



WORLD BANK WWF ALLIANCE



Annual Report

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Natural forest in the Skhar Valley, Central Caucasus, Georgia.

MISSION

The World Bank–WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation & Sustainable Use is a response to a crisis—the continued depletion of the world’s forest biodiversity, and of forest-based goods and services essential for sustainable development. The goal of the Alliance is a significantly reduced rate of loss and degradation of all forest types.

In pursuit of this goal, the Alliance works with governments, the private sector, and civil society to achieve three targets by 2005:

- 50 million hectares (124 million acres) of new forest protected areas
- 50 million hectares (124 million acres) of existing but highly threatened forest protected areas secured under effective management
- 200 million hectares (495 million acres) of production forests under independently certified sustainable management

The Alliance will make every effort to achieve these targets across a broad range of forest types and geographic regions.

The Alliance is founded on the following guiding principles:

- recognition of the potential for sustainable management of forests and of the contribution this can make to sustainable development
- mutual respect for each Alliance partner’s complementary strengths
- commitment to finding ways to achieve more than either organization could accomplish independently
- commitment to a responsive, flexible, and transparent manner of developing and carrying out joint activities



BaAka people use traditional weapons to hunt in a special reserve of the Dzanga-Sangha Conservation Area. Central African Republic.

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The World Bank–WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation & Sustainable Use is at a pivotal moment. With the first term of the Alliance scheduled to end in 2005, it is time now to look back over our eight-year history, take stock of the achievements, extract the lessons learned, and report on progress since our inception. As we reflect on the lessons we have learned while supporting innovations in forest conservation and management around the world, we are drawing on these lessons to identify the directions that the Alliance will take in the future.

The list of Alliance achievements is impressive. Landmark initiatives such as the Amazon Region Protected Areas (ARPA) program and the Congo Basin's Yaoundé process have collectively resulted in the establishment of more than 40 million hectares of new forest protected areas while galvanizing support and investment in protected area management from a diverse array of partners. The Alliance has supported the development and field application of innovative analytical tools for the improved management of forest protected areas. As forecast in previous annual reports, a multistage, multistakeholder approach to laying the groundwork for certification has resulted in an upswing in forest hectares under comprehensive, independent certification in Bank client countries, at a rate that will continue to increase. As you will read in this report, progress toward the Alliance targets has been steady.

In addition to this quantifiable progress, the Alliance has served as an incubator for innovative thinking on forest conservation and management, demonstrably contributing to stronger understanding of such issues as what it means for a protected area to be truly "protected" and what sort of groundwork needs to be undertaken before certification can be expected to work. A good example is the Alliance-funded "Tracking Tool for Protected Area Management Effectiveness." This tool has been adopted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and it has also served as a model for a World Bank–supported tool for gauging the effectiveness of management in marine protected areas. With support from the Alliance, WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network is creating and applying new methods for working with companies and communities that are committed to making stepwise progress toward certification.

The Alliance's management team is now considering how we can most effectively move forward. What is the Alliance's comparative advantage? Where do we need to improve? Do we have the right mix of partners, or should we be looking to new relationships? How should we organize ourselves to best operate amidst the challenges ahead? How can more sustainable funding be secured for the forest conservation and management initiatives we seek to support?

MESSAGE FROM JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN AND DR. CLAUDE MARTIN



Villagers carrying fuelwood, Chitwan National Park, Nepal

© WWF-Canon / Michel GUNTHER

MESSAGE FROM JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN AND DR. CLAUDE MARTIN

Answers to these questions, which are coming from within WWF and the Bank and also from a wide variety of external advisers, will determine the future of the Alliance. The Alliance has helped to create high expectations for forest conservation and management and for the livelihoods of people who depend on forests: We must make the right decisions if we are to mobilize the resources needed to help deliver on these expectations in a future phase.

As you read this report, please note the rich portfolio of activities, both in the field as well as in policy. From certified boreal forests of northwest Russia, across the tapestry of forest management types in Nepal's Terai Arc, to the transboundary protected areas of the Congo Basin, and through the community forests of Central America, the Alliance and its partners are employing innovative approaches to complex challenges.

As you may be aware, the two of us have recently announced that we will soon be retiring from our respective positions at the helm of the World Bank and WWF. It has been gratifying to have played a role in creating and guiding the Alliance, an experiment that has proved to be extremely productive for both people and forests. Our respective institutions will ensure that the efforts made to develop a comprehensive approach to forest conservation and sustainable use will continue to pay dividends in the future.

James Wolfensohn
President
The World Bank

Claude Martin
Director General
WWF International



A local man fishes in the Rio Tinto Negro, Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, Honduras.

This report covers the period from July 1, 2003, until December 31, 2004. During this period, significant progress was made toward the Alliance targets through direct contributions from Alliance-supported projects and as a result of an increasingly diverse array of forest conservation practitioners using Alliance tools and methodologies.

Current progress toward the Alliance target on **protected areas** stands at 40 million hectares. The past year has been one of engagement in programs that will soon result in additional legally protected areas in WWF's focal ecoregions. In particular, Alliance backing for the ARPA program in the tropical forests of Brazil's Amazon Basin, and Alliance support for the Yaoundé process spanning the Congo Basin forests in six Central African countries, are anticipated to bring us closer to the target in the coming year as additional gazettelements are announced. Pending gazettelements of protected areas in the Amazon and Congo Basins may result in the Alliance exceeding its protected areas target by the end of 2005.

The adoption of the "Tracking Tool for Protected Area Management Effectiveness" (developed by the Alliance with the World Commission on Protected Areas [WCPA]) by the GEF to monitor GEF-funded projects and its implementation in a number of Alliance-funded monitoring programs around the world will result in an increase in hectares of **protected areas under improved management**. The total portfolio of the Alliance partners directed at improving the management effectiveness of existing protected areas covers about 70 million hectares. More than 40 million hectares of these areas have been assessed with the tracking tool. IBAMA (Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis), the Brazilian environmental agency, is using the tool as its method of monitoring the level of management effectiveness of protected areas under the ARPA program. This single program will eventually encompass 40 million hectares of new protected areas and pre-existing parks being effectively managed. Recently agreed and funded landscape-level initiatives in the Congo Basin forests will similarly contribute to improved management of an increasing portion of this globally important region.

continued

INTRODUCTION: MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ALLIANCE TARGETS



Ghana GFTN Coordinator assesses the forestry operations of an applicant company.

