Wood Purchasing Policy
2011-2012

In partnership with

www.maisonsdumonde.com
Forests do a lot for us. They are omnipresent in our product range, every time we renew our collections. Whether the wood we use is Indian sheesham, Indonesian teak or North American oak and pine, this noble, renewable material lends itself to fascinating compositions that we use in our furniture and decorative items, with a preference for solid wood, natural finishes and artisanal craftsmanship. Ensuring that our products are both attractive and sustainable is much more than a duty: it is a personal belief. Setting out to change attitudes and behaviors is also an extraordinary adventure. Giving a helping hand to community projects to bring about changes in forest resources and the people who depend on them is more rewarding than any label, because sustainable development is, first and foremost, a human adventure.

Xavier Marie
CEO
I - 2010: a pivotal year for sustainable development at Maisons du Monde

Set up in 1996 by its founder and CEO Xavier Marie, the young, dynamic company Maisons du Monde has been steadily growing ever since. With a generous range of interior decoration items (over 1600 articles of furniture and numerous developments every year), Maisons du Monde is a key player on the furniture and decoration market.

An ongoing challenge, constantly renewed collections, inspired by current trends and ideas, and offering a widely affordable range of decoration.

The year 2010 marked a turning point for Maisons du Monde, when the company brought in a widely-publicized responsible purchasing policy for wood. France is the leading importer of tropical wood in Europe for construction, decoration and furniture. Maisons du Monde has always aimed to promote artisanal craftsmanship in the countries of production, but some environmental guarantees must however be verified.

Forests are essential places to protect, explains the WWF, with whom we are working within the Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN). They play a role in climate regulation and the water cycle, and are home to over 50% of the earth’s biodiversity. Today, though, they are critically endangered. Each week, nearly 250,000 hectares of tropical forest disappear - 13 million hectares of forest a year. At this rate, there will be no more wet tropical forests intact in 2030. It has also been estimated that 20% of the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere stem from deforestation. The main causes are the conversion of forests into agricultural land, road infrastructure and the logging of illegal and non-sustainable timber.

The naive approach would be to think that the best solution was total protection of the forest. In reality, this has proven to have its limits. This is why the WWF is advocating a mosaic of protected forests and responsibly-farmed forests, to help the populations that depend on them to diversity their income sources. Forest certification is one of the tools for achieving this. By playing on market forces, we can have a powerful effect on logging practices.

At Maisons du Monde, we promote artisanal craftsmanship from countries around
the world, in which wood is a core component. We believe that wood is a material of the future if we can use it sustainably. It is long-lasting, natural, renewable if properly managed, and attractive - a host of qualities that make it the cornerstone of our furniture offering.

By developing an ambitious policy of responsible purchasing for wood, we can convert a major risk - the disappearance of forests or of certain endangered wood species - into opportunities. We can secure wood resources and improve living conditions (both social and environmental) on the ground. Greater control and hence greater monitoring leads to increased quality and increased trust on the part of our customers, thanks to a wide range of certified products.
II- Initiatives launched in 2010 by Maisons du Monde

TFT (The Forest Trust) is a UK-based non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mission is to conserve tropical forests. To do this, TFT forms partnerships with distributors committed to sustainable management with a view to changing their supply chains.

The partnership between Maisons du Monde and TFT involves setting up chain of custody monitoring in Indonesia and India, and launching TFT forest projects for teak, sheesham, mahogany and mango wood.

The TFT projects are aimed at obtaining FSC certification as soon as possible, as a guarantee of sustainable forest management. In the mean time, the wood will bear the TFT logo, indicating that it comes from plantations and forests in progress towards certification. This logo is only applied when TFT has checked the origin of the wood during factory inspections for each Maisons du Monde order.

TFT and Maisons du Monde are working together on setting up and supporting community projects.

The first products from Indonesia to bear the TFT logo have been available in our stores since October 2010.

