



Woodmark News



Issue No. 6 Winter 2003

News

Happy Christmas from us all!

We are happy to report that 2003 has been another great year for Woodmark.

This year we have seen particular expansion in Chain of Custody certification, our activities in South America, South East Asia and in developing standards and certification procedures for non-timber forest products.

Over the summer we took part in the SLIMF field-trials for small & low-intensity woodlands that were running world-wide, and contributed our results to the new international guidelines due for release in early 2004.

We continue to support the development of the Soil Association organic forestry standard and look forward to implementing it next year.

Harry Potter Broomsticks

For the launch of the latest Harry Potter saga, Woodmark licensee Harrop Procter Community Forestry Co-operative (SA-FM/COC-1231) in British Columbia, Canada teamed up with Vancouver-based Raincoast Books to promote the use of recycled paper for book publishing by producing the World's first FSC-certified broomsticks. Forest Manager Ken Foot says that the Harry



Potter project came along because of the Co-op's FSC certified status, adding "These are the sort of market connections we were hoping would come our way once we achieved FSC certification"

With kind permission of 'The Province', 24.08.2003

Re-launch of the Woodmark Chain of Custody Programme

Woodmark CoC certification has started to grow over the last 6 months. Woodmark now has over 130 CoC certificate holders throughout the world & is placing significant importance on developing & improving the service to both new & existing clients.

Woodmark CoC certification is now being offered in the UK for the 1st time in 3 years, & this highly competitive market has reacted favourably to the arrival of a third FSC-certification body offering this service.

Woodmark has already had a considerable amount of interest for CoC certification from all sectors of the UK timber trade. We issued our first CoC certificate to Atkins & Cripps on August 20th 2003. Other areas where there has been considerable growth are Japan, Canada & Eastern Europe.

Woodmark has increased the range of services available to clients. We now offer CoC certification services for retailers, based on the current group & multiple site certification policies. We also offer project-based CoC certification for companies working on one-off or individual projects, where a 5 year certificate is not appropriate. Woodmark has developed these services in line with FSC's desire to make CoC certification more accessible to architects & specifiers and the timber trade in general.

The Woodmark CoC team would like to offer our Certificate holders a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to working with you again in 2004.

News/Events

SLIMF update: Woodmark re-designing FSC certification for small & low-intensity managed woodlands.

Throughout 2003 we have been pilot testing new certification procedures & standards designed especially for small or low-intensity managed woodlands (SLIMFs). The aim of the scheme is to re-think FSC certification in order to make it more accessible, affordable & relevant to SLIMF managers.

In partnership with the UK's State forestry body Forestry Commission, we visited 15 diverse woodland sites throughout the UK with a range of management objectives. *"The challenge was to reduce the time taken to carry out an audit without losing any of the rigour of the forest management evaluation"* said Vanessa Linforth, Woodmark Project Assistant.

Some of these modifications involved a complete re-working of the checklist & report format. Other changes involved supporting forest managers to carry out their own monitoring & stakeholder consultation, the results of which are presented at annual monitoring.

All 15 sites received full FSC procedure audits and reduced SLIMF procedure audits so that the results could be compared. In all cases, the SLIMF audits were found to be equally as rigorous as the full audits, identifying the same areas of non-compliance. In some cases the SLIMF audits were more systematic & rigorous.

Our results have now been submitted to FSC International's SLIMF technical committee who are hoping to finalise the SLIMF initiative for launch in early 2004.

Once the framework is fixed we will be offering world-wide SLIMF certification for both individual sites & groups. We will also be developing SLIMF certification as a basis to providing organic & non-timber forest product (NTFP) certification.

If you would like more information about SLIMFs and how it can benefit your enterprise please contact Vanessa Linforth at: mlinforth@soilassociation.org

Woodmark People

Kevin Jones

Now Manager of the Woodmark programme and EcoSylva Ltd., Kevin has worked in habitat management for nature conservation bodies, managing forests and woodlands with nature conservation as a principal objective as well as for timber production in Kent, Essex, the Southwest and Wales. He has a B.Sc. in Ecological Science from Edinburgh University in 1984, an M.Sc. in Forestry from Oxford University in 1990 and gained full membership of the Institute of Chartered Foresters in 1993. He has worked both in the UK and overseas in developing countries, has been carrying out forest and chain of custody certification work since 1995 as well as undertaking other certification-related projects, training and capacity building projects elsewhere in the world. Kevin lives on a small organic stock farm and manages this in his spare time.



On a training exercise in Thuya forest, North Morocco.

Woodmark Projects

Put a cork in it!

Woodmark has been working with WWF Mediterranean Programme to introduce FSC certification as an effective tool to promote cork from well-managed forests in North Africa. A participatory training programme in FSC certification of cork oak forests has already begun in Tunisia with EU support, and will be expanded to Morocco in mid-December.

More than 15 billion cork stoppers are made every year to supply the international wine market, and over 80,000 people depend on the cork industry in Portugal, Spain, Algeria, Morocco, Italy, France and Tunisia, the main cork producing countries in the world. However the use of synthetic and screw-top stoppers is on the rise, and when opening a bottle of wine, consumers are increasingly likely to discover bottles with plastic stoppers. Letting this trend continue could lead to the disappearance of an entire economy and ecosystems that have co-existed for at least a thousand years in the Mediterranean, which supply more than 99% of the world's cork.