INTRODUCTION: MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ALLIANCE TARGETS

As with the target on effective management of protected areas, the Alliance's depth of engagement in projects to increase the amount of hectares of **production forests under independently certified sustainable management** is only partially reflected in current progress toward the target. The present 20 million hectares of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)–certified forest in World Bank client countries represents only a fraction of the areas engaged in a stepwise process toward responsible management that have benefited from Alliance technical support and application of Alliance methodologies. Since its founding, the Alliance has played a leading role in contributing to understanding the multi-stage, multistakeholder process that is required before certification can be achieved. Alliance-supported programs such as WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) are applying this lesson by leading companies and communities through a monitored, time-bound approach to achieving certification. Field tests of the Questionnaire for Assessing the Comprehensiveness of Certification Schemes/Systems (QACC), discussed later in this report, will improve this tool and assist in the identification of best practices and key attributes for developing good national certification standards as a basis to improve technical assistance and support provided by WWF, the Bank, the Alliance, and other partners. The Bank is also well placed to proactively support improvements in forest management with its revised Forest Strategy and Operational Policy. Over the past year, the Alliance has seen an increase in the rate of production forests being brought under independently certified sustainable management. This rate is expected to continue to accelerate as a result of GFTN enrollment of producers in local forest and trade networks; Alliance programs supporting national working groups for development of national certification standards in China, Kenya, and Ukraine; and other World Bank– and Alliance-supported programs to improve forest governance, an essential precursor to reliable certification.

The Alliance focuses its work in line with two underlying themes:

- target-driven activities with the potential to deliver significant benefits in terms of on-the-ground progress
- learning and capacity-building activities that help shape the attitudes and agendas of institutions with a major stake in the way the world's forests are governed and managed

The COMIFAC Ministerial Conference—Yaoundé + 5 Summit

At the core of the Yaoundé Declaration is the recognition that forest conservation and sustainable use require a regional approach and coordinated policies that extend beyond national boundaries. To assist with this approach, the heads of state at the original Yaoundé meeting agreed to hold a summit on regional coordination every five years.

The Alliance supported technical analyses and background studies in preparation for the first Yaoundé + 5 summit (February 2005, Brazzaville, Congo) convened by the Conference of Ministers for the Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC).

Anticipated outcomes of the summit included

- signing of an accord allowing free movement of park staff between Cameroon, Central African Republic and Republic of Congo in the Sangha Tri-National Conservation Area, enabling park staff to work across international borders to fight poaching and illegal logging
- establishment of a trust fund for the long-term management of the Trinational de la Sangha area and other mechanisms for long-term, sustainable financing of Congo Basin forest conservation
- ratification of a tripartite accord for the “TriDOM” landscape incorporating protected areas totaling more than 14 million hectares in Cameroon, Congo, and Gabon
- endorsement of the Plan de Convergence, an operational plan for transboundary cooperation on 13 priority landscapes in the Congo Basin that recognizes traditional and indigenous rights
- signing of a treaty by the presidents of 10 Central African nations (Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, Sao Tome and Principe, Rwanda, and Burundi) legally recognizing the COMIFAC as the only decision making body on forests for the Central African Region

THE ALLIANCE IN ACTION

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: Africa

Toward an Effective Protected Areas Network in the Congo Basin

Support for the Yaoundé process has been a priority for the Alliance over the last several years. A visionary, transboundary effort to coordinate approaches to forest sector management among the countries of Africa's Congo Basin, the process was initiated by an agreement among the heads of state of six Congo Basin countries at a 1999 summit meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon. That first summit was envisioned by WWF, the World Bank, and partners working with the Alliance, and it was made possible by Alliance support.

The Yaoundé Declaration that resulted from the summit, a 12-point strategy guiding the efforts of the respective countries, has continued to guide forest conservation and sustainable use projects across the region, and it has served to focus continued Alliance support in the region. The Congo Basin Forest Partnership, a program of the U.S. Department of State announced at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development with a five-year commitment of US\$53 million, is built to a large extent on the operational framework and political commitment developed in the Yaoundé process.

Roughly 3.5 million hectares of protected areas have been established in the Congo Basin since the 1999 Yaoundé summit.



BaAka people performing a traditional dance, Central African Republic.

Target-Driven Activities in the Field:

Africa

(continued)

The Alliance is continuing support for World Bank and WWF staff in the region to analyze the outcomes of the summit and bring the vision of the Yaoundé Declaration and the Brazzaville summit to fruition by assisting signatory countries in mobilizing funds for protected area management and accelerating progress on specific initiatives. Alliance support is enabling World Bank and WWF staff in the region to strengthen the enabling conditions—including support for sustainable financing for protected areas, business planning for protected areas, and incorporation of natural resource data into national-level planning processes—that help ensure the long-term conservation of forests in the Congo Basin and implement a dynamic communications plan to ensure that the Congo Basin nations involved renew their commitment to forest conservation and to addressing persistent threats such as illegal logging and wildlife trade.

Special Report: *Towards an Effective Protected Areas Network in Africa*

An ecologically representative network of effectively managed protected areas can make an essential contribution to the sustainable development of Africa, maintaining biodiversity, environmental services, and the livelihoods of local communities. Global agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Desertification stress the importance of setting aside areas for ecological and environmental reasons.

However, serious threats to Africa's protected areas have been highlighted in the last few years, including degradation, the uncontrolled bushmeat trade, illegal logging, and mining incursions. Many governments have been struggling with the challenges of improving protected area management, as highlighted in 2003 at the African Forest Law and Governance conference.

To focus attention on contemporary African experience with assessment of management effectiveness of protected areas, the Alliance supported the report, *Towards an Effective Protected Areas Network in Africa*. The report focuses on case studies from a number of African countries and recommends

10 strategies for governments to build capacity for effective protected area management. Formulating effective approaches to community engagement and comanagement of protected areas is a central theme of the report. The report concludes by recommending five actions that WWF and the World Bank are implementing to support improved management in Africa, including protected area system assessments, development of baseline data and tracking systems, integrating approaches in wider landscapes, designing effective methods for monitoring ecological integrity, and building productive partnerships with commercial companies (such as local banks, timber companies, oil and mining companies, and agricultural companies) that are in a position to play a role in the effective management of protected areas.

