

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a thick, light-colored wooden plank. The plank has a natural wood grain and a knot. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a workshop or construction site.

Alternatives to unsustainable  
plywood in the UK  
construction industry

**SETTING A NEW STANDARD:**

A photograph showing a wooden plank lying horizontally on a surface of plywood. The plank has the words 'PLANK 5' written on it in black marker. The plywood surface has a distinct flake pattern.

PLANK 5

**GREENPEACE**

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Kalimantan, Indonesia: a logging truck transports illegally logged timber through the remaining rainforest. ©Greenpeace/Davison

## INTRODUCTION

The world's ancient forests are in serious peril. A staggering 80% have already been destroyed or degraded and much of what remains is under threat from illegal and destructive logging.

The demand for timber from the international marketplace, including the UK, is a key driver in this destruction. This timber can be used for high value products like flooring or end up as 'throwaway' products like plywood. In recent years, Greenpeace has repeatedly exposed the use of illegal and unsustainable plywood from the threatened rainforests of the Brazilian Amazon, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea being used as hoardings around UK construction sites.

The construction industry uses nearly 70% of all the timber used in the UK.<sup>1</sup> It therefore has a vital role to play in preventing such rainforest destruction. Yet whilst a handful of companies are demanding that their plywood comes from responsible sources, the rest of the industry has yet to follow suit. This is despite the fact that there is no technical reason why, in the vast majority of applications, companies need to use tropical hardwood plywood, which often comes from illegal and destructive sources. In fact, there are locally sourced, environmentally and socially responsible alternatives, which are price competitive and of good quality, readily available in the UK marketplace.

This guide sets out why companies must respond to this issue as a matter of urgency. It shows how to avoid unsustainable plywood and also provides a step-by-step guide to obtaining socially and environmentally responsible timber, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Buying FSC certified timber is the best way to ensure your timber comes from responsible sources.



Papua New Guinea: Tribesman Pepsy Diabe stands amid the devastation of a recently logged mountainside. ©Greenpeace/Scheltema

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

### The destruction of ancient forests

The world's ancient forests have evolved over thousands of years into unique habitats for millions of plants and animals. It is also estimated that some 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihood, and 60 million indigenous people depend on them for their subsistence.<sup>2</sup>

Forests play a vital role in stabilising the world's climate and are critically important in the fight against climate change. Currently, it is estimated that a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions come from deforestation,<sup>3</sup> with the majority coming from tropical forests. In fact, Indonesia and Brazil now have the 3rd and 4th highest greenhouse gas emissions on the planet, largely as a result of forest destruction.<sup>4</sup> Forests also protect the structure of the soil and help to prevent erosion, silting of rivers and flooding. In mountainous areas they reduce the risk of landslides.

Yet ancient forests are being destroyed at a startling rate. Only 20% of the world's large intact forests remain, and it is estimated that half of this destruction has taken place in the last 30 years.<sup>5</sup> Alongside industrial-scale farming and, increasingly, climate change – which threatens the very survival of ancient forest ecosystems – illegal and destructive logging is a major threat to ancient forests.

### The UK buys forest destruction

Over 1.7 billion cubic metres of timber is harvested annually across the globe for industrial use,<sup>9</sup> with the UK importing around 50 million cubic metres of timber per year from around 80 countries.<sup>10</sup> In 2007, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) estimated that the UK was the third largest importer of illegal timber in the world, spending around £712 million a year on illegal wood.<sup>11</sup> And the problem does not stop there – much of the legal timber entering the UK also comes from destructive logging.

The Government has made many promises to tackle this trade, but there is currently no effective EU or UK legislation to stop illegal timber from entering the market. Whilst Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and progressive companies continue to lobby for clear rules, some industry sectors, such as DIY stores, are moving towards selling environmentally and socially responsible

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**Proportion of logging in key countries estimated to be illegal:**

**Indonesia:** 76–80%<sup>6</sup>  
**Brazilian Amazon:** 60–80%<sup>7</sup>  
**Papua New Guinea:** 70–80%<sup>8</sup>

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Tilbury Docks, London: Greenpeace brands pallets plywood from illegal logging of Indonesia's rainforest. ©Greenpeace/Davison

timber and some construction companies – including Carillion, Taylor Woodrow, Bovis Lend Lease and Balfour Beatty – have policies aimed at preventing the use of illegal and unsustainable timber on their sites. However, much of the rest of the industry is lagging far behind. Greenpeace has repeatedly exposed the use of illegal plywood from the rainforests of Brazil, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea on UK construction sites, including those belonging to the Government, despite its stated policy to use legal and preferably sustainable timber.

