

**GFTN UK PUBLICATION FORMAT FOR FOREST PRODUCT REPORTING - 2011**  
**May 13<sup>th</sup> 2011**

As a member of WWF's Global Forest and Trade Network in the UK since 2002, British Waterways is committed to progressively sourcing forest products from well managed sources. To monitor our progress, we collect as much information on our supply chain sources as possible, and categorise this to enable us to identify where any risks of poor sourcing may lie, and to eliminate them systematically from our supply chain into the UK market.

The new EU Regulation to limit the trade in illegal timber, which comes into full effect on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 provides a baseline of legality as a minimum for forest goods entering the European market and reaching consumers. Our business wants to make sure that we are playing our part in reducing the UK footprint on global forest resources, and to source sustainably.

To highlight the change we have achieved so far, to draw attention to the challenges that remain in order to meet the EU regulation, and to exceed the requirements of the regulation by sourcing sustainably and identify our priorities in doing so, we are publishing the status of our supply chain for forest goods as we have established it so far, according to the WWF Global Forest and Trade Network categorisation of forest goods.

We hope our decision to be transparent about our performance on forest sourcing will prompt others in the sector to do the same, and initiate discussion about how business can overcome the remaining challenges in partnership with other stakeholders, including government.

We encourage all forest certification systems to continuously improve their performance in delivering responsible forest management. At present, WWF and GFTN participants believe FSC represents the gold standard and a credible benchmark for other forest certification schemes to match, and it remains our preference to increasingly source from credibly certified forests or verified recycled sources.



Our status for the forest products reported for the 2010 calendar year is as follows:

12.2%	No information on origin
15.9%	Known origin but no legality verification possible
2.6%	Legal origin confirmed (including e.g. PEFC purchased with Chain of Custody)
0%	In the process of becoming credibly certified
69%	Credibly Certified (e.g. FSC purchased with Chain of Custody)
0%	Pre-consumer Recycled
0.3%	Post-consumer Recycled

British Waterways environmental policy can be found [here](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/media/documents/Environmental_Policy.pdf) ([http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/media/documents/Environmental\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/media/documents/Environmental_Policy.pdf)) .

British Waterways commitment to timber has been highlighted within our [statement of commitment to sustainable development](#). This is to be updated in the near future with clearer statement about timber.

### **Scope of reporting**

- All forest products for resale or end use in business delivery, and those for internal use, with the exception of
  - o Items less than 5% timber content
  - o Stationary other than printer or copier paper
  - o Furniture and fittings for office, factory or trading premises
  - o Packaging for consumer goods and equipment

### **Challenges**

- Government cut backs have resulted in impacts on British Waterways funding and staffing levels, therefore reducing available resources. To maintain effective reporting and monitoring, we will be increasingly reliant on our contractors and suppliers - particularly those in GFTN\_UK - providing consistent, compliant supplies and management information in line with our order requirements
- Contractors vary in their knowledge and experience in delivering traceability for the forest products they supply – for example, fencing. Many misunderstand the need for chain of custody to be maintained throughout the supply chain, and fail to make sure it covers the products they supply to us. Through recording and reporting, British Waterways is educating contractors, but increased capability of suppliers to manage chain of custody for certified forest products would increase ease of doing business and achieving compliance
- As British Waterways moves towards becoming a charitable body, it will be an increasing challenge to deliver responsible sourcing in a time of reducing budgets and change.

### **Priorities**

- Informing and ensuring fencing contractors understand our requirements
- Issue clear procurement standard, covering our direct procurement requirements and those we expect from contractors (other than the framework contractors)
- Streamlining our recording and reporting processes, including ensuring regular reporting by national suppliers, including those who are members of WWF\_GFTN UK.

## **Summary of 2010**

Reporting by our national suppliers, including those who are members of WWF\_GFTN UK, has improved this year but there is still work to do. We have reduced the proportion of category 1 but not by the proportion we would wish. The scope of reporting has increased with fencing contractors fully included and this has led to new challenges to educate these contractors in the reporting volumes and certification of timber.

The changes in Government funding of the public sector and changes to public corporations and public funded organisations have impacted on British Waterways. British Waterway is moving towards a New Waterways Charity in 2012 and this will also produce new challenges. Further information can be found at <http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/twentytwenty/>.

There have been some good news stories associated with timber but not directly linked to supply. These have involved planting oaks as part of the anniversary of the Kennet & Avon in December 2010 and use of old lock gates at Glastonbury. Following the use at the 2010 festival of old lock gates for a bridge, this year old lock gates will be used for a "bull ring" arena. The "Portuguese Bullring" (Campo Pequeno) will be created using 70 of the 12 ft (3.6m) high gates from the Caen Hill Flight of Locks near Devizes "set up on end" in a circle.