**Target-Driven Activities
in the Field:
Africa
(continued)**

The Independent Forest Concession Monitoring System in Central Africa

The forests of the Congo Basin contain more than half of Africa's animal species, including most of the forest elephants left on the continent and the entire world population of the lowland gorilla. They also provide food, materials, and shelter to some 20 million people. Estimates indicate that the region loses 1.5 million hectares of forests—about half the size of Belgium—each year, mainly as a result of illegal and destructive logging. If present trends continue, two-thirds of the Congo Basin forests could be lost within 50 years.

With support from the World Bank and WWF, the Global Forest Watch (GFW) initiative of the World Resources Institute (WRI) and partners have been seeking ways to engage the efforts of leading forest companies in the region. WRI-GFW is attempting to unite diverse forest sector stakeholders into a partnership aimed at monitoring the performance of forestry operations against a set of indicators through a system called the Forest Concession Monitoring System for Central Africa (FORCOMS).

To initiate the process of setting up the system, GFW—in collaboration with the Interafrican Forest Industries Association (IFIA), World Conservation Union (IUCN), and WWF—convened a two-day workshop in Douala, Cameroon, in March 2004 to discuss the FORCOMS system and move toward agreement on a set of indicators of legality and sustainable forest management. The workshop received support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), World Bank, U.S. Forest Service, and the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Since the workshop, partners have gone on to refine the indicators and seek funding for future large-scale implementation of FORCOMS. In coming months, WRI-GFW and partners will conduct field tests of FORCOMS in three Central African countries.

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: East Asia and the Pacific

China's Wood Market, Trade and the Environment

China is a major player in the global forest products market, both as a producer and a consumer. China's market for industrial timber, pulp, and paper is the second largest in the world, surpassed only by the U.S. market. Despite the voracious appetite for forest products of China's manufacturers and exporters, the country has a relatively small area of high-productivity forest; logging bans and restrictions have further cut Chinese timber production.

With Alliance support, in 2004, WWF completed a study of the Chinese trade in forest products. This study, *China's Wood Market, Trade and the Environment*, shows that China's own forests and plantations produced about 79 million cubic meters of wood for industrial use in 2003, less than half of the 173 cubic meters required by its various industries. The study also shows that China is likely to continue to face a severe shortage of wood in the coming decades, with imports expanding dramatically to meet this demand.

China's expanding demand for wood is stimulating forest enterprise in many diverse regions. In areas of frontier forest with poor forest governance, increased exports to China could result in unsustainable and illegal logging.

The report presents four broad strategies to reduce the potential negative impacts of China's wood products market on the environment: (1) strengthened official environmental protection initiatives within China; (2) promotion of environmentally responsible wood production in resource-rich areas of China where logging is currently banned; (3) possible reforms to improve the efficiency of wood production, distribution, and use in China; and (4) measures to encourage imports and purchases of wood produced legally from well-managed forests.

Developing forest certification standards in China

Established in 2001 with Alliance support, the national working group on forest certification in China has made significant progress in promoting forest certification. Support from the Alliance and the Ford Foundation has enabled the group to help shape debate on certification in China, and to build a basic understanding of certification issues and the political and technical challenges associated with implementing certification among government, academia, industry, donors, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and certifiers.

Tangible results of the national working group include two FSC-certified forests and more than 60 chain-of-custody certified companies in China, high-level support for certification from the government, training on high-conservation-value forests and legal compliance resulting from cooperation between WWF and the Swedish company IKEA, and agreement among stakeholders to develop a forest certification standard for China. In 2004, three forest bureaus in northeast China decided to apply for FSC certification for forests totaling 800,000 hectares.



Loading trees illegally harvested in the Tesso Nilo region, Sumatra, Indonesia.

Moving forward, the Alliance is supporting WWF-China and partners to enhance the capacity of the national working group to develop a supporting work plan for the national certification standards, set up an expert committee to oversee development of the standards, and draft the standards.

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: East Asia and the Pacific (continued)

Illegal logging and forest law enforcement assessment in Indonesia

Over the last three years, the Alliance has supported a comprehensive assessment of illegal logging and law enforcement in order to determine realistic and effective prevention, detection, and suppression measures to curb illegal logging in Indonesia. This project is meant to help identify priorities and develop options for actions by various stakeholders and make recommendations to help strengthen forest law enforcement.

Indonesia is endowed with about 105 million hectares of forest, much of which WWF studies have recognized to be among the most biodiverse in the world. These forests not only provide habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna, but also play a pivotal role in supporting economic development, the livelihoods of the rural poor, and the provision of environmental services. Despite these attributes, Indonesia has lost more than 25 percent of its forest cover over the last 50 years.

Since the last reporting period, this Alliance-supported project has resulted in the development of a comprehensive strategy for dealing with illegal logging in Indonesia and improving law enforcement. These elements are summarized in a 13-point action program to build consensus among stakeholders and implement initiatives aimed at prevention, detection, and suppression of illegal logging over a two-year period. Moving forward, project executors will focus on working with the Indonesian government and other key stakeholders to adopt the action program.



Javan rhinoceros, Java, Indonesia

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: East Asia and the Pacific (continued)

Responsible forest management in Indonesia

The International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Pengembangan Usaha (PENSA) program seeks to help Indonesian furniture and home accessory manufacturers develop new market opportunities for their forest products. In Indonesia, PENSA and WWF's GFTN are collaborating on three pilot projects—three separate supply chains of forest products—by offering technical assistance and support. The businesses participating in the pilot programs are receiving assistance to improve sawmill recovery, implement chain-of-custody systems, and link to producers undertaking a stepwise approach to certification.

One of the pilot projects focuses on furniture makers in Java. Europe and the United States are major markets for teak furniture from Java, and they increasingly demand certified products ensuring that wood is sourced in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Many furniture makers in Java have reacted to the demand and obtained chain-of-custody certification. However, these industries are unable to source certified wood from Java and are now importing teak from other countries, such as Brazil, to meet demands.

Within this context, WWF's GFTN has been working to promote responsible forest management in Java with local stakeholders. P. T. Bangun Sarana Wreksa, a furniture factory in Malang (East Java, Indonesia) has decided to try a new approach to meet market demand by becoming the first company to join the GFTN. P. T. Bangun Sarana Wreksa obtains its wood from Indonesian suppliers who are also working with the GFTN to achieve certification for their forest harvesting operations.