### Plywood: the heart of the matter

The UK is currently Europe's largest user of plywood. In 2006, the UK consumed 1.34 million cubic metres of plywood, more than Germany and the Netherlands combined. Of this total, around 750,000m<sup>3</sup> was from tropical sources.<sup>12</sup>

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**'Currently there is no measure available to the UK to stop forest products being imported on the grounds that some or all of the timber used in their manufacture may not have met the laws of a third country.'**  
 Barry Gardiner,  
 Biodiversity, Landscape and Rural Affairs Minister,  
 House of Commons,  
 October 2006

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## GREENPEACE EXPOSES ILLEGAL PLYWOOD

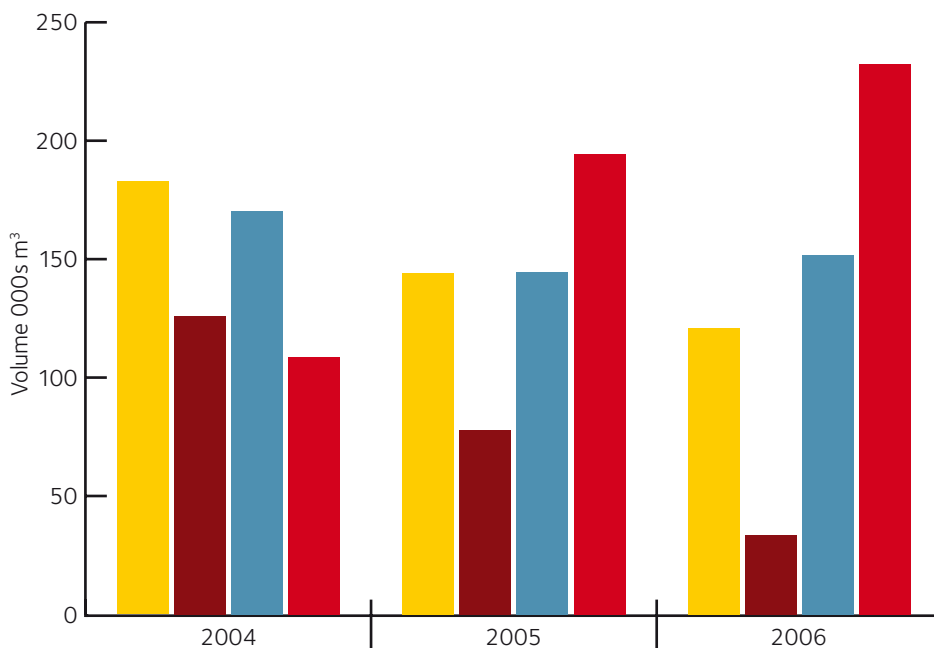
Greenpeace has been campaigning to end the use of illegal and destructive rainforest plywood since 2000:

**2000– Greenpeace exposes Amazon rainforest plywood being used on UK building sites, including at the British Museum, furniture store Heals and the Olympia Exhibition Centre and being sold at dozens of timber merchants, yards and depots around the country. As a result, many companies stop buying plywood from certain Brazilian companies.**

**2003– Greenpeace exposes illegal Indonesian plywood being used in the refurbishment of the Government's Home Office building in London. Soon after, major UK timber merchants, including Travis Perkins and Jewson, stop selling this plywood.**

**2006– The UK is swamped by imports of cheap Chinese plywood, faced with tropical veneers from the rainforests of Papua New Guinea. Greenpeace exposes the use of this plywood at both Admiralty Arch, the home of the Government's Cabinet Office [see box on page 5] and at the Houses of Parliament.**

As the graph below shows, whenever Greenpeace exposes the environmental and social impacts of illegal rainforest plywood from one part of the world, many plywood importers simply move on to source plywood from other countries with equally bad track records of forest destruction. In this way, the problem is driven from one rainforest to another.



