Welcome to the new GTTN newsletter! We 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 Regional Workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon
To increase awareness amongst African stakeholders from the field of research, government and non-governmental institutions, development partners, and the private sector about the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN), and the growing potential of timber tracking techniques to help curb illegal logging in Africa, GTTN organized its Regional Workshop Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 27-28 June 2018. More

Joining forces: GTTN and CITES
The GTTN Secretariat joined the 24. CITES Plants Committee from 23-25 July 2018 to introduce the network and to discuss joint objectives and opportunities for collaboration. Together with the CITES WG on wood identification, many common interests were identified, e.g. the need for (CITES-listed) species prioritization and for a proper lab finder. The Working Group and GTTN also agreed to raise awareness of each other’s activities. More
Upcoming Network Events

- On 8-9 October 2018, the German Ministry for Food and Agriculture and GTTN partner Thünen Institute are organizing an international event on "Timber trade and the conservation of forests". The event aims at drawing conclusions from five years of experience with EU Timber Regulation and the Thünen Centre of Competence on the Origin of Timber. GTTN will be involved in discussions with ITTO, the European Commission (in the framework of the FLEGT plan), and US American authorities on the second day, targeting international audiences.

- Forest Legality Week, hosted by GTTN member WRI on 23-25 October 2018 in Washington, D.C., enables dialogue and inspires action and partnerships to more effectively implement and monitor timber trade legality and due diligence measures.

- The European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC) Conference will take place in the Tropical Garden in Paris on 25 November 2018.
GT TN Events: Where you can meet us

- **Interpol Global Forest Crime Conference, 4-6 September 2018**: GTTN secretariat was invited to represent the network in a panel on timber identification which will include panelists from World Resources Institute (WRI), Thünen Institute and the GTTN secretariat. GTTN is also joining a booth to promote timber identification work.
- **On 7-9 November 2018**, we will hold our next **Regional Workshop in Lima, Peru**, in collaboration with the Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana and GTTN members in the region. The Ministry of Environment in Peru (MINAM) supports the initiative. We are currently developing a concept note and will share more information on our website soon.

What GTTN can do for you

- **Species Prioritization list**: After sending out a GTTN species prioritization questionnaire, we got feedback e.g. from ITTO, Bogor Agricultural University Indonesia, Interpol, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, US Forest Service, Thünen Institute and others.
- **Future field missions**: inform us about your planned field trips so that other GTTN members can contact you if they want to join the trip to make sampling campaigns more cost and labour effective.
- **Call for posters**: send us your poster on your GTTN related work to inform the network on what is going on in the field. If we get enough responses, we will organise a virtual poster display on the website. That will give the chance to highlight your work and others can browse through the newest results, discussions and activities of the network.
- **Tell us your success stories**: We are always happy to share your stories on further development of wood ID methods, on sampling campaigns, on efficient law enforcement, etc.

Further news from and for the GTTN network
Sustainable sourcing can protect 5 Million ha of tropical forest

European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC) recently released a report stating that if seven European leading tropical timber-importing countries committed to 100% sustainable sourcing of primary tropical timber products, it would encourage sound forest stewardship of over 5 million hectares of tropical forest.

The subject of using data to grow the market for verified sustainable timber uptake will be discussed at the 5th annual European STTC conference Using data to drive market share in Paris on 25 October 2018. More

Potentials of wood DNA testing

GTTN partner WRI recently posted a blog article on how “DNA Testing Can Save Trees from Illegal Logging”. WRI highlighted that researchers will collect genetic samples from bigleaf maple trees in an effort to deter illegal logging. Instead of relying solely on professional scientists and law enforcement, outdoor enthusiasts from from southern California to British Columbia can also get involved. A field-data-gathering nonprofit called Adventure Scientists will train citizen science volunteers throughout bigleaf maple’s range to collect leaf and wood samples. More

Tali timber tracking using genetic markers

A University of Wageningen research article recently concluded that tali timber can be successfully tracked to the concession of origin by using genetic markers, but not by using isotopic composition. It also suggested that isotopic differentiation may be possible at larger spatial scales or with stronger climatic or topographic variation. Tali trees are a highly traded timber species in Africa. Thus, officials are trying to prevent illegal trade using species identification techniques, such as chemical analysis and wood structure analysis. More

General Data Protection Regulation

The European Union has recently implemented the GDPR. By joining the GTTN Network you have agreed to receive recent updates from the network’s activities. For the GTTN Newsletter, we do not use any data except your email addresses. Of course neither we nor Newsletter2Go, the German TÜV-certified Newsletter provider sell your data. In case you do not want to receive this newsletter anymore, please click "Unsubscribe" below.

Please send your news and event contributions to GTTN Communications Manager

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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.

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