Pierre Dermawan, Director of P. T. Bangun Sarana Wreksa, explained, "Our company is the first strongly committed to sustainably manage forest resources. In order to fulfill the increasing market demand, we have to provide certified forest products. By joining WWF's GFTN we obtain assistance in selecting credible sources and gain access to the global market."

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: South Asia

South Asia is the focus of an increasing level of assessment and potential World Bank lending in coming years. Many of the projects that are the subject of potential lending will have implications for the forest sector.

The Bank is planning a scoping mission and multicountry assessment to identify possible lending opportunities in Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Maldives. Also, India may be the recipient of a major increase in lending from the World Bank and affiliated institutions in the forest and agriculture sectors.

The Alliance will track developments in this area to identify ways to mobilize technical support for WWF and World Bank staff working in the forest sector in



Hanuman langurs, Sal Forest, Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal

these countries, and to help implement the Bank's social and environmental safeguards for the forest sector.

Terai Arc: Progress in the face of turmoil

Since 2001, WWF-Nepal has received Alliance support to collaborate with the Nepali Department of Forests, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, and numerous local communities and NGOs to involve these diverse partners in a broad forest conservation strategy in the Terai Arc landscape. The Terai Arc is a 1,500-kilometer crescent of forests and grasslands shared by India and Nepal that includes 11 fragmented protected areas surrounded by managed forests. The Terai Arc program plans, implements, and monitors activities within protected areas and in the buffer zones outside the protected areas.

For the managers of the Terai Arc program, fiscal 2004 was a time of turmoil marked by widespread political unrest and intensification of insurgent movements. Despite the critical security situation throughout the country, program executors reported satisfactory results on targeted activities. In particular, the Nepal Strategic Plan for the Terai Arc received endorsement from the government of Nepal in February 2004.

Major activities carried out in this reporting period included preparation of community forest operational plans, as well as a wide range of training activities for community forest management units. The program also built conservation awareness among the communities and stakeholders of the Terai Arc landscape by offering outreach activities on World Environment Day. Information dissemination activities included participation in a community radio program, a documentary broadcast by Nepal Television, and publication of a newsletter.

In 2005, the Terai Arc program will also feature a focus on income-generating activities for nonwood forest products (NWFPs).

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: South Asia (continued)

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: Europe and Central Asia

High-conservation-value forests workshop in Croatia

The Alliance recognizes that the concept of high-conservation-value forests (HCVF) can be a useful tool for ensuring a balance between sustainable economic growth and the responsible management of forests. This balance makes HCVF an important tool for achieving Alliance targets in Eastern European countries with forest harvesting industries.

To guide the effective application of HCVF as a useful tool in the region, the Alliance supported a workshop in Croatia to assist in developing practical HCVF definitions for national (or subnational) certification standards, investing in lowering the costs of HCVF mapping, promoting integration of HCVF in national forest inventories, and using the HCVF approach as a transparent, participatory means of identifying potential protected areas in certain countries.

The workshop participants (which included WWF and World Bank representatives from the region, environmental organizations, academics, and government representatives) recommended regional priorities for the coming two to three years included adapting HCVF tools for northwest Russia, supporting landscape HCVF mapping in Croatia, promotion of HCVF methodology in national forest industry plans in Georgia, developing HCVF tools and management recommendations for Romania and Bulgaria, and publishing and promoting HCVF tools in the southern Caucasus (Turkey and Georgia).

WWF will support the project by conducting HCVF mapping, field projects, and capacity building with partners, and the World Bank will focus on helping national and provincial governments and forest agencies to develop national forest standards and policies, improve baseline forest inventories, and develop systems to better capture and reflect the HCVF concept in forest management planning. The Alliance will facilitate funding to support exchange of experience

between HCVF practitioners, including a European HCVF technical working group, a Web-based bulletin of technical notes, and a summary publication of practical experiences.

A national working group on certification standards in Ukraine

In recent years, the Ukrainian forest products industry has observed, along with increasing demand for Ukrainian forest products, an increased demand for confirmation of ecological origin of forest products. In the absence of any national standard for certification that would be the basis for responsible forest management and forest certification in Ukraine, the Alliance provided funding and technical support for the establishment of a national working group on certification



Children from a forest-dependent community, Caucasus region.



Treefrog (Hyla arborea schelkownikowi) in lowland forest is endemic to the Caucasus.

standards in Ukraine to be coordinated by National Agriculture University and GFA Terra Systems, a consultant with experience coordinating similar projects in Eastern Europe.

Consultations with critical stakeholders such as the State Committee of Forestry, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the State Service of Reserves, the Central Trade Union of Forestry Workers, the Association of Foresters, and environmental NGOs led to an initial workshop in February 2004 that was attended by representatives of research and educational institutions, environmental NGOs, and trade associations. This workshop in turn led to the establishment of a national working group on certification.

An intensive year of consensus building and examination of the roles of national working groups in the FSC system resulted in presentation of the first version of draft certification standards for Ukraine at a November 2004 meeting. Next steps, including activities for reaching out to various Ukrainian regions, were discussed.

Significant challenges to the national working group remain. The certification of four enterprises in the Polissja region made it apparent that forest management practices will require considerable adaptation in order to meet certification requirements. Because no experience has been gained with chain of custody for individual forest products enterprises, it is anticipated that additional support will be necessary to improve capacity for tracking products as required for credible certification.

Moving forward, the Ukrainian national working group on certification standards will address these challenges through promotional and informational activities aimed at raising awareness about the concept and benefits of forest certification in Ukraine, increasing knowledge of the forest sector and wood products in key certification-sensitive markets, and familiarizing buyers in external markets with the Ukrainian forest products industry.

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: Europe and Central Asia (continued)

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: Europe and Central Asia (continued)

The Questionnaire for Assessing the Comprehensiveness of Certification Schemes/Systems

Last year, we reported that the Alliance had developed the Questionnaire for Assessing the Comprehensiveness of Certification Schemes/Systems (QACC), a tool to provide a common and systematic framework for Alliance managers to evaluate different certification systems in use by Alliance partners against a common set of good practice principles that are consistent with the Bank and WWF's operational policies. The QACC was developed in response to the growing number of certification schemes and systems that can now be found in virtually all regions of the world where commercial tree harvesting takes place. As a result of this growth and the increase in forest area under certification, to credibly and objectively measure progress toward the Alliance's certification target, the Alliance needs a means of assessing which schemes are consistent with the principles that underlie the Alliance partners' operational policies.

