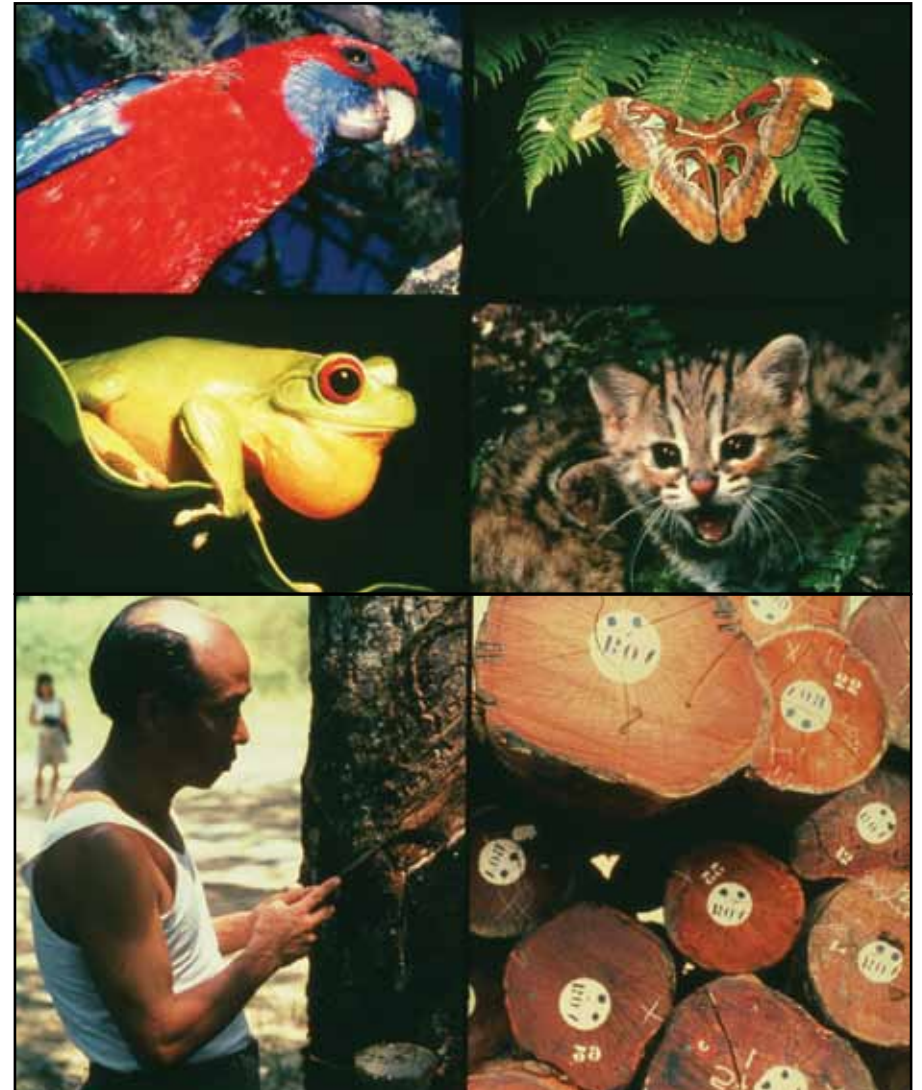
A TURNING POINT FOR FORESTS?

Global forest loss slowed to 13 million hectares per year during the past decade, down from around 16 million hectares per year during the 1990s, according to a new assessment from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

The trend accelerated during the past 5 years, especially in the tropics, where annual deforestation dropped from around 9.5 million hectares per year to 9.1 million ha. The decline in tropical deforestation between 2005 and 2010 was mostly attributable to Brazil, which cut forest clearing by nearly 700,000 hectares per year. Among major forest countries, Mexico, Lao, Cambodia, and Cameroon also saw significant drops in deforestation.

Forest clearing increased substantially in the past five years in Indonesia (107 percent increase), Peru (94 percent), and Madagascar (36 percent). Loss of primary forest remained high during the decade, with more than 40 million hectares being cleared or re-classified as disturbed forest.