Cork oak forests support more than just the people directly involved in the cork industry. Livestock graze under the cork trees. People make honey from beehives in the forests, acorns are used for animal feed, and fruits and berries that grow in the understorey go into other local produce. Cork forests are one of the best examples of a sustainable agro-forestry system, where people use the natural resources around them while preserving the ecosystem's high environmental values. The cork forests are home to a rich variety of wildlife, including endangered species such as the Barbary deer (*Cervus elaphus barbarus*) in Tunisia, the Iberian imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) and the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in Spain and Portugal. The Iberian lynx, the world's most endangered big cat, is on the brink of extinction.



“The cork extraction tradition can survive, as long as demand for cork stays high; if not, the cork forests will disappear — and with them, a unique cultural and natural heritage”, said Pedro Regato, WWF Mediterranean Head of Forest unit.

FSC certification of cork oak forests can add value to cork by labelling the cork as coming from well-managed forests. This will be a tool to prevent the decline in use of cork and to promote the responsible management of cork oak forests. Adapted from WWF article.

Enquiries to: mrobson@soilassociation.org.

See www.panda.org/mediterranean or contact

nberrahmouni@wfmmedpo.org about WWF projects in this area.

New Woodmark Forest Management Certificates

Current Woodmark certificates are in the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Namibia, Malaysia, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, and U.K. For a full listing, please contact Woodmark directly.

Latest certificates issued are as follows:

Woodmark Licensee	Certificate code	Country	Area (ha)
Forest management + chain of custody			
Woodlot W0550	SA-FM/COC-1242	Canada	638
Woodlot W0588	SA-FM/COC-1243	Canada	660
Woodlot Stewardship Co-operative	SA-FM/COC-1264	Canada	235
Andrew Bronwin & Company Ltd.	SA-FM/COC-1216	UK	175
Owase City	SA-FM/COC-1263	Japan	3,274.53
The Woodland Trust	SA-FM/COC-1270	UK	15,242
Svenska Skogsforetagares Certifieringsgrupp (SSCG)	SA-FM/COC-1273	Sweden	275
Woodlot 0082	SA-FM/COC-1281	Canada	434
Coillte Teoranta - The Irish Forestry Board	SA-FM/COC-0706	Ireland	438,000
Iwaizumi Town Forest Group Scheme	SA-FM/COC-1289	Japan	5,316.17
English Nature	SA-FM/COC-1288	UK	50,400

New Woodmark Chain of Custody Certificates

Ravna	SA-COC-1232	Croatia	-
Urimori Lumber Co. Ltd.	SA-COC-1239	Japan	-
Tyee Timber Products Ltd	SA-COC-1244	Canada	-
North Enderby Timber	SA-COC-1245	Canada	-
Hudson Mitchell & Sons Lumber Inc	SA-COC-1246	Canada	-
Schindler Timber Framing	SA-COC-1247	Canada	-
Zirhelt Bros. Sawmilling	SA-COC-1248	Canada	-
Kintore Hills Milling & Sawing	SA-COC-1250	Canada	-
3D Wood Design	SA-COC-1251	Canada	-
Gaj Slatina	SA-COC-1252	Croatia	-
Gaj Vocin	SA-COC-1253	Croatia	-
Mondi Paper	SA-COC-1254	S. Africa	-
Lurand Investments Pty Ltd./Steincraft	SA-COC-1255	S. Africa	-
Woodfirst CC	SA-COC-1256	S. Africa	-
Geelhoutvlei Timbers	SA-COC-1257	S. Africa	-
Braai & Barbecue	SA-COC-1258	S. Africa	-
Bilokalnik	SA-COC-1259	Croatia	-
Valley City Manufacturing Ltd.	SA-COC-1260	Canada	-
Pro-ply Ltd	SA-COC-1261	Canada	-
Itochu Pulp and Paper Corp.	SA-COC-1262	Japan	-
Okude	SA-COC-1265	Japan	-
Ciprijanovic	SA-COC-1266	Croatia	-
Spin Valis	SA-COC-1267	Croatia	-
Arbutus Manufacturing Ltd	SA-COC-1268	Canada	-
Oculul Silvic Tg. Neamt	SA-COC-1269	Romania	-
Teru Corporation Ltd.	SA-COC-1271	Japan	-
Lignospol, s.r.o.	SA-COC-1272	Slovakia	-
Domeix Co. Ltd.	SA-COC-1274	Japan	-
Sekisui Techno Syoji East Japan	SA-COC-1275	Japan	-
CJ Graphics	SA-COC-1276	Canada	-
Bunshodo Printing Corporation	SA-COC-1277	Japan	-
Hokushinkizai Co.,Ltd.	SA-COC-1278	Japan	-
Atkins and Cripps Ltd.	SA-COC-1279	UK	-
Honda Commtec Inc.	SA-COC-1280	Japan	-
Honda Trading Corporation	SA-COC-1282	Japan	-
Borneo Tsang Furnishing Sdn. Bhd.	SA-COC-1283	Malaysia	-
Vima Lister A/S	SA-COC-1284	Denmark	-
Thuka	SA-COC-1285	Denmark	-
A.F. Ilas Gheorghe	SA-COC-1286	Romania	-
S.C. Natura Si Vieta Srl	SA-COC-1287	Romania	-

Planned Events for 2004

24th & 25th April 2004: Non Timber Forest Products Seminar, Scotland. Venue to be confirmed. Please contact Anita Agarwaal for details on 0131 666 2474.

If you are interested in forest management or chain of custody FSC-certification training for individuals or organisations please contact us at wm@soilassociation.org We are happy to design courses to suit your needs.

EcoSylva Ltd. is an environmental consultancy specialising in sustainable forestry projects world-wide. Based in the UK, EcoSylva Ltd. runs the Soil Association's Woodmark programme. If you would like further clarification or information relating to certification services, please contact Woodmark at wm@soilassociation.org or at the address at the foot of this newsletter.

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