Source - *Hardwood Plywood Imports to the UK from, by Selected Countries.*  
 TimberTrends, December 2006

**Key**  
 ● Brazil  
 ● Indonesia  
 ● Malaysia  
 ● China

## China: where the problem now lies

In the last decade, China has replaced the United States as the world's biggest timber importer. This is largely the result of China's logging ban in large areas of natural forest, the liberalisation of trade barriers and the massive growth of the Chinese timber processing industry, largely for export.<sup>13</sup>

According to figures from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), for every ten tropical logs shipped from the world's threatened rainforests, five are destined for China, making it the largest importer of rainforest destruction in the world.<sup>14</sup> China is also now the world's largest plywood producing and exporting country.<sup>15</sup>

Today, 45% of all UK hardwood plywood imports come from China<sup>16</sup>, despite there being virtually no certified tropical hardwood plywood available from the country. In January 2007, Chinese hardwood plywood was about 25-30% cheaper than Brazilian plywood and 30-40% cheaper than Indonesian and Malaysian products.<sup>17</sup>

In 2005, Greenpeace visited Chinese plywood mills, veneer mills and several traders selling plywood to the UK. All the traders investigated told Greenpeace that the rainforest timber in their plywood was imported through the port of Zhanjiang. In 2004, nearly 3 million cubic metres of tropical timber came through this port, with a reported declared value of €400

China: illegally logged meranti wood at a plywood mill. ©Greenpeace



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**'Chinese plywood is directly undermining companies who are trying to act responsibly by undercutting prices, without requiring proof the timber is from legal or responsibly managed forests.'**

Scott Poynton, Tropical Forest Trust, October 2005

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million.<sup>18</sup> Despite repeated requests, none of the traders of the mills investigated was able to provide documents indicating the legality or sustainability of the plywood they sold. In fact, the tropical timber found at the mills led Greenpeace to uncover a trail of destruction back to the rainforest of Papua New Guinea, which is being plundered with impunity by international logging companies in defiance of both national law and the rights of indigenous people, with crimes ranging from corruption to intimidation, torture and rape.

In a subsequent exposé, Greenpeace highlighted the ready availability of illegally logged plywood from the rainforests of Papua New Guinea on the UK market place by dumping a tonne of it outside the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The absence of credible proof of either legality or sustainability led a number of UK and other European timber traders to suspend trade in this product. In addition, the UK's Timber Trade Federation advised: *'in the absence of credible evidence of legality, that members should refrain from dealing in wood products made with timber from Papua New Guinea or the Solomon Islands.'*<sup>19</sup>

Despite this, Chinese plywood continues to flood the UK market.

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## CASE STUDY: THE ADMIRALTY ARCH FIASCO

In 2000 the UK Government introduced a timber procurement policy which required all departments and agencies to 'actively seek' to buy legal and sustainable timber. The policy, that applies to all wood used in Government contracts, should have meant the Government was playing a positive role in supporting the use of environmentally and socially responsible timber in the UK marketplace. However, a combination of weak guidelines and failed implementation means the impact of the Government's policy remains limited and Greenpeace has repeatedly exposed the Government and its contractors for using illegal timber on its construction projects.

In 2006, Allenbuild – part of Renew Holdings PLC – was awarded the contract to refurbish Admiralty Arch, home to the Cabinet Office and the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. Allenbuild, in turn, subcontracted the security company System Clad to install plywood hoardings as part of the refurbishment. Yet despite promises to use 'good' wood, a Greenpeace investigation identified bintangor and red canarium tropical hardwood-faced plywood, manufactured in China, being used for these hoardings. Both of these species are almost exclusively sourced from the rainforests of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Greenpeace took direct action at Admiralty Arch to highlight this. On the day of the action, the Cabinet Office stated: *'we have a contract with the company (Allenbuild) which requires them to obtain their wood from legal and sustainable sources – they have provided certification to show they have done so'*. However, the Cabinet Office failed to provide any documentation to back this up. They then launched a two-month investigation into the origin of the timber used on site, which concluded that Greenpeace's research was correct.

### Admiralty Arch: What went wrong?

- Although the need for 'legal and sustainable' timber was included in the original Cabinet Office contract, the contractors had little understanding of what this meant. In addition, the timber specification was not passed down to the plywood suppliers.
- When documentation was requested, traders provided misleading statements on the legality and sustainability of the plywood, and the Cabinet Office and their lead contractor failed to realise that the information provided was not compliant with Government policy.
- There were no mechanisms for checking the timber being brought onto site.

