FORESTS BUILD OUR DREAMS, LET'S PROTECT THEM!

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation promotes the use of certified wood.

Building a yacht with certified wood is a guarantee that forests are sustainably managed, their biodiversity preserved and their populations respected.

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www.fpa2.com
Do you know the story behind your yacht? When building your yacht, you are also adopting the story of the wood it is made from. This story could be about deforestation or, on the other hand, responsible forestry practices.

Wood is an essential element in yacht construction. The various species found aboard are selected for their technical, mechanical and aesthetic characteristics. Teak, mahogany, ebony... these tropical woods are used for decks and exterior fittings, as well as for interior decor and furniture. For several years and in many countries, the wood products story has often been about illegal logging and deforestation carried out by players who do not take responsibility for their actions. This story is changing.

Companies do not want to be linked to deforestation anymore. They want to deliver products which are respectful of the tropical forests and the people living there.

Furthermore, the use of teak and other tropical woods is subject to growing pressures, both from governments with increasingly strict importation laws (Lacey Act, European legislation) and from clients who prefer to work with ethical and traceable products whose use will not harm the environment. From March 2013, European importers must be able to prove the legal origin of their timber.

Wood Forever offers companies the opportunity to find out the real story behind their timber and therefore to make a choice to change the product story of the wood used in the construction of your yacht.

This comprehensive programme couples the resolve of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation to combat deforestation with the technical expertise of The Forest Trust a global non-profit organisation that helps companies and communities deliver Responsible Products that respect the environment and improve people’s lives.

Becoming a member of the Wood Forever programme means making a commitment towards an environmentally and socially responsible approach to sourcing your wood products. By joining forces with Wood Forever, the Foundation and The Forest Trust help to map your supply chain and analyse the associated risks. Together we have the means to write a new, virtuous narrative for the story of wood being used by the yachting industry.

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**Philippe Mondielli,**
Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco

**Marine Gauthier**
The Forest Trust

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**Joining forces**
What does «Excellence» represent in the yachting industry today?

Excellence is claimed by many, but is actually achieved by only a small number of companies. In yacht building for example, one must initiate and then execute long-term strategies which cause daily behaviours and decisions to clearly demonstrate respect for others and for the environment, before claiming Excellence. Excellent companies show leadership and professionalism by respecting the environment and only making choices that will preserve, rather than deplete the environment. Everyone must do their part and, in addition to our current efforts, I am proud to state that Burger Boat Company has stepped up and will do its part with Wood Forever to preserve the environment.

Please tell us about any policies Burger has in-place today or is working on that relate to sustainability?

Burger actively follows Lean Manufacturing Processes and Principals. Our culture today is driven by “Lean.” Lean is the spark that supports our emphasis on innovation and the removal of waste from every operation. Our clients are only interested in paying for value and not for waste. We have become very good at eliminating waste and delivering value. Continual emphasis is placed on innovation through our affiliation with outside experts; our Innovation Partners. Our affiliations also include active relationships; Board Memberships with local Technical Colleges, individual professional memberships by our employees, an educational tuition reimbursement program, recognition of the importance of the hiring process, the learning provided by our Refit and Warranty services, our Certification / Registration / Commissioning experience with all vessels and our extensive list of consulted experts in areas of Engineering, Design and Manufacturing. We measure our performance against Best Practices. We also focus strongly on our employee’s development and wellness, providing leadership courses through our Burger University and embracing a skill based pay system.

How important is the wood component in your vessels and what kind of importance do you give to these materials?

Wood is very important and is present in almost every stage of the yacht construction process. Burger operates its own joinery facility where each piece of wood is meticulously selected, cut and shaped to match the exacting requirements of every project and then it’s finishing systems are applied prior to installation on the yachts. Wood furniture and decorative surfaces provide richness and elegance. Burger prides itself on its joinery, craftsmanship and capabilities.

You are a board member of the «WoodLINKS USA» Association. Please tell us more about the association.

I served for years on the national board for WoodLINKS USA and am now serving as President of WoodLINKS Wisconsin, the state in which we do business. WoodLINKS’ mission is to link businesses to education systems whereby school administrators, teachers and students alike are enlightened and taught about all of the related jobs that are available in the wood industry and in our case, in yacht building. In addition, we are delivering a curriculum for schools that we developed ourselves to teach their woodworking students. The curriculum is organized to provide students with the functional skill-sets, including the social and life skills they will need, to be successful when they seek related jobs later in life. WoodLINKS provides a major benefit to employers seeking new talent because they know that a “WoodLINKS Certified Student” already knows and understands the industry requirements, possesses the skills required and is committed to this type of work all of which results in less rehiring and retraining (and therefore less waste).

Burger Boat Company makes a commitment and becomes the first member of the Wood Forever Programme

Jim Ruffolo, Burger
Why have you chosen to join the program Wood Forever?

Burger made its decision to take a leadership role because we are concerned about our impact on the environment and have chosen to help preserve our forests. The main intention for using only certified woods in the construction and decoration of our yachts is to help create a solution against greenhouse gas emissions which increase as a result of deforestation. The Wood Forever program appears to be a very good solution for verifying the origin of each wood we seek to purchase. Having this new knowledge will allow us to control our supply chain and make responsible purchasing decisions.

