WOOD
FOREVER
PACT
PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION
In September 2010, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, with the support of the Monaco Yacht Show, launched the Wood Forever programme to promote the use of timber from sustainably managed forests for yacht building. In 2012, we have decided to offer the programme a fresh impulse by implementing a new communications strategy and, therefore, the Wood Forever Programme becomes as of now the Wood Forever Pact.

The commitment remains the same: the boat builders make a pact for the protection of the forest. As explained in Philippe Mondielli’s interview, the first step consists of an evaluation by our technical partner, The Forest Trust, so as to reveal the real story behind the wood used in the construction of their yachts. In a second step, the builders commit to promoting and using certified wood in their shipyards.

Through our new communications campaign around the Wood Forever Pact, the power and the extent of the commitment are being reinforced.

As part of this branding strategy, we have created a new logo, as well as a stamp of approval for members and partners. This stamp will enable Wood Forever Pact supporters to promote their involvement, providing them added value within the framework of the new European legislation.

From March 3rd, 2013, European importers must be able to prove the legal origin of their timber.

We have expanded our scope of action by providing information concerning the Wood Forever Pact to a specialized audience through an exclusive awareness campaign in the magazine Boat International.

In this context of change and dynamism and after celebrating Burger Boat Company’s membership last year, we are glad to introduce you to the latest member of the Wood Forever Pact: Viareggio SuperYachts.

HE Mr Bernard Fautrier
Vice-President and CEO
WOOD FOREVER PACT: CHANGING THE YACHTING STORY ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN

The Wood Forever Programme, now named the Wood Forever Pact, aims to accompany the yacht builders towards the use of timber from sustainably managed forests.

In order to do so, each yacht company involved in the program will work closely with our technical partner: The Forest Trust (TFT), using the VTT model: values, transparency, and transformation.

This model is based on three main actions:
- To define the values of the company thanks to a sustainable purchasing policy;
- To bring transparency to the supply chain thanks to a complete cartography;
- To transform history and to make it sustainable thanks to appropriate actions on the ground.

This process allows TFT to bring concrete changes on multiple sectors on which they worked. The problems encountered in the yachting sector are specific but not overwhelming.

CASE STUDY
Implementation of the model

1. The first step of the partnership between a yacht builder and TFT is to define jointly the company’s values and action plan regarding sustainability. The sustainable process to which a company is committed as a member of the Wood Forever Pact can be presented as so:

   1. Values
   - RIS, policies, principles
   - "Define your product story"

   2. Transparency
   - Supply chain mapping traceability
   - "Know your product story"

   3. Transformation
   - Product/Social/Env expertise
   - On the ground
   - "Change your product story"

What is the Wood Forever Pact?
Wood Forever Pact is a programme dedicated to combating deforestation worldwide. We aim to make those involved in yachting aware that if deforestation is to be halted, only certified wood from sustainably managed forests should be used in construction. Wood Forever Pact offers companies the opportunity to learn the real story behind their timber and make a conscious choice.

What is the financial impact for a company wishing to join Wood Forever Pact?
Our technical partner, The Forest Trust (TFT), conducts a study of the company’s wood supplies, tracking back to source to make sure that the timber has been logged sustainably. This mapping exercise cost amounts to €12,500. Neither the Foundation nor TFT make profit from this. TFT is a global non-profit organisation that helps companies and communities deliver responsible products that respect the environment and improve people’s lives.

What is the extra cost of using certified wood?
Some certified woods cost the same as wood of unknown provenance because there are fewer intermediaries. However, the cost of certified wood can sometimes be 20% higher than non identified wood. Thait seems a lot but as a proportion of the finished product (with the wood worked, treated and installed), the extra cost is negligible.

Why joining Wood Forever Pact?
Becoming a member of the Wood Forever Pact means making a commitment to an environmentally and socially responsible approach to sourcing your wood products.

The Foundation and TFT help Wood Forever Pact’s member companies to map their supply chain and analyse the associated risks. Together, we have the means to write a new and virtuous story for the wood used in the yachting industry.

Why is the Foundation interested in the yachting business?
Culturally and historically, the Principality of Monaco has always had close ties with the sea, and today it is a world-leading yachting capital. The Foundation naturally wanted to achieve coherence between its international work and the Principality’s business activities. While the yachting industry has already done much to limit energy consumption and the use of pollutants, we find that there is a big knowledge gap with regards to the origin of much of the timber used in yacht building.

Can you say more about certified timber?
Wood is an essential material in yacht construction. The species used - teak, mahogany, ebony etc. - are selected for their technical, mechanical and aesthetic properties. These tropical woods are used for decks and interior fittings, interior decor and furniture. In recent years and in many countries, the wood products story has often involved illegal logging and deforestation by players who take no responsibility for their actions. The Foundation is convinced that this story is changing. Companies no longer want to be linked to deforestation. They want to deliver products that are respectful of tropical forests and local populations. This is the reason why the Foundation and its technical partners launched the Wood Forever Pact.