The GFTN is a WWF initiative aimed at eliminating the logging of and trade in illegal wood and improving forest management. By facilitating trade links between companies committed to achieving responsible forestry, the GFTN creates market conditions that help conserve the world’s most valuable and threatened forests, while providing economic and social benefits for the people that depend on them. The GFTN considers independent, multi-stakeholder-based forest certification a vital tool for responsible forest management and responsible trade in forest products.

The Global Forest and Trade Network, launched by the WWF in 1991, works through partnerships with companies in the logging industry or trading in forest products. It aims to achieve sustainable forest management and, in so doing, ensure a permanent supply of resources, maintain biodiversity (fauna and flora) and secure the social welfare of populations dependent on the forest. The WWF supports this effort by providing technical assistance with obtaining certification (through the FSC) or developing responsible wood purchasing practices.

Maisons du Monde’s membership of the GFTN enables us to obtain technical support.
In addition to aiming for FSC certification, Maisons du Monde is taking its commitment to sustainable forest management a step further by becoming a member of the FSC France. The first FSC-certified products have been available in Maisons du Monde stores since March 2011.

**Our membership of FSC-France:** [www.fsc-france.fr](http://www.fsc-france.fr)

Maisons du Monde's overall sustainable development policy:

III - THE BASES OF OUR WOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING POLICY

Wood is a noble, environmentally-friendly material. We need to conserve and properly manage the forests it comes from, hence the two pillar of our environmental policy:

Avoid:

- The risks of helping to destroy forest biodiversity
- The risks of non-survival of the wood resources still available
- The risks of sourcing wood from illegal or controversial sources, or buying wood that is seriously threatened

Our vision:

- Develop responsible purchasing and ensure the traceability and legality of wood from the forest to our customers
- Promote responsible forest management, forest certification and the trade in certified products

IV - OUR OBJECTIVES

The objectives are set in terms of responsible purchasing and sales.

• 1 - Responsible Purchasing

1.1- Principles

Responsible purchasing concerns our supplies of wood and wood-based products. It is based on six principles:

1. In view of the serious environmental and ethical problems posed by the Burmese government, Maisons du Monde refuses to buy wood from this country, no matter what guarantee or labels are available.

2. Any new listing of ranges begins with a request for the content of FSC-certified or, in certain cases (temperate forest), PEFC-certified wood.

3. If the quality, availability and price do not meet Maisons du Monde criteria, a request will
be made for the content of wood from forests in the process of certification (TFT, GFTN, etc.).

4. If none of its sources satisfies its criteria, MDM will at least check the legality of its source (this is an interim measure, pending the availability of certified wood).

5. No wood species listed as Critically Endangered (CR) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will be sourced by Maisons du Monde. The same applies for products from High Conservation Value Forests. Species classified as Vulnerable (VU) will not be bought by Maisons du Monde unless it receives environmental guarantees from a credible certification system such as FSC, or, at the least, in progress to credible certification in a recognized support program.

6. For certain species such as ramin, listed in Appendices 2 or 3 of the Washington Convention (also known as CITES), they will be sourced in accordance with the CITES certificate. Under no circumstances may products in CITES Appendix 1 be sold by Maisons du Monde.

1.2- Sourcing of certified wood

Given our supply sources and the main certifications existing in these countries and internationally, Maisons du Monde accepts FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification.

FSC certification: FSC certification is currently the most complete and the most widely-recognized internationally. It stipulates requirements concerning both sustainable forest management and respect for the human communities that depend on the forest. FSC certification is supported by major NGOs such as WWF and it is the preferred certification system at Maisons du Monde because of its environmental and social protection.

However this system is still under development in our main sourcing countries and cannot supply sufficient certified products. To assist its development, Maisons du Monde buys wood in the process of certification, with TFT’s support.

Note: Some residual stocks of non-certified products may still be left on our shelves during the first half of 2011. The situation will right itself with subsequent sales and replenishments.
1.3- Sourcing of wood in the process of certification

Maisons du Monde buys wood in the process of certification, with TFT’s support.

