

GOOD. SMART. BUSINESS. PROFIT.

ETHISPHERE



PRECIOUS WOODS

PRECIOUS WOODS NAMED TO 2008's "WORLD'S MOST ETHICAL COMPANIES" LIST BY THE ETHISPHERE INSTITUTE

Zug, (June 12, 2008) – [The Ethisphere Institute](http://www.ethisphere.com), named Precious Woods to Ethisphere's second-annual World's Most Ethical Companies list. Ethisphere, a think-tank dedicated to the research and promotion of profitable best practices in global governance, business ethics, compliance and corporate responsibility revealed the award at the *Ethisphere* and *Forbes* joint-conference, "Driving Profit through Ethical Leadership," held on June 3rd. The list of World's Most Ethical companies will also be featured in the Q2 issue of *Ethisphere Magazine*.

Researchers and analysts reviewed several thousand companies in order to determine the 100+ finalists, which included a rigorous, multi-step evaluation process. The 2008 World's Most Ethical Companies methodology committee is comprised of leading attorneys and government officials, professors and leaders who care about ethical and honest business practices.

"We applaud Precious Woods. Precious Woods is among the companies honored this year because they have developed impressive and meaningful ethical business practices, making them true standouts within their industries," said Alexander Brigham, executive director of Ethisphere Institute. "They go well beyond legal minimums, opting instead to bring about innovative ideas that contribute to the public well being. By their actions, they are forcing their competitors to follow suit, or fall behind and truly embodying the notion that ethical business practices are more profitable in the long run."

The extensive research process included reviewing over 10,000 of the world's leading companies on six continents. Ethisphere analysts reviewed codes of ethics, litigation and regulatory infraction histories; evaluated investment in innovation and sustainable business practices; looked at companies' activities to improve corporate citizenship; studied nominations from senior executives, industry peers, suppliers and customers; and worked with consumer action groups for feedback and rating.

The day-long conference, which featured Forbes editors and executives from world-renowned corporations, universities and ethics organizations, focused on ethical culture and leadership and highlighted companies' experiences and ethical challenges, provided advice on preparing for ethical dilemmas and gave viewpoints from an investor's perspective. The conference culminated with recognizing *Ethisphere Magazine's* 2008 World's Most Ethical Companies at an evening awards dinner.

About Precious Woods

Precious Woods is the world leader in sustainable management and use of tropical forests. Based in Switzerland, the Group employs some 2,300 people worldwide and has subsidiaries in Brazil, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Gabon and Holland.

Precious Woods' Activities:



Sustainable Management of Existing Forests: In Brazil and Gabon Precious Woods manages existing tropical forest according to the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in a sustainable and low-impact manner, thereby ensuring its long-term preservation.

Reforestation: In Central America, the company reforests abandoned pastureland with a mosaic of teak and various indigenous tree species. The reforestation is carried out in conformity with the guidelines of the FSC.

Processing and Trade: The certified tropical timber is processed locally in the company's own sawmills and processing plants. The products find applications in the construction, garden, interior and marine construction sectors, with customers in Europe, Brazil, Central America, Asia and the USA.

Carbon and Energy: Further integral parts of the Group's approach to sustainable forestry are the use of waste wood to produce energy and the registration and sale of carbon emission rights.

Further information about Precious Woods is available at www.preciouswoods.com.

About Ethisphere Institute

The research-based Ethisphere Institute and associated membership group, the Ethisphere Council, are supported by more than 100 institutions and corporations, including Thomson West, the Practising Law Institute, the National Association of Corporate Directors, the Global Reporting Initiative, Corpedia and dozens of others. The Institute is dedicated to the research, creation, and sharing of best practices in ethics, compliance, and corporate governance among its membership companies. It also focuses on the development and advancement of individuals on its membership council through increased efficiency, innovation, tools, mentoring, advice, and unique career opportunities. *Ethisphere Magazine* is the quarterly publication of the Institute. More information on membership can be found at <http://www.ethisphere.com>.

The Ethisphere Institute publishes the globally-recognized annual [World Most Ethical Companies Ranking](#)[™] as well as the [Government Contractor Ethics Program Ranking](#)[™] and the upcoming [Global Anti-Corruption Quotient](#).