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**TFF Surpasses 4,000 Trainees in Sustainable Forestry in 2009**

Alexandria, VA, September 9, 2009 – The Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF) announced today that it expects this year to graduate its 4,000th trainee in sustainable forestry practices since the inception of the organization in 1991.

“Our real strength has always been our ability to work with the wood products industry in tropical countries to assist them on the ground with training and our model forest system” said TFF President, Keister Evans. Sustainability in tropical forests has been a critical issue for many years, and is even more so now that the linkage between deforestation and CO2 emissions has been identified as a key component of global climate change.

Since 1991, TFF has developed a modular approach to on-the-ground training, recognizing that each company or forest management unit has different needs. Individual training modules focus on particular technical aspects of the Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) process and emphasize “hands-on” training through a “learn by doing” model. Forestry practitioners can attend training at a TFF regional center and receive instruction on legality documentation, planning, equipment operation, and safety. The model takes economics, wildlife, carbon sequestration and local communities into consideration, providing its trainees with a holistic approach to sustainable forest management. TFF also offers an extension service which provides technical evaluation, assessments and recommendations for companies interested in solving problems in forest engineering, planning, harvesting and certification.

TFF has made great strides towards improving forest management by implementing this training model around the world by utilizing a system of independent training centers in Brazil, Indonesia, Guyana, and Gabon to train foresters, government officials, and manufacturers alike. The companies and communities that implement these techniques maintain their forest in a far healthier, more environmentally conscious manner maintaining biodiversity and water quality and making the forest far more valuable for future generations.

For more information and photography please see our electronic press kit at <http://tff.icpresskit.com>.

**Tropical Forest Foundation**

*TFF is an international nonprofit dedicated to sustainability in the tropics. TFF consists of a unique combination of leaders from major environmental organizations, large international companies, wood products companies in developing countries, and government observers. TFF supports training, outreach, and research pertaining to sustainable forestry management in tropical regions around the world.*

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