During the current reporting period, the Alliance initiated a major regional project to field-test the QACC in six countries of Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, and Russia). WWF has commissioned a parallel testing process in six Western European countries (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom). The primary objective of both studies is to evaluate the questionnaire's utility when applied under a variety of situations on the ground and make refinements based on the findings from this practical field-testing experience. The tests will use the QACC to evaluate two forest certification schemes that are in wide use: the FSC and the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) in terms of their consistency with Alliance-endorsed principles and criteria for determining acceptable certification systems.

To undertake the field testing in an open, fair process, the Alliance management retained an independent consultant, ProForest, to conduct the testing; informed the FSC and PEFC of plans to undertake the testing and invited them to participate in the process; and appointed an independent, multisector review panel to oversee the process and ensure technical rigor and objectivity.

When completed, it is expected that the results of the field testing will enable the Alliance to evaluate and improve the questionnaire so that it can provide a systematic mechanism for helping to assess which activities supported by WWF and the World Bank either individually or collectively can be counted as contributions toward the Alliance's certification target. The results of the assessments will also be used to help identify best practices and key attributes for developing national certification standards as a basis to improve technical assistance and support provided by WWF, the World Bank, and the Alliance.



Tropical rainforest in Nicaragua's North Atlantic Autonomous Region

Protected areas in the Brazilian Amazon

One of the Alliance's flagship projects, ARPA, saw many important steps forward in creating conditions in which the project can function effectively. Monthly review meetings involving donors and implementing agencies were initiated, and WWF, the World Bank, and the German Development Bank (KfW) worked closely with the project coordination unit of the Brazilian government and Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO) to help facilitate decision making for this complex undertaking.

As a result of this strong administrative foundation, ARPA generated real results in terms of the creation of new protected areas. ARPA has added new protected areas totaling 8 million hectares to the system of Amazonian protected areas in Brazil. Several new protected areas were created in the current reporting period, including the Riozinho do Afrisio and Verde para Sempre extractive reserves, which total over 2 million hectares and will benefit approximately 2,600 families. ARPA resources are also being targeted to strengthen 12 additional parks, ecological stations, and biological reserves covering 7 million hectares.

The government of Brazil launched its plan to control Amazon deforestation, an effort designed to bring interministerial coordination to the challenges posed by the continued high rates of deforestation. Recognizing the critical role of protected areas in controlling the spread of deforestation and calling for the declaration of some 13 million hectares of new protected areas in highly threatened areas, the plan identified ARPA as the mechanism for the creation and funding of these protected areas.

The Brazilian Ministry of the Environment committed to using the Alliance tracking tool for monitoring the management effectiveness of protected areas as the baseline monitoring tool for ARPA. WWF-Brazil will translate the tool into Portuguese, and IBAMA will apply the tool annually to all protected areas in the ARPA program.

A tracking program to facilitate trade in legal forest products

Nicaragua and Peru are home to large blocks of forest designated for harvesting. In partnership with Alliance- and USAID-funded programs in both countries,

Target-Driven Activities in the Field: Latin America and the Caribbean

Partnerships for Responsible Forestry

The Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) is WWF's initiative to eliminate illegal logging and improve the management of valuable and threatened forests. By facilitating trade links between companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry, the GFTN creates market conditions that help conserve the world's forests while providing economic and social benefits for the businesses and people that depend on them. The GFTN is an affiliation of national and regional forest and trade networks, each consisting primarily of companies committed to practicing or supporting responsible forestry.

**Target-Driven Activities
in the Field:
Latin America and
the Caribbean**
(continued)

WWF's GFTN is working with more than 100 companies to comply with the requirements of new forestry laws in both countries. Although much of this work is focused on the technical aspects of responsible forest management (conducting forest inventories and developing sustainable management plans), more attention is being paid to building commercial links with buyers who increasingly request documentation that wood supplied by Nicaraguan and Peruvian firms comes from legal, well-managed, or certified sources.

In 2004, WWF developed a custom software program for tracking wood in Nicaragua. The program is based on governmental procedures; processing steps for sawmill, plywood, and furniture manufacturing industries; transportation, and CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) procedures. The program was developed in collaboration with WWF–Central America and the GFTN with funding from the Alliance and USAID-Nicaragua. The program is being used by the Nicaraguan government and industry to facilitate legal trade.

The Nicaraguan model will be applied in Peru in 2005 with the participation of Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA), the Peruvian Association of Exporters (Asociación de Exportadores [ADEX]), key companies receiving technical assistance from the WWF-USAID Centro de Desarrollo Forestal (CEDEFOR) project, and key importing companies in the United States that are members of International Wood Products Association (IWPA).

A stepwise approach to certification for communities and companies in Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan Mosquitia is part of the broader Honduran-Nicaraguan Mosquitia complex, the largest, least populated, and most intact forest area in Central America. The Nicaraguan Mosquitia is that country's main source of tropical hardwoods for both internal and external markets, and it is under increasing pressure to provide jobs and revenues for the forest sector. To date, there are no certified operations in this region (or anywhere in Nicaragua), because it is considered autonomous under Nicaraguan law and governed in part by indigenous governments.

Nicaragua's FSC national working group recently completed a four-year process to develop national certification standards. NGOs, government officials, and the forest industry received substantial attention during this process, but there was relatively little focus on indigenous landowners or small logging companies that supply most of the wood to larger companies for export products. With Alliance support, World Bank and WWF staff, along with numerous partners, are carrying out community workshops in the Miskito and Sumo languages to increase awareness about the certification process and standards; the workshops feature an emphasis on HCVF and group certification. This is a critical step because virtually all manufacturing firms interested in certification purchase from these landowners.



Miskito Indians rowing downriver on a dugout canoe loaded with bananas. La Mosquitia, Honduras.

Impacts of the project are expected to include greater understanding of the FSC certification system by both industrial and community-level forest products organizations in Nicaragua, practical commitments to the FSC system by landowners in the Mosquitia that would ultimately lead to certification of at least 100,000 hectares, increased national investment in responsible forest management in the Mosquitia, stronger links of Nicaraguan producers to markets for responsible forest products, and greater stability for forest sector workers.

Support for Fundación Biosfera

The Reserva del Hombre y Biosfera del Rio Platano, which is part of the Honduran-Nicaraguan Mosquitia complex, forms part of the largest remaining tract of rainforest in Central America. The conservation and sustainable use of the reserve is the concern of a variety of government agencies and NGOs, including Fundación Biosfera.