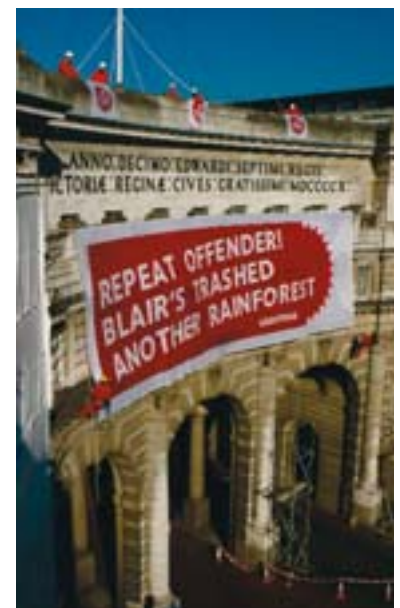
The Admiralty Arch fiasco clearly highlights that without proper systems in place, illegal and uncertified timber can easily end up on building sites. It also shows that even those who may intend to buy good wood can fail, if their policies are not followed through all the way down the supply chain, and without proper monitoring mechanisms being put in place.

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**'We encourage engagement with any supplier who demonstrates credible, environmental good practice no matter from which country they operate. However the current situation in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands means there is very little or no material meeting the environmental standards the UK market requires. We therefore believe it best to advise our members accordingly.'**

John White, Chief Executive, Timber Trade Federation, June 2006

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Admiralty Arch, London: Greenpeace exposes illegal plywood in use on a government building project.  
©Greenpeace/Touhig

## WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Architects, construction companies and other specifiers who regularly make use of timber can have a positive influence on management practices in forests around the world. But they have to know how to avoid plywood which contributes to the destruction of ancient forests and where to source good plywood.

Good plywood is that which has been acquired from forests or plantations that are managed to the highest environmental, social and economic standards. The best way to ensure that plywood used on site is sourced from environmentally and socially responsible sources is to buy plywood that is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Environmentally friendly alternatives to illegal plywood are of good quality and need not be more expensive. For example, FSC certified Oriented Strand Board (OSB), made from layers of wood bounded with resins, is an excellent option that can be used for the majority of plywood applications – for example, as hoardings around construction sites – and is of equivalent cost to Chinese hardwood plywood.

### **FSC: The best environmentally responsible materials**

The FSC is the only internationally recognised forest certification system on the market that can give credible assurance that timber products come from responsibly managed forests. It is also the only system supported by major environmental groups including Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and WWF as well as progressive timber companies and many indigenous people's organisations.

The FSC logo can only be used on products for which chain of custody has been audited and is monitored. This requires that the timber has been tracked through all the stages of processing, from the forest to the shop floor.

As awareness of the problems caused by illegal and destructive logging grows, it is becoming increasingly beneficial for a firm to be seen to be using responsible materials. Moreover, availability of FSC materials is increasing all the time. Most major timber merchants now stock them, and increasing demand is quickly being converted to increased production.

There are two FSC certified alternatives to unsustainable plywood: FSC certified Oriented Strand Board (OSB) and FSC certified plywood.

### **FSC certified OSB**

Oriented Strand Board (OSB) is an engineered wood fibre panel product made from layers of wood bonded with resins. It is made from timber grown in the UK and Ireland. It is used in a wide variety of applications – in walls, roof panels, structural insulated panels, floor joists, timber frames and hoardings. Using OSB for structural purposes can offer substantial cost savings over tropical plywood (see Table 2).

There are two types of OSB available in the UK – OSB 2 and OSB 3 – and both have a variety of uses. Whilst OSB is not suitable for every application – it cannot be used in marine construction, for example – in these instances FSC certified plywood can be used instead.

OSB is extremely price competitive. It is free from knot holes and core voids, it can be worked and will not split. However, so far, OSB's take up within the construction sector has been limited, due to a lack of understanding about its uses and a possible unwillingness by the industry to try new alternatives. Efforts within the sector could help this to change for the better.



The logo of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). ©FSC



## Myths about OSB

1. OSB is difficult to work with  
OSB can be sawn, drilled, planed, routed and sanded. It will not split and has no core voids or knots.
2. It is not as attractive as plywood  
In most uses, OSB is out of sight at the end of a project, and like plywood, it can be painted.
3. It is expensive  
At the time of writing, OSB costs the same as tropical-faced plywood. For example, a sheet of 18mm OSB retails at £16.50, while a similar sheet of Chinese hardwood-faced plywood costs £17.00.
4. It is of lower quality  
OSB has no structural defects and is easy to work with. It can be nailed 10mm from the edge without splitting.



