



Taiga Rescue Network



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PULP AND PAPER GIANT ILLEGAL LOGGING IN CHINA: THE CASE OF ASIA PULP AND PAPER

NOVEMBER 2005

CASE STUDY

After a series of serious floods in the 1990s, China introduced a logging ban in 1998 to protect its natural forest and stop deforestation. However, Greenpeace has exposed Asia Pulp & Paper (APP), Asia's largest paper and pulp producer, role in illegal logging of natural forests in Yunnan Province, the most biologically diverse area in China¹.

LARGE-SCALE LOGGING DESPITE NO FORMAL PERMISSION

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed in August 2002 between APP and the Yunnan provincial government regarding the company's eucalyptus forest-pulp-paper integration project. While the project was waiting for approval by the central government, APP started immediately to fell trees without any permits, to clear land for its planned 1.83 million hectares forest-pulp plantation.

Greenpeace's research uncovered farmers in Yunnan Province felling natural forest under the instruction of APP's local staff. These logging activities were carried out without any official permit, which was later confirmed by investigation carried out by the State Forestry Administration: "In the investigation it is uncovered that in the plantation projects of Sinar Mas company in 2003 and 2004, 9580.22 mu of forest land were involved. Without applying for the logging permission, Sinar Mas company logged timber which accumulates to 24,709 cubic metre. Besides those logged before the land acquisition by the villagers, most of the forests were logged by the contractors of Sinar Mas Company."²

APP REFUSE ANY WRONG-DOING

Despite pressures from NGOs and the government, APP rejected that it had conducted any illegal logging and said that it was only "planting forest on barren lands." However the company has been unable to provide any convincing evidence to prove their innocence.

Evidence gathered in the Greenpeace research showed that APP's proposed plantation of 1.83 million hectares had included 738,733 hectares, or 42% of the total enclosed area, of forest land. If the project was to carry out, APP would have to clear huge area of natural forest.



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NOVEMBER 2004 [XIANGSHUIHE VILLAGE, LANCANG COUNTY, YUNNAN CHINA] TOP RIGHT - HUGE TRUNK LOGGED BY APP CONTRACTORS. FAR LEFT - TRACES OF APP CLEARCUTTING. UPPER LEFT - THE REMAINS OF A HUNDRED YEAR OLD TREE CUT DOWN BY APP CONTRACTORS. LOWER LEFT - GREENPEACE PROTESTED APP'S ILLEGAL LOGGING IN YUNNAN.

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INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ATTENTION

This scandal attracted wide international and national media coverage. Zhejiang Hotels Association, a representative of over 400 hotels in eastern China's fast developing Zhejiang Province, urged its members to boycott all APP paper products.

APP filed a lawsuit against Zhejiang Hotel Association at the local provincial court. Twenty two international NGOs and twelve local NGOs in China published a joint statement to support the hotel association and demand APP to stop forest destruction. Under pressure, APP finally withdrew the lawsuit.

In a letter to SFA this May, APP said that it would "operate legally according to Chinese regulations and policies." It has yet to be seen whether Asia's paper tiger will live up to its words.

The measures being developed through the regional Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) processes will serve as an important tool to tackle the problem of illegal logging, by strengthening forest governance and law enforcement. China's participation in the FLEG processes is crucial for enhancing domestic forest protection, and as the world's largest importer of timber, it will have a key role in tackling timber imports from illegal and destructive sources.

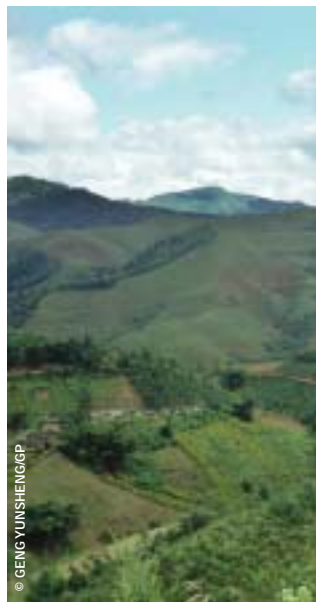
For further information visit:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/china/en/campaigns/forests>

Taiga Rescue Network (TRN) consists of more than 230 participant groups working to support local struggles and strengthen the cooperation between individuals, NGOs and indigenous peoples and nations concerned with the protection, restoration and sustainable use of the world's boreal forests by means that ensure the integrity of natural processes and dynamics.

1 | Greenpeace, Investigative Report on APP's Forest Destruction in Yunnan, November 2004
<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/china/en/press/reports/greenpeace-s-response-to-app-h.doc>

2 | State Forestry Administration, "Notification Regarding the Problems in the Plantations of Sinar Mas (China) Investment Company in Yunnan Province," No. [2005]4, 7 Jan, 2005. Zhang Songdan, Vice Director of National Forest Resources Management Office, Forest Resources Department, State Forestry Administration was interviewed by CCTV2 on 23 Jan 2005, and commented that APP has logged 9580 mu of forest in Yunnan without official permit.



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NOVEMBER 2004 | XIANGSHUIHE VILLAGE, LANGANG COUNTY, YUNNAN, CHINA | TOP LEFT - CLEARCUTTING BY APP - TOP RIGHT - GREENPEACE CAMPAIGNER WAS INVESTIGATING APP-ILLEGAL LOGGING IN YUNNAN - LOWER RIGHT - FARMER SU KAIMING REBUKED THAT APP HAD LOGGED SUCH BIG TREES IN THE VILLAGE.