TFT logo: The TFT logo is not certification. The TFT logo indicates that the company is committed to introducing a seamless traceability system and working towards FSC certification for its products. The logo is applied only after an audit by TFT. Maisons du Monde has absolute trust in the NGO TFT, which it has forged a solid partnership.

--- Objective for end-2011

1. **India**: launch community projects aimed at gradually bringing certified products into Maisons du Monde supply chains.

2. **Indonesia**: 100% of the teak and mahogany furniture produced will use wood from TFT projects.

3. **China**: For 50% of the products, launch a plan to check legality within China, including an audit of the documents. At the same time, Maisons du Monde is launching a drive to source FSC wood and encouraging its suppliers to supply it with as many certified products as necessary.

--- Objective for end-2012

1. 100% of wood from legal or controlled sources, in order to meet FLEGT requirements

2. **India**: Increase the volume of TFT-labeled sheesham by getting more farmers to join community projects. Launch mango wood projects and produce first TFT-labeled products

3. **China**: 100% of products proved to be from legal sources with documentary evidence, of which 30% are FSC-certified.
Focus on community forests

---> Dipantara on the island of Java in Indonesia

Because man is at the heart of the issue and this social component is of prime importance for Maisons du Monde, since 2007 we have been helping to extend the certification of community forests on the island of Central Java in Indonesia.

The project led by the Hara-Group (a group of Indonesian suppliers) and Maisons du Monde has resulted in the identification of 80 villages on 28,000 hectares of forest.

The distinctive feature of community forests is that they are a source of direct income for the farmer. However, these projects cannot supply large volumes of wood. There are currently 600 farmers involved in the project to extend forest certification and carry out reforestation. Nearly 2000 hectares have received the Indonesian LEI ecolabel. FSC International and LEI signed a memorandum of understanding at the end of May 2010 and the two systems have given themselves 18 months for mutual observation.

To assist the development of certification on this type of project, Maisons du Monde asked TFT, which is supporting the Dipantara community forests, to include additional hectares of forest from the Hara-Group project to help them progress towards FSC certification.

---> The village of Waryam Khera in the Punjab region of India

Maisons du Monde has been financing a local TFT office in India since 2010. The team now in place has been working in our suppliers' factories to trace the supply chain and set up a system of traceability known as the Wood Control System (WCS). TFT is identifying plantations of sheesham and mango wood, the two main species we use in India, in order to help them progress towards FSC certification. The first memorandum of understanding signed in India concerns a community sheesham forest. The pilot project was able to get off the ground thanks to our involvement and the work of TFT. The project is the first such initiative in India.
2 – Responsible sales

2.1. Identifying the wood

Maisons du Monde is committed to training its staff in the principles of responsible wood sales with support from its partners TFT, GFTN and FSC. Our company's objective is to sell products that are safe and verified by the NGOs best suited to guarantee the product’s legality and environmental friendliness. By applying this policy, Maisons du Monde wants to help its customers make responsible purchases and, in so doing, contribute to conserving forests and helping the local populations. To this end, Maisons du Monde reports to the GFTN on the origin of the wood, its Latin name, its degree of vulnerability, its environmental status and whether or not it is listed by the CITES.

2.2. Engineered wood

1. Maisons du Monde requires at least a certificate of legality for these products (even though they are not yet covered by the European legislation).
2. When we buy boards, we first require a statement of the content of certified board. If the quality, availability and price are acceptable, we proceed with the purchase.

2.3. What Maisons du Monde is doing to improve indoor air quality

At Maisons du Monde, we are actively searching for ways to limit sources of indoor air pollution in our furniture:

- Our quality department constantly tests new products such as varnishes and solvent-free paints.
- We have made logistics arrangements that allow furniture to be aired as much as possible before delivery. Furniture is removed from its packaging and aired at the warehouse, then blanket-wrapped for shipping to our customers' homes.
- We require our suppliers to use wood-based panels that are at least E1 class. Tighter restrictions apply to children's furniture, for which class E0 panels are required.
- TFT performs periodic test inspections of raw materials in the factories to check that suppliers are honoring their commitments.