Greenpeace replaces destructively-logged plywood with FSC timber at a government construction site.  
©Greenpeace/Rose

## FSC certified plywood

If FSC certified OSB is not available or suitable, FSC certified plywood can be used instead. It is of the same quality as plywood sourced from threatened rainforests: the only difference is that it comes from well-managed sources.

### Table 1. Sustainable alternatives

This table shows where illegal tropical hardwood plywood is typically used and the responsible alternatives available in the UK. All FSC OSB available in the UK market follows the CE2+ standard. FSC Marine Plywood follows the BS1088 standard.

Use	What is the alternative?
Hoarding	FSC OSB 3; FSC OSB 2; FSC Elliottis Pine
Wall sheathing	FSC OSB 3; FSC Elliottis Pine
Roofing	FSC OSB 3
Flooring	FSC OSB 3
Repair Work	FSC OSB 3; FSC OSB 2
Portable buildings	FSC OSB 3
Garden Sheds	FSC OSB 2
Agricultural buildings	FSC OSB 3; FSC OSB 2; FSC Elliottis Pine
Furniture	FSC OSB 2; FSC Birch
Marine Construction	FSC Marine Plywood
Formwork	FSC Chilean Tulsa Form

FSC Tropical Hardwood is also an available alternative.

### Table 2. Current prices of plywood alternatives

Price per sheet	
FSC OSB 2	£15.00
FSC OSB 3	£16.50
FSC Elliottis Pine	£19.50
FSC Chilean Tulsa Form	£25.50
FSC Birch Plywood Combi	£37.65
FSC Tropical Hardwood throughout	£24.15 to £30.30 (depending on origin)
FSC Marine Plywood	£20.54

Prices are for standard 18x1220x1440mm sheets, other than Marine Plywood, which is for 9x1220x1440mm. Prices are per sheet when buying one pack of sheets. Prices vary according to the quantity purchased and availability.



Kalimantan, Indonesia. ©Greenpeace/Davison

## How to get it right

Getting it right when using good wood means finding the right timber suppliers and contractors, making sure they know what you want, and checking that they provide it all the way down the supply chain. This is not always easy – but it is always worth it.

Informed decision-making, forward planning, a strict specification and sound project management are critical to ensuring that the plywood delivered for your project is actually good wood.

The following section explains the key issues, and the checklist on the back cover flap is a handy, concise summary of every stage of the process.

### **STEP 1: Specifying environmentally and socially responsible materials**

Specify FSC certified OSB or plywood as clearly and tightly as possible. As part of your specification you may want to identify preferred main timber suppliers that you want your contractor to use. This will help you control your supply chain.



Papua New Guinea: species like the world's largest pigeon are part of what makes the Paradise Forests unique.  
©Greenpeace/Scheltema



It is also important to explain these project requirements to the contractor early. This will allow enough time to research, source and buy FSC certified materials and to make sure the contractor understands the importance of using such timber.

## **STEP 2: Make sure contractors provide proof that the materials are FSC certified**

Contractors must be able to prove that the materials used are from environmentally and socially responsible sources. For this, they will need to show a paper trail. The supplier's delivery note and invoice should state that the items are FSC certified and carry an FSC Chain of Custody number.

These should be kept for all plywood and OSB delivered onto site to prove the specification has been met. Ensure that the volumes of the materials that are delivered match the volumes listed as FSC on the delivery note or invoice. In some cases the timber may be labelled as FSC certified.

Remember that *the product itself needs FSC certification* – not just the supplier. Claims such as 'our company has FSC chain of custody' are NOT proof that the materials are FSC certified: they only mean that the company can sell FSC products.

### STEP3: Monitor compliance with the specification

Tracking and monitoring on site are crucial: there should be a clearly appointed person on each project to track and monitor the timber coming on site. This person needs to check all delivery notes and invoices stating that materials are FSC certified and carrying the Chain of Custody (COC) number. Spot checks should also be carried out to ensure proper implementation of responsible timber policy.

### Other forest certification schemes and uncertified plywood

Some specifications may permit use of plywood certified by other schemes, including the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

In theory, use of products from these schemes should at least ensure that timber was obtained legally. However, enforcement of these standards is much less thorough than with the FSC, and the standards themselves are often inadequate to genuinely protect ancient forests and endangered species. In addition, these schemes have been criticised for being dominated by forestry companies and for lacking adequate consultation with stakeholders such as indigenous forest dwelling peoples.

