



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Memorandum

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**Ministry of Industry, Employment
and
Communications
Stockholm, Sweden**

*Division for Energy, Forests and Primary
Industries*

Illegal logging- Swedish country report

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0. Abstract.

The main authority responsible for monitoring compliance with environmental and forestry-related legislation in connection with harvesting activities is the Swedish forest administration. According to their analyses the level of illegal harvesting activities in Sweden is low, the main problems being forest owners failing to notify their planned harvesting and to meet requirements regarding nature conservation, cultural heritage preservation and reforestation in connection to harvesting.

Sweden imports about 15 % of its' industrial wood consumption, mainly from neighbouring countries such as Russia, Latvia, Estonia and Norway. All deliveries are checked upon arrival to Swedish ports by the Swedish authorities, and according to the Swedish Customs smuggling of wood is minor. The major Swedish roundwood importers have monitoring systems to assure legal sources, which include sampling procedures to check and track the sources.

Sweden has recently initiated the project "Transparent Timberflows in the Baltic Sea Region" within the Baltic21-process. The objective is to increase transparency regarding information of the trade in industrial roundwood in the region, and is one example of ongoing activities to improve the situation.

1. Illegal logging

The annual harvested volume in Sweden is approximately 80 million cubic meters (see appendix 1), with approximately 60% of the volume originating from final felling activities and most of the remaining volume from thinning activities.

The illegal logging in Sweden, as defined as not fulfilling the forestry act, are mainly forest owners failing to notify their planned final felling activities, or not fully meeting the requirements regarding nature conservation, cultural heritage preservation or reforestation in connection to final felling activities.

Regarding the listed activities (Table 1, Label 1.1.1-1.1.8) suggested in the questionnaire for this report, Sweden does not experience any of these illegalities in any quantity close to the 1 % limit.

Table 1. Level of illegal logging activities in Sweden

Label	Activity	Estimated level
1.1.1.	Logging without permission or concession from public forests	<<1%
1.1.2.	Wood theft or illegal logging from private forests	<<1%
1.1.3.	False declaration of volumes, species, values or origins of harvested wood	<<1%
1.1.4.	Logging in protected areas such as national parks	<<1%
1.1.5.	Logging in prohibited areas	<<1%
1.1.6.	Removing oversized or undersized trees	1)
1.1.7.	Obtaining logging authorization through bribes	<<1%
1.1.8.	Killing or burning trees so that they can be logged	<<1%

1) The Swedish forestry act does not regulate maximum or minimum log size, but rather the minimum age before final felling can be carried out. The minimum age differs between the northern and southern parts of Sweden due different climatic conditions.

The main issues regarding reaching the targets of the forest policy and fulfilling the Swedish forestry act concern:

- Landowners failing to correctly carry out the compulsory notification procedure prior to final felling activities. The main problem is that landowners fail to give the exact location of the concerned area. As a

result, part of the actual harvesting area is located outside the notified area.

- Unsatisfactory implementation of nature conservation and cultural heritage preservation measures at the harvesting site, as required by the regulation decided by the National Board of Forestry.
- Inappropriate reforestation methods resulting in a reforestation outcome (number of surviving seedlings per hectare) falling short of the requirements given by the forestry act.

All these issues address landowner responsibility and ongoing monitoring activities by the National Board of Forestry indicate a need for improvement. In most cases where any of these three problems arise, they are not intentional but rather due to lack of knowledge. For the latter two issues, forest owners found not to have fully fulfilled the legal requirements can be requested to take further actions in order to meet the needs as described in the forestry act. Therefore, although the harvesting activities do not fully meet the requirements of the forestry act, the timber is normally regarded as legally logged timber.

Mechanisms in place to monitor or estimate their importance

- Compulsory notification of intended final fellings >0,5 ha, at least 6 weeks in advance to allow for pre-harvesting controls to check on possible nature conservation or cultural heritage values, and planned regeneration activities.
- Monitoring of regeneration areas to check the actions taken to ensure nature conservation and cultural heritage values, as well as regeneration results.
- Remote sensing (satellite images) to map all recent final fellings and cross check them against notified final felling areas.

The main mechanisms in place are directed at main problems experienced in Sweden. These mechanisms will also, when needed, provide adequate information regarding all illegal activities outlined in Table 1 except for 1.2.7 (bribery). In the case of bribery, the Swedish system with public access to official documents (communication with any public administration) together with public data bases, as well as internal and third party control, hinders such illegal actions.

The volume of illegally logged wood in your country, as a percent of removals

Each of the illegal activities listed in Table 1 occur on much less than 1% of the total volume, based on sample surveys.

