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Global Timber Tracking Network News Vol. 1

Welcome to the new GTTN newsletter! We will update you bimonthly with news from the GTTN secretariat and from the international network of scientists, labs, timber operators, policy makers, NGO's and many more. Stay tuned!



GTTN Working Group Reports online now

Under "[Meetings](#)" in our document library you are now able to find three reports, resulting from fruitful and interesting discussions during the [GTTN Working Group meetings](#) in Washington D.C. on 19-20 October 2017. [More](#)





GTTN Testimonial interviews

How did forest legality and timber tracking become your field of interest? How can GTTN as an international network help practitioners and what do you expect from joining GTTN? Why do you personally endorse the network?

Check out the [testimonial interviews](#) with GTTN supporters [Charles Barber](#) (World Resources Institute), [Colomban MacDowall](#) (TRAFFIC) and [Harisoa Ravaomanalina](#) (University of Antananarivo, Madagascar). More will be published this month.

GTTN Regional Workshops

The first Regional Workshop of GTTN Phase 2 will take place on 27-28 June 2018 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The workshop will be organized in collaboration with GTTN Steering Committee Member [Marius Ekue](#) (Bioversity International). Key topics will be regional capacities and needs for capacity building, sampling, Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) as well as the discussion of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). More information will be published on the [GTTN Website](#) soon.



Update on development of GTTN lab finder

GTTN is developing a Service Providers Directory/lab finder in collaboration with [World Resources Institute \(WRI\)](#). Recently, GTTN coordinator European Forest Institute has received the code from the WRI prototype Service Provider's directory, and is evaluating the best course of action for the implementation of the service to be launched by GTTN2.

Reference Database to identify timber species and origin

The GTTN Secretariat has discussed with the team at University of Connecticut who manages the [TreeGenes database](#) that a GTTN user interface will be created into it, allowing customized user access management and deposition of data. The database will compile reference data geographically for the identification of the origin and species of timber products, for important (priority) species.

Combating illegal timber trade: Jo Van Brusselen's interview with Deutsche Welle

Jo Van Brusselen, principal scientist with the European Forest Institute and GTTN project coordinator, was interviewed by Deutsche Welle (DW) on illegal logging and related trade and asked to reflect on the government's as well as the consumers' potential to put an end to it. Read the full article [here](#).



Your contribution to the product scope of the EUTR

After assessing and evaluating the effectiveness and the success of the [European Timber Regulation](#) (EUTR) over the past two years, it had to be noted that the EUTR – although covering a great number of timber products – is still showing deficits in its inventory. The European Commission has therefore committed itself to launch an impact assessment in order to analyse the effectiveness of potential changes to the EUTR product scope. You can contribute to this public consultation by filling out the [online questionnaire](#) until 28th of April 2018. [More](#)

Wood DNA Analysis and Reference Data

What are the advantages of DNA wood analysis? How does the collection of reference data work and why is it so important? Why should companies invest in further wood analysis instead of only relying on certification? GTTN discussed these questions with [Celine Blanc-Jolivet](#), Researcher at Thünen Institute and leader of a GTTN task force dealing with wood DNA sampling, lab work and data analysis guidelines.

The video was shot and edited with a mobile phone and is the first of a series of mobile reporting videos introducing timber identification tools. [More](#)

GTTN recommending: Tropical Timber Atlas

The [Tropical Timber Atlas: Technological characteristics and uses](#) presents technical information for professionals who process and use temperate or tropical timber: operators in the wood industry, including producers (forest managers, operating companies etc.) and consumers (importers, traders, processors, architects etc.). The publication combines the main technical characteristics of 283 tropical species and 17 species from temperate regions most commonly used in Europe with their primary uses. It is available in French and in English. [More](#)



Please send your news and event contributions to GTTN Communications Manager [gesche.schifferdecker\(at\)efi.int](mailto:gesche.schifferdecker@efi.int)

The Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN) promotes the operationalisation of innovative tools for species identification and for determining the geographic origin of wood to verify trade claims. GTTN is coordinated by the European Forest Institute and is financed by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

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