



# Best Practices for Improving Law Compliance in the Forest Sector

FAO/ITTO





# Why this initiative?



- To move from problem analysis to identification of effective measures to combat illegality in the forest sector
- To provide a critical overview of current best practices
- To provide public sector decision makers with recommendations for an integrated strategy to improve legality in the forest sector





# Process



- Country case studies, background papers, international initiatives
- Peer review expert meeting, Nov. 2004
- Presentation to COFO and ITTC
- Publication November 2005



# Strategic approach



- Holistic, balanced strategy
- Critical elements:
  - Addressing underlying causes
  - Prioritizing remedial actions
  - Economic and political feasibility
  - Stakeholder participation





# Rationalizing the policy and legal framework



- Increasing clarity, transparency and consistency of legislation
- Minimizing bureaucracy and simplifying regulations
- Secure forest land ownership rights
- Increasing the competitiveness of legal operations
- Promoting the independence of the judiciary



# Building capacity for law enforcement



- Improving capacity of forest administrations
- Interagency cooperation and linkages
- Delegation of enforcement/ monitoring authority to civil society or private sector
- Certification, corporate codes of conduct
- Bilateral agreements with trading partners



# Improving data and knowledge



- On-the-ground verification/monitoring
- Diagnostic surveys of illegal activities
- Industrial wood input/output estimates and exports/imports statistics
- Aerial surveillance, satellite detection, log tracking, road check points
- Use of informers and NGOs
- Public awareness raising



# The way forward



Best Practices document = tool

→ to assist countries to identify appropriate measures to combat illegality

→ to promote concrete actions in countries based on available experiences





## Next steps



### Joint FAO/ITTO Regional Workshops:

- Amazon countries in South America
- Central Africa
- Central America
- South East Asia



# Objectives of workshops



- Share experiences of ongoing in-country and regional initiatives
- Discuss options for improving forest law compliance based on Best Practices
- Establish/strengthen regional networks to improve forest law compliance

Participants: Intern. orgs., governments, private sector, NGOs, other related sectors