Tree plantations expanded rapidly during the decade. Factoring in these planted forests, the rate of forest cover loss fell from 8.3 million hectares per year to 5.2 million hectares, an area about the size of Costa Rica. (Source: Mongabay. October 2010)



WHY GOOD WOOD CAN HELP PROTECT POPULATIONS AND RESOURCES

Europe, but more specifically Ireland, cannot meet its consumption demands from within its own borders and the gap between demand and production capacity has grown steadily since 1960.

Ireland has the lowest forest cover in the EU which probably contributes to the fact that we are the largest 'per capita' consumers of tropical wood in the EU. We need to become much more self-sufficient in our timber needs. A major re-forestation programme with greater emphasis on hardwood tree planting is urgently needed.

In the meantime it cannot be overstated just how important it will be from here on to ensure we get our timber needs from responsibly-managed forests worldwide:

'Global population, currently 6.6 billion, is expected to rise to 9.2 billion by 2050. During the past few decades, rising agricultural productivity and declining fertility rates have reduced concerns that population growth rates might lead to global famine, but the challenges posed by increasing numbers of people has not gone away.'

(http://www.prcdc.org/globalpopulation/Population_Projections/)



Villagers work together to managed their forest resources in Ratanakkiri Province, Cambodia. This community-managed forest is grant-aided by Irish Development Agency, Concern Worldwide.

FINDING GOOD WOOD

Are you ready to make your Good Wood selection? Our guide helps you find retailers who sell Good Wood timber products, like furniture, decking and joinery. You can also search for timber species to check their Good Wood status and find suitable alternatives.



Green = Good Wood

These timber species are the best option. Good Wood timber species are:

- from FSC-certified forests, or
- verified ecotimber from community forest operations, or
- verified recycled, reused and urban salvage for example, rail sleepers, floorboards from old derelict buildings. Also in Ireland we must consider salvaging wood from un-sold housing stock built during the 'Celtic Tiger' era that are earmarked for demolition



Amber = 2nd Choice

These timber species should only be used after checking the source carefully.

Amber wood includes sources that are in transition to Good Wood or from a non-controversial or neutral source. Question your supplier. If they can prove the wood product comes from one of the following sources, it is okay to buy. Please persist – it's your right to know. Amber status wood is:

- verified from a forest or plantation in transition to FSC certification (eg, via stepwise schemes such as Tropical Forest Trust (TFT) and SmartStep)
- Rainforest Alliances', SmartWood Verified Legal Origin (VLO) standard.
- verified community small-scale sawn timber or Community Timber
- plantation wood (not preservative-treated) verified as not coming from an area where the forest was cleared to make the plantation after 1994, including rubberwood, eucalypts, cypresses and acacia
- non-verified recycled, reused and urban salvage
- bamboo, coconut wood and recovered orchard trees like mango wood.



Red = Bad Wood

These timber species should not be used.

All known supplies are from illegal and/or destructive logging.

AFRICAN TIMBERS



Ireland has been importing tropical timber from Africa for over 300 years. It is our traditional and historical source of high-quality tropical timber imports. All the African timbers listed in this guide are from West and Central African countries, including Cameroon, Ghana, the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire. The rainforests of West and Central Africa are home to an astonishing number of animal and plant species. They are critical to the survival of three of our closest animal relatives, the gorilla, the chimpanzee and the bonobo, all of which are endangered.

Millions of hectares of African rainforest have been lost in the last 30 years, and now logging operations are expanding into the heart of the Congo Basin, whose rainforests are the second largest in the world after those of the Amazon. The Congo Basin is home to around 12 million forest-dwelling people, including

the seminomadic Baka pygmies, who depend almost entirely on the forests. Substantial parts of these forests have already been allocated to international timber companies and commercial logging operations.