Fundación Biosfera, an organization dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of the reserve, looked to WWF–Central America for assistance in increasing its capacity to contribute to the management of the reserve. An Alliance grant enabled WWF to coordinate with other environmental NGOs to develop a training program for the management of Fundación Biosfera. The training and support program was aimed at helping Fundación Biosfera to develop a fund to channel financial resources to conservation activities in the Honduran Mosquitia, as well as evaluating and administering a grant and loan program focusing on small-scale forestry operations in the region. Through contact with WWF and the other organizations, the Fundación Biosfera was also put in contact with potential donors interested in conservation projects in the region.

Expected impacts from this project are strengthened indigenous organizations that can engage communities in sustainable forest management programs, formalized coordination to develop a long-term funding mechanism for indigenous forest management activities in Honduras, and clear protocols for administering activities with indigenous communities in the Honduran Mosquitia.

**Target-Driven Activities
in the Field:
Latin America and
the Caribbean
(continued)**



Sustainable forest management training in Nicaragua's North Atlantic Autonomous Region

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LEARNING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

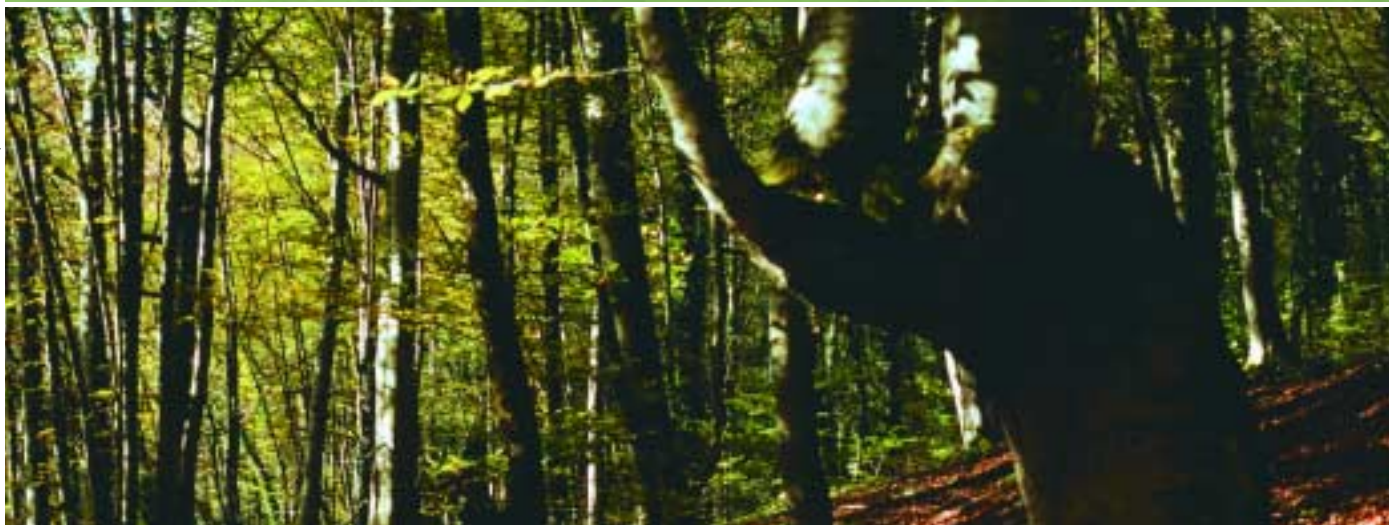
Private Sector Investment in the Forest Sector

Private foreign direct investment (FDI) in the forest sector considerably exceeds official development assistance. In recent years, forest financing has been characterized by an increase in FDI in developing countries to approximately US\$8–10 billion a year, with a decline in official development assistance to the sector to US\$1.75 billion a year. Current levels of investment in the forest sector, both domestic and foreign, fall far short of the level necessary to realize the potential of well-managed forest resources to contribute to poverty alleviation, the protection of vital environmental services, and sustainable economic growth in developing and transition countries.

These patterns point to the need for action to be taken to create an enabling environment more conducive to responsible private investment in the forest sector. To address this issue, the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), WWF, Forest Trends, the IFC, and the Program on Forests (PROFOR) organized the Forest Investment Forum in October 2003 to

- identify opportunities for investments in environmentally and socially sustainable forestry in developing and economic transition countries,
- consider actions that the World Bank Group and forum participants could take to create an enabling environment for responsible private sector investment, and
- explore the willingness of forum participants to support a process to develop clearly defined and mutually compatible social, economic, and environmental investment guidelines specific to the forest sector.

Key perspectives at the forum were offered by more than 150 senior representatives from the forest industry, conservation organizations, the financial community, and experts on business-community partnerships. The forum provided an opportunity for discussion of the Alliance-supported *Guidelines for*



Natural forest in the foothills of the eastern Caucasus.

Investment in Operations that Impact Forests, which covers a range of issues, from forest conservation to respect for local communities and indigenous peoples' rights, and also contains recommendations for World Bank operating and governance procedures.

Forum organizers and participants reached agreement on the necessity of finding ways of investing that address forest conservation while supporting social measures, and at the same time addressing the expanding demand for wood products. There was a consensus on the need for investment safeguards, both as an incentive to responsible investment and as a deterrent to unsustainable and destructive activities.

Moving forward, the World Bank will host similar events at the regional and country levels; WWF will seek opportunities for collaboration with the IFC on supply chains in the wood processing sector and borrowers' time-bound action plans toward responsible forest management; means for working with development banks will be explored; and venues for providing information on responsible investment to a range of financial institutions will be developed.

The Importance of Forest Protected Areas to Drinking Water

A study commissioned by the Alliance as part of its learning and capacity building initiative shows that protecting forest areas provides a cost-effective means of supplying many of the world's biggest cities with high-quality drinking water, providing significant health and economic benefits to urban populations.

The report, *Running Pure*, shows that more than one-third of the world's 105 biggest cities—including New York, Jakarta, Tokyo, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, Los Angeles, Barcelona, Nairobi, and Melbourne—rely on fully or partly protected

LEARNING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES



BaAka woman making a basket, Central African Republic.