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<tr>
<th>Classement</th>
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<td>E0</td>
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<td>E1</td>
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<td>E2</td>
<td>Entre 5 mg/m2h et 12 mg/m2h soit compris entre 4 et 10 ppm</td>
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V - MDM supplier commitments

For this policy to be properly applied, Maisons du Monde needs each one of its suppliers to collaborate.

Each supplier undertakes to meet Maisons du Monde criteria and, if necessary, take corrective measures to ensure that no non-certified or illegal wood ends up on the shelves of Maisons du Monde stores.

Maisons du Monde believes it cannot ask its suppliers to bear the full cost of complying with this policy. Accordingly, support is available for suppliers who so desire or who do not have the required resources, as is the case for its suppliers in India and Indonesia.

Maisons du Monde believes that the social component of sustainable development is often underestimated, so has launched social audits at a number of sites.

Supplier commitment form

Supplier’s name:

Supplier’s address:

Represented by Mr or Mrs:
In his/her capacity as:

Acknowledges that he/she is familiar with the content of this wood purchasing policy and undertakes to comply with it.

Signature of this document carries the parties’ approval of the measures set out in the above wood purchasing policy.

Signed at , (date)

Read and approved:

Note: Any change to this Wood Purchasing Policy shall be notified to the parties involved for approval.
Indian rosewood  
(sheesham)

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

- **Trading group**
  rosewood; shisham

- **Family**
  Leguminosae

- **Species and genus**
  Dalbergia sissoo

- **Commercial and common names**
  sital, beete, shisham (sheesham), Bombay blackwood, sonokeling or sonobrits in Indonesia

**Appearance**

Indian rosewood has an even texture in golden to dark brown shades with touches of purple.

**Distribution**

Sheesham (Dalbergia sissoo) grows from the foothills of the Himalaya to the south of India. The species has been introduced into Burma, Nepal, Nigeria and Kenya.

**Commercial use**

Known as "Indian rosewood", tahli, sissoo, shisham or sheesham. Sheesham is popular for its dark hue, with black and purple veining. It is mainly used to make indoor furniture. Maisons du Monde uses sheesham for its Lubéron, Industry and Stockholm collections.

**Sourcing**

The sheesham tree grows along river banks below 900m elevation, generally in a relatively hot environment (10-40°C), though it can withstand light frosts. Depending on the soil and weather conditions, sheesham reaches maturity after 30 or 40 years.

**FSC certification**

There are no FSC-certified sheesham forests to date. Maisons du Monde is guiding and supporting its Indian suppliers in the drive for certification.

**Environmental and social issues**

The logs generally come from small farmers or government forests. They are then sold at auction in small lots by the Indian Forest Service (IFS) or by local merchants. Once bought by joiners and cut into planks, the sheesham is then sold on to processing plants. At the end of the chain, finishing plants buy the pre-finished products from several different plants in order to secure their supply.

The value chains are very complex and it can be very difficult to trace timber right back to its source. Harvesting wood from small private plots can have a beneficial effect on the soil quality. However, when a large quantity of sheesham is extracted, it is potentially non-sustainable.
Sheesham can also be farmed on larger plots (though they should be less than 0.5ha). Analysis suggests that such a system, between a private garden and a small plantation, has a positive effect on employment and social equity and stability, without impeding economic growth.

Other members of the rosewood family, such as cocobolo (Dalbergia retusa), bubinga (Guibourtia demeusei) and Madagascar rosewood (Dalbergia baronii), are threatened and should be protected. To date, though, only Brazilian rosewood is recognized by the CITES as an endangered species.