The area not pre-announced as required before final felling activities is between 5-10% of the total area of final felling, based on sample remote sensing surveys. This corresponds to 3-6% of the total harvested volume since thinning activities are not required to be pre-announced.

The area with unsatisfactory protection of nature conservation or cultural heritage values, are between 10-25%, based on sample field surveys. This corresponds to 5-15% of the total harvested volume. The analyses also show that the main reasons are lack of knowledge on how to identify and protect environmental or cultural values. The most common mistake is that the trees saved for nature conservation purposes are scattered over the area instead of concentrated to specific points of high value such as creeks.

About the same area, and corresponding volume, fail to meet the reforestation requirements given in the forestry act, which details the minimum number of seedlings per hectare. In most cases inappropriate regeneration methods together with moose and deer grazing are main reasons why not a sufficient number of seedlings survive.

Additional comments on the causes and extent of illegal logging in Sweden

Approximately 25% of the Swedish forest area is public forest. The management, including harvesting activities, is the responsibility of publicly owned companies and organisations. Thus, logging permissions/concessions from public forests do not exist in Sweden to any measurable extent. The privately owned forest include many small forest estates, in year 2000 the total number was around 240 000 estates, owned by a total of 350 000 individuals.

As pointed out above, the level of illegal logging activities in Sweden is low. Issues such as theft and bribery are estimated to be basically non-existent. Instead, focus is to reduce practices in violation with the forestry act, mainly concerning mandatory communication with the National Board of Forestry prior to planned harvesting activities, nature conservation and cultural heritage measures in connection to harvesting, as well as regeneration activities on harvested forest land.

2. Trade in products of illegal logging

(issues 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, & 2.4)

Sweden imports large volumes of industrial roundwood and wood chips from neighbouring countries in the Baltic Sea area, such as Russia, Latvia, Estonia and Norway, while exporting smaller volumes mainly to Finland and Norway (see trade statistics in appendix 2-3). Imports of tropical wood products are very minor (see trade statistics in appendix 3A). All deliveries are controlled and measured upon arrival to Swedish port by the authorities, and according to Swedish Customs statistics the level of smuggling of roundwood into Sweden is minor.

The major roundwood importers have in place private monitoring systems to assure that roundwood imported into Sweden from abroad is sourced

from legal harvesting activities, however, given the sampling procedure used in the monitoring systems, the risk of sourcing roundwood from illegal harvesting activities cannot be ruled out. Based on field experience the level is assumed to be below 5 % of the total volume imported.

In Sweden independent third-party Wood Measurement Associations measure most timber harvested for commercial purposes, to ensure a fair and transparent valuation. The set up also ensure that trade of illegally harvested wood is avoided.

Additional comments on the causes and extent of trade in products from illegal logging

In recent years some discrepancies have been noticed on Swedish customs statistics on what is imported to Sweden compared to what customs in other countries has reported as exported to Sweden. Some of these discrepancies are caused by different standards in wood measurement, reporting standards, etc. and are not illegal activities. However, to add clarity to this issue, Sweden together with Latvia has initiated the project “Transparent Timberflows in the Baltic Sea Region”. The project is part of the Baltic 21 process and will include all countries in the region if appropriate financing is secured.

3. Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade policies

Since lack of knowledge is the main reason for not meeting legal requirements, information and training campaigns directed towards forest owners and contractors is used to improve the situation in Sweden. During the last 10 years, two nationwide campaigns titled Richer Forests and Greener Forests have been carried out.

Sweden generally believes that the best ways to mitigate illegal logging and trade include promotion of systems for transparent wood trade, and to support national forest authorities in combating domestic illegal activities. Sweden will e.g. this autumn start a bilateral cooperation programme with the Russian Federation in order to develop the forest sector. Issues like capacity building in forest administration and legislation, chain of custody, certification, forest inventories and use of remote sensing will be central parts to combat illegal logging. A close cooperation with Russian State Forest Administration will be established for exchange of experiences and working methods.

Sweden will also take an active part and financially support the initiative taken by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation to arrange a Euro-Asian FLEGT conference in autumn 2005.

4. Additional information

In recent years mainly WWF has published a number of reports on matters of illegal logging. In these reports they have a wider definition of the

problem and also include illegal activities such as corporate tax evasion.
Some main documents are;

Taiga Rescue Network and WWF Sweden: Towards Responsible Swedish
Timber Trade (November 2000)

WWF Russia: Illegal Logging in North-western Russia And Export of
Russian Forest Products to Sweden (January 2003)

WWF Latvia: Logging and trade of acquired timber (2003)

WWF Latvia: The features of illegal logging and related trade in the Baltic
Sea region (Discussion paper 2003)

Appendices

Appendix 1	Roundwood exports
Appendix 2	Roundwood imports
Appendix 2A	Tropical wood product imports