Buying uncertified timber is more complicated still. To ensure that you are not buying illegal timber, you need to provide evidence of the full chain of custody for particular materials, including (where relevant) retailer, wholesaler, importer, processor, forest company and ultimately the forest source. Even if you do obtain this, there will be no guarantee that the paperwork you receive will be genuine.

For more detail on non-FSC forest certification and on the difficulties of proving sustainability outside of FSC certification, please see the Greenpeace CD-ROM guide 'How to specify good wood'. But remember that, ultimately, using FSC timber is the best way to ensure that your wood comes from environmentally and socially responsible sources.

### FSC Project Certification

In addition to ensuring that your plywood and OSB is FSC certified, the FSC has now developed a system which enables one-off certification of an entire project – FSC Project Certification. It can be used for new builds, refurbishment projects, residential and commercial buildings, temporary constructions, and civil engineering formwork projects. FSC Project Certification means that every aspect of your project is audited and checked. It was developed in response to the demand from construction companies as a way of demonstrating responsible purchasing, enabling you to make public claims about the timber used on your site with confidence.

Full FSC Project Certification means that at least 50% of the timber used on site is FSC certified, with the balance coming from sources which meet the FSC controlled wood standard. Controlled wood excludes:

- Wood from forest areas where traditional or civil rights are violated;
- Wood from forests where high conservation values are threatened;
- Wood from genetically modified (GM) trees;
- Illegally harvested wood;
- Wood from natural forests which have been harvested for the purpose of converting the land to plantations or other non-forest use.

Partial FSC certification is also possible, in which named elements only (such as doors, windows, cladding, flooring) are FSC certified. There is no requirement for controlling the remaining timber.





Papua New Guinea: Saka Aonomo surveys the destruction. ©Scheltema/Greenpeace

## How it works

The Project Certification system assesses four basic requirements:

- The construction company must have procedures in place which comply with FSC standards. If not, procedures need to be implemented before construction begins.
- Potential timber suppliers must have FSC certification and be able to supply the products required. If they do, the company is included on a list of approved suppliers.
- All purchase orders on site must include specification for FSC products.
- All delivery notes for material coming on site must guarantee that the product ordered is actually FSC on the suppliers' delivery notes. If the paperwork is incorrect or inconclusive, no timber is unloaded.

These four steps are continually monitored throughout the project.



Papua New Guinea.  
©Greenpeace/Scheltema

## CASE STUDY: GETTING IT RIGHT

In 2006, Westside Apartments, a 73-home timber-framed housing complex at Ilford Wharf, Essex, became the UK's first fully FSC certified building project. This meant that at least 50% of the timber used on site was FSC certified. All of the structural roof plywood was made from FSC South American softwood, while the wall panels were made from OSB, and all of the sub-decking was FSC certified wood.

## Publicising your use of FSC materials

Using FSC materials means that you can promote your use of socially and environmentally responsible timber. However, you do need to follow a few simple steps to sure you make the right public claims in the right way.

You can publicise the use of FSC:

- If your project is certified under FSC Project Certification. By following this process, your contractor and sub-contractors are obliged to supply you with all invoices relating to the timber used on site. In this way the FSC Certification Body can properly audit and check that the right timber has been used.
- If your project is certified under FSC Partial Project Certification, meaning that just some elements of your project are FSC certified, the same procedures apply for the relevant timber. However, you will only be allowed to publicise that these specific elements are FSC certified.
- If you are using FSC certified materials but you have no Project Certification, you can only make public claims about these materials if you use contractors who have FSC Chain of Custody (COC). This means that the invoice you get for the job includes the contractor's FSC COC number – you will need to show your invoices to FSC UK to be allowed to make public claims. If you buy the FSC certified timber direct from a certified supplier (ie without using contractors), you may also be able to promote your use of FSC timber but this must be done in arrangement with FSC UK.

If you do not have FSC Project Certification or your contractors do not have their own FSC Chain of Custody certification for the timber used, it is not possible to make claims about your use of FSC certified materials.

For more information visit the FSC's website, at [www.fsc-uk.org](http://www.fsc-uk.org).



Westside Apartments, Ilford Wharf, Essex: Britain's first fully FSC certified building. ©Ben Luxmoore/Hollybrook Homes

## CONCLUSION

It is ultimately the responsibility of the UK Government and the European Union to adopt legislation which obliges companies to prove that their timber products come from legal and well managed forests. However, the fact that this legislation does not currently exist, is no excuse for companies not to take immediate action to address this issue.