When woods are purchased through responsible supply chains that only buy from sources which properly harvest and replant the forests, we help prevent needless deforestation. Wood is a fantastic material which must be preserved in order to maintain availability and its value. Burger is happy to have joined the Prince Albert II Foundation in its Wood Forever program and is proud to be the first superyacht builder to become a member of the foundation!

What are Burger’s perspectives about this program?

With the support of the Prince Albert II Foundation and The Forest Trust (TFT), Burger has fully committed itself to the program. We have already started an in-depth look into our supply chain to trace the origin of wood timbers that will be used in the construction of our yachts. In doing so, we are adopting a socially responsible behavior towards the environment, our clients and ourselves as part of our long-term vision. Lastly, we hope other shipyards and industry suppliers will see the benefit and, with Burger having already joined, perhaps others will make the decision to join the program.

Burger Boat Company designs and builds custom yachts, in aluminum and/or steel, ranging in sizes to 200’ (60m). Since 1863 Burger has been recognized internationally for design, quality construction, seaworthiness, reliability and is the most respected custom yacht builder in America. Sales offices are located at Burger’s headquarters in Manitowoc – Wisconsin, Fort Lauderdale – Florida and Monaco to serve clients from around the world.

www.burgerboat.com
Using wood whose origin is unknown means being exposed to the risk that such wood derives from deforestation and carries a destructive story. These are environmental, social, legal and reputational risks that many companies no longer wish to take. But in addition to these risks, making a commitment against deforestation enables pioneer companies to demonstrate true social and environmental leadership, to secure an efficient and high performance supply chain and to gain real competitive advantage.

In reality, protecting the forest does not mean putting an end to forest exploitation, but on the contrary, giving timber commercial value and guaranteeing the quality of wood via sustainable forest management. Today, using certified wood with the FSC label (Forest Stewardship Council) offers the best guarantee that the strictest forestry management standards have been met. However, the availability of FSC certified wood is limited, which means that companies in direct contact with consumers need to invest in new sources of responsible raw materials. In a wood supply chain, harvesting timber generally has the greatest impact on the environment (forest and climate). In order to market responsible wood, it is therefore necessary to be aware of the impacts of the supply chain and to track the wood all the way back to the forest from which it was harvested. Setting up a transparent traceability system can be complex and far removed from the core business of shipyards and the yachting market.

That is why the TFT (The Forest Trust) uses our expertise to help support companies in these efforts by offering an objective overview of their supply chain and the technical support necessary to help them build responsible yachts. TFT has over ten years experience working with companies in various industries dependent on natural resources, helping them to map their supply chains, establish relationships with their suppliers based on trust and offering guidance based on sound, results orientated action plans. TFT is active in 14 countries, with experts on the ground, in forests and factories, helping to identify and reduce environmental and social risks. Aware of the importance of wood in the boat industry, TFT offers its knowledge of timber, alternatives species and responsible sources of wood combined with our knowledge of working in complex international supply chains. TFT has already assisted many forest projects (both company and community led initiatives) to work towards FSC certification including the Perum Perhutani Plantation in Indonesia. This project involves large diameter teak trees, planted in the 1800’s by Dutch settlers which have similar characteristics to teak from a natural forest whose exploitation is not sustainable and sometimes illegal. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation called in TFT as a technical partner in order to develop this programme specifically for the yachting industry helping to implement progressive and constructive solutions for shipyards sourcing timber together with their suppliers. Pioneer shipyards wishing to invest in this programme will benefit from technical support and guidance and will be able to offer their clients the guarantee that the product story behind the wood on their yacht is ethical and responsible. By purchasing certified wood, the yachting industry can help to preserve threatened forests and improve the living conditions of the local people dependent on these forests while at the same time offering clients high-quality aesthetic and technically sound products.

Offering clients yachts that are respectful of the forest

By The Forest Trust
It is necessary to be aware of the supply chain and to track the wood all the way back to the forest from which it was harvested.
SYBAss support
Theo Hooning, SYBAss

How is SYBAss positioning itself with regards to environmental concerns and where do its interests lie?

SYBAss is recognized by IMO, MCA and ISO as the representative of large yacht builders. From this position we discuss with regulators ways of making the construction and use of superyachts as environmentally friendly as possible without jeopardising safety and functionality. This is a subtle balance where technical innovation is the key to success: only groundbreaking solutions will ensure that client demands are met with environmentally friendly solutions. SYBAss takes care that innovation is not obstructed by regulations that lag behind technical progress.

Why have you decided to support the Wood Forever programme and which actions are you willing to pursue?

The application of wood is part of the heritage of yacht building and owners enjoy seeing and feeling the unique properties of wood onboard their yachts. The Wood Forever Programme is a great tool to continue this tradition in a sustainable way. To pursue this goal SYBAss has informed its members about the activities of the Monaco Wood Forever Programme and given representatives the opportunity to present the programme at our annual General Assembly. To make our support concrete we will present a cheque to H.S.H Prince Albert II during the Monaco Yacht Show on behalf of our members.
How do you see the future of the yachting Industry?