Philippe Mondielli
Scientific Director of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, explains the environmental and economic advantages of joining the Wood Forever Pact.

"CHANGE THE PRODUCT STORY OF THE WOOD USED IN YACHT BUILDING"

"..."
The illegal logging of forests exists all over the world. It refers to situations where timber is produced in contravention of national and international laws on cutting, processing, transporting or exporting wood. The main sources of illegal logging are the felling of trees in national parks or protected areas; the non-payment of royalties, taxes or custom duties on a cargo; or the felling of trees without the agreement of the authorities. Moreover, certain species are protected by the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). This convention is a list of all the species, both vegetal and animal, which need to be protected.

There are now two main legislations: the Lacey Act (American legislation) and the Regulation n°995/2010 (European Union legislation).

In 2008, the US Congress amended the Lacey Act, a law passed in 1900 to combat wildlife crime, to include protection of plants by outlawing illegal logging. Due to the amendment, importers must now declare the geographic origin where the wood was harvested and the species names of all plants contained in the products. There are two components to a violation of the Lacey Act: the violation of a law of the USA but also of other states, including tribal laws, and, the trade of the illegal wood from to the US. It is now a crime for a company to use illegally harvested timber in any form of trade, including possession, transportation, and distribution, even if a company used legal wood unknowingly. Therefore, companies must trace the origins of their timber and be able to provide this information to the authorities. The Act will force members of the logging industry to use sustainably managed wood in their supply chains.

The aim of this Act is to withdraw all illegal timber from the chain of custody. Therefore, the companies should decide to have a better knowledge of their chain of custody and suppliers in order to create a long-term relationship and simplify the supply chains. A good way to prove that you have due care practices is to only use certified wood. The certificates are not the proof that your wood is legal, but it proves that you are showing a good will to avoid the illegality.

The European Union (EU), on its side, started to launch the FLEGT plan (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) in 2003. It sets out a range of measures available to the EU and its Member States to tackle illegal logging in the world’s forests. An effective system ensuring timber legality includes verification of forest operations as well as the control of timber transport and processing through different owners, from harvesting to the points of export.

In addition, for the wood coming from countries without agreement, there is the EU Timber Regulation. From March 3rd, 2013, it will prohibit placing illegally harvested and produced timber products on the EU market, requiring operators to practice due diligence to minimize risk.

The operators will have to set up systems that ensure that the timber is from legal origin. The EU Commission will recognize private entities, meeting certain criteria, which apply to become “monitoring organizations”. These organizations will guide operators on how to exercise due diligence and comply with the new legislation. Operators can decide if they want to use their own due diligence system or if they want to subscribe to the service of a monitoring organization and use the system provided.

The EU Member States are responsible for the enforcement of the EU Timber Regulation and the setting of penalties for non-compliance.

For more information:
Why VSY joined the Wood Forever Pact?

We are honoured to be the first shipyard in Europe to sign the Wood Forever Pact. We want to make our commitment even more meaningful and our meeting with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is one of the important steps that VSY takes on a new perspective of integrated action with respect to the determinants of environmental, economic, social responsibility and responsibility management of resources use, as expressed by the declaration of sustainability that has recently followed the historic commitment of the shipyard in relation to quality, safety and environmental management.

For us at VSY, eco-sustainability is a long-term commitment, goal basis approach rather than a prescriptive, with its roots in the shipyard’s past and it has always been our aim to diminish the environmental impact of our vessels - from the choice of materials and suppliers to both reduction and compensation of atmospheric emissions - among many others.

We believe it is necessary to seriously re-think the way we develop and live the interaction human-kind-environment with an eye to the future, directing both human and industrial activities towards the greatest-energy-saving, the minimum consumption of prime materials and the complete recycling of waste produced.

The objectives we, at VSY, have set ourselves are to reduce environmental impact and improve our “green footprint” through constant commitment and financial backing of future supporting activities - focused for the moment mainly in the Mediterranean Sea. This is our small contribution for a better world - both for future generations as well as our own.

Because Humans matter

Our commitment involves also human beings and human resources. We believe people, products and environment are all part of one system. The more they are harmonized and integrated, the more they can go fast forward together.

Our whole plan, besides solidarity projects mainly focused on Mediterranean peoples, includes also the highest respect for the shipyard’s workforce health and safety and the protection of the work environment.

Could you tell us more about your eco-green vision?

