



Special topic: information on illegal logging and related trade

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Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

28th Session, 2-4 May 2006, Geneva





Background to the discussion

- Widespread concern about illegal logging and related trade, starting in the tropics, but also in ECE region
- Linkage between illegal logging in producer countries and markets in consumer countries (certification, public procurement)
- Geneva workshop 2004
- Madrid MCPFE 2005
- ENA FLEG St. Petersburg, 2005



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Geneva workshop 2004

- Aimed at first estimate of extent and cause of illegal logging in ECE region
- Based on national reports from all countries
- Distinguished between poverty driven and profit driven illegal activities
- A good start



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Madrid MCPFE 2005

- Discussed common understanding, forms and causes and measures to overcome problem, trade, information needs to fight illegal logging and related trade.
- Recommendations, including:
 - Ensure accessibility and transparency of information on management, concessions, conservation and other forest related issues.
 - Invite Working Party to collect information on extent of illegal logging and related trade and developing suitable methodology in cooperation with IUFRO, RIIA, EFI et al.





St. Petersburg Declaration 2005 (information related commitments)

- effective enforcement requires information on management, policies and legislation be readily available and communicated to public
- collect and disseminate transparent information on forest resources, their allocation and exploitation
- Monitor and disclose data on domestic and international trade flows and promote traceability systems



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St. Petersburg 2005 (cont.)

- Enhance international capacity for monitoring assessment and reporting on areas such as trade flows and customs data
- Facilitate gathering, synthesis and sharing of import/export data on wood and forest products and their integration into international open data bases (e.g. FAO, ITTO)
- Secure cooperation and support from international organisations, including FAO and UNECE



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EFI study by Ottitsch et al.

- Definitions
- Overview of ongoing processes
- Available information
- Scope and consequences in Europe
- Conclusions for MCPFE
- “one problem is that existing information systems are not sufficiently accurate and on time to be used as monitoring and indicator tools”
- Download from <http://www.mcpfe.org>





Objectives of this morning's session


- Share experience on obtaining information on illegal logging and related trade
- Seek ways of improving the situation, by exchange of ideas and cooperation
- (This is only a first step in a long process!)
- (the focus is on information, not policy or action)



Structure of the session

- 9.30 secretariat introduction
- 9.45 international experience and policy context
 - RIIA
 - Global Witness
 - ODI Verifor
 - FAO/ITTO
 - CITES
 - EU FLEGT
- 11.00 Discussion
- 11.25 Sum up





What would we like to know, for policy purposes, in an ideal world?

- Volume of illegally logged wood
- Location and nature of illegal operations
- Production from illegally logged wood
- Trade (detail!) of illegally logged wood and derived products
- Consumption of products of illegally logged wood (value, channels of distribution)






Methods of collecting information (all have advantages and disadvantages):

- Forest rangers reports
- Survey of logging sites
- News reports and police data
- Comparison consumption with legal supply
- Comparison of importers' and exporters' data
- Tracking legal timber
- Investigation of illegal operations





Questions for discussion (after speakers from other organisations):

- What has worked at the national level?
- Which approach works best in which circumstances?
- Comments on the « wish list »?
- Role of forest sector information specialists (WP members)?
- Potential for international cooperation?
- Possible outputs in near future?
- Role of the Working Party?



Speakers

- Jade Saunders (RIIA)
- David Young (Global Witness)
- James Hewitt (consultant)
- Neil Bird (ODI/Verifor)
- Arvydas Lebedys (FAO/ITTO)
- Jeremy Wall (EU FLEGT)
- Juan Carlos Vasquez (CITES)



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