- **Partnership between Maisons du Monde and TFT (The Forest Trust)**

  TFT (The Forest Trust) is a UK-based non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mission is to conserve tropical forests. To do this, TFT forms partnerships with distributors committed to sustainable management with a view to changing their supply chains.

  The partnership between Maisons du Monde and TFT involves setting up chain of custody monitoring in India and launching TFT forest projects for sheesham. The TFT projects are aimed at obtaining FSC certification as soon as possible, as a guarantee of sustainable forest management. In the mean time, the wood will bear the TFT logo, indicating that it comes from plantations and forests in the process of establishing sustainable management. This logo is only applied when TFT has checked the origin of the wood during factory inspections for each Maisons du Monde order.

  Maisons du Monde has commissioned the TFT to work on its supply chains and identify forest projects that it can support towards certification. The TFT has rated as "low" the environmental risks entailed in Maisons du Monde’s sourcing of sheesham. Sheesham is harvested on land owned by small farmers to supplement their income from farming and does not come from endangered forests.

  TFT and the village of Waryam Khera in Punjab have now signed a memorandum of understanding to initiate a certification process for sheesham. Efforts are under way to identify other projects.

Indian mango wood
Mango wood

• Appearance
Lightly grained wood in blond to gray-brown shades, often with a subtle pink hue. Mango wood is one of the rare woods not to have a separate sapwood.

• Distribution
Originally from India and Burma, mango wood can now be found growing in all tropical and subtropical regions of the globe. The species used by Maisons du Monde, Mangifera indica, grows throughout India (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujrat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttarpradesh, Uttarkhand and West Bengal)

• Commercial use
Known as "mango wood", mango, mangga.
The mango is farmed and known primarily for its fruit. However, its soft-looking wood is easy to work and to "finish", and is increasingly used to make indoor furniture. Maisons du Monde uses mango wood for many of its collections, such as St Rémy, Brocante, Zinc and Goa.

• Sourcing
The mango tree grows easily in any type of soil, but prefers a deep, well-drained soil in which it can develop its large root system. This fast-growing tree (sometimes growing over one meter per year) grows in warm regions (19-35°C) lying between sea level and an altitude of 1200m. It needs an annual rainfall of between 500mm and 2500mm. The mango tree is quite drought-resistant and withstands occasional flooding. However it is very vulnerable to late frosts.

• FSC certification
A number of initiatives are being conducted in Laos and in Kenya, but for the moment there are no FSC-certified mango farms in India.

• Environmental and social issues
The mango tree is mainly cultivated for its fruit, but also lends itself to many other uses, such as honey production, shade, fuel wood, fodder (in small quantities), traditional medicine (seeds, leaves, bark) and soil fertilizer (leaves for mulching).
Today it is increasingly sold to make furniture.
Generally mango trees are felled only when they have stopped producing enough fruit. They are not cultivated in dense forests but in clumps or individual trees owned by small farmers. It is a sacred tree in India, where it is regarded as a symbol of fecundity and love, and is usually replanted rapidly by farmers.
The recent fashion for mango wood in the furniture industry has resulted in a slight dip in stocks over the last few years. Because the sale of mango wood generates a spike in income, there are fears that mango wood will be diverted to new uses and become an export commodity, no longer fulfilling its original role of producing food, shade, medicine and fuel wood for local use.
However, TFT staff on visit to India have not reported any social problems arising from mango cultivation in India.

The main environmental concern has to do with the use of pesticides in mango growing. This remains a minor problem in India, where mango trees grow on the edges of fields and in villages, and seldom come from industrial production. The mango tree also plays an important role in curbing soil erosion and limiting flood damage. Because mangos are a cash crop in India, the trees are felled and systematically replanted when their yield tails off.

