



Investments in Sustainable Forestry in Emerging Markets ***Bridging the gap between investors and projects***

The current financial markets are changing, the economic crisis has made it clear that conventional investment structures at stock markets can be very perilous. Pension funds, banks and other financial initiatives demonstrate a growing interest in sound and sustainable investments in fixed assets. The forestry sector is one of the areas that experience a growing interest. The reasons are that forestry investments demonstrate a tangible increase in the value of land and of the forest itself and that the returns on investments are good. On the other hand there is a lot of discussion about the sustainability of forestry investments.

Over the last decade an increase in Forestry Investment Funds manifests itself. These funds are mainly active in North America, Australia and New Zealand. Investments in emerging markets and especially the tropical areas are still uncharted terrain. Main reason for this is that investors know very little about country risks, opportunities for forestry investments and the essential background knowledge to make a sound judgement and selection of viable projects.

VBDO, FSC Netherlands and FORM International are working together to inspire and empower leaders and managers in the financial sector to stimulate sustainable forestry investments in emerging markets like Africa, South America and Asia. For this purpose, a sequence of congresses will be organised, focusing on sustainability aspects, the financial needs of companies in the forestry industry, showcases of successful investments in Africa, South America and Asia and visions of NGO's, pension funds, asset managers and banks.

The first congress will take place November 4, 2010 in the Netherlands.



The Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO)

The VBDO represents private and institutional members who attach great importance to the fact that companies in which they invest do business in a socially sound way. The VBDO makes out a case for (dedicates itself to) a sustainable capital market which, besides the financial criteria, also takes into account the social and environmental criteria. According to the VBDO cash flows determine the opportunities for a sustainable society. The VBDO makes participants on the capital market aware of this by research, consultation with stakeholders and active presence at the stakeholder meetings. For more information visit : www.vbdo.nl en www.goed-geld.nl

FSC Netherlands

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international organisation promoting Sustainable Forest Management. For this purpose, FSC has developed a certification system that provides internationally recognised standard-setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services to companies, organisations, and communities interested in responsible forestry. The FSC label provides a credible link between responsible production and consumption of forest products, enabling consumers and businesses to make purchasing decisions that benefit people and the environment as well as providing ongoing business value.

FORM International

FORM is a leading company in implementation of Sustainable Forest Management since 1992. The firm is specialised in guiding forest management organisations towards certification. FORM has successfully assisted managers of major forest areas in Indonesia, Central Africa and South America and Europe towards certification. Besides this FORM is involved in valuations and due diligence of forestry investments for investment funds. A large scale investment in reforestation of degraded forest areas has been started in Ghana through daughter company FORM Ghana ltd.

FORM 's vision is that tropical deforestation and forest degradation are at the forefront of public concern. Present land use tendencies comprise two main developments within the forest sector. On the one hand there is an increasing demand for tropical timber on international markets, while on the other hand the tropical timber supply from natural forests is declining due to forest conversion, unsustainable timber extraction and expansion of forest reserves. FORM believes that Sustainable Forest Management is the key answer for the conservation of natural forests in the future.



Participants

The congress is intended for the following audience:

- Companies from the wood-processing and trade industry (construction firms, project developers, paper manufacturers, etc.);
- Customers in wholesale and retail;
- Dutch financial institutions (banks, pension funds, insurance companies and asset managers);
- Foreign asset managers;
- Timber Investment Management Organisations (TIMOs);
- Private equity investors;
- A limited number of NGOs.