But old habits die hard. Companies are still buying illegal plywood because it is what they have always done. This is destroying the rainforests that are vital to the future of the planet and to preventing climate change. In addition to this, as the case of Admiralty Arch shows, it can be extremely embarrassing to get it wrong.

FSC certified OSB can do the same job as most illegally sourced tropical timber on sale in the UK and it is cheap and readily available. All it needs is a degree of forward planning and due diligence. Examples like Ilford Wharf show how feasible this is. Once contractors have used FSC certified materials for one project and put in place the right systems, it will become easier in future. So get it right and buy environmentally and socially responsible wood – it does not, and must not, cost the earth.

# CHECKLIST: ENVIRONMENTALLY AND SOCIALY RESPONSIBLE TIMBER USE

You have decided to use FSC certified OSB or plywood. Have you taken all the necessary steps to ensure the process is watertight? This list will help you check each stage of the process.

- **Specify environmentally and socially responsible materials.** Write a tight specification making it clear to your contractors and sub-contractors that you want FSC certified OSB and plywood.
- **Explain the requirements of the specification** and make sure the contractor understands its importance. Do this early enough to allow the contractor enough time to research, source and buy FSC certified materials.
- **Make sure contractor understands what paperwork they will need to provide at the end of the project.** Ask for delivery notes and invoices stating that materials are FSC certified and carry the supplier's chain of custody number.
- **Monitor compliance with the specification.** This means checking all delivery notes and invoices of materials arriving on site.
- **Keep the paper work.** This allows you to prove that the specification was met.
- **Consider getting your own FSC certification or using FSC project certification,** allowing you to advertise your use of FSC materials..

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)  
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www.fsc-uk.org

FSC suppliers database: [www.fsc-uk.org/product-search](http://www.fsc-uk.org/product-search)  
More information on OSB (timber industry site): [www.josbdone.com](http://www.josbdone.com)  
Greenpeace website: [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)



- 1 'Green timber purchasing: a UK Government commitment – an industry perspective; policies for the wood of the nation', Thomas Barnes, *International Timber*, 2001
- 2 World Bank Press Release: 'Global Forum calls to curb illegal logging and promote responsible forest investment', 23 October 2003
- 3 IPCC 2007. Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contributions of Working Group III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.
- 4 WRI (2007) 'Climate Analysis Indicators Tool vs 5.0' <http://cait.wri.org>
- 5 Greenpeace. *Roadmap to Recovery: The world's last intact forest landscapes*, [www.greenpeace.org/usa/press-center/reports4/roadmap-to-recovery-the-world](http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/press-center/reports4/roadmap-to-recovery-the-world)
- 6 Calculation based on NRM-MFP-BAPPENA, 2004. Forest Future Scenario analyses, corrected for the actually approved annual allowable cut in 2004. The 80% figure takes into account massive smuggling of logs to Malaysia, China and other countries, which has been estimated to reach up to 10 million cubic metres per year. See Greenpeace UK, 2003: *Partners in Crime: Greenpeace Indonesian Forests Investigation*, [www.greenpeace.org.uk/MultimediaFiles/Live/FullReport/5733.pdf](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/MultimediaFiles/Live/FullReport/5733.pdf)
- 7 In 2004, 58.8% of logs were produced without any authorisation of IBAMA. However, the total level of illegality will be higher since most companies with Forest Management Plans do not respect forest laws and regulations. Companies also misuse official

- paperwork to launder illegal wood from non authorised areas. The 80% figure comes from IBAMA's own estimate, published in SAE (1997): *Forest policy – lumbering exploitation in the Amazonia*, Brazilian Secretariat of Strategic Issues, April 1997
- 8 World Bank: *Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance*, August 2006
- 9 FAOSTAT Statistics Division 2007, 6 June 2007
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Zhonglin Southstar Plywood, China: women making plywood from ancient forest logs. ©Greenpeace/Behring.





Greenpeace is dedicated to protecting the world's remaining ancient forests and the plants, animals and peoples that depend on them.

We promote real solutions such as products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which ensures that timber comes from environmentally responsible and socially just forest management.

We investigate and expose the trade in illegal and destructively logged timber.

We challenge governments and industry to end their role in ancient forest destruction.

We support the rights of forest peoples.

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