The VERIFOR research project

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Funding

⇨ **European Commission**   **80%**

- *Budget Line 'Program on Tropical Forests and other Forests in Developing Countries'*

⇨ **Government of the Netherlands**

20%

⇨ **Government of Germany**

- **Latin America Programme Support (2005 & 6)**

VERIFOR's Objectives

Through its programme of applied and comparative research:

To combat illegal logging by helping producer countries to build credible systems for forest verification suited to their own needs and realities

To do so in ways that are:
- equitable
  - socially just & serve the public interest
- developmentally sound
  - develop & strengthen national policy processes

The Verification Regime

The verification regime is the sum total of the arrangements for ensuring verification, including:

- legal commitments
- data exchange and notification arrangements
- monitoring methods
- communication, consultation and clarification mechanisms
- an agreed method for making verification judgments

Sometimes taken to include the compliance mechanism.

(The Verification Research, Training and Information Centre, www.vertic.org)

We focus on:

➢ Institutional dimensions of verification

- Policies
- Institutions ~ rules & principles
- Social Issues
- Mechanisms of inclusion and participation

➢ Producer – countries

- National constituencies
- Integrating international concerns with national agendas and needs
- Knowledge sharing and lessons learnt
- Demand-driven practical advice

Project Sequencing

1. ***Phase One:***

   Learning from existing systems & practices:

   - within the forest sector
   - extra-sectoral models & experiences

   Sharing of experience & developing principles for future implementation

2. ***Phase Two:***

   Policy process development

   - Advice to requesting parties to build verification systems
   - Networking & sharing of knowledge

VERIFOR case studies

Forest sector case studies
Brazil
Canada (British Columbia)
Costa Rica
Ecuador
Cameroon
Ghana
Cambodia
Indonesia
Malaysia
The Philippines

Extra-sectoral case studies:
CITES
UNFCCC/ Kyoto and the CDM
The Kimberley Process for Diamonds
Nuclear Safeguards and the role of the IAEA
Food safety/ meat hygiene standards

Information on all case studies is

available at: www.verifor.org

VERIFOR case studies and issues of illegality

- **Ghana:** out of the 3.7 million m³ of timber harvested in 1999, illegal chainsaw activities accounted for 46 percent (1.7 million m³), while illegal industrial logging accounted for a further 24 percent (0.9 million m³).

- **Ecuador:** it is estimated that 50-70% of the timber sold in the country is illegally extracted. Recent reforms have attempted to make legality more attractive by reducing the transaction costs of bureaucracy and by increasing the detection and punishment of illegal activities.

- **Brazil:** The 2006 Law on Public Forest Management allows (for the first time) legal timber production on public forest land under a concession system. With perhaps as much as 45% of the Amazon under this type of tenure there is now the opportunity to regularise considerable quantities of timber production that were previously illegal.

VERIFOR case studies and issues of illegality

- **British Columbia:** BC has a forest industry that achieves 94% compliance with the law. Ministry of Forestry officials conduct more than 16,000 inspections per year to assess compliance with forest laws.

  <u>Outstanding issues of non-compliance relate to</u>:

  - Unauthorised harvest outside of boundaries
  - Road issues, maintenance of culverts, etc.
  - Inaccurate timber marking
  - Pricing issues to ensure government obtains its fair share of revenue
  - Timber theft

For more information:

www.verifor.org

Thank you