© WWF-Canon / Martin HARVEY

LEARNING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

forests in catchment areas for much of their drinking water. Well-managed natural forests minimize the risk of landslides, erosion, and sedimentation. They substantially improve water purity by filtering pollutants, such as pesticides, and in some cases capture and store water. According to the report, adopting a forest protection strategy can result in massive savings. It is, for example, much cheaper to protect forests than to build water treatment plants.

Today, water-related diseases kill millions of people each year, and in urban areas with inadequate freshwater supply, poor sanitation, and bad hygiene practices, the infant mortality rate is 10-20 times the norm. With about half of the world's population currently living in towns and cities, these problems are likely to increase in the future as populations and cities continue to grow rapidly, the study further notes.

Water treatment and forest management authorities in the public sector have shown great interest in the conclusions of *Running Pure*. The Alliance will continue to use *Running Pure* as an important tool for informing stakeholders in forest and freshwater conservation, as well as public authorities, about the links between forest conservation and drinking water supplies.

"Conserving whole catchment areas to protect water supplies for cities provides a good example of how investing in the environment benefits both people and nature," said David Cassells, Senior Environmental Specialist for Forest Resources with the World Bank and Cochair of the Alliance. "For many cities, time is running out. Protecting forests in key water catchment areas is no longer a luxury but a necessity. When they are degraded or gone, the costs of providing clean and safe drinking water to urban areas will increase dramatically."



Indigenous family in Nicaragua's North Atlantic Autonomous Region

As those of you who have followed the Alliance know, it was born of a shared recognition by the World Bank and WWF of the scale, complexity, and urgency of the crisis threatening forests worldwide. The Bank is the largest provider of development assistance in the world. WWF is the largest and most experienced independent conservation organization operating on a global scale. The two organizations forged an alliance so that their collective strengths could more effectively address the linkages between forest conservation and poverty reduction.

In December 2005, the initial memorandum of understanding that gave the Alliance its mandate will expire. In anticipation of this milestone, the Alliance management team has undertaken an extensive consultative exercise with World Bank and WWF staff, as well as external constituents including development agencies, conservation organizations, foundations, and academics, to help analyze important lessons learned over the history of the Alliance since its founding in 1998 and help formulate recommendations on the future of the Alliance. The Alliance management team thanks the many people who have participated in this process.

The primary purpose of this exercise has been to find and formulate answers to some fundamental questions: (1) Has the Alliance delivered on the promise out of which it was born? (2) Can the Alliance be successful in a world of mounting challenges and changing trends? (3) How can the Alliance build on its successful experience to align activities with the Millennium Development Goals?

It has become clear that the Alliance has been a key player in some of the most important forest conservation programs initiated since 1998:

- The announcement of ARPA by the president of Brazil at the World Summit on Sustainable Development was made in response to the Alliance's challenge to the world to help it bring 10 percent of the world's forests under formal protection.
- The Alliance played a key role in facilitating the 1999 heads of state summit on forests in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and planning for the subsequent Yaoundé

CONCLUSION: THE ALLIANCE AT THE CROSSROADS

CONCLUSION: THE ALLIANCE AT THE CROSSROADS

+5 ministerial meeting in Brazzaville, Congo. The Yaoundé process is now an important component of the broader Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

- In the course of supporting progress toward its targets, the Alliance contributed to understanding of the processes underlying progress toward certification and effective management of protected areas and provided widely adopted tools to assist these processes.
- The Alliance had a fundamental influence on the development and adoption of the Bank's revised Forest Strategy and Operational Policy, including its emphasis on independent, transparent, performance-based certification and protection of critical forest areas.

Despite these important accomplishments, the Alliance faces growing challenges in implementing its agenda to support forest conservation and sustainable use while alleviating poverty. Ever-growing pressures on forests in low- and middle-income countries continue to mount as a result of population pressures, market forces, and agricultural patterns. According to Forest Trends, forest management authority is increasingly being decentralized to the control of local communities, with about 22 percent of all developing country forests owned and administered by communities. The forest certification "landscape" has become more complicated with the emergence of numerous certification schemes. Donor priorities have shifted in ways that make it more difficult to raise money strictly for environmental conservation.

In the face of these challenges, the Alliance can continue to initiate and encourage promising developments in forest conservation and use. There is an increasing convergence on the importance of forests and the impacts of their loss, degradation, conservation, and management among the various international environment agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). Trends such as the increasing recognition of the importance of socially just forest law enforcement and governance to realizing the potential contribution of forests in alleviating poverty, the increasing role of financial institutions and the use of social and environmental criteria to screen investments and assess risk, and the emergence of markets for environmental services for nonconsumptive uses of forests provide opportunities for the Alliance to work with a wide range of partners to achieve its goals.

Going forward, the Alliance management team is moving rapidly to apply the results of the consultative process and leverage the Alliance partners' comparative strengths to identify solutions to new challenges that reflect current realities. The Alliance management team looks forward to issuing a final report at the end of 2005 on the outcomes and accomplishments of the first phase of the World Bank-WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation & Sustainable Use and informing you of plans to carry forward the work of the Alliance. Updates and announcements will follow throughout the remainder of 2005.

Africa

- The COMIFAC Ministerial Conference–Yaoundé + 5 Summit
- Report: *Towards an Effective Protected Areas Network in Africa*
- Independent forest concession monitoring system in Central Africa

East Asia and the Pacific

- Report: *China's Wood Market, Trade and the Environment*
- Developing forest certification standards in China
- Illegal logging and forest law enforcement assessment in Indonesia
- Responsible forest management in Indonesia

South Asia

- Support for community forest management units in the Terai Arc, Nepal

Europe and Central Asia

- High conservation value forest workshop in Croatia
- National working group on certification standards in Ukraine
- Questionnaire for Assessing the Comprehensiveness of Certification Schemes/Systems, Eastern and Western Europe

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Amazon Region Protected Areas program, Brazil
- Tracking program to facilitate trade in legal forest products in Nicaragua
- A stepwise approach to certification for communities and companies in Nicaragua
- Support for Fundación Biosfera and the Reserva del Hombre y Biosfera del Rio Platano in Honduras

Learning and Capacity Building

- Forest Investment Forum: private sector investment in the forest sector
- Report: *Running Pure, the importance of forest protected areas to drinking water*

2004 FINANCIAL REPORT

Note: All figures are in U.S. dollars.

