



Press Release

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Dutch experience with the use of Promotional Timber Species available online

In 2009 an online database for Sustainably Produced Timber was launched in the Netherlands: www.houtdatabase.nl. The database contains a considerable number of promotional e.g. lesser known timber species (LKTS) with information on the properties, applications and certificates for sustainable forest management. To share part of the Dutch experiences in applying LKTS in construction and waterworks, a selection of 30 reference projects has been made available in English. Also, relevant publications in English on LKTS are linked to the database.

Houtdatabase.nl - A Database for Sustainably Produced Timber

The Dutch procurement policy demands procurement of sustainably produced timber. Purchasers in (governmental) organizations find it difficult to overview the rapidly developing market of certified timber with its wide range of certifications systems and claims for sustainably and legally produced timber. At the same time, specific knowledge on wood properties and uses has decreased in many (governmental) organizations in recent years due to new ways of contracting. To overcome these knowledge gaps a wood database has been developed: www.houtdatabase.nl. The database contains information on more than 200 timber species and 15 types of wood-based panels which are used in residential and commercial construction and waterworks (civil engineering). The database provides information on the physical and mechanical properties of timber species, uses (including reference projects), suppliers and availability with a certificate for sustainable forest management that meets the Dutch procurement criteria. In addition, the database includes various up to date factsheets on relevant topics.

Lesser known timber species (LKTS) in sustainable forest management

Natural forests can consist of hundreds of different species. With sustainable forest management one looks at the full range of species present and not just the few well known species. Using a broader range of species conforms demand to what natural forests can produce sustainably and can reduce the chances that well-known species will be overexploited. LKTS can often serve as an addition to the current palette of timber species, but also as a substitute for better-known species in terms of performance and aesthetics. These species can be more cost effective as they are in general underutilised. The many LKTS available with rich, truly exotic colours and textures provide new design opportunities for homeowners as well as architects and designers. The use of lesser known timber species widens the choice in timber, can alleviate pressure on well-known timber species and increase the economic viability of sustainable forest management.

Reference projects with LKTS

This database contains a considerable number of LKTS and provides the users with an overview of the suppliers of these species and the certificates for sustainable forest management these species are available with. Moreover, the database-users get information on the physical and mechanical properties of the LKTS and the possible uses in residential and commercial construction and waterworks (civil engineering). An essential tool to promote the use of LKTS are the reference projects which are linked to the species. The reference projects contain a description of the project, the LTKS that were used, the supplier and the certificate for sustainable forest management that the timber was supplied with. In this way users of the database (buyers, architects, constructors etc.) can check if there is practical experience in the application of LKTS



in the Netherlands and other parts of Europe. Through the contact information the user can contact the supplier for additional information or references on the project.

A selection of 30 reference projects is made available in English. Also a selection on relevant links and publications on LKTS are linked to the database. The English section of the database can be found [here](#).

More information

The database has been developed by Stichting Probos with technical assistance of the Dutch Timber Information Centre (Centrum Hout) and funding of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. Since 2010 the database is owned by Centrum Hout.

The recent update of the database was funded by the European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (European STTC) (www.europeansttc.com) and Netherland Timber Trade Association (NTTA).

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