• Partnership between Maisons du Monde and TFT (The Forest Trust)

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The partnership between Maisons du Monde and TFT involves setting up chain of custody monitoring in India and launching TFT forest projects for mango wood.
The TFT projects will be aimed at obtaining FSC certification as soon as possible, as a guarantee of sustainable forest management. In the mean time, the wood will bear the TFT logo, indicating that it comes from plantations and forests in the process of establishing sustainable management. This logo will be applied only when TFT has checked the origin of the wood during factory inspections for each Maisons du Monde order.
TFT and Maisons du Monde are working together on setting up and supporting cooperatives of sheesham and mango wood producers. Efforts are under way to identify other mango wood projects.
Progress with this project can be followed on the Maisons du Monde website: www.maisonsdumonde.com Sustainable Development section and on the TFT website: http://www.tft-forests.org/
Indonesian mahogany

- **Appearance**
  Mahogany is reddish brown in color and darkens slightly over time.

- **Distribution**
  Maisons du Monde uses only mahogany from Indonesia, logged on TFT-controlled plantations.

- **Commercial use**
  Apart from its use in traditional medicine or as fuel wood, mahogany is mainly used for the furniture industry. Its heartwood is very resistant to rot and insects. It is also known for its ability to retain its shape far better than other woods with the same density (it doesn’t warp). It is particularly admired for its incredibly smooth, glossy finish. It is used for high-quality furniture, cabinetmaking and sculpture.
  Maisons du Monde features mahogany in its Orient Express, Cannelle and Planteur ranges.

- **Sourcing**
  Mahogany grows in tropical regions lying at altitudes of 100-500m and with an average temperature of between 16°C and 32°C. It needs annual rainfall of between 800mm and 2500mm and grows best in deep, rich, well-drained soil. It does not withstand poor, dry soil.

- **FSC certification**
  There are very small quantities of FSC-certified mahogany on Java in Indonesia.

- **Environmental and social issues**
  Swietenia mahogani, as a wild species, is on the IUCN Red List (International Union for Conservation of Nature) as "Endangered". It is crucial therefore to know where our supplies come from and to check, firstly, their legality and, secondly, that there is sustainable resource management.

- **Partnership between Maisons du Monde and TFT (The Forest Trust)**
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The partnership between Maisons du Monde and TFT involves setting up chain of custody monitoring in Indonesia and monitoring TFT forest projects for teak and mahogany. The TFT projects will be aimed at obtaining FSC certification as soon as possible, as a guarantee of sustainable forest management. In the mean time, the wood will bear the TFT logo, indicating that it comes from plantations and forests in the process of establishing sustainable management. This logo will be applied only when TFT has checked the origin of the wood during factory inspections for each Maisons du Monde order.

TFT and Maisons du Monde are working together on setting up and supporting cooperatives of teak and mahogany producers, mainly in the district of Gunung Kidul on the island of Java.

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Indonesian teak

**Appearance**
Naturally a beige-brown color, teak becomes slightly darker in the light, taking on a deeper color with copper tints.

**Distribution**
Originally from India, Malaysia, Laos and Thailand, the teak species has become widespread throughout Asia. It is now cultivated in all tropical and sub-tropical zones. It takes its name from the Malay term "Thekku". The teak used by Maisons du Monde comes exclusively from the island of Java in Indonesia.

**Commercial use**
In addition to its deep, attractive color, teak has outstanding physical qualities. It is rot-proof and insect resistant (in particular to teredo). It is very easy to work with, does not corrode or oxidize metal through contact, and yields a naturally very smooth finish. It is regarded as a wood of excellence. As a result, it is widely used in construction and in the production of all types of engineered structures. Examples include bridges, docks and wharves - because of its water-resistance - as well as indoor and outdoor joinery, patios, garden furniture, boxes, musical instruments, toys, railroad crossties and wagons. However teak has a certain fragility that makes it unsuitable for use in articles requiring great resilience, such as the handles of tools and sporting goods. Teak is also used to make decorative plywood. Maisons du Monde uses teak for its Figari, Colonies, Oléron, Bamboo and Key Largo collections, among others.