	I Bank (Core)	II Bank (BNPP)	III Bank (TFESSD)	IV WWF-US (Core)	V WWF-I (LCB)	VI WWF-I (DGF)	TOTAL FUNDS	%
Technical Supervision and Coordination	110,241	—	—	35,590	—	108,277	254,108	16
Learning, Capacity Building, and Communications	31,804	84,009	15,318	51,375	221,239		403,745	26
LCB (Research, Training)	10,042	39,500	4,318	14,592	221,239	—		
Communications	1,599	35,820	11,000	34,550		—		
Paris Round Table	20,164	8,689	2,233			—		
Regional Programs	42,872	116,665	221,363	212,061	—	163,583	756,544	50
Africa	33,555	164,493	66,968			52,703		
East Asia Pacific	5,249	44,665	21,870	50,000		32,220		
Europe Central Asia	2,672	—	—	40,000		64,220		
Latin America Caribbean	1,396	60,000	35,000	48,183		7,220		
South Asia	—	12,000	—	6,910		7,220		
Administrative/Indirect Costs	—	—	—	45,318	28,761	54,351	128,430	8
Total	184,917	200,674	236,681	344,344	250,000	326,211	1,542,827	100

I World Bank, core operating funds

II World Bank, Bank-Netherlands Partnership Program Trust Funds

III World Bank, multi-donor trust fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development

IV WWF-US, core operating funds

V WWF-I, supplementary DGF (see VI) grant for learning and capacity building

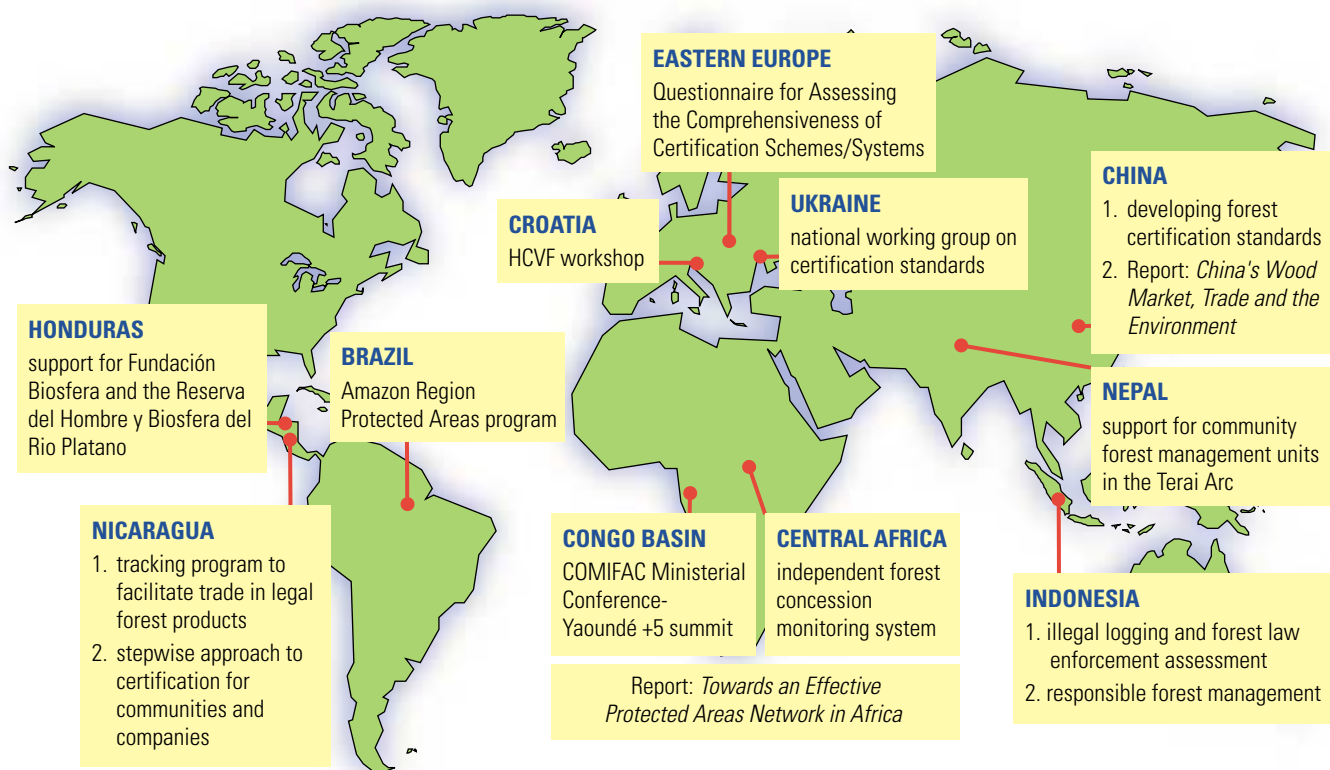
VI WWF-I, World Bank Development Grant Facility

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADEX	Asociación de Exportadores (Peru)
ARPA	Amazon Region Protected Areas program
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (USAID)
CCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CEDEFOR	Centro de Desarrollo Forestal
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
COMIFAC	Conference of Ministers for the Forests of Central Africa
FACCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FDI	foreign direct investment
FORCOMS	Forest Concession Monitoring System for Central Africa
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FUNBIO	Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (Brazil)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFTN	Global Forest & Trade Network (WWF)
GFW	Global Forest Watch (World Resources Institute)
HCVF	high-conservation-value forest
IBAMA	Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (Brazil)
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFIA	Interafrican Forest Industries Association
INRENA	Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (Peru)
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IWPA	International Wood Products Association
KfW	German Development Bank
NWFP	nonwood forest product
PEFC	Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PENSA	Pengembangan Usaha (IFC)
PROFOR	Program on Forests
QACC	Questionnaire for Assessing the Comprehensiveness of Certification Schemes/Systems
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WBCSD	World Business Council on Sustainable Development
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

REGIONAL
PROGRAM
MAP

ALLIANCE REGIONAL PROGRAMS



This map has been prepared exclusively for the convenience of the reader. The designations used and data depicted on this map do not imply any judgement on the legal status of any territory or any endorsement or acceptance of any boundaries.

The Alliance management team is tasked with coordination of Alliance activities, strategic planning, operational guidance, policy development, resource mobilization (fundraising, budgeting, and financial oversight), monitoring and evaluation, and research and development. The team consists of the Alliance cochair, central coordinators, lead technical advisers, communications coordinators, and regional coordinators for Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia. A core management team comprising the Alliance cochair and central coordinators is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Alliance.

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