Extreme avant-garde technology, Italian style, top quality craftsmanship, maniacal attention to details, timeless design, total fulfilment of the customer’s wishes, real environmental protection, high respect for the workforce health and safety: this is the essence of VSY’s philosophy of work on all fronts. Since 2004, the shipyard based in Italy’s focal yacht building area, Viareggio, has been engaged in building mega-yachts of over 60 metres and is by now widely recognized as builders of the highest calibre: in 2013, the Grand Prix of the Navy against the World, an important step that VSY takes on the rich track record of 60 years in the shipyard’s representation in international and local premia.

But VSY’s high respect for environment goes even beyond building Total EcoYachts, obtaining rigorous and prestigious international certifications (like the Green Star Plus Gold and ABB ES (Environment Safety) and Lloyd’s EP (Environmental Protection)) and taking an active role in global environmental protection initiatives.

For this reason, to print our brochures we always use an eco-friendly paper certified by FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) - Mixed Sources. This label ensures that the timber or fibre in the product comes from responsibly harvested and verified sources, which exclude unacceptable forestry.

Because Forests matter

Our commitment involves the respect on all fronts goes even beyond building Total EcoYachts, obtaining rigorous and prestigious international certifications (like the Green Star Plus Gold and ABB ES (Environment Safety) and Lloyd’s EP (Environmental Protection)) and taking an active role in global environmental protection initiatives.

We are aware that half of the timber harvested worldwide is used to make paper. So it is vital that everyone makes a commitment to use responsibly the world’s resources.

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It is now time for all of us to understand that sustainability is not a luxury but a responsibility and...
Burger Boat Company, founded in 1863 and based in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, USA, is a designer and builder of custom motor-yachts. These yachts feature the latest in technology, system design and construction techniques available. The luxury interiors, designed by the world’s leading interior designers, are fabricated by Burger’s craftspeople at Burger’s dedicated joiner facility.

Burger and the Wood Forever Pact, along with its technical partner The Forest Trust (TFT), performed an evaluation of Burger’s wood product supply chain. The desired outcome of this evaluation was to recommend tangible changes to the supply chain and help assure that wood materials used by Burger are from legal and sustainable sources.

Report on progress
To date, Burger and TFT have:
- Collected data from several of Burger’s suppliers and mapped the chain of custody for the materials provided by these suppliers;
- Identified the supply chain for various materials back to the supplier country and performed an initial risk analysis;
- Identified suppliers capable of providing proof of legality and/or sustainability of material via a FSC Certificate;
- Provided certified sources or alternative species with similar technical characteristics.

TFT training and mentoring at Burger
The Wood Forever Pact and TFT actively work with Burger compliance with US legislation in force, including the Lacey Act regulating the importation of wood and wood products.

The Wood Forever Pact and TFT continue to work with Burger to assure the use of legal and sustainable wood products onboard Burger’s custom motor-yachts. This partnership has evaluated several products and has helped Burger to identify possible alternatives, when needed. It has also provided Burger with several tools that its purchasing group utilize to evaluate material sources and to help them make informed decisions supporting the corporate goal of using sustainable wood and wood products.

In the framework of the Wood Forever Pact, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation will give updates on its website about the certified teak forests. Thailand, which was one of the richest countries in teak, has seen its forests devastated. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation decides to communicate on the Royal initiative of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn which will create a virtuous circle to give back to this timber its unique place.

PLANT CONSERVATION AND TEAK PROJECT

The plant conservation project under the Royal initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, started in 1992. It aims at encouraging the Thai people, especially the villagers and students, to be aware of the value of the native plant species and conserve them for the future. There are 1503 schools and over 110 agencies, including government offices, universities, NGO and local companies who have joined the project. They are able to assist the villagers around Thailand to identify, select, propagate and conserve the native plant species in DNA banks in most of the villages, schools and some government offices.

As of forestry, the identification, selection, propagation then conservation has been done for many forestry plants such as teak which is the most famous timber in Thailand. The teak germplasms, which have been collected and conserved all around Thailand, have been considered by the United Nations as the best teak genetic germplasms. Among the teak clones germplasms, two clones have a symbolic importance and are outstanding. One is the world oldest (1,500 years old) and biggest (circumference 10.30 m) in the world, named ‘Maheasak’. The other one, named ‘Sak Slamipin’, is 120 years old with excellent characteristics and has been planted by the King Rama 5, the Great.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has initiated this project to propagate these two teak trees by the way of 3.4 million saplings thanks to tissue culture technology. They will be given to all the village communities in Thailand (7256 communities) to plant them so as to conserve the rare genetic materials, to improve community environment, as well as to create a long-term economic resource for villagers. They will be planted on public land and taken care of by the village’s members and committees. Each tree will be given a tag code, and planting locations will be geolocalized. The trees will not be cut out, but the villages will continue to benefit from them environmentally, socially and economically by collecting or planting short-term crops underneath such as medicinal plants or food crops.

Plant Genetic Conservation Foundation is organizing the World Teak Conference 2013 from March 29th to March 31st, 2013.
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