

February 18, 2004

Attn: Sherry Jones, Office Manager
Acadian Hardwoods & Cypress
Cor Hwy 51 & Industrial Park Blvd
Ponchatoula, Louisiana 70454

Dear Ms. Jones,

We are writing to inform your President that your company is purchasing wood products from Ihlo Sales and Import Company (Ihlo) that originate from illegal sources in the Brazilian Amazon. As a responsible company we are certain that this will alarm you and that you will take steps to remedy the situation. Greenpeace is world renown for its investigations into the illegal timber trade and we have identified your company as purchasing illegal product harvested by Grupo Madenorte based in Belém, Brazil and imported into the United States by Ihlo.

Enclosed please find a recent Greenpeace report, *State of Conflict: An investigation into the landgrabbers, loggers and lawless frontiers in Pará State, Amazon*. This report details the extensive degree to which illegal logging is taking place in Pará State, particularly in the areas of the Middle Land and Porto de Moz. For quicker reference, please also see the enclosed U.S. Annex to this report which identifies U.S. companies in the chain-of-custody.

State of Conflict details the alarming practice of land invasions, the illegal occupation of land, and violence -- including murder and modern-day slavery -- carried out by logging companies that provide timber for export. Loggers routinely use violence, physical threats and murder to stage illegal land grabs and expel residents and indigenous communities that have legal title to the lands. The deplorable corruption and lawlessness in Pará State has led to egregious human rights abuses and widescale rainforest destruction, equaling one-third of the Amazon's total deforestation. These crimes against the forest and forest-dependent people are being committed, in large part, to supply wood to U.S. companies.

For your information, enclosed in the annex to the *State of Conflict* report we have included information about Ihlo's Indonesian wood imports. A major review by the World Bank reported that 51% of logging in Indonesia is illegal and 84% of the timber concessionaires do not follow the law. Estimates by the independent Environmental Investigation Agency are even greater, at over 80% illegal logging.

Illegal logging is a growing issue of international concern, as recognized recently by the launching of the Presidential Initiative on Illegal Logging, which is referenced on the enclosed annex. To truly address the problem, however, the private sector must act. Greenpeace is

calling on all wood importers/distributors to develop procurement procedures to ensure their customers are not inadvertently fueling the problem.

Of course developing such a system will take time. As a first step, we encourage you to inform Ihlo that you will no longer purchase Madenorte product. Additionally, we request that that you seek to import, buy, sell, or use wood that has been certified by the internationally recognized Forest Stewardship Council in order to ensure that your wood supply originates from legal and sustainable sources.

Greenpeace, as have many environmental groups, work proactively with many U.S. companies to help them develop more socially and environmentally responsible procurement policies. If you have any questions or would like us to put you in contact with any group working on this issue please to not hesitate to contact Michelle Medeiros, Greenpeace Forest Campaigner at 202.462.1177.

Sincerely yours,

John Passacantando
Executive Director
Greenpeace, Inc.

Enclosure