Illegal logging is rampant in the region and corruption is widespread. Protection of forest areas by national and international law is largely inadequate and poorly implemented. Logging roads open up tropical rainforests to the hunting of and trade in bushmeat – including the meat of gorillas, chimpanzees, forest elephants and other endangered species.

Many of these species are part of the trade in 'conflict timber' – timber traded by armed groups or administrations to perpetuate conflict or take advantage of conflict situations. Groups notorious for human rights abuses have been funded by the timber trade in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

SPECIES COMMON USES	SPECIFIC CONCERNS	EXAMPLES OF FSC ALTERNATIVES
 <p>African Walnut <i>Lovoa trichilioides</i> Panel products, furniture.</p>	Listed by IUCN as vulnerable.	FSC Andiroba for some uses
 <p>Ekki/Azobé <i>Lophira alata</i> Marine construction, heavy construction, interior construction, furniture.</p>	Listed by IUCN as vulnerable.	FSC Cumaru FSC Massaranduba Other EKKI substitutes include: <i>Paiquia-Caryocar glabrum</i> and Tali – <i>Erythrophleum suaveolens</i>

AWARENESS & EDUCATION RESOURCES

Just Forests works with the formal and non-formal education sectors in Ireland. We promote attitudinal change through Development Education (DE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) methods.

For over twenty years we have been creating awareness and developing practical and enjoyable ways of getting the message out about the importance of the world's forests amongst Irish society. We take a 'livelihood' approach to learning and changing attitudes.

Visit www.justforests.org

Development Education (DE)

Make sure your children are exposed to education for sustainable development (ESD). Why not ask your local Public Library to host our very popular Wood of Life exhibition. This travelling, hands-on exhibition on the importance of forests and wood to society has activity sheets and a follow-on classroom project sheet for teachers. This way your children can put what they learn at the exhibition into practical projects afterwards.

Keep Up To Date

After gas and oil, timber is one of the largest traded natural resources in the world and as human populations increase in the coming years, the demands on forests for timber is also going to increase. In order to keep abreast of current legislation and species availability Just Forests recommends the following websites for reliable, trustworthy information:

For information on the current status of a particular timber species please visit CITES website at: <http://www.cites.org/>

For up-to-date information on EU Legislation and illegal logging please visit: <http://www.illegal-logging.info/>

For more information on what species to use for particular jobs the following websites are highly recommended:

WWF Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) Interactive Guide to Legal and Responsible Sourcing: <http://sourcing.gftn.panda.org/>

GREENPEACE Species Checker: <http://www.goodwoodguide.org.au/faqs.php>

Want to know who is certified and where you can get FSC-certified timber? Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) database: <http://info.fsc.org/>

You can always contact us here at Just Forests and we will help in whatever way we can. <http://www.justforests.org/>

The large piece of Honduran Mahogany pictured in the introduction, now commercially extinct, is a center leaf from a gate-leg, drop-leaf table, which I found in the Tullamore town dump in 1986. Someone had used it as a mortar-board. I cleaned off some of the mortar and restored a section to let you see how beautiful the wood still is. The wasteful mentality behind this piece of mahogany became the driving force behind the establishment of Just Forests in 1989 and remains one of the strategic reasons behind our work to this day.

A WORD ABOUT OUR PRINTER AND THE PAPER USED:

Every effort has been made to minimize the carbon footprint of this publication.

In keeping with Just Forests philosophy we employ local expertise where possible and when appropriate to do so.

This Good Wood Guide was printed in Five Alley, Birr, Co Offaly, by The Print Factory a small family-run printer. While The Print Factory is in the process of becoming FSC-certified they are prevented from using the FSC logo until the certification process is completed. This is in keeping with Forest Stewardship Council criteria.

However, I can vouch that the paper used in this publication has been supplied by Antalis, St Margaret's Road, Dublin, suppliers of FSC-certified paper to The Print Factory. I also wish to state that The Print Factory used rainwater, vegetable-based inks and chemical-free plates in the printing of this Good Wood Guide.

Tom Roche.

1st November 2010.



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