There will always be individuals looking to realise their dream by building a superyacht. While the primary task of our industry is to make these visions come true, it also fitting for us to provide clients with solutions that protect and respect the environment. After all, it is the beauty of the very same environment that makes superyachting such a unique experience.

The Superyacht Builders Association (SYBAss) represents the world’s leading superyacht builders. A Monegasque association with 22 members at present, SYBAss focuses on promotion, regulation and professionalism within the superyacht industry.
Has the Monaco Yacht Show always been focused on an environmentally-friendly strategy?

Positioned as the world leader event in superyachting by the international yachting community, the Monaco Yacht Show holds a benchmarking role in this sector. Therefore we were keen, starting in 2005, to set an example by mobilising the Monegasque community and yachting professionals attending the show by supporting - initially - international environmental projects funded by the payment of an environmental tax (a type of carbon offset). At the same time – and in addition to the “green” efforts of all the members of the organising team on a day-to-day basis – MYS’ commitment towards the environment is also reflected at the show itself with the installation of selective waste sorting facilities – and active communication efforts among exhibitors and visitors about clean waste treatment on site – but also by choosing to print the various publications concerning the show on recycled paper and to produce the MYS fashion collection in line with certified ecological standards.

Why are you supporting the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation’s Wood Forever Programme?

Cooperation between the Monaco Yacht Show and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation naturally took root in 2006 when HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco chose the show to present his Foundation to key stakeholders in the yachting industry. In 2010, the Wood Forever Programme, which the Foundation was planning to launch, found a natural and coherent echo in the MYS message: to raise the awareness of the yachting community about deforestation and the concrete alternative ecological solutions currently available to shipyards. In addition to the financial support provided by the MYS, we make available to the Foundation MYS’ various communication media to spread the word on Wood Forever among all the international specialised yachting media.
Do you think that all the players involved in the yachting sector need to be vigilant in order to make the least impact possible on our environment?

In the light of the astonishing growth in the yachting industry over the past few years, we are all responsible for asking ourselves about its real impact as far as sustainable development is concerned and, more prosaically, the protection of the environment. For many decades, safeguarding the planet and yachting have been quite compatible, as traditionally, a sailor appreciates and respects the sea. Of course, there are always conflicting examples, but it must be acknowledged that nautical activities on the whole generate less than 1% of the global pollution observed in the oceans and seas. This is very little, but, as some would answer, already too much. Enough of figures which can be interpreted however we wish – yachting has demonstrated its good conduct by making an asserted and confirmed stand in favour of the environment by seeking and developing “green” solutions (or at least with a much lower pollution impact) for the construction of yachts. Here too, the Monaco Yacht Show is monitoring these environmental processes conducted by the yachting industry extremely closely. Every year, in association with the Italian company RINA, the MYS presents the «Green Plus Yacht Award» to the yacht on exhibit at the show whose construction complies with strictly regulated ecological standards.
The International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT), founded in 1951, supports development through sustainable rainforest management. The association groups together over 250 members across 39 countries (national and international institutions, NGOs and forestry companies). The ATIBT encourages forestry enterprises to work towards Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification which addresses social, economic and ecological criteria. The ATIBT provides answers to your technical and news questions about tropical hardwoods and produces several publications including a Tropical Timber Atlas series on Africa, Asia, South America and Oceania. www.atibt.com

The association Monaco Développement Durable (“Monaco sustainable development”), set up in July 2004, brings together the different Monégasque associations working for the protection and improved quality of the environment in a variety of fields to coordinate their action and increase their efficiency. MC2D’s work focuses on raising the public’s and the authorities’ awareness of environmental problems with the objective of achieving sustainable development in the Principality. It also strives to make Monaco exemplary in the protection of animal and plant species in danger. www.mc2d.org

TFT (The Forest Trust) is an international non-profit organisation that helps companies and communities deliver responsible products to the global market by implementing sustainable management practices. Our foresters, agronomists and social experts work together with companies and communities to change local dynamics towards the responsible use of natural resources. With over 90 staff members throughout the world, TFT leads companies in several commodity sectors including the timber industry towards sustainable development. TFT has 85 member companies around the world including large multinational retailers and suppliers and is currently guiding more than 8 million hectares of forest towards sustainable management and has to date enabled over 1 million hectares of forest to become FSC-certified. www.tft-forests.org

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international non-governmental organisation. It was established in 1993 to promote responsible forest management throughout the world using a very efficient certification system. The FSC has set strict standards for responsible forestry through 10 principles and 56 criteria. Over 135 million hectares of FSC-certified forests are managed in accordance with these standards in more than 80 countries across the globe. Over 18,000 companies have achieved FSC chain of custody certification, an operation that guarantees the traceability of forest products throughout the supply chain. These products can bear the FSC label, which assures the end consumer that they come from responsibly-managed forests. www.fsc.org

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