

Rougier awarded FSC™ certification: the international standard supported by environmental NGOs

Paris, 14 October 2008 – Rougier, the specialist in African tropical timber, with two million hectares of forests under management in Cameroon, Gabon and Congo, today announced that it has been awarded Forest Stewardship Council (FSC™) Certification for its chain of custody and the grand majority of the forests managed by its subsidiary Rougier Gabon.

Rougier Gabon has been awarded the FSC™ certificate for three of its Forest Concessions under Sustainable Management (FCSM) in Gabon: Haut-Abanga, Ogooué-Ivindo and Léké (certification attributed to CIFHO, a subsidiary of Rougier). This represents a simultaneous FSC™ certification of 688,262 hectares of forest.

This FSC certification is a crucial milestone for Rougier because FSC certification is internationally recognised by some major environmental NGOs. It certifies the responsible forest management of the concessions allocated to the company in three main areas:

- ❖ **Optimisation and preservation of resources:** analysis of the distribution and evolution of available resources over the long term;
- ❖ **Protection of biodiversity (flora and fauna):** evaluation of the impact of hunting and poaching, and the development and implementation of protective measures.
- ❖ **Socio-economic development:** contribution to the social development of indigenous people and resident forestry workers.

Result of a continuous policy of responsible forest management

Francis Rougier, President of the Management Board, says: *“In keeping with our commitment to managing and protecting tropical forests, everyone at Rougier has been working hard for over a decade to achieve FSC certification. Today we have taken an important step towards our ultimate objective: 100% certification for all our forests, thereby meeting a double environmental and market challenge.”*

In addition to forest management, the chains of custody of Rougier Gabon and Rougier International (the group's trading arm) have also been FSC™ certified. The chains of custody enable Rougier to track wood from the forest to the consumer, at every step of production and transformation.

Greater market demand for certified products

“Rougier controls the entire forest value chain, from logging to milling, logistics to trading. FSC™ certification opens new opportunities for us. It enables Rougier to bring 3,000 m³ of FSC-certified Okoume plywood, 1,500 m³ of FSC-certified Okoume sawn-timber and related products, and 6,000 m³ of logs from various species to market every month,” says Marc-Antoine Mallet, Chief Operating Officer of Rougier.

FSC™-certified Rougier products are aimed primarily at mature markets and markets sensitive to sustainable development, such as Europe and the United States.

Rougier plans to continue its responsible management efforts for the rest of its forests, in order to provide its customers with the largest possible range of certified timber products. Furthermore, Rougier is preparing for the future by expanding the production of FSC certified Okoume, a specie available in large volumes and suitable for numerous applications, such as windows, doors, mouldings, panels, plywood, boats, etc.

Rougier also continues to market over 70 species of tropical timber in over 40 countries.

About Rougier

Founded in 1923, Rougier has been operating in Africa for more than 50 years. Specialising in African tropical timber, Rougier sustainably manages two million hectares of forestry concessions in Gabon, Cameroon and Congo. In addition, it processes, markets and distributes various products made from tropical timber. In 2007, Rougier had revenues of €178 million and over 3,300 employees. Rougier is listed on NYSE Euronext Paris.

About FSC™



La marque de gestion forestière
responsable

*The **Forest Stewardship Council** (FSC™) is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation. It was founded in 1993 by forest owners, timber companies, social organisation and environmental groups to promote responsible forest management around the world.*

FSC certification is based on 10 principles and 56 responsible forest management criteria. The respect of these standards is verified annually by independent certification bodies.

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