**Sourcing**
Teak grows in very humid regions, where annual rainfall ranges from 1.20m to 3.00m or more, with clearly marked alternating wet and dry seasons. It grows best at temperatures of between 15°C and 41°C and up to a maximum altitude of 1000m. It is well suited to rugged sites, providing the terrain is well drained. Industrial cropping yields very good results. The first phase of a teak tree’s growth is rapid. A five-year-old tree already measures 13m high and its trunk has a diameter of 10cm. A twenty-year-old tree will be 20-22m high and have a diameter of 10cm. After the first 20 years, the teak tree’s growth rate slows. At the age of 70-80 years, it has attained its optimal qualities, with a height of up to 45m and a maximum diameter of 75cm. It will then continue to grow to above 50m tall and 125cm in diameter. A teak tree can be logged at the age of 21 years, but farmers generally wait until
it is 80 years old.

- **FSC certification**

  There are small quantities of FSC-certified teak on Java in Indonesia. State plantations on Java are also being supported by the GFTN and TFT, and are progressing towards certification by the FSC. FSC teak can be found on the Indonesian islands of Sulawesi and in Costa Rica.

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  TFT and Maisons du Monde are working together on setting up and supporting cooperatives of teak producers, mainly in the district of Gunung Kidul on the island of Java.

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Indian acacia

- **Appearance**
The heartwood is pale red to pinkish brown, often becoming darker after contact with air. There is a very clear difference to the sapwood, which is a yellowish white color.

- **Distribution**
This species of acacia originated in the dry zones of tropical Africa and Western Asia, and the regions further east as far as India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. In Africa, it can be found from Senegal to Egypt and, to the south, from West Africa to Mozambique, as well as in South Africa (in Natal) and on the islands in the Indian Ocean. It has spread throughout the tropics and become naturalized in a large number of regions, including Cape Verde, Jamaica, Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia. It is widely cultivated on the India subcontinent. It takes its name from the Greek term "akis", meaning tip or beard. The acacia wood used by Maisons du Monde comes exclusively from India.

- **Commercial use**
Acacia nilotica plantations are grown for producing timber, fuel wood, tannins and, to a lesser extent, gum arabic. The leaves and branches can also be used as fodder and in traditional medicine. Acacia trees are generally harvested every 10 to 20 years. Even if it is relatively difficult to work, acacia has numerous qualities. It is not prone to pests and is very resistant to impacts. It is a long-lasting hardwood with a very attractive polished finish.

Maisons du Monde uses acacia for its Hanoi, Goa and Pondichery collections, among others.

- **Sourcing**
Acacia nilotica is a tropical species that grows in regions where the mean annual temperature lies between 15°C and 28°C. It is found from sea level up to an altitude of 2000m. This species prefers dry conditions, with annual rainfall in the (100–) 250–1500(–2300)mm range. However the extremes are only experienced in irrigated plantations or when it is planted outside its natural distribution area, as in South-East Asia. In India, the optimal lower limit for rainfall is around 600mm with no irrigation. On the Indian subcontinent, it is more commonly found in dry, low-elevation woodland, even if it is now widely planted on farms in plain areas.

- **FSC certification**

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**MAISONS DU MONDE TROPICAL WOOD SPECIES**

- **Trading group**
  Acacia

- **Family**
  Fabaceae - Mimosoideae

- **Species and genus**
  Acacia nilotica

- **Commercial and common names**
  babul acacia, Egyptian thorn, prickly acacia (in English), babul (in Hindi), karuvelum (in Tamil).
There are no FSC-certified acacia plantations in India to date.

- **Environmental and social issues**
  For acacia trees grown on forestry plantations, water consumption (through irrigation) and pesticide use are indicators that should be monitored, as for any agricultural produce. Apart from that, acacia is not a threatened species and does not entail any known environmental or social risks. Its drought-resistance and ability to bind nitrogen make it an excellent tree for regenerating poor soils and afforesting arid zones lacking in wood resources.