



New Forests Completes First Close of Tropical Asia Forest Fund: Focus on Southeast Asian Forestry Investment

SYDNEY and SINGAPORE (12 June 2012) – New Forests Pty Limited (“New Forests”) is pleased to announce the first close of the New Forests Tropical Asia Forest Fund (“TAFF”), a private investment vehicle offering qualified investors exposure to emerging markets investment in sustainable plantation forestry assets. The first close of TAFF has commitments of US\$76 million in institutional capital and will invest in forestry assets in tropical regions of Asia with a focus on Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

TAFF is the first private, closed-end investment fund with a dedicated focus on plantation forestry assets in the tropical Asia Pacific, and New Forests is the only timberland investment manager based in the Asia Pacific region. TAFF offers institutional investors exposure to a region with strong growth in demand for tropical hardwood timbers and a long history and technical expertise in forestry and agribusiness plantations. With timber supply from natural forests declining, there is a need for new investment in sustainably managed plantation timbers.

“Our New Forests Tropical Asia Forest Fund offers geographic diversification away from the relatively mature timber markets of North America and Europe and provides exposure to the high-growth timber markets in key Asian economies,” said David Brand, managing director of New Forests.

TAFF’s acquisitions and operational management will be overseen by New Forests Asia (Singapore) Pte Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of New Forests. The portfolio will be managed from Singapore by Darius Sarshar and Paul Speed, who each bring more than 20 years of experience in tropical forestry and Forest Stewardship Council certification in Asia and other emerging markets. New Forests’ Asia Pacific experience positions the company to execute on well-defined investment strategies for key opportunities in the region.

“There is currently a significant opportunity to invest in building up the commercial plantation base to meet growing solid wood demand in Asia.” explained Mr. Sarshar. “We will develop a portfolio of high-quality, sustainably managed plantations that will produce higher value saw logs and veneer logs. The wood from these plantations will support the continuing urbanization of Asia and the demand for high-value hardwood furniture, flooring, and cabinetry around the world.”

“New Forests’ emphasis on social and environmental issues is important to underpinning successful investment in the tropical Asia Pacific region. We will aim to provide capital to high-quality investment opportunities and bring effective asset management capabilities, governance practices, and risk management programs to support strong investment returns,” noted Dr. Brand.

About New Forests

New Forests Pty Limited (“New Forests”) (www.newforests.com.au) manages investments in sustainable forestry and associated environmental markets for institutional and other qualified wholesale investors. New Forests executes three investment strategies that provide clients with diversity and choice around risk-adjusted returns, geography, and market exposure: sustainable timberland investment in Australia and New Zealand; forestry investment in high-growth markets of the Asia Pacific region; and conservation real estate and environmental markets investment in the United States. The company has offices in Sydney, Singapore, and San Francisco and currently manages more than \$1.25 billion in assets and over 400,000 hectares of land in Australasia, the United States, and Asia.

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